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RYE PATCH RESERVOIR

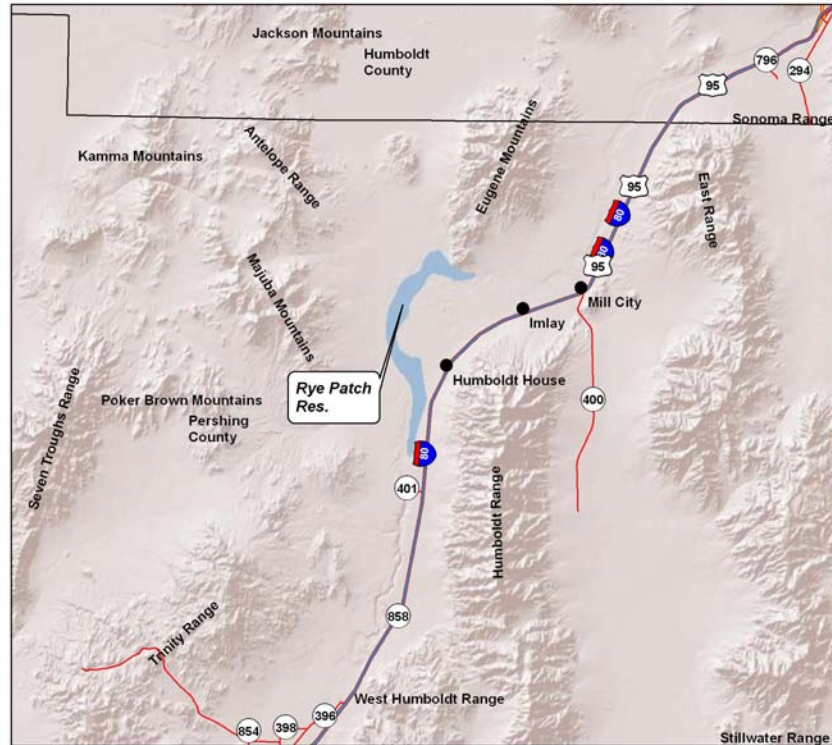
History - Rye Patch Reservoir was constructed on the Humboldt River as an irrigation source for the Lovelock Valley. Average storage throughout its 40 year history is approximately 45,000 acre feet annually. Maximum capacity is 196,000 acre feet. Operation of the dam gate and reservoir storage is controlled by the Pershing County Water Conservation District. Reservoir elevations are subject to drastic fluctuations, which ultimately affects overall angler use and success. Nevada State Parks manages the reservoir.

Pertinent Information - The maximum depth is 61 feet with an average depth of less than 30 feet. The reservoir storage at bank full is 196,000 acre feet with a total surface acreage of 10,820. Game fish species include white crappie, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, wipers (striper x white bass hybrid), walleye, yellow perch, channel catfish, and bluegill. Angler questionnaire data in 2007 found 3,111 anglers fished 15,885 days to catch 40,727 fish for an average catch rate of 2.56 fish per angler day. Nevada Trophy Fish records for Rye Patch Reservoir include a 7-pound 10-ounce largemouth bass, a 3-pound 4-ounce smallmouth bass, a 4-pound 2-ounce spotted bass (State Record), a 30-pound 4-ounce channel catfish, a 3-pound 1-ounce white crappie (State Record), an 11-pound 2-ounce wiper and a 14-pound 14-ounce walleye. The largest walleye in 2008 was 11-pounds 1-ounce. Walleye and wiper populations are continuing to expand with crappie, yellow perch, and spotted bass less productive than in the past. Best Time of Year to Fish - late March for walleye, early April and May for channel catfish and early May for wipers. Late summer and early fall are the best times for white crappie. Productive Fishing Methods - standard crank baits, crappie jigs, and native species of minnows all work well during the early to mid-spring and fall. Channel catfish are caught on minnows, liver, worms and shrimp. Camping - there are developed campsites at the dam, west side and at the Pitt-Taylor arm at the upper end of the reservoir. A fee is charged by Nevada State Parks.

Stocking - Fish planted during the last several years include spotted bass, fingerling wiper, and walleye fry. Five hundred 9-inch rainbow trout are stocked around the dam in the spring and also the fall.

Regulations - Season is open year around, any hour of day or night. Limit is 25 game fish of which not more than 5 may be walleye, 5 may be black bass and 5 may be white bass or white bass hybrids (wipers) over 14-inches in length. White bass or white bass hybrids under 14-inches in length may be included in the 25 game fish limit.

Health Advisory - Due to elevated methylmercury levels, the Nevada State Health Division has issued a health advisory that recommends no consumption of wipers and walleye and no more than one eight-ounce meal per week of any other fish from Rye Patch Reservoir. Please visit NDOW's web site (www.ndow.org) 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.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 – The water level is down and the reservoir should be about half-full come summer. Lake level is projected to come down even further by fall. Crappie, yellow perch, and spotted bass numbers have dropped this year, but walleye and wiper fishing should be good this spring through early summer in the reservoir, slowing in the summer, then picked up again in the early fall. The area around the dam and the spillway just below the dam are two of the prime fishing areas. Wipers up to 10 pounds and walleye to 15 pounds are common in the reservoir and the river immediately downstream.

Boating Regulations – At Rye Patch Dam Access – 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. On the Pitt-Taylor Arm - 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. Vessels are prohibited in areas which are designated by signs or buoys at the dam and swim beach at the State Recreation Area in the reservoir.

Access - Access to the camping sites and boat launching facilities can be found by taking the Rye Patch off-ramp from Interstate 80, 23 miles east of Lovelock.