

Comins Lake



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION
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General information: Comins Lake is a popular fishery throughout the year with excellent trout fishing in the spring/early summer and in the fall after temperatures cool down. When the trout fishing slows down, the Largemouth Bass fishing picks up allowing anglers to have a quality fishing experience year-round. It is not uncommon to catch Rainbow Trout well over 20 inches and 3 to 5 pounds. Largemouth Bass can reach up to 16 inches (1.5 pounds). Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, and Tiger Trout are stocked into Comins Lake on an annual basis.

Location: White Pine County, 7 miles south of Ely off Highway 6/50. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you, and buy your fishing license at ndowlicensing.com.

Size: 410 surface acres with a maximum depth of 15 feet and an average of 8 feet.

Management: Nevada Department of Wildlife manages the fishery as a quality cold water fishery and quality warm water fishery. Comins Lake is located on Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area (SVWMA) which is managed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

<u>Amenities and General Info</u>	<u>Previous stocking</u>	<u>Fishing notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping and fires are not allowed on the SVWMA • Vault restrooms available • Newly constructed boat ramp and dock • Covered picnic tables • Camping is not allowed at SVWMA 	<p><u>2022</u></p> <p>Rainbow Trout 28,142 9.4 inches</p> <p>Tiger Trout 5,000 9.2 inches</p> <p>Bluegill 6,490 2.5-3 inches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best fishing for trout typically occurs March through June and October through November. • Stripping woolly buggers, leach patterns, and bead head nymph patterns is usually successful for trout. • Casting nightcrawlers or a wetfly below a bubble from shore will be productive. • Bass anglers will do well using Rapalas, swimbaits, and crankbaits.
<p><u>Fishing/Boating Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season is open all year; any hour of the day or night. • Limit is 5 trout and 5 Black Bass • No limit on Northern Pike (unlimited possession) • Water skiing authorized between 11 a.m. to sunset. During other hours flat wake restriction in effect 	<p><u>2021</u></p> <p>Rainbow Trout 28,142 9.4 inches</p> <p>Brown Trout 5,998 6.5 inches</p> <p>Tiger Trout 1,510 9.4 inches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Pike can be caught on flashy lures from shore or from watercraft. It is requested that radio tagged Northern Pike be released back into the lake.
	<p><u>2020</u></p> <p>Rainbow Trout 33,217 8.8 inches</p> <p>Brown Trout 1,074 6.2 inches</p>	

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Water level

Comins Lake is at approximately 75% of capacity in March 2023. An above average snowpack in Schell Creek Range will likely lead to Comins Lake reaching capacity in the later spring/early summer. The lake receives year-round inflow from Steptoe Creek; however, water levels in Comins Lake can drop 30 to 40 inches in a year due to evapotranspiration.

Trout

In 2022 a total of 17,505 Rainbow Trout with an average size of 9.3 inches were stocked in Comins Lake. Rainbow Trout are the most abundant species in the reservoir. The average length of Rainbow Trout anglers can expect to catch is 15.6 inches (5-year average) and is reflected by fall survey efforts. Trout catch rates are expected to be over 1.5 fish per hour. Although not as common as Rainbow Trout, anglers will occasionally catch nice Brown Trout or Tiger Trout cruising the shorelines. Overall, the trout fishery at Comins Lake is stable and has multiple age classes present.

Black Bass and Bluegill

The Largemouth Bass fishery is highly productive in terms of numbers of bass than can be caught by an angler. The average size Largemouth Bass that anglers can expect to catch is 10 inches (5-year average). In 2022, the average length bass sampled (n=33) was 11.8 inches. The best fishing for Largemouth Bass is in the south portion of the lake. Bluegill were introduced in 2021 and the population was augmented (n=6,490) in 2022 with another stocking scheduled for late spring 2023.

Northern Pike

The Northern Pike population in Comins Lake still offers anglers the chance to harvest a toothy predator. Due to angler harvest and active suppression over the last few years, the 2022 fishing season for Northern Pike was very inconsistent. Spring 2021 surveys revealed an average length on Northern Pike of 21.2 inches with a max of 37.9 inches. Anglers can expect similar size Northern Pike in 2023. In the winter of 2022-2023 multiple Northern Pike have been harvested exceeding 35 inches and at least one over 40 inches. Northern Pike can be pursued via hook and line as well as spearfishing. Anglers are required to follow all regulations pertaining to spearfishing. NDOW would like to encourage anglers to target and remove Northern Pike to assist in the control of their population. A small number of Northern Pike have radio transmitters in them, and NDOW is asking that these pike not be harvested as they are a part of management plan to control the piscivorous pike.

Length Frequency All Trout Species

