

**WEST WALKER RIVER**

History – Headwaters of the West Walker River originate in the Sierras at greater than 11,000 feet. Lahontan cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish were the native salmonids, but currently rainbow and brown trout are the dominant sportfish. Topaz Lake, created in the early 1900s, is offset from the river and stores West Walker River water for irrigation use downstream. The West Walker River terminates in Mason Valley (south of Yerington) when it joins with the East Fork.

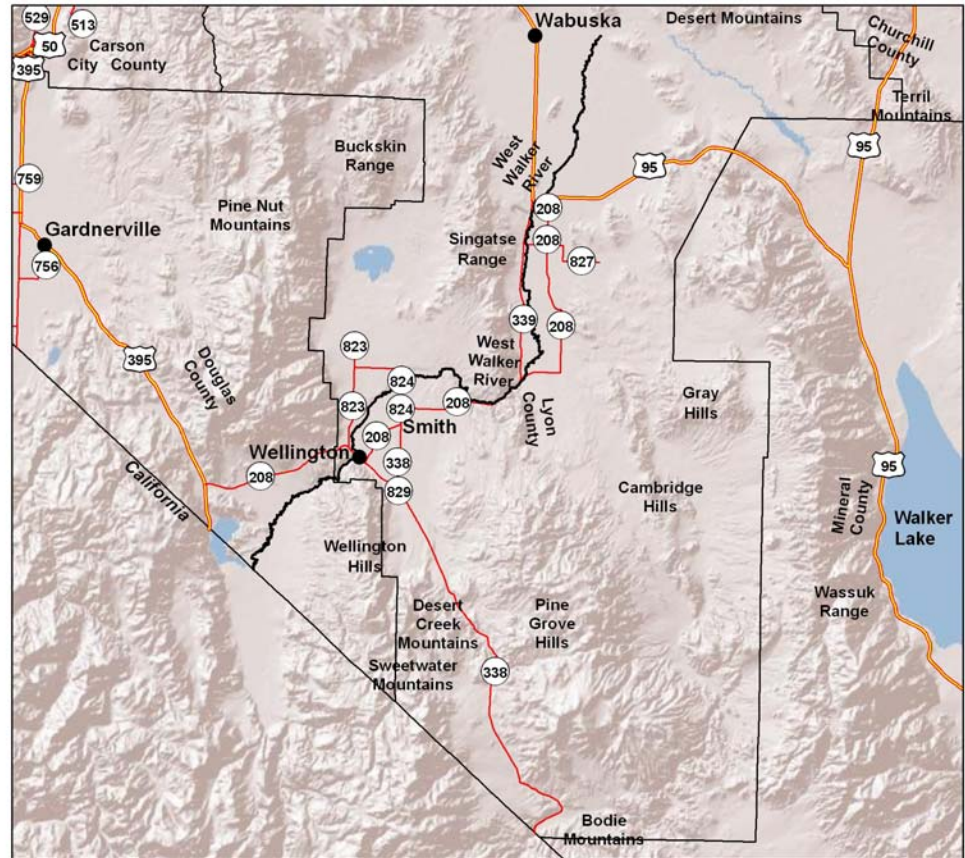
Pertinent Information – Much of the West Walker River flows through private lands. The river is non-navigable, meaning the river channel adjacent to private property is also private property. Public access occurs in two primary places, the first is Hoye Canyon, which is about a 1-mile public fishing section upstream of the town of Wellington. Expect to catch rainbow trout, brown trout, and possibly largemouth bass in this area. Other publicly accessible sites are Wilson Canyon and the BLM Rest Area. Rainbow trout and brown trout are stocked here as well. The river is wadeable generally from November through early April. Flows are high at all other times of the year as a result of spring runoff and downstream irrigation demands.

Stocking – In the spring, 8,000 rainbow trout are scheduled to be stocked and 5,800 rainbow trout are scheduled for the fall. These fish are generally evenly split between Hoye Canyon and Wilson Canyon/Rest Area. Stocking generally occurs in spring and early summer and again in the fall of the year.

Regulations – All of the West Walker River has general fishing regulations, meaning fishing is permitted any hour of the day or night and the fishing season is open all year. The limit is 5 trout, 10 mountain whitefish, and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 – The West Walker River receives a lot of angling pressure and many of the fish stocked are caught relatively quickly. However, larger rainbow and brown trout that reach 18 inches are generally taken every year. Bait fishing is the most common angling method, while fly fishing also produces good results. Fall river flows should be low. The best waters are located next to the highway in Wilson Canyon and in Hoye Canyon just above Wellington.

Boating Regulations – There are no special boating regulations for the West Walker River.



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.

Access – In Wellington on Highway 208, turn west on Hoye Canyon Road (at Wellington Mercantile) and travel approximately one mile to public access. To reach Wilson Canyon and the BLM Rest Area from Wellington, travel east on Highway 208. The Rest Area, which is at the western mouth of Wilson Canyon, is about 5.5 miles east of the town of Smith. Scattered parking is located along the highway within the canyon. Any type of vehicle can access these sites.