



# BURNING STAR STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA – BLAZER LAKE

## 2021 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

**LOCATION:** Blazer Lakes #1-4 are accessed from State Route 149 in Jackson County. From 149 turn north onto Mine Road to the south parking lot for the Burning Star complex which is located between DeSoto and Hurst.

**DESCRIPTION:** There are no facilities or boat ramps at this 123 acre lake which consists of four smaller lakes. Blazer Lakes 1, 3, and 4 are connected by passable water (canoe/kayak). You cannot currently boat from these lakes to Blazer Lake 2. Future plans include a passable water connection from Blazer Lake 2 to Blazer Lakes 1, 3-4. All fishing is walk-in only and no gas motors are allowed.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Rough fish species (buffalo, bowfin, gar, gizzard shad, yellow bass) are abundant in this lake.

**Largemouth Bass (LMB)** – Thirty-seven LMB (4-21 inches) were collected in the 2020 fall electrofishing survey. This lake has an average bass population but 22% of the bass collected were 18 inches or larger.

**Crappie** – Eight black crappie were collected in the 2020 survey. All were between 9-10 inches.

**Bluegill Sunfish** – The bluegill population is poor. Of the nine bluegill collected in the 2020 survey none were over 8 inches.

**Redear Sunfish** – The redear sunfish population looks promising. Four redear sunfish were collected in the 2020 survey and all were 7-9 inches.

**Channel Catfish** – No catfish were collected during the 2020 survey but 2107 channel catfish (5-6 inches) were stocked in 2020.

### **Fishing regulations:**

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

**RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS** – From November 1 through the end of February fishing is prohibited. No vehicular access. No gas motors allowed.

**MAPS/CONTACTS** – A map of the 24 lakes located on Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area can be obtained via email by sending a request to [Shawn.Hirst@illinois.gov](mailto:Shawn.Hirst@illinois.gov)

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