

## 11. DUFURRENA PONDS

History - The Ponds were built to deliver irrigation water to agricultural lands in Virgin Valley. Following the purchase of the lands by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Ponds were managed primarily for fish and wildlife values. The area is administered by the Fish & Wildlife Service out of their Dufurrena Headquarters with a district office located in Lakeview, Oregon.

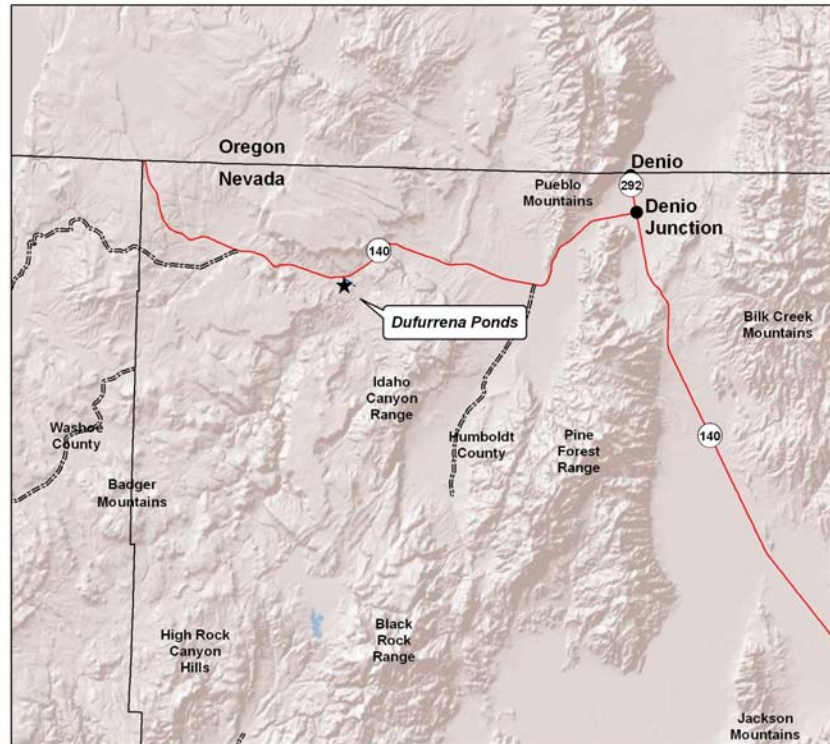
Pertinent Information - At present, there are 9 ponds maintained at the Dufurrena complex. Of these, 4 contain major fisheries: Pond 19, Pond 20, Island Pond and ponds found within the Magee Series. Pond depths vary from site to site. On the average, most ponds are under 12 feet in depth when full. The maximum depths are in Magee Pond and Pond 20 which are 14 feet deep in the vicinity of the discharge gate on the dams. Size varies. Pond 20 is 50 surface acres. Fish species most often encountered are white crappie, yellow perch, largemouth bass, redear sunfish, and bluegill. The Angler Questionnaire data for 2007 found 176 anglers fishing 577 days and capturing 5,283 fish for 9.16 fish per angler day. Pond 20 has consistently produced the best fishing. Yellow perch and white crappie dominate the catch. The Nevada Trophy Fish Book lists a 1-pound 8-ounce yellow perch (state record), a 2-pound 1-ounce bluegill sunfish, a 3-pound 12-ounce largemouth bass, a 14-ounce white crappie, and a 9-ounce redear sunfish. Best Time of Year to Fish - early spring is usually the best time of year to catch the yellow perch. June is a good month to catch white crappie and largemouth bass. Fishing slows during the hot part of the summer, then picks up again in the fall. Productive Fishing Methods - worms, grubs and leeches work well for the yellow perch. Jigs work best for the white crappie. The largemouth bass respond to the standard bass lures: crankbaits, plugs (surface and subsurface) and rubber worms. Small poppers work well on the redear sunfish. Camping - Primitive camping is available at the Virgin Creek Campground (just down the road from the ponds) at no fee. Outhouses are provided as well as a warm water pool and enclosed shower.

Stocking - There has been no stocking for the past several years. All species found in the ponds are self-sustaining.

Regulations - General limits of 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass. The daily and possession limits are the same.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 - Spring flow and pond storage is expected to be normal with full or near full elevations. Fishing should be good. This is a great warmwater fishery in May and June for largemouth bass, white crappie, yellow perch and sunfish. Pond numbers 19 and 20 are the most productive in the series of three or four ponds. These waters are not very large, but yield some respectable yellow perch.

Boating Regulations - Anglers may fish from the bank, by wading, or use non-motorized boats, boats with electric motors, float tubes or similar flotation devices.



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 - Drive 31 miles north of Winnemucca along U.S. 95, turning left onto SR 140. Travel 100 miles to Denio Junction turning left and traveling 25 miles to the Virgin Creek Campground and Dufurrena Ponds.