

WILSON SINK RESERVOIR



ANGLER AND FISH STOCKING INFORMATION
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General Information: Wilson Sink Reservoir was constructed in 1954 and is owned by the Petan Ranch. Wilson Sink Reservoir is annually stocked with Rainbow Trout and supports a self-sustaining Largemouth Bass fishery. Bluegill Sunfish were recently established to provide additional angler opportunity.

Location: Elko County, 78 miles north of Elko. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you, and buy your fishing license at ndowlicensing.com.

Size: At maximum capacity covers 800 surface acres. Maximum depth of 30 ft.

Management: Fishery is managed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Water is owned and used by the Petan Ranch; Wilson Reservoir is typically drawn down over 50% each year for agricultural needs.

Amenities and General Info

- Camp sites available on BLM
- Boat Ramp for launching boats
- Restrooms located around reservoir.

Fishing/Boating Regulations

- Season open year-round day/night
- Limit is 5 Trout; 10 mountain whitefish and 10 black bass, minimum length on bass is 10 inches.

Previous stocking

2022

Species	Number of fish	Avg size (inches)
Rainbow Trout	26,979	8.9

2021

Species	Number of fish	Avg size (inches)
Rainbow Trout	32,820	8.6
Bluegill Sunfish	2,250	4

2020

Species	Number of fish	Avg size (inches)
Rainbow Trout	32,820	8.6

2019

Species	Number of fish	Avg size (inches)
Rainbow Trout	44,816	8.4

Fishing notes

- Trolling from a boat using Rapalas, spoons, spinners, flies, or bait like nightcrawlers can be effective for trout.
- Fishing from shore can be very productive. Bait fishing with nightcrawlers, meal worms, or artificial salmon eggs can produce great trout fishing. Also, actively casting spinners, soft plastics, or jigs while working the shoreline for all species.
- Bass are typically caught in the summer months using soft plastics, topwater lures early and late in the day, and using crankbaits and spinnerbaits along the deeper edges.

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2023 FISHING FORECAST

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Water Level: Snowpack conditions in late winter of 2023 are above 120% of average for the Owyhee watershed. Wilson Sink Reservoir will likely fill up and spill over for the first time in three years.

Trout Fishing: The trout fishing in Wilson Sink Reservoir should be very good in the early spring and early summer. Creel length frequency had over 50% of trout greater than 17” with some top end fish reaching 20”. This trend should continue through the fall of 2023. Fishing forecast for trout is fair to good in 2023. Anglers will find success from shore or boat using spinners, spoons, tube jigs, or bait. Fly fisherman can expect success stripping woolly buggers and leech patterns or indicator fishing nymphs or midge patterns.

Bass Fishing: Bass fishing should be fair to good starting in late spring through early fall of 2023. Creel and angler drop box data had length frequencies with over 55% of fish over 13” and some top end fish breaking the 15” mark. Bass fishing should continue to improve in Wilson Reservoir with the higher water levels in 2023. Anglers should find success fishing soft plastics, spinnerbaits, topwater lures, or crankbaits around structures.

Access: Travel north from Elko 27 miles on State Route 225, turn west onto State Route 226 at Lone Mtn Station. Continue 38 miles to the end of the pavement at the Maggie Creek Summit intersection and turn left at Y onto State Route 11 (follow the Wilson Reservoir signs). Follow State Route 11 for approximately 8 miles, turn left at the intersection with Scraper Springs Road which is also marked with the IL Ranch mailboxes. Travel 3.5 miles to a “Wilson Reservoir right turn” sign. The reservoir is 7 miles down the road. These roads can require 4WD during fall through spring and caution should be used when traveling out to Wilson Sink Reservoir.

