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Check local weather and road conditions before traveling. Access is restricted to many of these lakes and streams during the winter when roads are closed due to snow, generally December to early April.

Consult the Arizona Fishing Regulations for seasons, bag limits and other special regulations. The booklet is online at azgfd.gov and available at all license dealer locations.

For more information, visit azgfd.gov or contact the local Arizona Game and Fish Department office.

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CONSERVE AND PROTECT

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Fishing Guide for Mogollon Rim Lakes



BEAR CANYON LAKE

BEAR CANYON LAKE

Fish present: rainbow trout and arctic grayling

A beautiful, narrow and canyon-bound lake, Bear Canyon Lake is another in a series of lakes built by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Despite being several miles down a dirt road and having few amenities, it draws many visitors.

Bear Canyon Lake is located nearly an hour's drive northeast of Payson. To access, travel west on Forest Road 300 (the Rim Road) from Highway 260 for about 12 miles. The road is paved to the Woods Canyon Lake turnoff, about 3 miles from Highway 260; thereafter, the road is improved gravel. Turn north on FR 89 and drive 2 miles, then turn right onto FR 89A and drive to one of two access points. The left or northern spur leads to a parking area with a restroom. From this spot, hike 0.2 miles down a steep trail to the lake. The shoreline is steep and narrow at this point. The right or southern spur leads to another parking lot with a restroom. A gentler hike, again about ¼-mile long, leads to the lakeshore. Here, the shoreline is wider and flatter. Access is restricted in the winter when roads are closed due to snow, generally November to late April.

Bear Canyon Lake is steep and deep. There is little shallow water, except at the upper end of the lake. Fish using small spinners and lures. If fishing off the bottom, avoid casting out too far. Bait anglers should try fishing with a worm and bobber. Fly

anglers using a float tube can find solitude at Bear Canyon Lake, especially on weekdays. However, fly-fishing from shore or wading is difficult because the tree line comes right to the water's edge, and the water gets deep close to shore.

The daily bag limit is 4 trout. Boat motors are restricted to single electric motors only.

WOODS CANYON LAKE

Fish present: rainbow trout, tiger trout, green sunfish

The Arizona Game and Fish Department built Woods Canyon Lake for aquatic recreation. This lake has easy access, a close proximity to Phoenix and excellent visitor facilities. It's a beautiful, canyon-bound, deep lake, with plenty of trout fishing opportunities during spring and summer.

Woods Canyon Lake is located close to the edge of the Mogollon Rim, approximately 30 miles east of Payson on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. To get to this scenic Rim lake from Highway 260, drive west about 4 miles on paved Forest Road 300 (Rim Road), then turn north onto paved Forest Road 105 and proceed about a mile to the lake. Access is restricted in the winter when roads are closed at the highway due to snow, generally December to early April.



WOODS CANYON LAKE



WOODS CANYON LAKE

If fishing for trout from shore, try PowerBait or worms. Boaters can try trolling a Super Duper or tiny gold Kastmaster lures. When it's hot in the summer, fish a little deeper, between 10 and 20 feet. But don't fish too deep, because the lake stratifies in the summer, meaning there's no oxygen at the bottom. The lake is loaded with crayfish – try fishing in spring and fall with spinners or lures that imitate crayfish patterns. Fish for green sunfish along the rocky shore with nightcrawlers.

The daily bag limit is 4 trout in any combination and unlimited sunfish. Boat motors are restricted to single electric motors only.



WOODS CANYON LAKE

WILLOW SPRINGS LAKE

Fish present: rainbow trout, tiger trout, large-mouth bass, smallmouth bass, green sunfish

Arizona Game and Fish constructed Willow Springs Lake in 1967 to provide water-oriented recreation opportunities for the public. In this respect, the department exceeded expectations. Willow Springs Lake is one of the most visited lakes in the region, due in part to its proximity to the Phoenix area and cooler temperatures at 7,500 feet.

Willow Springs is located 23 miles east of Payson on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, immediately adjacent to Highway 260. Access the lake by way of paved Forest Road 149.

Shore anglers fishing for trout can try night crawlers or PowerBait. When weather gets hot in the summer, fishing is still good. Fish at deeper depths, between 10 and 20 feet down. Boat anglers should try trolling with a Super Duper, Panther Martin or small, gold Kastmaster lure, and, if all else fails, troll with cow-bells. Bass anglers: Try spinner baits, jigs and night crawler rigs around underwater structure. Lures and flies imitating crayfish are a good way to attract bass because the lake is loaded with this non-native invasive species.

The daily bag limit is 4 trout in any combination, 6 bass in any combination and unlimited sunfish. Boat motors are restricted to single electric motors or 10 hp or less gas motors.

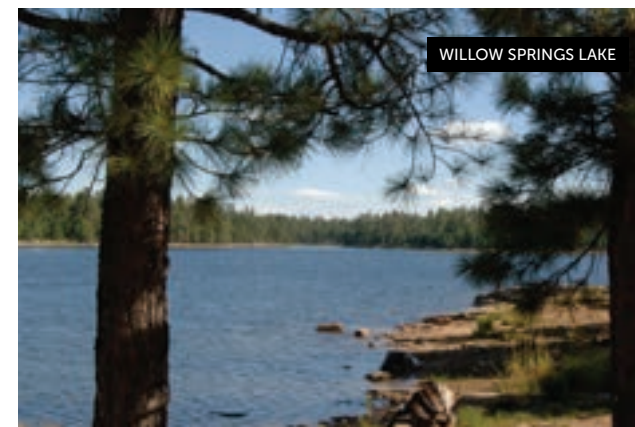
BLACK CANYON LAKE

Fish present: rainbow trout and illegally introduced green sunfish and largemouth bass

Black Canyon Lake is another in a series of lakes the Arizona Game and Fish Department built in the 1960s along the Mogollon Rim to provide water recreation opportunities for the public.

Situated at 7,000 feet, the lake is located 15 miles southwest of Heber on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. To access, turn south on Forest Road 300 from Highway 260. Drive 2.4 miles and turn east (left) on Forest Road 86. Drive 3 miles farther to the lake turnoff. Access is restricted in the winter when roads are closed due to snow, generally December to early April.

Fly-fishing from a boat or float tube is a good way to catch large numbers of fish at this lake. Use



WILLOW SPRINGS LAKE

prince nymphs, peacock ladies, hare's ear nymphs or black, brown or green wooly buggers. You'll get good surface bites in the evenings using dry flies. Trolling spinners early or late in the day would be a good way to go after some of the larger trout. Bait fishing is best with night crawlers off the bottom.

The daily bag limit is 4 trout, unlimited bass and sunfish. Boat motors are restricted to single electric motors or 10 hp or less gas motors.

CHEVELON CANYON LAKE

Fish present: rainbow trout and brown trout

Chevelon Canyon Lake is a deep, canyon-bound lake constructed by Arizona Game and Fish in 1965. Because of its location, topography and access, it draws only the most determined and physically fit anglers. This lake grows large brown trout.

The lake is located about 15 miles due west of Heber at 6,376 feet. Despite its relative proximity to town, reaching the lake takes some effort. From Highway 260 take the Rim Road (FR 300) west for 8.5 miles to FR 169. The road is paved to the Woods Canyon Lake turnoff; then the road is improved gravel. Turn north (right) on FR 169 and drive 12 miles to FR 169b and drive 2 miles to Chevelon Canyon Lake Campground. You must park your vehicle here and hike approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile down a steep, closed road to access the lake (ATVs are allowed). Access is restricted in the winter when roads are closed due to snow, generally November to late April.

The difficult access makes this lake popular with float-tubers. Some lures to try are Kastmasters, Panther Martin spinners and Rapalas. Fly-fishermen should try wooly buggers or wooly worms in black or brown colors, crayfish-colored patterns, and brown or black semi-seal leeches, or other large streamers. Try fishing near the inlet in the fall, when brown trout are spawning.

Special fishing regulations apply at Chevelon Canyon Lake: artificial lures and flies only. The daily bag limit is 2 trout. Boat motors are restricted to single electric motors or 10 hp or less gas motors.