

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION
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General information: Willow Creek Reservoir is a popular White Crappie fishery in Northeastern Nevada. The reservoir was significantly dewatered in November 2017 due to faulty mechanical components of the dam's water release valves. Due to the dam repairs and recent drought conditions, White Crappie and Channel Catfish had been extirpated from the reservoir between 2018 to 2020. In 2021, White Crappie were reintroduced into the reservoir. Lahontan Cutthroat Trout are also present in the reservoir, but in low numbers.

Location: Elko County, Midas Road, 15 miles east of Midas, NV. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you, and buy your fishing license at ndowlicensing.com.

Size: 640 surface acres and a maximum depth of 40 feet.

Management: Nevada Department of Wildlife manages Willow Creek Reservoir primary as a panfish fishery and secondary as a cold-water fishery.

Amenities and General Info

- The reservoir is privately owned and is operated for agricultural water storage.
- Public access is allowed.
- Primitive campsites are available.
- A boat ramp is available to launch, but its function is dependent on water levels. If water levels are low, the boat ramp will not reach the water.

Fishing/Boating Regulations

- Season is open all year, any hour of the day or night.
- Limit is 5 trout, 15 warmwater game fish, but no more than 10 black bass and 5 may be Channel Catfish.
- Minimum size for black bass is 10 inches total length.

Stocking

- In 2021, White Crappie were reintroduced.
- In the spring of 2023, the White Crappie and Channel Catfish population will be augmented.

Fishing notes

- Low numbers of White Crappie and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout are in reservoir so catch rates will be poor as fishery managers continue rebuilding the White Crappie and Channel Catfish fisheries.
- Expect 3 to 5 good water years before the White Crappie fishery returns to the level it was before being lost due to dam repairs.
- Fishing expected to be very slow again in 2023 as the fishery is rebuilt.

Driving Directions

From the west, turn off Interstate 80 at Golconda and follow signs 44 miles to Midas on the Midas Road (some paved highway and mostly compacted gravel). Travel east past Midas for an addition 15 miles to the reservoir. From the east, travel 27 miles north from Elko on State Route 225, then turn west onto State Route 226 for 18 miles to the Tuscarora turnoff (just past Taylor Canyon Resort). At the Tuscarora turnoff turn left onto the Tuscarora Road which turns into the Midas Road and travel 29 miles to the reservoir. The dirt road past Tuscarora is normally closed in the winter due to snow.

