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**DESERT CREEK**

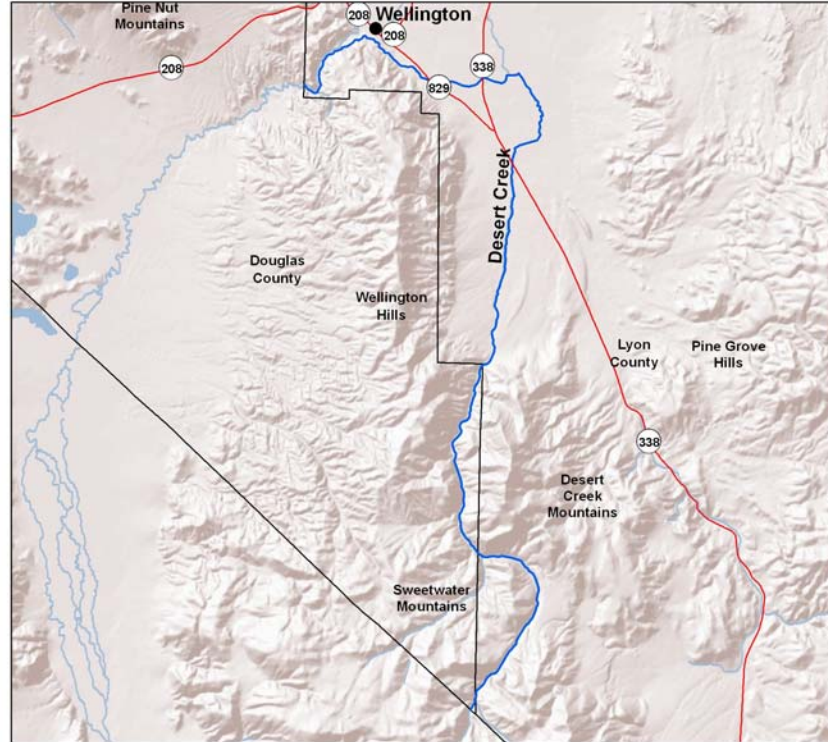
History – Desert Creek is within the West Walker River Drainage of Lyon County. It originates in the Sweetwater Mountains in California at greater than 9,000 ft. in elevation. Flow is controlled from Lobdell Reservoir and the water is diverted for irrigation at the mouth of Desert Creek Canyon in Smith Valley.

Pertinent Information – Desert Creek is a small creek (about 9 ft. wide and 3 to 4 ft. deep) with perennial water flows generally between 2.5 and 4 cfs. The entire Nevada portion of the creek, prior to water diversions, is located within the Toiyabe National Forest and open to the public (about 10 fishable miles in NV). The creek is in a mountain setting at an elevation of 5,800 and 7,800 ft. It is frozen in winter and snow levels make much of it inaccessible. Camping - There is a Forest Service campground (no charge) with restrooms and tables at the lower end and camping is very popular throughout the summer all along the creek. Indian petroglyphs can be found within a ½ mile downstream of the USFS campground. Anglers should expect to catch rainbow, brown, and brook trout using worms, salmon eggs, Power Bait, or fly fishing methods.

Stocking – Stocking usually begins in May (April if spring runoff is reasonable) and continues every other week for about 2 months. NDOW stocks a total of 2,500 rainbow trout annually. These fish are scattered at up to 15 sites along the length of the creek.

Regulations – Desert Creek has general fishing regulations: Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night, and the limit is 5 trout, 10 mountain whitefish, and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 – Angling should provide similar experiences as found in previous years (average angler catch rate is generally between 2.5 to 5 trout per trip). There is high recreational diversity in Desert Creek including birding, biking, motor biking, hiking, and camping as well as fishing.



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 – Desert Creek has a north and a south Nevada-side entry. From the town of Wellington, travel south 4.5 miles on Hwy. 208 and the Wellington cutoff to Hwy 338. Head south on Hwy. 338 for less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and turn right to the north creek entrance, which is a gravel road (there is a small sign denoting Desert Creek on Hwy. 338). It is then approximately 6.5 miles to the creek. There are about five creek crossings (three to reach the campground) and a high-clearance vehicle is recommended. NOTE: For safety, driving through the creek during spring runoff is not recommended. Also, camp trailers are not advised unless the flow is low. Rather, take the south entrance by traveling about 14 miles south on Hwy. 338 from the north Desert Creek entrance. Again, there is a small sign denoting Desert Creek. The creek is about 5 miles. There are various primitive camping areas along the creek. Other than the USFS campground, no other facilities or services exist along Desert Creek.