

# Becker Lake

Becker Lake is managed as a trophy trout lake. Located near Springerville, it also includes the 622-acre Becker Wildlife Area, where wintering bald eagles can be spotted most years in nearby cottonwood trees. Built around the year 1880, Becker Lake is one of the oldest reservoirs in the White Mountains. The Arizona Game and Fish Department acquired the lake and property around it in 1973.

**Location** – The lake is located at 6,910 feet. Easily accessible, it is a mere 2 miles from the center of Springerville, off the west side of U.S. Highway 60.

**Description** – Becker Lake has 107 surface acres with a maximum depth of 21 feet and an average depth of 10 feet. It is located on a diversion of the Little Colorado River. The

Department owns water rights in the lake, so water levels can be maintained. The lake is stocked with sub-catchable rainbow trout twice a year and many of these fish survive the winter, reaching a good size the following spring. The lake also contains native Little Colorado suckers and illegally introduced green sunfish. It is open to angling year-round.

**Amenities** – The lake has a boat ramp, dirt parking and barrier-free restroom. The Department has developed two hiking trails through the Wildlife Area. No camping is allowed at the lake, but there is a private RV campground nearby. Restaurants and lodging options ranging from hotels to bed and breakfast inns can be found in the nearby towns of Springerville and Eager.

**Fishing Techniques** – Becker Lake can only be fished with artificial fly and lures from October 1 through May 24, but can be fished with bait in summer months. In spring, trout spawn in gravel beds near the boat ramp. Big fish also lurk along the weed beds. Flies to try are prince nymph, brown Montana stone and KP bugger. Using a boat or float tube are the best ways to fish here. There is limited opportunity for shore fishing and wading. Spin fishermen can try Z-rays, small Kastmasters or Panther Martins.

**Special Notes** – Special fishing regulations apply at Becker Lake. Angling is with artificial fly and lure only from October 1 through May 24. The bag limit is two trout; one trout for unlicensed anglers under the age of 14. Boat motors are restricted to either electric or 10 hp gas motors or less.

