

Truckee River



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION Sam Sedillo - Fisheries Biologist, Reno Office 1100 Valley Rd, Reno, NV (775) 688-1882

General information: On the Truckee River, anglers can fish for Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT), Mountain Whitefish, and Largemouth Bass (in lower sections) of the river. NDOW manages approximately 40 miles of fisheries between the California State line and Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation. This river is one of the most heavily fished waters in the state supporting between 60,000 to 100,000 angler days per year. The Truckee River is a notoriously challenging stream to fish but trout range in size from 5 to 30 inches and the record Rainbow Trout was 9 lb 12 oz and a 15 lb 10 oz Brown Trout. A small run of LCT from Pyramid Lake has shown up in the lower river downstream of the Derby Dam. While targeting this fish may be challenging, the reward of catching a large native trout in its historic habitat would be well worth the effort.

Location and Access: The Truckee River originates at the outlet of Lake Tahoe and flows approximately 110 miles to Pyramid Lake. The Truckee River has been designated a navigable water, meaning that the state of Nevada owns the bed of the Truckee River up to the present ordinary permanent high-water mark. The bed of the river, therefore, is public land, but this does not entitle trespassing on private property to access to the river. Crystal Peak Park, Mayberry Park, Idlewild Park, Rock Park, and Lockwood offer good fishing and have abundant parking.

Management: Nevada Department of Wildlife manages the fishery through working with the USFWS to stock LCT and protecting opportunities to catch wild and trophy cold water fish such as Rainbows, Browns and LCT. The Truckee River water operations are handled by the Federal Watermaster and by overseeing systems such as the Truckee River Operating Agreement.

General Info

- Stocking occurs from March until June (or when water temperatures become too warm) on the Truckee River, this will be your best time to maximize your success if harvesting fish.
- Please disinfect your gear if moving to another watershed after fishing the Truckee due to New Zealand Mud Snails being present.
- People occasionally float the Truckee River and fish from rafts but be sure to check put in and take outs before you float. Currently the best raft access points exist east of Sparks at Lockwood and further downstream at Mustang.

Fishing Regulations

- Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night, except in that portion from Derby Dam downstream 1,000 feet, which is closed to fishing.
- 3 game fish limits from the state line to E Mustang Road bridge (I-80 Exit 23), no tackle restrictions.

Fishing Regulations Cont'd

- From E Mustang Road bridge (I-80 Exit 23) downstream to Derby Dam and from 1,000 feet downstream from Derby Dam to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation boundary the limit is 3 game fish of which 1 may be trout only artificial lures with single barbless hooks may be used.

Previous stocking

	<u>2024</u>		
LCT	60,802	8-12 inches	
	<u>2023</u>		
LCT	28,182	8-12 inches	
	<u>2022</u>		
LCT	34, 262	8-12 inches	
	<u>2021</u>		
LCT	37,470	8-12 inches	
	<u>2020</u>		
Rainbows	23,250	8-12 Inches	

Fishing notes

- Best fishing typically occurs in the Spring, Fall and Winter months.
- Runoff usually happens when snow melts from March to mid-May but can still be productive for fishing especially when fishing edge or slow water.
- In the winter, fishing with small lures such as Rapalas with Rainbow Trout or Brown Trout patterns, meal worms, or flies (midges, baetis) (18"- 22") can be effective.
- During the fall and spring, using lures, (panther martins, rapalas) small egg patterns, worms (either bait, artificial flies or plastics) can be effective for catching trout.
- During the summer, using lures such as kastmasters or panther martins produce fish along with sunken worms or powerbait. Mayfly patterns size 14"-16" are effective along with larger stonefly or crayfish patterns as lead flies.
- When practicing catch and release during summer, please be mindful of high-water temperatures over 65° F. Even when released at these temperatures, mortality can occur in trout.

TRUCKEE RIVER

2025 Fishing Forecast

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Water levels - Snow pack conditions for winter of 24/25 are about average for the Truckee River Watershed. The Truckee River is projected to maintain good fishing flows throughout the year due to upstream storage and should maintain good water temperature for fishing for trout.

Rainbow Trout

In 2024, Rainbow Trout make up approximately 45% of the species composition of fish caught on the Truckee River from data received in angling surveys. Rainbow Trout are one of the most common fish you will catch while fishing the Truckee River and are generally eager to eat the flies, lures, or bait that you throw at them. Based on angling and fish surveys, the most common size classes of Rainbow Trout caught by anglers in 2024 were from 12"-16" with above average body condition. The Rainbow Trout population has bounced back to numbers similar to the pre-drought conditions. Rainbow Trout fishing will be best in the spring and fall as they begin putting weight back on from winter and prepare for the colder months.

Brown Trout

No Brown Trout were stocked in the Truckee River since 2005 and all Brown Trout caught will be wild fish. Brown Trout make up about 47% of the fish caught from data received in angling surveys from the Truckee River in 2024 and can grow to be true trophy fish. The average Brown Trout caught on the Truckee River is 14" to 18" with many over 20" being caught throughout the year. Body condition of Brown Trout is above average, making for some hard fighting fish. The Brown Trout population in the Truckee River is stable and natural recruitment takes place every year. Brown Trout fishing will be best in spring and fall.

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

In 2024 a total of 60,802 8-12" LCT were stocked in the Truckee River in spring. The LCT stocking and population are managed by the USFWS out of the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex. LCT are the only native fish to the Truckee River watershed. Fishing for stocked LCT is best right after they are stocked until about 2 months after the stocking date. LCT from Pyramid Lake are let over the lower dams up to Derby Dam on the Truckee River in spring (April until the end of May) and there is the opportunity to catch trophy sized during this time before they out-migrate to the lake. LCT will feed on almost anything and will chase lures/streamers and any other flies or gear you fish with. Please be aware of the special fishing regulations for LCT when you fish below the E. Mustang Road bridge.

