

Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area – Blazer Lakes 1-4

2023 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Blazer Lake is located in Jackson County at the Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area just east of DeSoto, IL.

DESCRIPTION: Blazer Lake is a series of four smaller lakes totaling 123 acres. There is a small gravel parking lot and a gravel boat ramp at Blazer Lake #4. Blazer Lakes 1, 2, 3, and 4 are connected and anglers can access each of these lakes from the single boat ramp located at Blazer Lake #4. All fishing at Blazer Lake and the entire site is closed from November 1 through the end of February. No gas boat motors are allowed to operate at the site.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on annual fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Largemouth Bass – The largemouth bass population in this lake is average. During the 2022 spring electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 54 fish per hour. Of the 27 bass collected, 44% were over 15 inches, 41% were over 16 inches, and 19% were over 18 inches. The largest bass collected in the 2022 survey weighed 5.7 pounds.

Crappie – Blazer Lake has an average crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Of the 34 crappie collected in the 2022 spring electrofishing survey, 44% were over nine-inches in length and 6% were over 10 inches in length. Two white crappie over 12 inches were collected.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is stunted and poor. No bluegill over 8 inches were collected in the 2022 spring survey. No bluegill over 8 inches have been collected during 3 previous fish surveys in this lake.

Redear Sunfish – Seven redear sunfish were collected in the 2022 spring survey. Four of the redear sunfish were over 8 inches.

Channel Catfish – The channel catfish population is poor. No channel catfish were collected in the 2022 spring survey. The lake was stocked with 2107 (6.0 inch) channel catfish in 2020. No channel catfish were stocked in 2021 or 2022.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14” and 1 over 18”	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Channel Catfish	6	None
Crappie	25	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	Bow Fishing is Allowed

CLOSED FISHING SEASON – No fishing from November 1 through the end of February.

No gas boat motors are allowed to operate at the site.

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area 618-521-8873.