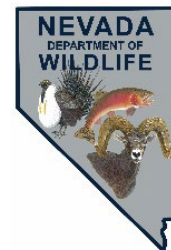


Comins Lake



Angler Information

Heath Korell- Fisheries Biologist, Ely Field Office
1218 N. Alpha Street Ely, NV 89301 775-289-1655 ext 3

General information: Comins Lake is a popular fishery throughout the year with excellent trout fishing in the spring/early summer and again 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 measuring 17 inches (3.5 pounds) have been documented in the lake, but the average Largemouth Bass is 11.5 inches. 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.

Amenities and General Info

- Camping and fires are not allowed on the SVWMA
- Vault restrooms available
- Boat ramp and dock
- Covered picnic tables
- Camping is not allowed at SVWMA

Fishing/Boating Regulations

- Season is open all year, any hour of the day or night.
- Daily limit is 5 trout, and 5 Black Bass and possession limit is twice the daily limit
- No limit on Northern Pike (unlimited possession)
- Water skiing authorized between 11 a.m. to sunset. During other hours flat wake restriction in effect

Previous stocking

2024

Rainbow Trout	21,759	9.3 inches
Brown Trout	8,436	10.4 inches
Tiger Trout	1,760	11.2 inches
Bluegill	6,152	2.7 inches

2023

Rainbow Trout	16,784	8.9 inches
Bluegill	1,700	6.1 inches

2022

Rainbow Trout	17,505	9.4 inches
Tiger Trout	5,000	9.2 inches
Bluegill	6,490	2.5-3 inches

Fishing notes

- Best fishing for trout typically occurs in March through June and October through November
- Stripping woolly buggers, leach patterns, and bead head nymph patterns are usually successful for trout
- Casting nightcrawlers or a wetfly below a bubble from shore will be productive
- Bass anglers do well using Rapalas, swimbaits, crankbaits, and different colored soft plastic baits.
- 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

Comins Lake



2025 Fishing Forecast

Heath Korell- Fisheries Biologist, Ely Field Office
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Water level

As of mid-March, Comins Lake is sitting at approximately 90% of capacity. The snowpack in the watershed that supports Comins Lake is at 95% of normal which means that the lake should see regular water levels in 2025. The lake receives year-round flow from Steptoe Creek; however, water levels in Comins Lake can drop 30 to 40 inches each year due to evapotranspiration. Anglers should expect to see the reservoir remain at its current level until evaporation rates surpass the amount of water flowing into the lake, then the lake level will begin to drop.

Trout

In 2024, a total of 21,759 Rainbow Trout with an average size of 9.3 inches were stocked in Comins Lake. During Northern Pike suppression activities, the average length of Rainbow Trout observed was 16 to 18 inches. Angler catch rates improved from 2023 through 2024 and are expected to be good in 2025. In late 2024, Comins Lake received 8,436 Brown Trout and an additional 1,760 Tiger Trout. Both species should do well in Comins Lake and have exhibited the ability to persist in the lake for multiple years, despite lower catch rates by anglers. Overall, the trout fishery at Comins Lake is stable and should be enjoyable for anglers throughout the 2025.

Black Bass and Bluegill

The Largemouth Bass fishery is highly productive in terms of numbers of bass than can be caught by an angler. During Northern Pike suppression activities, observed Largemouth Bass in 2024 average 11 to 13 inches. The best fishing for Largemouth Bass is in the south portion of the lake, however bass will move into the north lake and occupy the edges of the lake along the bulrush. Bluegill were introduced in 2021 and have had several augmentations to improve their population. NDOW has only just started seeing successful spawning by Bluegill and anglers are encouraged to use catch and release until they are better established.

Northern Pike

The Northern Pike population in Comins Lake still offers anglers the chance to harvest a toothy predator. During suppression activities in 2024, Northern Pike average 16.8 inches and ranged from 3.5 inches up to 47.25 inches. Multiple 20+ pound Northern Pike were caught in 2024 by anglers and through suppression activities. Anglers can expect similar sized Northern Pike in 2025. 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.

