

# ONION VALLEY RESERVOIR



## ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION

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**General information:** Onion Valley Reservoir is managed as Quality Trout Fishery. This is a popular fishery for every type of angler. Rainbow trout, tiger trout (brook x brown hybrid), and cuttbow or bowcutt (rainbow x cutthroat hybrid) are stocked regularly in the reservoir. Trout range in size from 8 to 25 inches and the water record tiger trout was 6 pounds 5 ounces caught in 1998. Road access can be difficult and rough. 4-wheel drive vehicles with good tires and clearance are recommended.

**Location:** Humboldt County, Pine Forest Range, 90 miles north of Winnemucca. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you, and buy your fishing license at [ndowlicensing.com](http://ndowlicensing.com).

**Size:** 101 surface acres at a 1,630 acre-feet maximum capacity with a maximum depth of 42 feet.

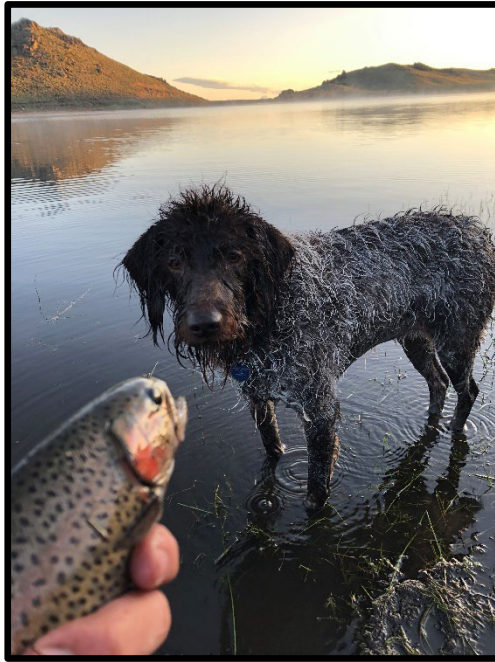
**Management:** Nevada Department of Wildlife manages the fishery as a Trophy Cold Water Fishery, Nevada Division of Water Resources manages the irrigation water right. There is no minimum pool of water established for the reservoir. Bureau of Land Management manages the surrounding land and the adjacent Pine Forest Wilderness Area.

<u>Amenities and General Info</u>	<u>Previous stocking</u>	<u>Fishing notes</u>																											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developed camping with fires pits and tables in the Aspen Trees</li><li>Restrooms</li><li>No boat ramps</li><li>Trailers not recommended</li><li>Float tube, pontoon boats, kayak, canoes and small boats recommended</li></ul>	<p><u>2024</u></p> <table><tr><td>Rainbow</td><td>1,155</td><td>9.3 inches</td></tr><tr><td>Rainbow</td><td>379</td><td>9.4 inches</td></tr></table> <p><u>2023</u></p> <p>NO STOCKING</p> <p><u>2022</u></p> <table><tr><td>Rainbow</td><td>9,284</td><td>9.6 inches</td></tr></table> <p><u>2021</u></p> <table><tr><td>Rainbow</td><td>4,000</td><td>9.0 inches</td></tr><tr><td>Cuttbow</td><td>6,346</td><td>8.7 inches</td></tr><tr><td>Bowcutt</td><td>4,248</td><td>9.3 inches</td></tr></table> <p><u>2020</u></p> <table><tr><td>Rainbow</td><td>3,325</td><td>9.3 inches</td></tr><tr><td>Tiger trout</td><td>1,004</td><td>10.0 inches</td></tr><tr><td>Tiger trout</td><td>650</td><td>10.0 inches</td></tr></table>	Rainbow	1,155	9.3 inches	Rainbow	379	9.4 inches	Rainbow	9,284	9.6 inches	Rainbow	4,000	9.0 inches	Cuttbow	6,346	8.7 inches	Bowcutt	4,248	9.3 inches	Rainbow	3,325	9.3 inches	Tiger trout	1,004	10.0 inches	Tiger trout	650	10.0 inches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Best fishing typically occurs in June, September, October.</li><li>Fly angling striping wholly buggers, leach patterns, and bead head nymph patterns is usually successful. Midges under indicators are also successful.</li><li>Small spinners, Powerbait, and worms are standard tactics that work well for trout.</li><li>Trolling flatfish, spoons, Castmaster, Rapalas, and spinners is a productive way to from a small boat. These lures can also be casted from shore with success.</li></ul>
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<p><u>Fishing/Boating Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Season open year round</li><li>Limit is 5 trout</li><li>Vessels must be operated at speeds that leave a flat wake</li></ul>																													

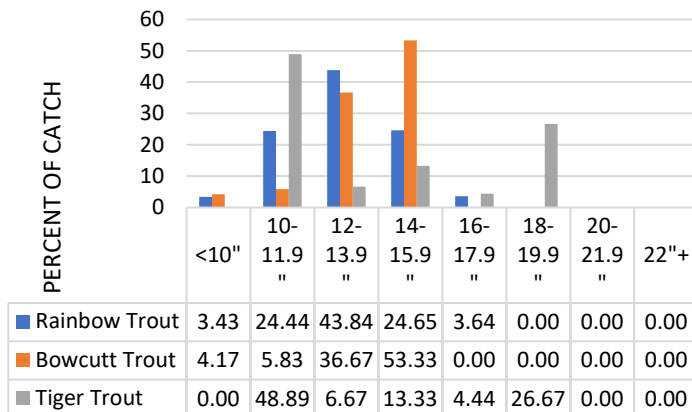
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## FISHERY SURVEY DATA & FORECAST

Brad Bauman – Fisheries Biologist  
Winnemucca Field Office



ONION VALLEY RESERVOIR ANGLER  
DROP BOX FISH LENGTH FREQUENCY



5-YEAR ANGLER CATCH RATES  
ONION VALLEY RESERVOIR

	fish/hour	fish/angler
2024	4.09	20.03
2023	4.05	16.56
2022	4.85	13.58
2021	7.59	29.92
2020	7.26	21.38
2019	3.35	14.49
2018	2.69	10.88
2017	1.61	10.70
Average	4.44	17.19

**2025 Fishing Forecast-** The Onion Valley Reservoir fishery has benefited from not being drained for several years and the good water year in 2024. Hold-over Rainbow Trout, tiger trout, and bowcutt trout should be available for anglers to catch in 2024. Angler catch rates in 2024 were 4.09 fish per hour and 20.03 fish per angler. The average trout is typically 10-12 inches. Stocking rates have been reduced to improve fish size and body condition. The fishing season open year-round. Fishing is expected to be good to excellent with the best fishing occurring during spring and fall. Don't forget about ice fishing if the reservoir accessible!