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### FORT CHURCHILL COOLING POND

History - The Fort Churchill Cooling Pond is the primary cooling source for water used at the NV Energy Power Plant. The water is used to cool steam generators and is constantly recycled within the pond. The recycling occurs in the northeast quadrant of the pond and flows in a clockwise direction through the other three quadrants until re-entering the power plant once again. Water temperatures of 100°F are reached at the outlet during the warm summer months. The pond is privately owned by NV Energy and anglers should respect the property to ensure the continuation of the sport fishery.

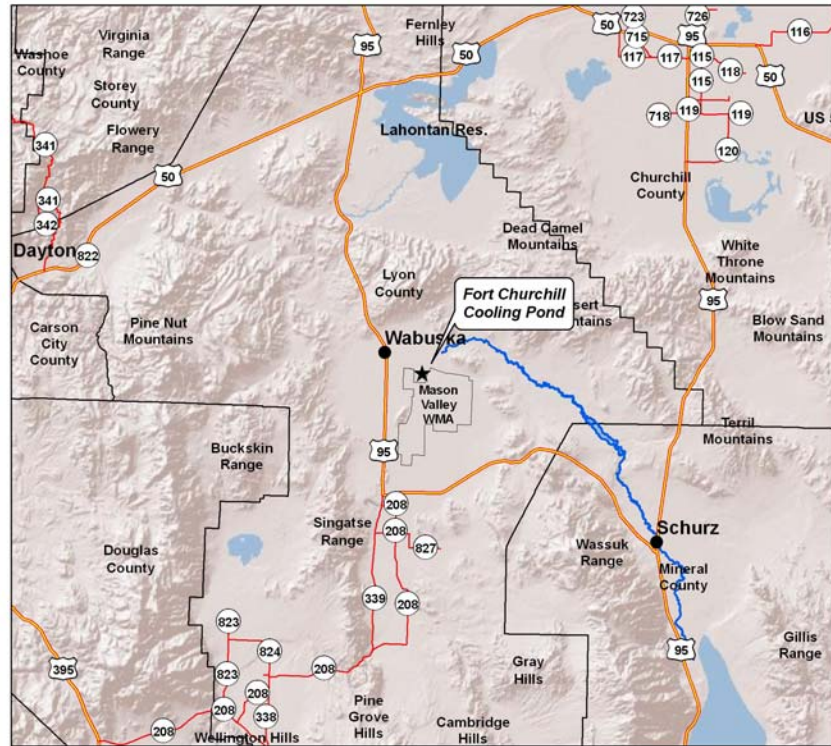
Pertinent Information - The pond is 210 acres in size with water depths that range from 7 to 14 feet. Seasonally, water temperatures range from 50°F in February to 100°F in the summer. Fishing is allowed from shore only. No wading or boating is permitted. The primary fish are largemouth bass in the spring and channel catfish in the summer. The constant supply of warm water allows for quality largemouth bass angling during the colder months of February and March. Bass average 11 to 16 inches in length, while channel catfish range between 10 and 13 inches. Bass as large as 5 pounds have been taken. Bass anglers should fish parallel to the shore utilizing dark colored plastic worms, spinner baits and top-water lures. Catfish anglers have the best luck using nightcrawlers, chicken liver and cut shrimp as bait. The 2007 Angler Questionnaire data revealed 566 anglers fished 2,841 days and harvesting 9,612 fish for a catch rate of 3.38 fish per angler day. Angler drop box data for 2008 found a catch rate of 3.36 fish per angler per day. Facilities: Toilet facilities are limited, there is no potable water and camping is not allowed. Camping - Camping is available on the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA).

Stocking - No stocking occurs at the Cooling Pond. All species are self-sustaining.

Regulations - Season is open from the second Saturday in February through September 30, one hour before sunrise to two hours after sunset. The limit is 2 bass, none of which may be between 11 and 14 inches. Limits on all other game fish (channel catfish, bluegill, and redear) is 15 fish a day or in possession. Possession or use of live minnows is prohibited. Fishing is prohibited from the center dike and posted areas.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 - Largemouth bass angling should be fair from February through May. Channel catfish fishing is best from late March through July. During summer, fish the early morning with plastic worms and top-water lures, and fish the evening with top-water lures. Twenty-one artificial habitat structures in 2008 were placed in shallow water at the center dike to provide cover for young-of-the year largemouth bass. More are planned for this year.

Boating Regulations – Wading or the use of boats and other floating devices is prohibited. Please see the ‘Boating Restrictions in Wildlife Management Areas’ section of the ‘Nevada Fishing Seasons and Regulations’ for more details.



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 - The Cooling Pond is located 70 miles southeast of Reno off U.S. 95A and 11 miles north of the town of Yerington. The pond has two entrances: off Sierra Way, two miles south of Wabuska and through the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) on Miller Lane. For the Sierra Way access, drive east for two miles to the parking lot, turning south onto the WMA. For the MVWMA route, take Miller Lane (off U.S. 95A) for 2.5 miles east to the main entrance to MVWMA at Lux Lane. Follow Lux Lane north 4 miles to the smokestack of the power plant. Parking is available at the southwest quadrant and the southeast quadrant near the iron gate.