

### 3. BLUE LAKES

History - Blue Lakes are located in the northwestern corner of the Pine Forest Mountains in northwestern Humboldt County in a Wilderness area. This lake system lies at 8,300 feet and is normally frozen over until June.

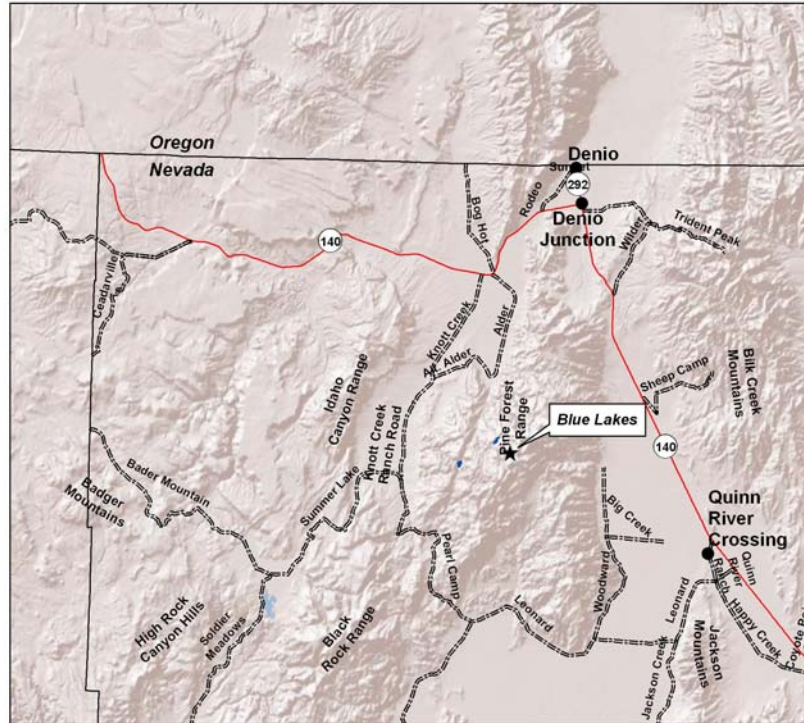
Pertinent Information – There are three lakes that make up the Blue Lake complex: one large lake and two smaller ones. The main lake has an average depth of 24 feet with a maximum depth of 44 feet. It is 24 surface acres, while the lower lake complex is 7.4 surface acres. Fish include brook trout, tiger trout (brown trout x brook trout hybrid), bowcutt trout (rainbow trout x cutthroat trout hybrid) and rainbow trout. Angler Questionnaire data from 2007 showed 405 anglers fished 722 days to catch 2,453 fish for 3.4 fish per angler day. The best times of the year to fish are summer and fall. Fly fishermen using standard late season nymph patterns such as damsels, black leeches, and green scud patterns have had good luck. Bait fishermen have been very successful using Power Bait and worms. During early afternoon, fishermen using spinners and metallic flatfish have had consistent good luck. NDOW's Trophy Book lists a 3 pound brook trout captured in 1987 and a 6 pound, 4 ounce rainbow trout captured in 1980. Blue Lakes lie in a Wilderness area, access is by trail (1/4 mile). Camping - Primitive camping is allowed at the lake. Bonus: One of the most beautiful spots to fish in Nevada and within a short distance of Onion Valley Reservoir and Knott Creek Reservoir.

Stocking – In the fall 500, 3-inch rainbow trout, 1,500, 4-inch tiger trout and 2,000, 4-inch bowcutt trout are scheduled to be airlifted into the lake.

Regulations: Season is open from the second Saturday in June through November 15, any hour of the day or night. Limit is 5 trout. Only boats without motors are permitted.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 - Angling is expected to be fair to good. Kamloop strain rainbow trout, stocked as 3-inch fish in 2003, should provide for some exciting fishing in 2009. Tiger trout have recently been reintroduced. The lake is at 90% capacity and is expected to remain close to full throughout 2009.

Boating Regulations: Only vessels without motors are permitted.



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**Access** - Travel north of Winnemucca to State Route 140, then on to Denio Junction. At Denio Junction, turn west on SR140 and drive to the Knott Creek Ranch turnoff. Proceed south, following the signs to the Onion Valley Reservoir Campground. From there, travel  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the Blue Lake Trailhead. Anglers must walk from this location,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile along the trail to the Blue Lakes Complex.