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### LAHONTAN RESERVOIR

History - Lahontan Reservoir is situated in west central Nevada, approximately 50 miles southeast of the Reno/Sparks area. It is part of the Newland's Irrigation Project that stores water from the Carson River and Truckee River (via a canal) to be used to irrigate the arid Fallon area. The quality of the fishing depends on water levels, which depend on snow pack in the nearby Sierra Range. Continuing battles over water allocations in the Truckee River have jeopardized the future of Lahontan Reservoir, with the promise of less water being available in the future.

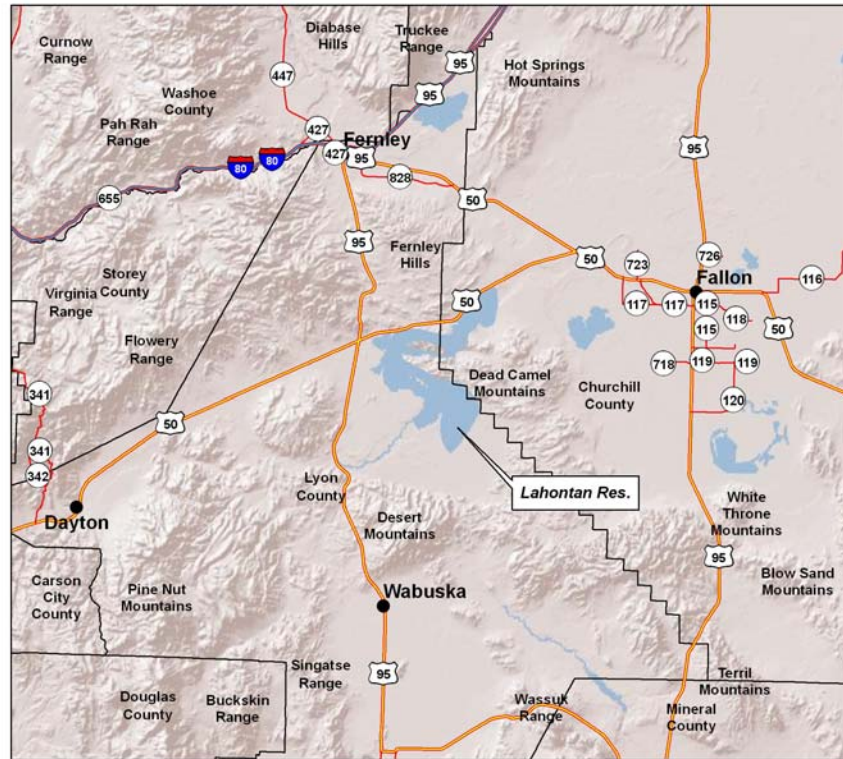
Pertinent Information - At maximum storage, Lahontan Reservoir contains 320,000 acre feet of water with a maximum depth of 85 feet in the lower basin near the dam. There are approximately 10,600 surface acres and nearly 65 miles of shoreline to fish. The length of the reservoir is slightly more than 17 miles with a maximum width of 2.5 miles. The reservoir contains sandy beaches and rock outcroppings, flooded woody debris, a flooded river channel and various islands made out of rock and sand. Water quality is considered good, with the exception of the constant turbidity and dense algae blooms of late summer. The reservoir is a very popular recreation location for boaters, skiers and personal watercraft users, which at times limits the quality angling opportunity.

The primary game fish species include wipers (white bass x striper hybrid), white bass, walleye, channel catfish, bullhead, largemouth bass, spotted bass, and crappie. The best fishing occurs from April through July and October. Angler Questionnaire data from 2007 found 5,432 anglers fishing 43,304 days and capturing 260,005 fish for an average of 6.0 fish per angler day. Trophy Book entries include a 7-pound 12-ounce largemouth bass, a 2-pound 15-ounce smallmouth bass, a 4-pound white bass (State Record), a 31-pound 1-ounce channel catfish (State Record), a 3-pound white crappie, a 9-ounce yellow perch, a 15-pound 4-ounce walleye (State Record) and a 25-pound 6-ounce wiper (State Record). Walleye are captured in the spring with normal walleye gear: jigs, worms trolled in a worm harness behind flashers, and live minnows. Wipers are captured with plugs and live minnows. White bass are caught on spinners (Mepps) and using live minnows. Channel catfish are caught with dead minnows, worms, prawns, liver and worms fished off the bottom. Camping: Lahontan is a Nevada State Park. Fees are charged to enter the park. Camping, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, and boat launching facilities are available. The town of Silver Springs is only a few miles from the reservoir with gasoline and groceries available.

Stocking - Lahontan Reservoir is stocked with walleye fry and fingerling wiper nearly every year.

Health Advisory - Due to elevated methylmercury levels, the Nevada State Health Division has issued a health advisory that recommends no consumption of fish from Lahontan Reservoir and the Carson River from Dayton downstream to the reservoir. Please visit NDOW's web site ([www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org)) for more details.

Regulations - Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night, except for the spillway pool, which is closed to fishing. The limit is 5 trout, 15 warmwater game fish, of which not more than 5 may be walleye and 5 may be largemouth bass.



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Boating Regulations - No boating is allowed within the buoys located in front of the dam. At Churchill Beach and North Shore Marina in Churchill County; Silver Springs Beach in Lyon County - All boat harbors and other areas designated by buoys are zones in which a vessel must be operated at a speed that leaves a flat wake, but in no case may a vessel be operated at a speed in excess of 5 nautical miles per hour.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 - Fishing should be good for walleye, catfish, crappie, and wipers. White bass angling should be excellent for 9 to 14 inch fish. Larger walleye in good body shape have been showing up in the creel. Success for largemouth bass and spotted bass is expected to be limited. Fishing for catfish should pick up as the weather warms in the late spring and summer. The white catfish population has increased in 2008 and should provide good fishing in 2009. Channel catfish will be running larger, with fish in the 3 to 4 pound size range. With less than average snow pack in the headwaters, limited inflow from the Truckee River (via Derby Canal), and a very low wintertime water level the reservoir is expected to be low during spring and possibly summer, leaving boat ramps exposed. The North Shore Marina boat ramp, however, was extended in 2008 and should provide better launching under low water conditions.

Access - Travel 35 miles east from Reno on Interstate 80, turning off at Fernley onto Highway 50 for 20 miles to the turnoff to Lahontan Reservoir (south). Another 8 miles will get you to the north entrance to the State Park.