

Wall Canyon Reservoir



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

General information: Wall Canyon Reservoir was constructed in 1960 on private and BLM land. The reservoir covers 133 surface acres and has a maximum depth of 55 feet. Smallmouth Bass, bowcutt Trout (Rainbow x Cutthroat hybrid), Rainbow Trout, Green Sunfish, and Brown Trout are the sport fish present in the reservoir. Anglers generally catch from five to ten fish per day and Rainbow Trout are currently averaging 16 inches and Smallmouth Bass about 10 inches. Spring, early summer (through June), and fall are the best times to fish. The reservoir is turbid (muddy) and, therefore, lures or flies should be dark colored and/or have rattles. Roads may be muddy in spring or after rain, making the reservoir difficult to reach. Primitive camping is allowed

Location and Access: Wall Canyon is located in Washoe County and in the Northwest corner of the state at an elevation of 5,121 feet. From Reno, travel 30 miles east on Interstate 80. Turn north onto Highway 447 at Wadsworth. Travel 135 miles through Gerlach turning right onto a dirt road marked by a windmill just north of Duck Flat. Continue 8 miles along this dirt road to Wall Canyon Reservoir.

Management: NDOW manages the lake as a put and take fishery under general regulations. The native Wall Canyon Sucker lives in Wall Canyon Creek above the reservoir and is a federally endangered species. The reservoir is located on private and BLM land so please pack out any trash or gear you bring to the lake.

General Info

- A vessel on Wall Canyon must be operated at a speed that leaves a flat wake, but in no case may be operated at a speed in excess of 5 nautical miles per hour.
- Please clean, drain, and dry any gear you bring into Wall Canyon to stop aquatic hitchhikers and invasive species, especially any boats you bring to the lake.

Fishing Regulations

- General regulations apply. Open year round, any hour of the day or night. Limits are 5 trout and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass.

Previous Stocking

2024

Triploid Rainbows 1,979 8-12 Inches

2023

Bowcutts 1,991 8-12 Inches

Triploid Rainbows 2,008 8-12 Inches

2022

Bowcutts 1,440 8-12 Inches

Triploid Rainbows 4,025 8-12 Inches

2021

Bowcutts 2,185 8-12 Inches

Triploid Rainbows 4,001 8-12 Inches

2020

Bowcutts 1,507 8-12 Inches

Triploid Rainbows 4,510 8-12 Inches

2019

Bowcutts 2,000 8-12 Inches

Triploid Rainbows 4,091 8-12 Inches

Fishing Notes

- Early season fishing can be fantastic and Smallmouth Bass, Brown Trout, bowcutt trout and Rainbow Trout can be caught close to shore on small lures (kastmasters, crankbaits, dark colored jigs) bait (nighcrawlers, powerbait) and flies (dark colored midges, balanced leeches, and clausser minnows).
- Summer pushes trout towards deeper, cooler water and fishing is best experienced from a boat or float tube, powerbait, worms and slow trolling with lures if effective. Fishing buzz baits and olive or dark colored plastic worms on either a Texas or wacky rig can catch small mouth in shallow water. Use flies such as wooly buggers and crayfish patterns to catch trout in the summer.
- Fall and winter will push fish back close to shore and can make them quite aggressive. Kastmasters, panther martins, midge flies, egg flies, and stripped flies to catch trout are a good way to fish along the shore.

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2025 Fishing Forecast

Sam Sedillo – Fisheries Biologist
Reno Office



Water levels - Snow pack conditions for winter of 24/25 are average around the reservoir itself. Wall Canyon Reservoir is also spring fed and provides cold water into the reservoir year-round.

Rainbow Trout and Bowcutt Trout

In 2024 there were 1,979 Rainbow Trout (Triploid) stocked in Wall Canyon Reservoir. An additional 2,000 Triploid Rainbow Trout and 2,000 bowcutt trout are planned to be stocked in 2025 if available. Bowcutts are a cross between Rainbow Trout and Cutthroat Trout and tend to grow faster and fight harder than your average Rainbow Trout. Rainbow Trout and bowcutt trout are the most common species caught by anglers in Wall Canyon Reservoir. Angler surveys show that Rainbow Trout and bowcutt trout caught in Wall Canyon are currently averaging nearly 14"-18" in length. Holdover stocked trout allow for larger fish to be caught throughout the season. It is best to target these fish from shore early or late in the season but there are opportunities to catch these fish year-round without a boat. With that being said, in the summer, fishing from a boat is ideal when targeting these fish. Fish panther martins, powerbait, or wooly buggers for best success.

Brown Trout

Brown Trout are an introduced species in Wall Canyon Reservoir and are self-sustaining in the lake which means all brown trout caught are wild fish. Brown Trout in Wall Canyon Reservoir offer great fishing opportunity for large trout in good body condition throughout the year, especially in the spring and fall. Angler surveys show that the most common size class of Brown Trout caught in Wall Canyon Reservoir is 14" to 16". Fish small lures or nightcrawlers along with suspended flies under an indicator for best success.

Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth Bass in Wall Canyon Reservoir are abundant and provide excellent fishing opportunities for any angler year-round. Smallmouth Bass, compared to Rainbow Trout, bowcutt trout and Brown Trout, are better at tolerating warm water temperatures and you can expect to catch these fish from shore year-round. No Smallmouth Bass are stocked in Wall Canyon Reservoir, and they reproduce naturally in the Lake. Smallmouth Bass occur in all size classes, but based on angler surveys, the average fish you can expect to catch is around 10". Fishing with plastic worms, small crank baits, a nightcrawler under a bobber, and plastic tube jigs can elicit a bite from these aggressive fish. Flies such as clouser minnows or balanced leeches are also effective.



2024 WALL CANYON RESERVOIR ANGLER DROP BOX SURVEY
Length Frequency of Reported Fish

