## 7.
## CATNIP RESERVOIR

History – Catnip Reservoir is located in northern Washoe County on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 50 miles west of Denio Junction. Catnip was constructed in 1910 and was used as an irrigation source for the IXL Ranch, its secondary function was to provide a waterfowl nesting area. The 22 surface acre impoundment stored 220 acre-feet of water when first constructed, however the capacity is currently much less due to siltation. Lahontan cutthroat trout were first stocked into the reservoir in 1947 with the intent of creating a brood stock lake where fish could be artificially spawned and the eggs reared in state operated hatcheries. The first recorded egg take took place in 1959 when 120,080 cutthroat eggs were taken. Spawning activities at the reservoir have continued on a yearly basis since that date with the exception of a few problem years. Most recently, cutthroat trout from Catnip have been artificially spawned with rainbow trout from nearby Big Springs Reservoir to produce bowcutt trout (a hybrid trout popular with anglers for its rapid growth and fighting characteristics).

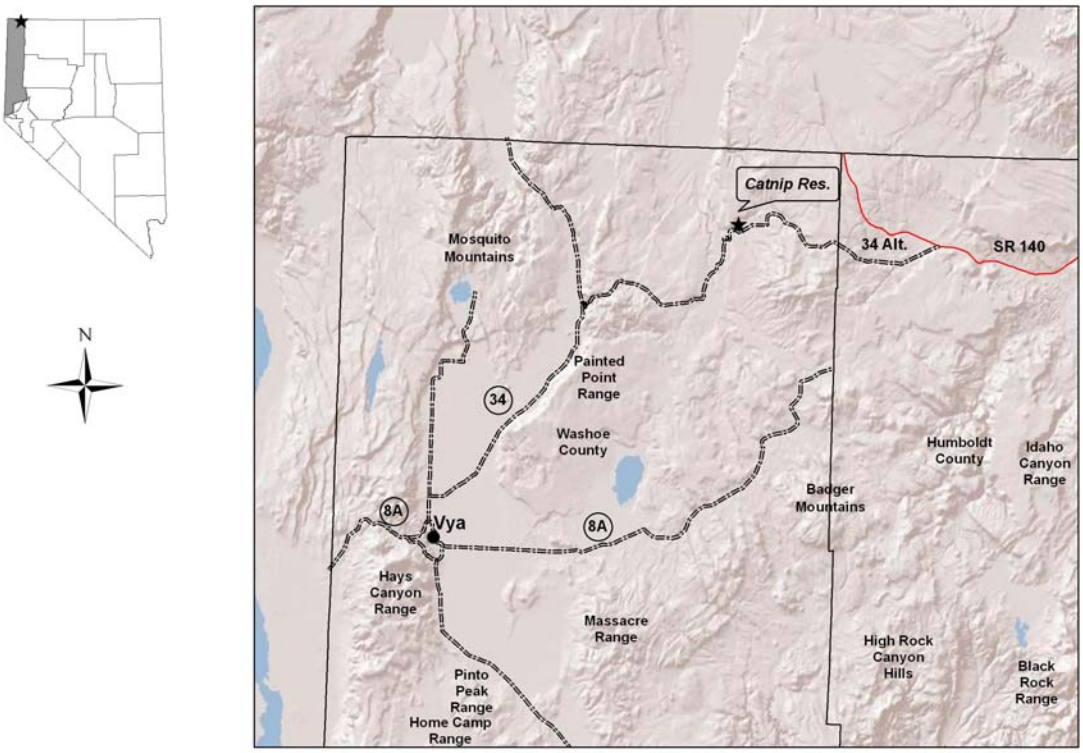
Pertinent Information – Catnip Reservoir was opened to fishing for the first time in 1998. The only trout species present in the lake is the Lahontan cutthroat trout. The reservoir receives little pressure due to its short season and remoteness. Angler questionnaire data from 2007 found 312 anglers fishing for 545 days to catch an average of 7.2 fish per angler day. Camping - Primitive camping at the lake.

Stocking – Catnip will be stocked with 3,000 Lahontan cutthroat trout in June.

Regulations – Catnip Reservoir, its tributaries and outlet stream are open to fishing from the second Saturday in June through November 15, any hour of the day or night. Limit is 1 trout. Only artificial lures with single barbless hooks must be used.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 – Adequate winter water storage should result in another good fishing season. After being closed to fishing for the majority of the year, fish should be eager to bite once the season opens. In 2008, cutthroat trout averaged 13 inches in length, with a few fish reaching 22 inches.

Boating Regulations – Federal regulations for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge state that anglers may bank fish, fish by wading, or use non-motorized boats, boats with electric motors, float tubes and similar flotation devices.

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Access – Catnip Reservoir can be accessed by two routes: through Gerlach, travel north and take State Route 34 for 85 miles to Vya and continue north for 20 miles to Alternate 34, travel east for 15 miles to Catnip Reservoir. From Winnemucca, travel north on US Route 95 for 32 miles, turn west on State Route 140. Travel 64 miles to the Denio Junction and turn west, which is a continuation of SR 140. Travel 36 miles to Alternate 34 and follow dirt road for 14 miles to Catnip Reservoir.