

**FISHING OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE  
OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST**

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\*Intersection of these quads

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## Ouachita River



<b>Species Present:</b>	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Eight public access points on the main river
<b>Camping:</b>	Shirley Creek , Rocky Shoals, Fulton Branch, Dragover, River Bluff are Forest Service float camps and there are two Arkansas Game and Fish Commission access points further upstream at Oden, Cherry Hill and McGuire
<b>Comments:</b>	Note a smallmouth bass daily limit of only 2 with a minimum length of 12 inches long for the South Fork Ouachita River and the main river above River Bluff Access. While the main river and the south and north forks flow within the Forest, much of the adjoining land is in fact private. Walleye and white bass are known to make spawning runs up the river and can provide some exciting fishing.
<b>District:</b>	Caddo/Womble and Mena/Oden Ranger Districts

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### Fourche LaFave River

<b>Species Present:</b>	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Access at numerous river crossings and at a newly constructed FS access site east of Boles and south of Parks off the Dooley Road (Scott County Road 18).
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This is a fairly small river that is floatable with large pools. It is fished mainly by locals. Most of it is on private land.
<b>District:</b>	Poteau/Cold Springs and Mena/Oden Ranger Districts.

### South Fork Fourche LaFave River

<b>Species Present:</b>	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow or Rock Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Access at several river crossings and at South Fourche Recreation Area on Highway 7 south of Hollis.
<b>Camping:</b>	7 sites at South Fourche Recreation Area .
<b>Comments:</b>	This is a fairly small river fished mainly by locals. Could be tough to float it due to low flows any time other than right after storms and it has a fairly steep gradient.
<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winana/Fourche Ranger District.

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## Little Missouri River

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Access at several road crossings and the Albert Pike Campground and FS property on the river at Highway 84
	<b>Camping:</b>	A developed campground and day use area with swimming beach at Albert Pike Recreation Area.
	<b>Comments:</b>	This is a well-regarded smallmouth bass stream in western Arkansas. Note that there is a smallmouth bass daily limit of only 2 with a minimum length of 12 inches long for the river above Lake Greeson. The Forest Service headwaters are designated as a Federally listed Wild and Scenic River and the upper 29 miles are designated as an Arkansas Natural and Scenic River. From Albert Pike downstream through the Narrows, class III and IV rapids can be encountered under high flows so beware.
<b>District:</b>	Caddo/Womble Ranger District.	

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## Poteau River

<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Access at numerous river crossings.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This is a fairly small river starting on the Forest that is floatable most of the year with large pools. By the time it gets into Oklahoma it is pretty good sized. It stays fairly murky. Most of it is on private land.
<b>District:</b>	Poteau/ColdSpring and Oklahoma (Hodgen Office) Ranger Districts.

## Glover River

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Access at numerous road crossings including the four crossings within the twelve mile Ouachita National Forest section from the confluence of the East and West Forks on downstream.
	<b>Camping:</b>	No developed Forest Service sites.
	<b>Comments:</b>	This is a premier smallmouth bass stream in eastern Oklahoma. A number of the larger tributaries also offer good stream fishing.
	<b>District:</b>	Oklahoma Ranger District (Idabel Office).

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## Caddo River

<b>Species Present:</b>	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Access at several road crossings
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites
<b>Comments:</b>	This is a well-regarded smallmouth bass stream in western Arkansas. Note that there is a smallmouth bass daily limit of only 2 with a minimum length of 12 inches long for the river above DeGray Lake. While the river's headwaters are within the Forest, the FS has no lands directly on the river in the wadeable and floatable sections.
<b>District:</b>	Caddo/Womble Ranger District.

## Cossatot River

<b>Species Present:</b>	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Access at several road crossings
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites within the Forest on the river but Shady Lake Recreational Area is fairly close and the State Park has a day use area at Highway 246
<b>Comments:</b>	This is a gorgeous smallmouth bass stream in western Arkansas. The river's headwaters are within the Forest. The upper section is wadeable but not very floatable due to its small size, steep gradient and low flows. The section below the Forest Boundary is within the Cossatot River Natural Area and State Park and it is quite wadeable and floatable though sections have class III to V rapids. Fishing is best left to wading in those stretches!
<b>District:</b>	Mena/Oden Ranger District.

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## Mountain Fork River



<b>Species Present:</b>	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Access at numerous road crossings in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The River only flows through 2 miles of Ouachita National Forest Lands just above Broken Bow Reservoir and the Narrows crossing generally serves as a take-out point.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed Forest Service sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This is a well-regarded smallmouth bass stream in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. A number of the larger tributaries also offer good stream fishing.
<b>District:</b>	Mena/Oden Ranger District and Oklahoma Ranger District (Idabel Office)

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## Petit Jean River

<b>Species Present:</b>	Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Access at several river crossings above and below Blue Mountain Lake. Also several access points on Dutch Creek, a major tributary.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	Runs fairly muddy most of the time. Can get pretty low during the summer. Most of it is on private land. Pools hold some pretty good bass and catfish.
<b>District:</b>	Poteau/Cold Springs and Jessieville/Winona/Fourche Ranger Districts.

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## Dry Fork Lake

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, crappie, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake
	<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites
	<b>Comments:</b>	This 105 acre flood control lake offers spotty (hit or miss) warmwater fishing opportunities, but there are some big bass in the lake. Crappie are stunted 4 out of 5 years but some big ones show up periodically. There is a health advisory on the lake for consumption of fish due to mercury levels in predatory fish.
<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winona/Furche Ranger District.	

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## Cedar Lake

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with a paved ramp. Outboard motor use restricted to that of motors no greater than 7 1/2 horsepower. Accessible fishing pier on the lake.
	<b>Camping:</b>	Developed campgrounds and day use areas with two swimming beaches are on the lake.
	<b>Comments:</b>	This 85 acre recreational fishing/swimming lake offers very good warmwater fishing opportunities. The dam was recently overhauled and the fishery was restocked with channel catfish, redear sunfish, bluegill and Florida strain largemouth bass. Electrofishing results are some of the best in the state of Oklahoma. A 14 inch minimum length on bass, a 6 bass and 6 channel catfish daily limit and fishing restricted to rod and reel or poles only apply to this lake.
	<b>District:</b>	Oklahoma Ranger District (Hodgen Office)

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## Hunter's Pool



<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with an unpaved ramp. Several earthen fishing jetties
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 5 acre recreational fishing lake was recently completely drained and rebuilt due to impending dam failure and being choked full of aquatic weeds. It was deepened and five earthen fishing jetties were constructed plus a water level control structure. It was restocked in 1999 so it will be a few years before the fishing picks up. There is a 14 inch minimum length on harvesting bass, a daily limit of 6 bass and 6 channel catfish, and a gear restriction for use only of rod and reel or poles on this and all Ouachita NF lakes and ponds in Oklahoma.
<b>District:</b>	Oklahoma Ranger District (Idabel Office)

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## Lake Sylvia

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with a concrete ramp but restrictions on boat/motor use.
	<b>Camping:</b>	A developed recreation site.
	<b>Comments:</b>	This 17 acre recreation lake will offer good warmwater fishing opportunities. The dam was repaired and the lake was restocked in 1998 but the outlet structure has experienced several failures resulting in partial draining in 2001 and 2002. It has been stocked with catchable-size channel catfish. The daily limit on catfish is 5 and the lake is open to rod and reel or pole fishing only. There is a health advisory on consumption of bass over 16 inches but few if any will be that large (yet).
<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winona/ Fourche Ranger District	

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## Moss Creek Pond

<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, crappies, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with an unimproved dirt ramp.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 7 acre pond offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. Some real nice bluegill have been taken in the fall during electrofishing sampling. A 15 inch minimum length restriction on bass applies to this pond.
<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winona/Fourche Ranger District

## Rock Creek Lake

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with a concrete ramp and graveled parking area.
	<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites
	<b>Comments:</b>	This 27 acre flood control lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. It seems to be a better sunfish lake than bass lake, at least according to electrofishing samples.
	<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winona/Fourche Ranger District

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## Little Bear Creek Lake



<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	No boat ramp. The only boat access is dragging a boat down the northwest corner of the dam. Some use a cartop sized boat in the back of a 4 wheel drive pickup to get closer to the water but it is one steep haul coming back out of the lake.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites
<b>Comments:</b>	Because of the limited access to this lake, it has one of the better bass populations on the Forest. To electrofish the lake to determine the condition of the fish population, we must hitch our boat trailer to the back of a bulldozer to launch the boat!
<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winona/Fourche Ranger District

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## Cove Creek Lake

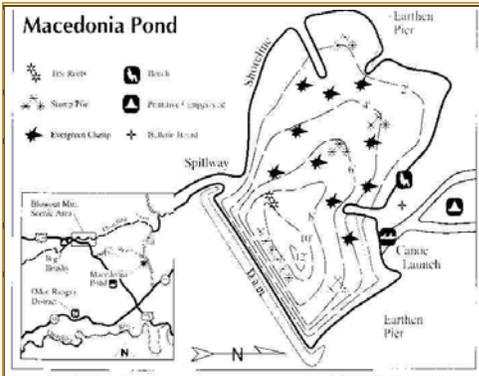
<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake but unimproved dirt.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 46 acre flood control lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities, and there are some big bass in the lake. There is a health advisory on the lake for consumption of fish due to mercury levels in predatory fish.
<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winona/Fourche Ranger District

## Huston Lake

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with a very steep and narrow gravel ramp and graveled parking area. A four wheel drive is recommended on the ramp.
	<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
	<b>Comments:</b>	This 32 acre flood control lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. It seems to be a better bass lake than sunfish lake, at least according to electrofishing samples. This is likely due to the more difficult boat ramp reducing boat angler use.
	<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winona/Fourche Ranger District

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## Macedonia Pond



Click map for full version.

<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with an unimproved dirt ramp.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 6 acre pond is a real gem. It contains sizeable bass, channel catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish plus there is at least one 25+ pound grass carp in the lake.
<b>District:</b>	Mena/Oden Ranger District

## North Fork Lake



<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with a concrete ramp and graveled parking area. There is also an accessible fishing pier on the northwest side of the lake that includes a access road, trail and wooded pier.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 65 acre flood control lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. It receives a fair amount of fishing pressure but still produces nice catches and some exceptional bass periodically. Rod and reel or pole fishing only. On January 1, 2001 the catfish daily limit was reduced from 10 to 5.
<b>District:</b>	Caddo/Womble Ranger District

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## Shady Lake

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year though the recreation area is closed part of the year.
	<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake via a grassed ramp. Boats are restricted to use of electric motors only. A shoreline trail circles the lake.
	<b>Camping:</b>	A developed campground and day use area with swimming beach is on the lake.
	<b>Comments:</b>	This 25 acre recreation lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities however the lake has only been stocked since 1998 following dam repair. Special fishing regulations are in effect at this lake: rod and reel or pole fishing only; a catfish daily limit of 5; and a bass minimum length of 15 inches or longer.
	<b>District:</b>	Mena/Oden Ranger District

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## Caddo Pond

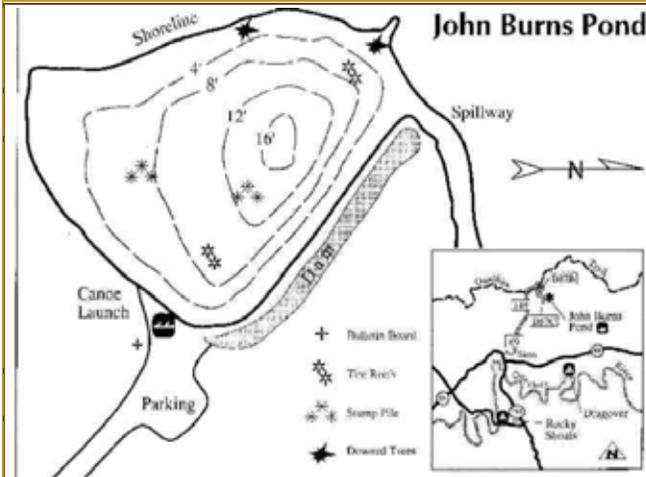
<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	No developed boat access.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 3 acre pond is located west of Glenwood off Highway 70. It is the site of the annual Kids/Grandparents fishing derby in the fall.
<b>District:</b>	Caddo/Womble Ranger District

## Crooked Branch Lake

<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with an unpaved ramp. Several earthen fishing jetties.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 17 acre recreational fishing lake provides a fishing challenge. The lake contains at least 15 acres of flooded timber and lots of shoreline weed beds. Consequently, it does not lend itself to efficient sampling to determine the condition of the fish population. However angler reports indicate good bass fishing. This lake was stocked for three years with Florida strain largemouth bass and there are some big bass in the lake. The fourth largest bass to be electrofished in the state of Oklahoma was captured in this lake (8.39 lb). There is a 14 inch minimum length on bass and a daily limit of 6 bass and 6 channel catfish. Fishing is by rod and reel or pole only.
<b>District:</b>	Oklahoma Ranger District (Hodgen Office)

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## John Burns Pond



Click map for full version.

<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake but only with a small cartopper sized boat - no ramp and steep sided pond.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 2 acre pond was originally stocked with plans for it to be managed as a bass, bluegill, and channel catfish pond. Due to it's small size and sporadic bass reproduction, we have decided to manage it just for channel catfish. However the other species are present and are doing well.
<b>District:</b>	Mena/Oden Ranger District

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## Mauldin Ponds

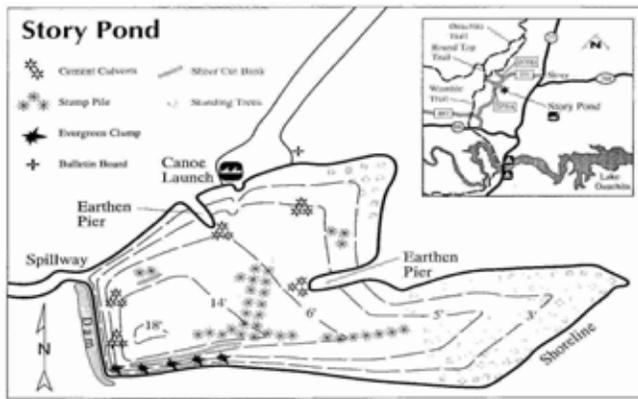
	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Boat access only by hand launching.
	<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
	<b>Comments:</b>	These two 1 acre ponds could be tough to fish as much of the shoreline is heavily wooded. They have been stocked with channel catfish regularly.
<b>District:</b>	Caddo/Womble Ranger District	

## Old Forester Pond

<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake but only with a small cartopper sized boat - no ramp and no suitable turnaround for a vehicle and trailer. Due to the archeological significance of the area, access improvement is not currently planned.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 3 acre pond is the old mill pond for the former mill town of Old Forester. The fish population looks pretty good, particularly considering the age of this old pond.
<b>District:</b>	Mena/Oden Ranger District

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## Story Pond

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with an unimproved dirt ramp.
	<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
	<b>Comments:</b>	This 7 acre pond is another real gem. It contains sizeable bass, channel catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish. The pond contains a windrow of tree stumps and debris that is a fish haven. This pond has a leak and between it and drought conditions has been pretty low making boat launching difficult. A small boat or float tubes would be the most efficient way to fish the structure in this pond.
<b>District:</b>	Mena/Oden Ranger District	

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## Cedar Creek Lake

	<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, sunfish, catfish
	<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
	<b>Access:</b>	Several road access points and a concrete boat ramp and parking lot near the dam.
	<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites
	<b>Comments:</b>	This 85 acre flood control lake is newly constructed and filled. It was stocked in 1998. There is a bass catch and release regulation on the lake to protect the first year classes of bass until the population builds up.
	<b>District:</b>	Jessieville/Winona/Fourche Ranger District

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## Lake Hinkle

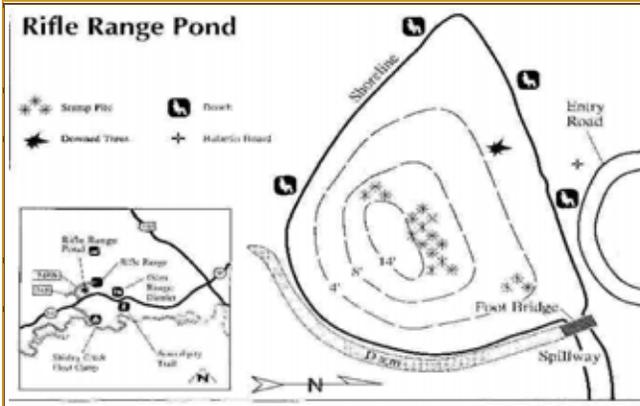
<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access at the lake with paved ramps. No skiing allowed on the lake. Accessible fishing pier on the lake.
<b>Camping:</b>	A developed campground (Little Pines) up off the lake and day use area with swimming beach is on the lake.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 1000 acre recreational State Fishing Lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. Approximately 400 acres of the lake are within the National Forest. On Arkansas Game and Fish lands/waters, special rules apply, see their regulations.
<b>District:</b>	Poteau/Cold Springs Ranger District

## Midway Store Pond

<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, crappie, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access only with a carried in boat
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 1 acre borrow pit pond has been heavily stocked with catfish and some nice crappie have been taken in past samples. There is a 14 inch minimum length on bass and a daily limit of 6 bass and 6 channel catfish. Fishing gear is restricted to use of rod and reel or poles only.
<b>District:</b>	Oklahoma Ranger District (Idabel Office)

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## Rifle Range Pond



<b>Species Present:</b>	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
<b>Seasons:</b>	All year
<b>Access:</b>	Boat access with a cartopper sized boat slide in - no ramp.
<b>Camping:</b>	No developed sites.
<b>Comments:</b>	This 2 acre pond is just off AR State Highway 88. It is being managed mostly for channel catfish though it contains small bass and sunfish. This site is used for a Kid's fishing derby most years.
<b>District:</b>	Mena/Oden Ranger District