

BILK CREEK RESERVOIR



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION

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General information: Bilk Creek Reservoir is managed as a general fishery. Rainbow trout, tiger trout (brook x brown hybrid), and cuttbow or bowcutt (rainbow x cutthroat hybrid) are stocked regularly in the reservoir. There are self-sustaining populations of Largemouth Bass and Bluegill. Trout range in size from 8 to 20 inches. Bass are typically 10-12 inches but bigger Largemouth Bass up to 18 inches and 4 pounds have been found during population surveys.

Location: Humboldt County, Bilk Creek Range, 75 miles north of Winnemucca. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you, and buy your fishing license at ndowlicensing.com.

Size: 60 surface acres at a 670 acre-feet maximum capacity. Max depth of 17 feet when full.

Management: Nevada Department of Wildlife manages the fishery as a General Coldwater Fishery for trout and a General Warmwater Fishery for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill, Nevada Division of Water Resources manages the irrigation water right. 95% of the land surrounding the reservoir is private. Please respect private lands. Angling access can be revoked at anytime.

Amenities and General Info

- Primitive camping
- Some unimproved areas for camper trailers
- 4 miles of gravel road off SR 140
- No restrooms
- Unimproved boat ramps for smaller boats
- Float tube and pontoon boats recommended

Regulations

- Season is open year round
- Any hour of the day or night
- Limit is 5 gamefish
- Respect private property

Previous stocking

2022

Rainbow	1,200	13.5 inches
Rainbow	3,956	9.5 inches
Rainbow	1,946	9.5 inches
Tiger trout	504	10.0 inches

2021

Rainbow	3,990	9.8 inches
Rainbow	4,002	9.0 inches
Rainbow	400	9.5 inches

2020

Rainbow	2,002	9.6 inches
Rainbow	2,011	9.1 inches
Tiger trout	213	9.4 inches
Rainbow	497	8.9 inches

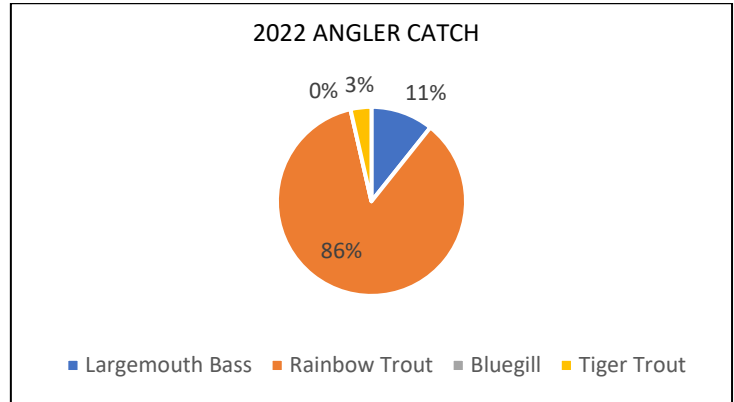
Fishing notes

- Best trout fishing typically occurs in April, May June, September, October. January ice fishing can be good. Largemouth bass and Bluegill is best from May-September.
- Fly fishing for trout: wooly buggers, leach patterns, midge and bead head nymph patterns is usually successful.
- Small spinners, powerbait, and worms are standard tactics that work well for trout
- Spinner baits, rooster tails, and dropshot plastic worms and soft plastics are standard baits for Largemouth Bass. Top water baits can be effective in the evenings.
- Small rubber jigs or plastics tipped with a worm is effective for Bluegill.

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FISHERY SURVEY DATA & FORECAST – 2022/2023
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Year	Fish/Angler	Fish/Hour
2018	19.5	4.48
2019	11.72	3.12
2020	8.89	2.4
2021	6.63	2.62
2022	4.83	1.32
5-year average	13.37	3.33



Water level- Snow pack conditions in March 2023 were well average for the area. Bilk Creek Reservoir is used for irrigation. The water level will fluctuate throughout the summer during periods of irrigation, but the water level will stay steady to maintain the fishery

Rainbow trout

In 2022 a total of 7,102 rainbow trout were stocked in Bilk Creek Reservoir that averaged 10.8 inches. Rainbow Trout represented 86% of the angler catch in 2022. The most common size classes of rainbow caught by anglers in 2022 were 10 inches.

Largemouth Bass

The Largemouth Bass population in Bilk Creek Reservoir is a self-sustaining population. Largemouth Bass represented 11% of the angler catch in 2022. The most common size class of Largemouth Bass caught was 10 inches in 2022.

Bluegill

The Bluegill population in Bilk Creek Reservoir is a self-sustaining population that was introduced in 2016 to provide a forage fish species for Largemouth Bass as well as to provide additional angling opportunity. No Bluegill were reported caught in 2022.

Biologist Forecast for 2023 – A toxic algae blooms and resulting fish die-offs occurred in 2021 and 2022. The trout population was severely impacted, and the Largemouth Bass and Bluegill populations were also affected. The reservoir was stocked with trout in September 2022 and will be stocked with Largemouth Bass again in the spring of 2023. The reservoir will show the usual murky water conditions in spring due run-off, but it should clear up by late spring or early summer. Fishing for trout is usually best in spring, early summer, and then again in the fall. Largemouth bass and Bluegill fishing should pick up by the middle of summer and continue to be good into the early fall. Vegetation around the shoreline generally hinders angling, so a float tube or small boat helps to reach open water. Ice fishing for trout this winter can also be productive. Angler should expect fair to poor fishing at Bilk Creek Reservoir in 2023 as the reservoir recovers from the die-offs that occurred in 2021 & 2022.