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**HUMBOLDT RIVER**  
**(PERSHING COUNTY)**

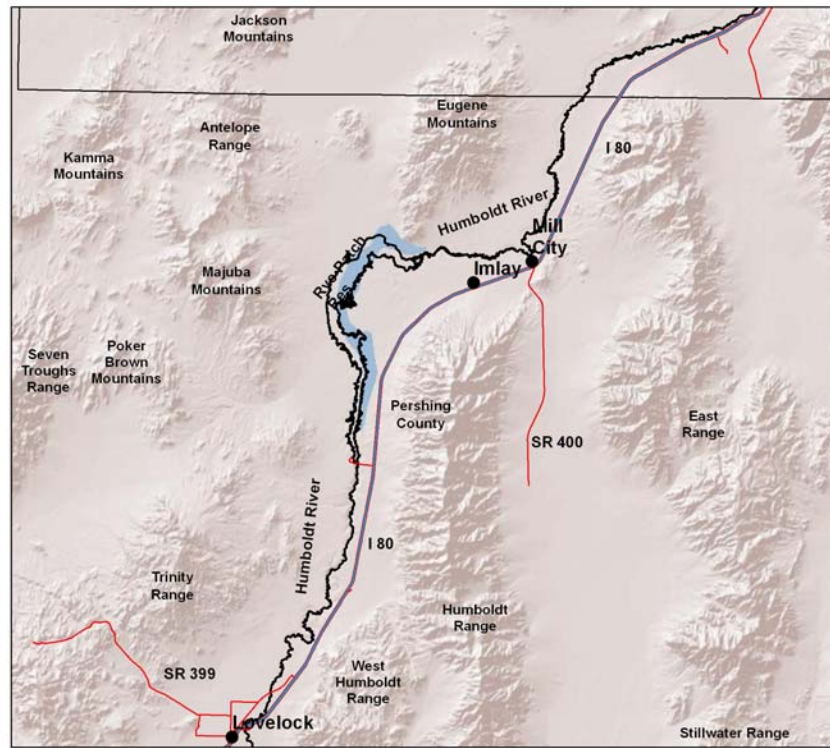
History - The Humboldt River was historically a cutthroat water, producing excellent fishing in the 1840s, however, the portion of the Humboldt River found in Pershing County was never considered good trout fishing. Poor water quality in the lower river kept most trout in the upper reaches of the river. Years of deteriorating watersheds, poor water quality, and primitive irrigation practices have eliminated trout and other coldwater species from the lower and middle Humboldt River. Efforts to stock warmwater species such as catfish, smallmouth bass, bluegill, white bass and white crappie were started during the late 1950s. Healthy populations of all these species now exist and provide angling during the summer and fall of most years. The Humboldt River is the longest river in the continental United States that begins and ends within the boundaries of one state.

Pertinent Information - Flows in the Pershing County range between 13 and 694 cfs. The primary species of fish found in this section of the river include white crappie, wipers (striped bass x white bass hybrid), channel catfish, largemouth bass, walleye, brown bullhead, bluegill, green sunfish, carp, and yellow perch. Angler Questionnaire data in 2007 found 332 anglers fished 1,732 days to catch 4,250 for a catch rate of 2.45 fish per day. Best Time of Year to Fish - best during the late spring and summer up into the early fall. Depending on the target species, the best catch rates are historically from early May through early July. Productive Fishing Methods - traditional bait fishing techniques using worms and live bait are most productive. Small crappie jigs are effective when fishing around structures. Camping - all camping on the lower Humboldt River is primitive. Much of the lower river flows through private property. Fishermen are urged to contact landowners for permission to fish or camp on private property.

Stocking - No official stocking records exist for the lower Humboldt, however, numerous species of fish have been washed into the lower river during peak runoff flows and Rye Patch Reservoir releases.

Regulations - General regulations of 10 trout and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass, 5 may be walleye, and 5 may be white bass or white bass hybrids (wipers) which are over 14 inches in length. White bass or white bass hybrids (wipers) under 14 inches may be included in the 15 warmwater game fish limit.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 - Water levels can fluctuate depending on downstream irrigation demands. In general, flows should be high through June and low from August through the winter.



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Access – U.S. Interstate 80 follows the Humboldt River. Access is limited to public roads servicing the downstream irrigation system. Access to much of the lower river will require land owner permission.