

SQUAW CREEK RESERVOIR

History – Squaw Creek Reservoir was constructed in 1952 as a private reservoir. At that time, negotiations with the landowner resulted in an agreement whereby NDOW would stock fish as long as the reservoir would remain open to public fishing. Initially, NDOW stocked cutthroat trout in the hopes that the reservoir could be used as a broodstock source, providing eggs to the hatchery. However, the spawning run was never very successful and the effort was abandoned. Since that time, the reservoir has been managed as a put-and-take fishery. Between 1952 and 1998, 186,791 rainbow trout, 61,815 cutthroat trout, 9,526 brown trout, 21,862 bowcutt trout, 500 brook trout, 900 largemouth bass and 48 spotted bass were released into the reservoir.

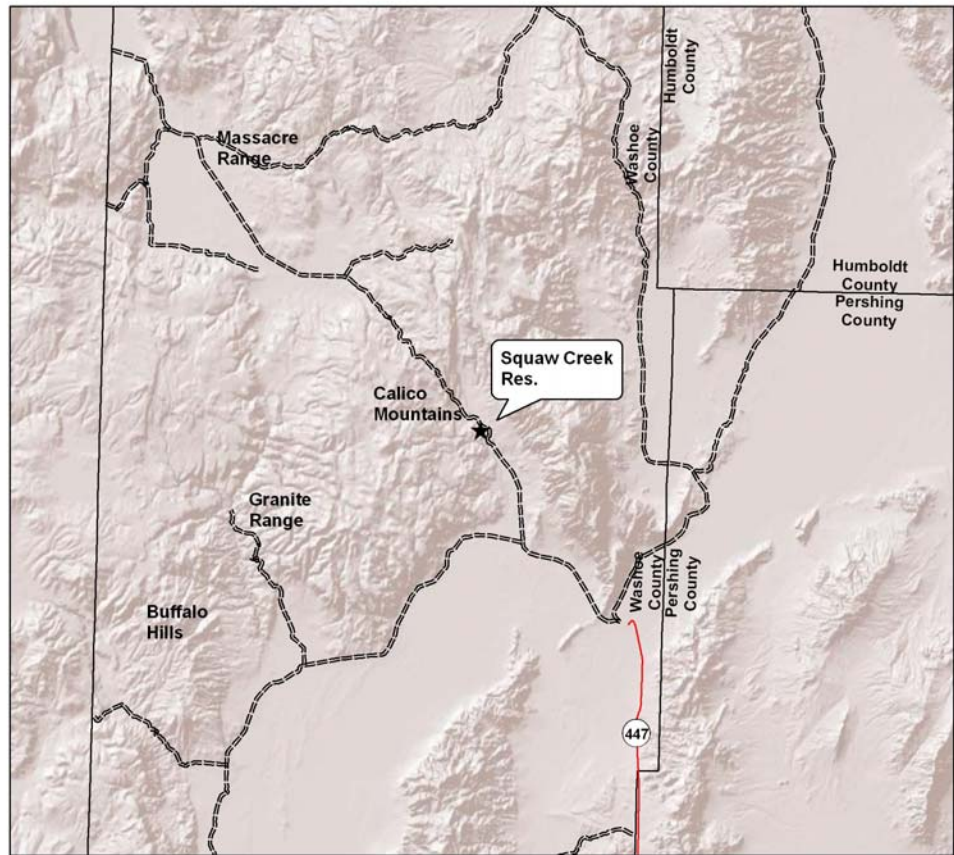
Pertinent Information – At maximum pool, the reservoir is 47.5 surface acres, stores 1,200 acre-feet of water and is 45 feet deep. There are two tributaries to the reservoir. The east tributary flows from a warm water spring. It is in the vicinity of this inlet that the majority of the largemouth bass are found. In addition to the already mentioned fish, also present in the reservoir are green sunfish, bullhead catfish and bullfrogs. According to creel survey data, the best time of year to fish Squaw is in the spring. Angler Questionnaire data from 2007 found that 1,116 anglers captured 5.1 fish per angler day. Trout usually average about 13.0 inches in length. A 7-pound largemouth bass was captured in 2006. Camping - unimproved, no bathroom or garbage facilities available. There are trees and some nice places to camp at the north end of the reservoir. The bulk of the reservoir is private and has been closed at times in the past.

Stocking – The reservoir is scheduled to receive 6,000, 9-inch rainbow trout this spring. About 1,000 tiger trout, 2,000 heat-treated rainbow trout, and 2,000 bowcutt trout in the fall.

Regulations – General regulations apply. Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night. Limit is 5 trout and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 – The lake has remained full or close to full for the past several years. The reservoir experienced a substantial fish die-off in August of 2007. High temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels combined to produce a fatal environment for fish. In an attempt to compensate for the fish loss, NDOW stocked the reservoir with 28,000 4-inch fingerling rainbow trout in the fall of 2007. Although fishing did not rebound in 2007, fishing is expected to improve in 2009. Past creel surveys indicate the best months to fish Squaw are April, May and October. Rainbow trout can reach 20 inches in length, although rarely, and usually average about 12 inches in length.

Boating Regulations – No special regulations apply.



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Access – From Interstate 80, take the Wadsworth exit and travel north on State Route 447 for approximately 95 miles to Squaw Creek Reservoir which is located on the west side of the road.

