

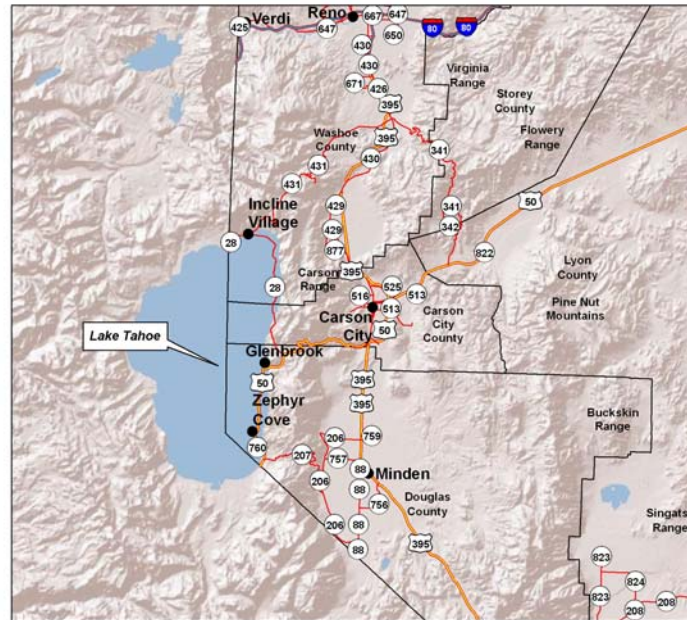
19. LAKE TAHOE

History - Lake Tahoe was discovered by European General John C. Fremont in 1844. Prior to the “discovery”, the basin was seasonally inhabited by the Washoe Indian Tribe. The lake, known for its picturesque setting and amazing water quality, is a lake to 6,223 feet and a reservoir between 6,223 feet and 6,229 feet (elevation above sea level).

Pertinent Information - Lake Tahoe, located in the Sierra Nevada Range, covers 121,000 surface acres or 192 square miles to a depth of 1,646 feet. Several introduced sport fish species inhabit the lake including lake trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and kokanee salmon. Native fishes include mountain whitefish, Tahoe sucker, Lahontan sucker, speckled dace, redbside shiner, Lahontan tui chub and Paiute sculpin. NDOW’s Angler Questionnaire data for 2007 showed a catch rate of 2.32 fish per angler day. Last year, 2 brown trout just over 10 pounds were entered into the Trophy Fish Program and one 15 pound 2 ounce was entered. Additionally, 4 mackinaw entered into the program ranged from 10 pounds 6 ounces to 29 pounds 11 ounces. Fishing throughout the year is variable, but for shore, topline, and deepline angling, July and August are the most productive months in terms of angler success rates. Rainbow trout average 10 to 12 inches in length, while lake trout generally range between 20 and 25 inches. Fishing from the two State Parks (Cave Rock and Sand Harbor) from shore and toplining seems to produce the best catch rates for small rainbow trout. These are also the locations NDOW stocks. Shore access is limited due to private property and very limited parking. Standard shore baits include worms, power bait, salmon eggs and minnows. Lures such as Mepps, Panther Martin, Rapala and Daredevil often catch cruising rainbow and brown trout. Topline trolling for rainbow and brown trout is, at times, productive, while deepline trolling and jigging are the most widely used techniques for catching the mackinaw (lake trout). Numerous commercial guide services are available for anglers that lack the extensive fishing setups required for lake trout fishing and toplining. NDOW’s Trophy Fish Program lists records for a 4-pound 13-ounce kokanee salmon, a 14-pound 3-ounce brown trout, a 37-pound 6-ounce mackinaw (State Record), an 11-pound 7-ounce rainbow trout and a 4-pound 9-ounce mountain whitefish (unofficial State record).

Stocking – In the spring, approximately 18,000, 9 to 10 inch rainbow trout will be stocked into Lake Tahoe at Cave Rock and Sand Harbor and in the fall, 20,000 will be planted.

Regulations - Season is open year around, 1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset, except for the following closed areas: Within a 200 yard radius of the mouths of Third, Incline, and Woods Creeks; a 500 yard radius from Sand Harbor Boat Ramp; and within the boat launch area inside the jetty at Cave Rock Boat Ramp. Limits are 5 coldwater game fish of which not more than 2 may be mackinaw (lake trout). **Live Bait:** Only Lahontan redbside shiner, tui chub, Tahoe sucker, mountain sucker, Paiute sculpin and speckled dace may be used as live bait fish. Fish must be taken from and native to Lake Tahoe. Fishermen may use either a Nevada or a California license to fish anywhere on the lake.



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Biologist Forecast for 2009 - The catch rates for rainbow trout, brown trout and mackinaw should be about the same as past years. Fishing for catchable rainbow trout is usually good at the two stocking sites following planting. The lake is expected to decline in level based on a less than average snow pack.

Boating Regulations - Reduced Speed Areas: All boat harbors and other areas designated by buoys are areas 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 to include: Zephyr Cove, Cave Rock, Round Hill Pines Beach and Glen Brook Bay in Douglas County; Sand Harbor; Incline Village General Improvement District Boat Ramp, and Crystal Shores West in Washoe County. **Boating Prohibited Areas:** Vessels are prohibited in areas which are designated by signs or buoys as follows: the main beaches at Sand Harbor and Diver's Cove within Lake Tahoe State Park; the swimming area of Incline Village General Improvement District and Burnt Cedar Beach; the swimming area of Galilee at the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center; the swimming area of the Lakeridge General Improvement District; the swimming area of the Glenbrook Homeowner's Association; the swimming area of the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe; the swimming area of Zephyr Cove Marina; and the swimming area of Crystal Shores West; the swimming and beach area adjacent to Nevada Beach described in CFR 162.215. **Motor Restrictions:** There are motor restrictions (type) imposed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Authority (TRPA).

Access - From Reno, travel 10 miles south on Hwy 395 to SR 431, turning right and traveling 20 miles west to Lake Tahoe. From Carson City, travel 2 miles south on Hwy 395 to SR 50, turning right and traveling 14 miles west to the lake. Hwy 28 circumnavigates the lake.