

# BLUE LAKES



**ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION**  
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**General information:** Blue Lakes is managed as a Trophy Coldwater Fishery. This is a popular fishery for every type of trout angler. Rainbow trout, tiger trout (brook x brown hybrid), and cuttbow or bowcutt (rainbow x cutthroat hybrid) are stocked regularly and there is a self-sustaining population of Brook Trout. Trout range in size from 5 to 25 inches and the water record rainbow trout is 6 pounds 2 ounces and the Brook Trout is 3 pounds. Road access can be difficult and rough. 4-wheel drive vehicles with good tires and clearance are recommended.

**Location:** Humboldt County, Pine Forest Range in the Pine Forest Wilderness Area, 90 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](http://ndowlicensing.com).

**Size:** 24 surface acres with an average depth of 24 feet and a maximum depth of 48 feet.

**Management:** Nevada Department of Wildlife manages the fishery as a Trophy Cold Water Fishery. Bureau of Land Management manages the surrounding land and the adjacent Pine Forest Wilderness Area.

### General Info

- Primitive camping
- Blue Lakes is a 0.6 mile hike into the Pine Forest Wilderness
- No restrooms (except at the trailhead)

### Fishing/Boating Regulations

- Season opens the second Saturday in June
- Season Closes November 15
- Limit is 5 trout
- Float tubes, Kayaks, and small watercrafts can be used, but must be packed in. No motors gas or electric in the Pine Forest Wilderness.

### Previous stocking

#### 2022

Rainbow	3,614	3.4 inches
Tiger trout	1,148	4.3 inches

#### 2021

Rainbow	1,509	4.5 inches
Tiger trout	1,508	5.5 inches

#### 2020

Rainbow	2,975	4.4 inches
Bowcutt	2,002	2.1 inches
Tiger trout	303	6.1 inches

#### 2019

Rainbow	3,305	2.5 inches
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### Fishing notes

- Best fishing typically occurs in June, September, October.
- Fly angling striping woolly buggers, leach patterns, scuds and bead head nymph patterns is usually successful. Midges under indicators are also successful
- Small spinners such as Mepps and Rooster Tails. Castmaster and small spoons are lures that can be cast from shore
- Powerbait, and worms are standard tactics that work well for trout

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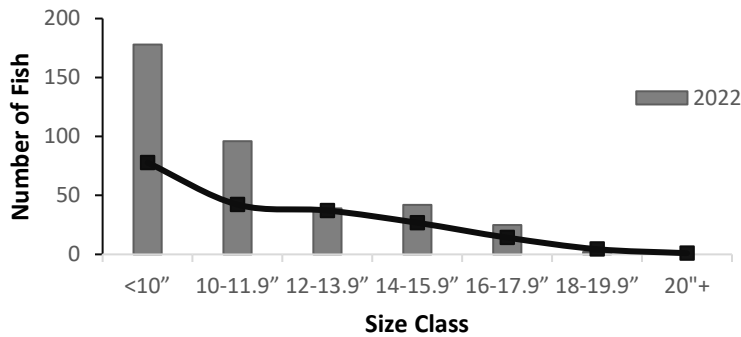
## FISHERY SURVEY DATA & FISHING FORCAST

Brad Bauman – Fisheries Biologist

Winnemucca Field Office



**All Trout Species Length Frequency**



**5-YEAR ANGLER CATCH RATES  
BLUE LAKES**

	fish/hour	fish/angler
2022	4.42	15.92
2021	2.38	8.26
2020	1.59	5.74
2019	1.02	4.44
2018	0.70	2.97
Average	1.42	5.35

**Biologist Forecast for 2023** - Snow pack conditions in March 2023 were well above average for Northern Nevada. Several years of stable to increasing water level at Blue Lakes has helped this fishery recover. The lake is near its natural capacity and 4,762 trout were stocked in the fall of 2022. Catch rates in 2022 were at a five-year high and catch rates in 2023 could equal or exceed 2022. Anglers should expect good to excellent fishing at Blue Lakes in 2023. Make the short hike while the fishing is good.