



BURNING STAR STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA – BLAZER LAKE

2017 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 motorized boats are allowed.

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. Rough fish species (buffalo, bowfin, gar, gizzard shad, yellow bass) are abundant in this lake.

Largemouth Bass (LMB) – Ten LMB (5-18 inches) were collected in the 2016 fall electrofishing survey.

Crappie – Five black crappie were collected in the 2016 survey. Two of the BLC were over 9 inches and one was over 10 inches in length.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is poor. Of the nine bluegill collected in the 2016 survey, none were over 8 inches.

Redear Sunfish – The redear sunfish population looks promising. Four redear sunfish were collected in the 2016 survey, and all were 8-9 inches.

Channel Catfish – No catfish were collected during the 2016 survey.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
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 motorized boats 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. IDNR Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-687-4546.