

BRUNEAU RIVER

History - Prior to the construction of downstream dams in Idaho, the Bruneau River in Nevada was home to Chinook Salmon and Steelhead making their journey all the way from the Pacific Ocean. Today, Redband Trout and Mountain Whitefish are the only native salmonids present.

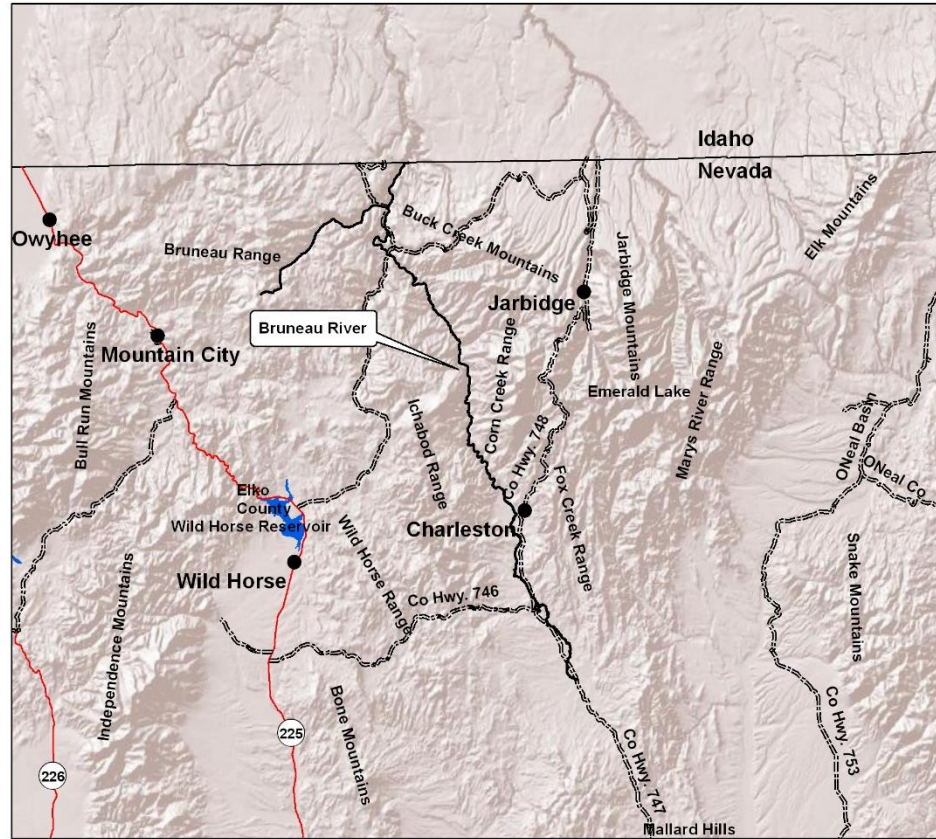
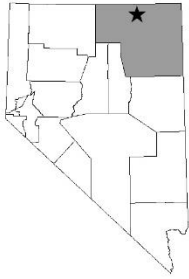
Pertinent Information - The Bruneau is roughly 50 miles in length, 29 miles of which are fishable. Gamefish include Redband Trout (a subspecies of Rainbow Trout) and Mountain Whitefish. Dace, shiners, suckers, and other native endemic fish are also found. Anglers generally catch an average of eight trout per day and the best times of year to fish are in July, following run-off, through October. Fish can easily be caught on flies, lures, and bait such as worms or salmon eggs primarily along the lower section between Copper Creek downstream to McDonald Creek. There is primitive camping opportunity on Forest Service land and at the Bruneau River Wildlife Management Area.

Stocking - Redband Trout and the Mountain Whitefish have self-sustaining populations, and no stocking occurs.

Regulations - Season is open year around any hour of the day or night. Limits are 10 trout and 10 mountain whitefish. The capture, possession, or use of fish as bait, whether dead or alive or parts thereof, including commercially prepared and preserved baitfish is prohibited other than preserved salmon eggs. Aquatic bait may be used only in the water from which it is taken.

Biologist Forecast for 2023 –The Bruneau River watershed is 105% of average near the end of the 2022-2023 winter. Above average stream flows and extended run-off could negatively impact angler opportunity early in the year. Fishing will likely be slower than historic averages, as the fishery was impacted from the prior two years of severe drought causing low flows and high-water temperatures above 70°F. It will likely take several good water years to restore the Bruneau River fishery to its former prominence. Fishing later in the spring through fall should remain fair for Redband Trout and Mountain Whitefish; with a large portion of fish being caught in the 5"-10" size class, and a few top end fish breaking the 12"-14" range.

Access - A dirt road parallels a majority of the Bruneau River from Charleston Reservoir downstream to the McDonald Creek confluence. The Bruneau River road can be accessed from a 24-mile-long road (Gold Creek Road) northeast of State Route 225 at Wildhorse Reservoir or by exiting State Route 225, 55 miles north of Elko at the Charleston-Deeth Road and driving east 21 miles on the maintained dirt road to Charleston Reservoir.



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.

DO YOUR PART – Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

Clean – Remove all mud, plants, and animals from every part of your boat, trailer, and equipment (waders, boots, landing nets, gloves, etc.).

Drain – Before you leave the recreation area, eliminate all water from your equipment and boat including live-wells, ballast, hull, and engine-cooling water.

Dry – Allow time for your equipment (waders, boots, landing nets, gloves, etc.) and boat to dry completely before you enter or launch in any other waters.