

DESERT CREEK

History - Desert Creek lies within the West Walker River drainage in Lyon County. It originates from the Sweetwater Mountains in California at greater than 9,000 feet in elevation. Flow is controlled from Lobdell Lake (CA) and the water from Desert Creek is diverted at the lower end for irrigation use in Smith Valley.

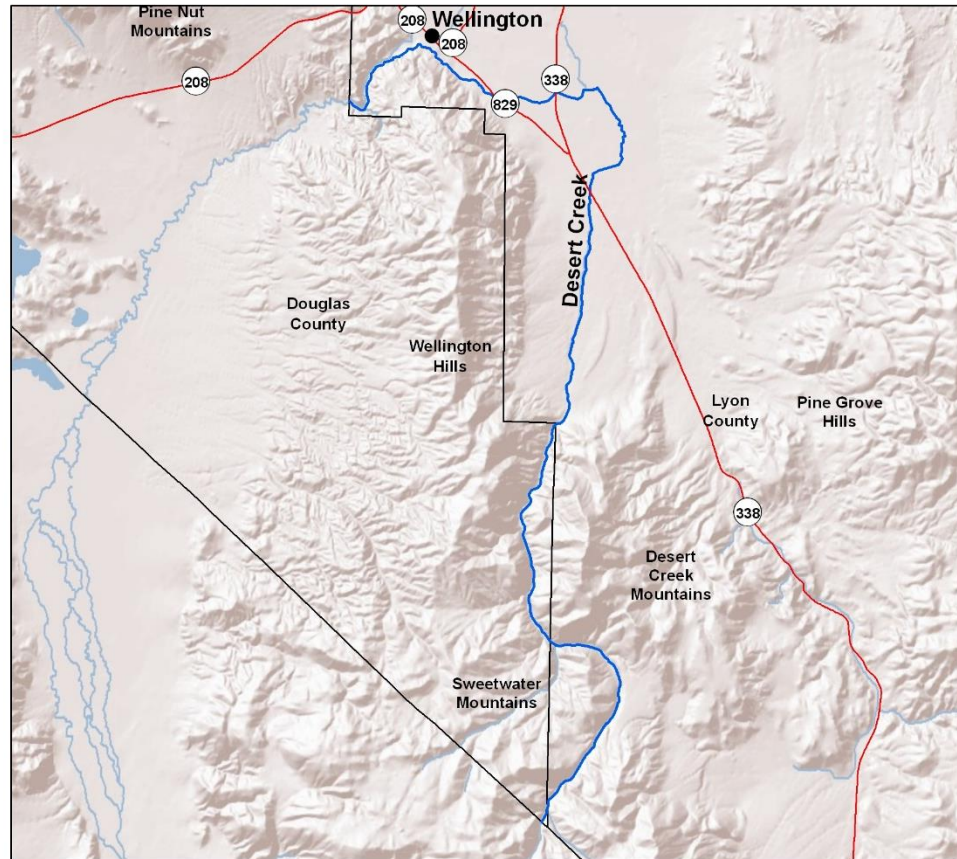
Pertinent Information - Desert Creek is small (about 9 feet wide and 2 to 3 feet deep), sits at an elevation from 5,800 to 7,800 ft in Nevada, is mostly located within the Toiyabe National Forest, and has about 10 fishable miles. It is generally frozen in winter and snow levels make much of it inaccessible. Beginning in March most years, anglers can catch rainbow, brown, and brook trout by using nightcrawlers, salmon eggs, Power Bait, or flies. There is a Forest Service campground (no charge) with restrooms and tables at the lower end and primitive camping is very popular along much of the creek. Indian petroglyphs between 1,000 and 4,000 years old can be found within a 1/2 mile downstream of the USFS campground. There is high recreational diversity in Desert Creek including ATV/UTV riding, birding, biking, hiking, and camping as well as fishing and hunting.

Stocking - Trout are stocked in spring and fall and are scattered at multiple sites along the length of the creek typically at road crossings.

Regulations –General limit applies, 5 trout, 10 mountain whitefish, and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass. The capture, possession, or use of baitfish, whether dead or alive or the parts thereof, other than preserved salmon eggs and commercially prepared and preserved baitfish is prohibited. Aquatic bait may be used only in the water from which it is taken.

Biologist Forecast for 2023 –Snowpack is well above average, flows will be high all year but may taper off during fall. Angling should be good for stocked trout, but also expect to catch naturally spawned Brook Trout and Brown Trout and even a few wild Rainbow Trout. Tiger Trout (hybrid of Brook and Brown Trout) are also stocked and provide good stream fishing action for many anglers. Fishing is generally best from spring to early summer and again when late summer and fall temperatures begin to cool.

Access - Desert Creek has north and south side entries. From the town of Wellington, travel south 4.5 miles on Hwy 208 and the Wellington cutoff to Hwy 338. Head south on Hwy 338 for less than 3/4 mile and turn right to the north creek entrance, which is a gravel road (there is a small wooden sign denoting Desert Creek on Hwy 338). It is then approximately 6.5 miles to the creek. There are about five creek crossings (three to reach the campground) and a high-clearance vehicle is recommended. NOTE: For safety, driving through the creek during spring runoff is not recommended. Camp trailers are not advised. Rather, take the south entrance by traveling about 14 miles south on Hwy 338 from the north Desert Creek entrance. Again, there is a small wooden sign denoting Desert Creek. The creek is about 5 miles along a dirt road and there are various primitive camping areas along the creek.



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.