

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

- BLM administered camp sites available for a fee.
- Boat ramp for launching boats, fee required. Can be difficult during lower water due to a steep drop-off at the end of the concrete.
- Restrooms are located around the reservoir.

Fishing/Boating Regulations

- Season open year-round day/night.
- Daily limit is 5 Trout, 15 warmwater game fish of which no more than 10 may be Bass.
- Possession limit is twice the daily limit.

Previous stocking

2024

Species	Number of fish	Avg size (inches)
Rainbow Trout	27,114	8.9

2023

Species	Number of fish	Avg size (inches)
Rainbow Trout	29,322	9.2

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

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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2025 FISHING FORECAST

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Water Level: Snowpack conditions in late winter of 2024 are around 92% of average for the Owyhee watershed. Wilson Sink Reservoir will likely fill up and spill over for the third spring in a row. Snowpack on the west side of the Bull Run Mountains is the primary source of runoff for Wilson Sink Reservoir.

Trout Fishing: The trout fishing in Wilson Sink Reservoir should be very good in the early spring and early summer. Angler survey and angler drop box data had length frequencies with over 40% of trout greater than 17" with some top end fish reaching 20". This trend should continue through the fall of 2025. Fishing forecast for trout will be good in 2025 especially early and late in the year when water temperatures are cooler. 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 2025. Angler drop box data indicated, in the few surveys received, a catch rate of 5 fish per hour. Bass fishing should continue to improve in Wilson Sink Reservoir with the higher water levels again in 2025. Anglers will find success fishing soft plastics, spinnerbaits, topwater lures, or crankbaits around structures. There was an abundance of juvenile bass in 2023 and 2024.

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 the 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.

