

# Boulder Reservoir



## ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION Sam Sedillo- Fisheries Biologist, Reno Office 1100 Valley Rd, Reno, NV (775)-688-1882

**General information:** Boulder Reservoir was constructed in 1950 as a private irrigation reservoir. In 1957, an agreement between NDOW and the landowners allowed trout to be stocked and anglers to access the pond. In 2010, the reservoir was acquired by BLM. In 2014, the BLM Surprise Field Office and NDOW completed a fisheries and recreation improvement project that included dredging to deepen the reservoir, placing out boulder piles to improve fish habitat, developing a campground, installing a fence around the reservoir and campground to exclude livestock, and planting trees and vegetation. At maximum pool, the reservoir covers approximately two acres and is a little over 20 feet deep. Runoff and a perennial spring keep the reservoir cool and oxygenated all year and allow for good trout fishing even during the summer. Aquatic vegetation provides habitat for insects that become food for trout. Fish grow fast and are healthy. Rainbow Trout are the only fish in the reservoir, and anglers have the potential to catch between 10 and 20 rainbow trout per day that generally range between 12 and 14 inches with recent years reports of fish up to 18 inches. Use flies and small spinners for best results, and fishing from tubes or canoes is popular.

**Location and Access:** Boulder reservoir is located 190 miles north of Reno, – From Reno, travel 30 miles east on Interstate 80 and turn north onto Highway 447 at Wadsworth. Drive through Gerlach and follow the road to the right when the highway splits (Secondary State Route 34). Drive approximately 80 miles where you will find a dirt road that turns to the left (there should be a sign indicating Boulder Reservoir); follow that road for about 8 miles to the reservoir. Note: Do not confuse Boulder Lake with Boulder Reservoir. Roads may be muddy in spring or following wet weather, so check road conditions before going.

**Management:** NDOW manages the lake as a put and take fishery under general regulations and Rainbow Trout are stocked annually.

<u>General Info</u>	<u>Previous stocking</u>	<u>Fishing notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No special regulations or restrictions apply for boating on Boulder Reservoir.</li> <li>A vault toilet is available on site and camping is available in a designated area with picnic tables and fire rings.</li> <li>Please clean, drain, and dry any gear you bring into Boulder Reservoir to stop aquatic hitchhikers and invasive species, especially any boats you bring to the lake.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Fishing Regulations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General regulations apply. Open year round, any hour of the day or night. Limit is 5 trout.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>2022</u></b></p> <p>Rainbows      2,018    8-12 Inches</p> <p><b><u>2021</u></b></p> <p>Rainbows      2,116    8-12 Inches</p> <p><b><u>2020</u></b></p> <p>Rainbows      3,055    8-12 Inches</p> <p><b><u>2019</u></b></p> <p>Rainbows      3,020    8-12 Inches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the early season- end of winter/spring as ice melts, fishing from shore can be excellent and shallow to deep-water transitions in the lake are best to fish. Fish kastmasters panther martins, or small jigs and midge flies under and indicator for best success. Powerbait and worms also work</li> <li>During the summer, vegetation makes angling difficult beginning in late July, but working the edges of the weed beds and the middle of the reservoir from a tube or small boat will still be extremely productive. Small nightcrawlers or jigs under a bobber or calibaetis, wooly buggers, and midges under an indicator can catch fish between these weed beds.</li> <li>Winter fishing can be good but downsize any of the gear you fish with and go small with your lures and flies. Mealworms or small nightcrawlers work for bait selections. Use light line to have more consistent bites in winter.</li> </ul>

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## 2023 Fishing Forecast

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**Water levels-** Snow pack conditions for the Northern Great Basin for winter of 22/23 were 204% of average. Boulder Reservoir is also spring fed and provides cold water into the reservoir year-round. Aquatic weeds will thrive when water is low and temperature is higher which can create sparse open water for fishing from shore.

### Rainbow Trout

Rainbow Trout are a cold-water game fish and the only fish to reside in Boulder Reservoir. In 2022 there were 2,018 Rainbow Trout Stocked in Boulder Reservoir with an additional 2,116 stocked in 2023. The reservoir is spring-fed from a cold-water source and Rainbow Trout thrive and stay in good condition year-round. Because of this, there are plenty of holdover stocked Rainbow Trout that allow for larger fish to be caught throughout the fishing season. Trout in Boulder Reservoir are currently averaging 12"-14" in length. Rainbow Trout can be most frequently caught from shore early or late in the season but there are opportunities year-round to catch these fish from shore especially in areas around the weed beds where these fish feed. In the summer, fishing from a boat or float tube is ideal for catching these fish when they retreat to deeper water. Fish powerbait, nightcrawlers, panther martins, kastmasters, midge flies, and balance leeches for success when targeting Rainbow Trout.

