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UPPER PAHRANAGAT LAKE

History - Upper Pahrnagat Lake is located on the Pahrnagat Wildlife Management Area administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge is managed primarily for waterfowl. The management direction of the refuge for the sport fishery in the lake is one of warmwater species. Carp have been a serious problem for the lake over the years, which led to an eradication project in 1996. This project was proven only partially successful after carp were discovered in the North Marsh and Upper Lake.

Pertinent Information - The Upper Pahrnagat Lake fishery consists of largemouth bass, green sunfish, crappie, bullhead and carp. Largemouth bass and bullhead are the only two species providing the angler with a sport fishery. Sampling results from 1999 found that bass made up 39% of the population, bullhead 28%, green sunfish 18% and carp 15%. Bass averaged 10.0 inches in length and the bullheads 10.5 inches. The 2007 angler questionnaire survey found an average catch rate of 1.55 fish per angler day. Anglers use plugs and spinner baits for the bass and worms for the bullheads. The best time to fish the area is from April through June for bass and June through August for the bullheads. Water records include a 9-pound 7-ounce 23.75-inch largemouth bass captured in 1985 and a 1-pound 2-ounce 13-inch bullhead captured in 1996. Camping - There are 12 campsites along the east shore as well as chemical toilets and 1 vault toilet. There is no potable water. A few of the sites have fire rings and grills. Things to Consider - Summer temperatures often reach 100° F, while winter temperatures at times drop below freezing.

Stocking - The warmwater fishery is self-sustaining and no stocking is needed.

Regulations - Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night. The North Marsh is closed to fishing during the waterfowl hunting season. Limit is 3 trout and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be largemouth bass. The daily and possession limit are the same.

Biologists Forecast for 2009 - Upper Pahrnagat Lake was completely drained in 2008 because of problems with the dam outlet structure and it's anticipated that the National Wildlife Refuge will have to drain it again in summer 2009 to complete repairs. Fishing opportunities will be very limited this year with few game fish present.

Boating Regulations - Only boats without gas motors are allowed on the Upper Lake, middle ponds and lower lake. Electric motors are permitted. The North Marsh is closed to all boating, including float tubes. Upper Pahrnagat is closed to all boating during waterfowl season.



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.

Access - From Las Vegas, travel north on I-15 for 21 miles to US 93, then north 60 miles to the refuge. Upper Pahrnanagat Lake is located at the north end of the refuge immediately west of US 93, 4 miles south of Alamo. An unpaved access road follows the eastern shoreline of the reservoir and connects to US 93 above and below the lake. Portions of this road may be closed during nesting season.