



# Fishing Regulations

**INDEPENDENCE LAKE IS OPEN TO FISHING THE SATURDAY PRECEDING MEMORIAL DAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH.**

**ALL LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT TAKEN SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO THE WATER.**

**ONLY ARTIFICIAL LURES WITH BARBLESS HOOKS MAY BE USED AND NO SCENTED OR LIVE BAIT ALLOWED.**

**ALL CREEKS FLOWING INTO INDEPENDENCE LAKE ARE CLOSED TO FISHING.**

**NO FISHING WITHIN 300 FEET OF WHERE CREEKS ENTER THE LAKE.**

**FISHING LIMIT: 0 TROUT. FIVE KOKANEE SALMON PER DAY WITH A TOTAL OF 10 IN POSSESSION, NO SIZE LIMIT.**

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout are protected under state and federal law and are listed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. **Illegal possession of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout will result in State and Federal penalties.**

## A Unique Fish Habitat

Independence Lake's beauty and rustic nature are matched only by the amazing biodiversity that it supports. Independence Lake is home to one of the world's only two wild, self-sustaining lake populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) — a fish that has been lost from 99% of its historic range. **A surviving and thriving LCT population is a primary goal for The Nature Conservancy and partners.**

### Did You Know?

Lahontan cutthroat trout can inhabit both lakes and streams and grow up to 4 feet long (122cm) and weigh up to 40 lbs (18.2 kg).

### Did You Know?

Lahontan cutthroat trout are an integral part of this ecosystem and an important food source for the bears, otters, and eagles that frequent the area.



Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

Photo: Mark Herberich

## Native Lahontan Lake Fish Species

In addition to the Lahontan cutthroat trout, **Independence Lake hosts populations of six other native Lahontan fishes that have lived here since glaciers disappeared some 10,000 years ago.** Because of its pristine nature and intact ecosystem, Independence Lake has become a unique refuge for rare fish.



Tahoe Sucker

Photo: Thomas L. Taylor



Lahontan Redside

Photo: Thomas L. Taylor



Speckled Dace

Photo: Thomas L. Taylor



Lahontan Tui Chub

Photo: Thomas L. Taylor



Paiute Sculpin

Photo: Trout Unlimited



Mountain Whitefish

Photo: Thomas L. Taylor

## The Challenge Facing These Fish

Much of the conservation science work revolves around ensuring a **resilient Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) population.** This means there would be a broad range of ages and high enough numbers to adapt to changes in climatic conditions or other factors.

### Did You Know?

Non-native fish like Kokanee salmon, as well as brook and brown trout, are the biggest threats to native LCT as they compete for habitat and food and disrupt the LCT's spawning process. Non-native fish species removal is an important ongoing activity to ensure long-term LCT survival.

### Did You Know?

In order to better monitor the status of LCT in Independence Lake, they are counted and microchipped — like those used to identify your pet — are inserted to uniquely identify each fish. A great deal of this work takes place during the yearly spawning run in Independence Creek.

*"My most gratifying native fish research project has been at Independence Lake, where conservation, federal, state, and local entities came together to secure, protect, and manage its pristine ecosystem."*

**G. Gary Scopettone**

Retired Reno Field Station Leader  
 Western Fisheries Research Center  
 U.S. Geological Survey

Habitat Restoration at Independence Creek improves conditions for wildlife and spawning Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Photo: TNC/Simon Williams



A fish weir is installed seasonally to trap spawning Lahontan cutthroat trout for monitoring and microchipping for future identification.

Photo: Trout Unlimited



After data collection and microchipping, Lahontan cutthroat trout are released back into Independence Creek to continue spawning.

Photo: Trout Unlimited

