

WILSON SINK RESERVOIR

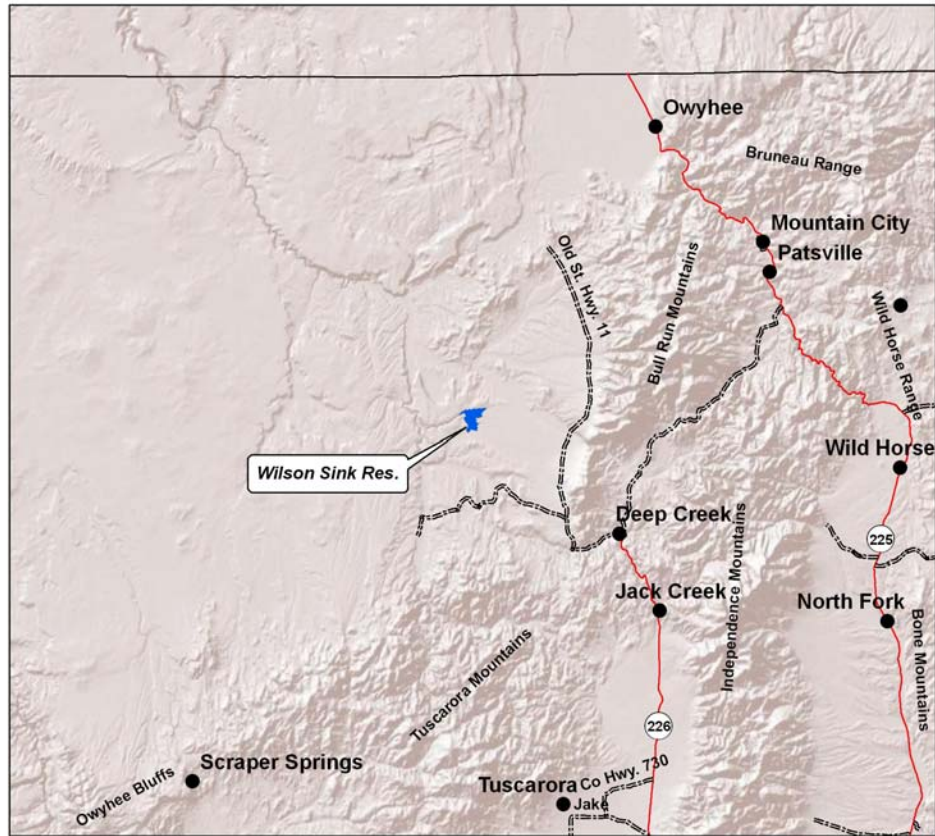
History - Wilson Sink Reservoir was constructed in 1954 as an irrigation water storage reservoir subject to seasonal drawdown. The reservoir, water rights and cabin are owned by the Petan Ranch. Public land surrounding the reservoir is administered by the BLM.

Pertinent Information - At maximum capacity of 10,000 acre-feet, Wilson Sink covers 800 surface acres with a maximum depth of 30 feet. Approximately 60 percent of the reservoir, however, is 12 feet deep or less. Angler use averages 8,000 days per year. Wilson Sink provides a “put-grow-and-take” rainbow trout fishery and a wild largemouth bass fishery. Angler trout harvest for 2008 reports catching a total of 84 rainbow trout and harvesting 50 rainbow trout in 143 hours of fishing effort for a catch rate of 0.59 trout per hour. During 2008, 44 rainbow trout were measured during random creel census and ranged in fork length (FL) from 12.4 to 16.8 inches. Interest in black bass angling was fair during late spring and summer 2008. Fifteen bass anglers reported fishing 55 hours to catch 54 bass for an annual catch rate of 0.98 bass per hour and 3.60 bass per angler. The average size of the 20 bass measured during random creel census was 13.2 inches total length. May through June and September through October are the best months for open water fishing for trout. Bass fishing is best in late spring and summer. Shore and boat fishing both work well, however, boat trolling in the hot weather months is more productive. Fly-fishing is good from a tube or boat. Worms, corn, Power Bait and lures are good for trout from shore or still fishing from a boat. Trolling lures, flies and flashers with bait will catch fish. Spinner baits, crank baits and a variety of rubber grubs and worms are productive for bass. Camping and Facilities - BLM campground and boat launch fee area. No hook-ups. Water, restrooms and trailer dump available. No lodging, food or gas.

Stocking – A total of 40,000 rainbow trout are to be stocked into Wilson Sink Reservoir during the spring and 15,000 in the fall.

Regulations - Reservoir, outlet and inlet streams up to State Route 11: Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night. Limit is 5 trout, 10 mountain whitefish and 10 black bass. Minimum size for black bass is 11 inches. The possession while fishing or use of the fish as bait, whether dead or alive, or parts thereof, except preserved salmon eggs, is prohibited. No boat restrictions.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 - The reservoir should remain high again in 2009, with above average amounts of moisture in the basin. Spillway fishing will be fair to good, with an average duration of spilling occurring in April through mid-June. A good carry-over trout population should provide opportunities for fish of a quality size in the reservoir. Shore fishing is good with combinations of worms and Power Bait or worms and marshmallows working best. Fly-fishing is good during the spring and early summer, using olive colored damselflies and snail patterns with a sinking tip. Allow the line to sink all the way to the bottom, and then slowly strip it up to the surface. Bass fishing will provide a lot of action with some being keepers.



No warranty is made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Boating Regulations – No special boating regulations.

Access - Travel north from Elko 27 miles on State Route 225, turn onto State Route 226 and continue 38 miles to the end of the pavement, turn left at the “Y” on State Route 11, dirt road (follow the Wilson Reservoir signs) and continue 8 miles, turn left on dirt road and travel 3.5 miles to a signed right turn, continue 7 miles on dirt road to the reservoir.