

Crescent Lake

When conditions are right, usually in June, July and early August, the fishing action at Crescent Lake can rival that of its mighty neighbor to the south, Big Lake.

Location – Crescent Lake is located approximately 2 miles north of Big Lake, at the junction of State Highway 261 and Forest Road 113 (Highway 273). It is less than 30 miles southwest of Springerville and Eager by paved road, or less than an hour's drive from Pinetop using Highways 260 and 273 and Forest Road 113. The lake sits at just over 9,000 feet elevation on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Access is restricted in the winter when roads are closed due to snow, generally December to early April.



Description - Crescent Lake has 100 surface acres, with an average depth of 10 feet. It's a highly productive lake, which allows trout to gain size quickly. However, the lake is shallow, which encourages weed growth and algae blooms, and makes it subject to late summer and winter fish kills. To manage the problem of winter kills, the Department stocks the lake with large numbers of catchable rainbow trout and brook trout each spring. In addition, the Department removes weeds annually with a floating weed mower.

Amenities – There are three boat ramps at this lake, only one of which, located on the west side, is useable in low water conditions. There are three sets of barrier-free toilets. There is no camping in the immediate vicinity of the lake; the nearest camping is at Big Lake. There is a small store concession that rents boats and sells bait, tackle, snacks and drinks.

Fishing Techniques - Bait and shore fishermen can try night crawlers and Power Bait. Rocky points on the west side are good for shore anglers when the lake is weedy. Boat anglers consistently do better at Crescent than shore fishermen. Boaters can try trolling with flies, such as wooly buggers, prince nymphs or peacock ladies, or use spinners like Panther Martins, small Mepps or Rooster Tails.

Special Notes – Statewide fishing regulations apply and a trout stamp is required. The daily bag limit is six trout for adults or three for unlicensed youth under the age of 14, and may include any combination of species. Boat motors are restricted to electric or 10 hp or less gas motors.