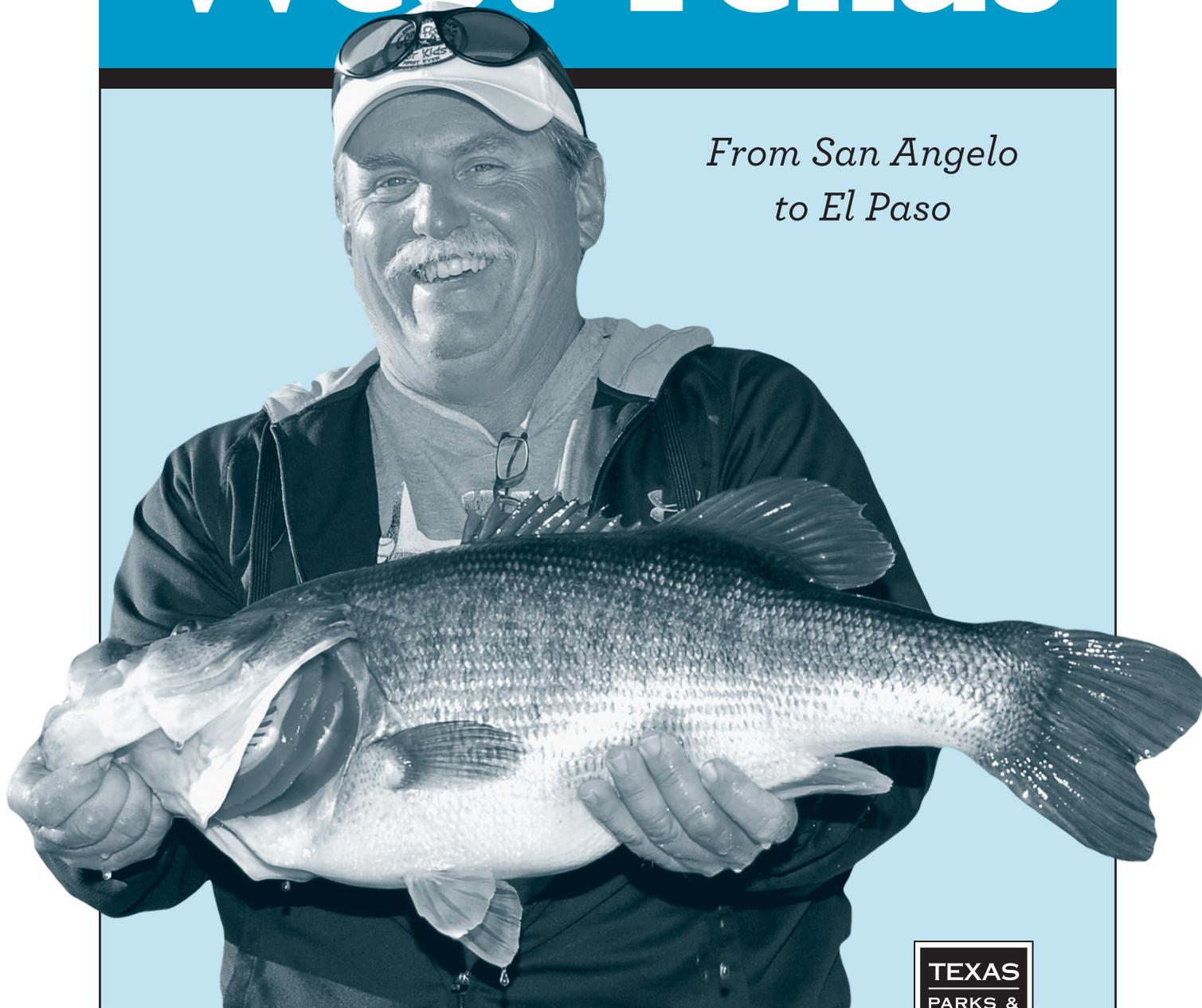


Angler's Guide to
West Texas

*From San Angelo
to El Paso*



[FIRST EDITION]

Life's better outside.®

ANGLER'S GUIDE TO WEST TEXAS

From San Angelo to El Paso

TPWD INLAND FISHERIES MISSION

*To provide the best possible fishing in Texas while protecting
and enhancing its freshwater aquatic resources*

We hope that this booklet enables anglers to take full advantage of the freshwater resources of West Texas.

This booklet was compiled and written by Mandy Scott, Mukhtar Farooqi, John Ingle, Charles Cruz, John Dennis and Bobby Farquhar.

You can buy your fishing license at most sporting goods stores or online at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/licenses/online_sales. Alternatively, scan this image with a smart phone to be directed to TPWD's online license sales webpage.



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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www.facebook.com/tpwdifsanangelo
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

COVER PHOTO: Terry Capps of Wimberley caught Toyota ShareLunker 509 from O. H. Ivie. The fish weighed 13.01 pounds and was 26 inches long and 20.25 inches in girth.

Larry D. Hodge, ©TPWD

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SYMBOLS

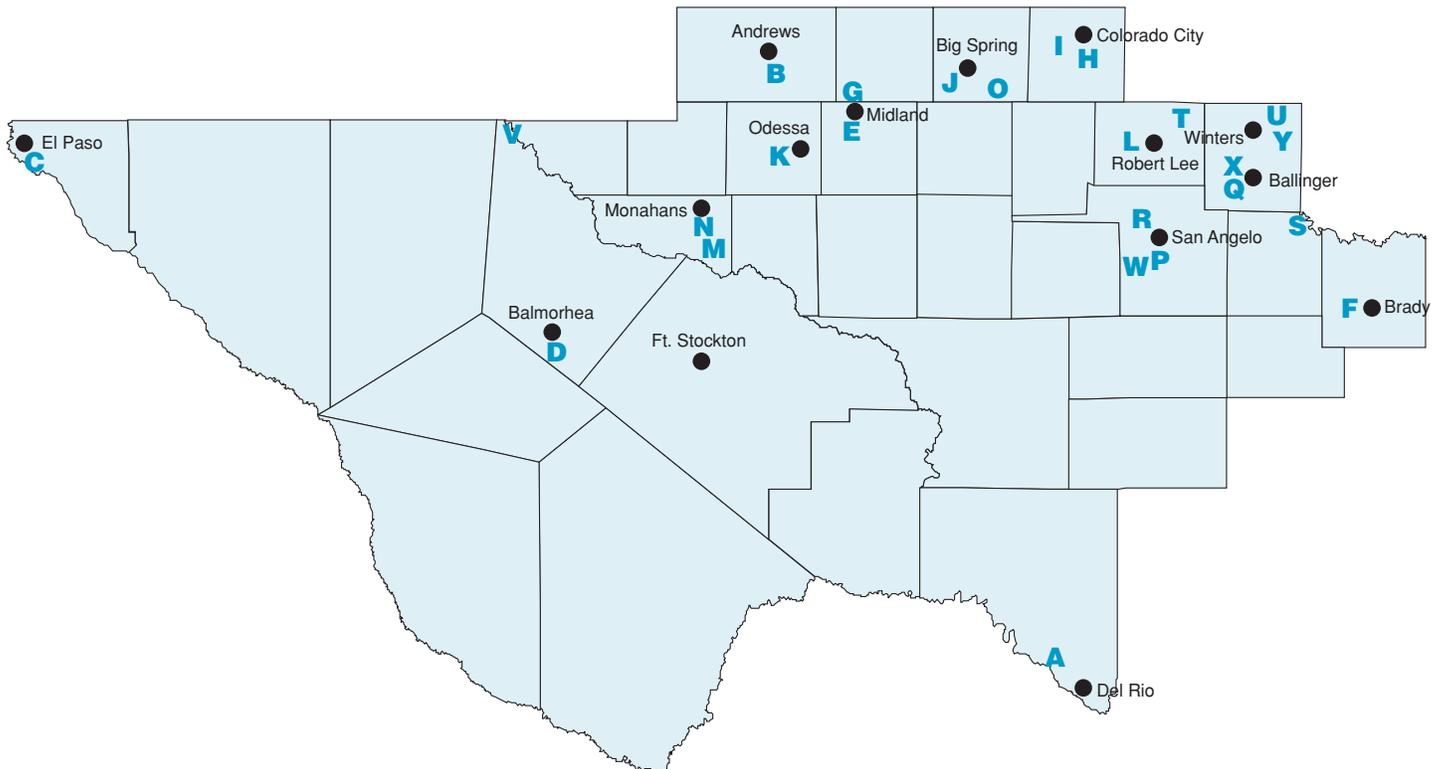
 Boat Ramp	 Fishing Pier	 Horseback Riding
 Picnic Area	 Hiking/Trail	 Bird/Wildlife Watching
 Shelter	 Biking	 Cabins/Motels
 Tent Camping	 Skiing	 Marina
 RV Camping	 Swimming	 Park Headquarters or Information Center
 Rest Rooms		

LOCATOR MAP

West Texas Lakes



A	Amistad	N	Monahans
B	Andrews City	O	Moss Creek City
C	Ascarate	P	Nasworthy
D	Balmorhea	Q	New Ballinger
E	Beal Park	R	O. C. Fisher
F	Brady Creek	S	O. H. Ivie
G	C. J. Kelly	T	Oak Creek
H	Champion Creek	U	Old Winters
I	Colorado City	V	Red Bluff
J	Comanche Trail	W	Twin Buttes
K	Comanche Trail Park	X	Valley Creek
L	E. V. Spence	Y	Winters-Elm Creek
M	Imperial		





LAKE AMISTAD

64,900 acres

[Val Verde County]

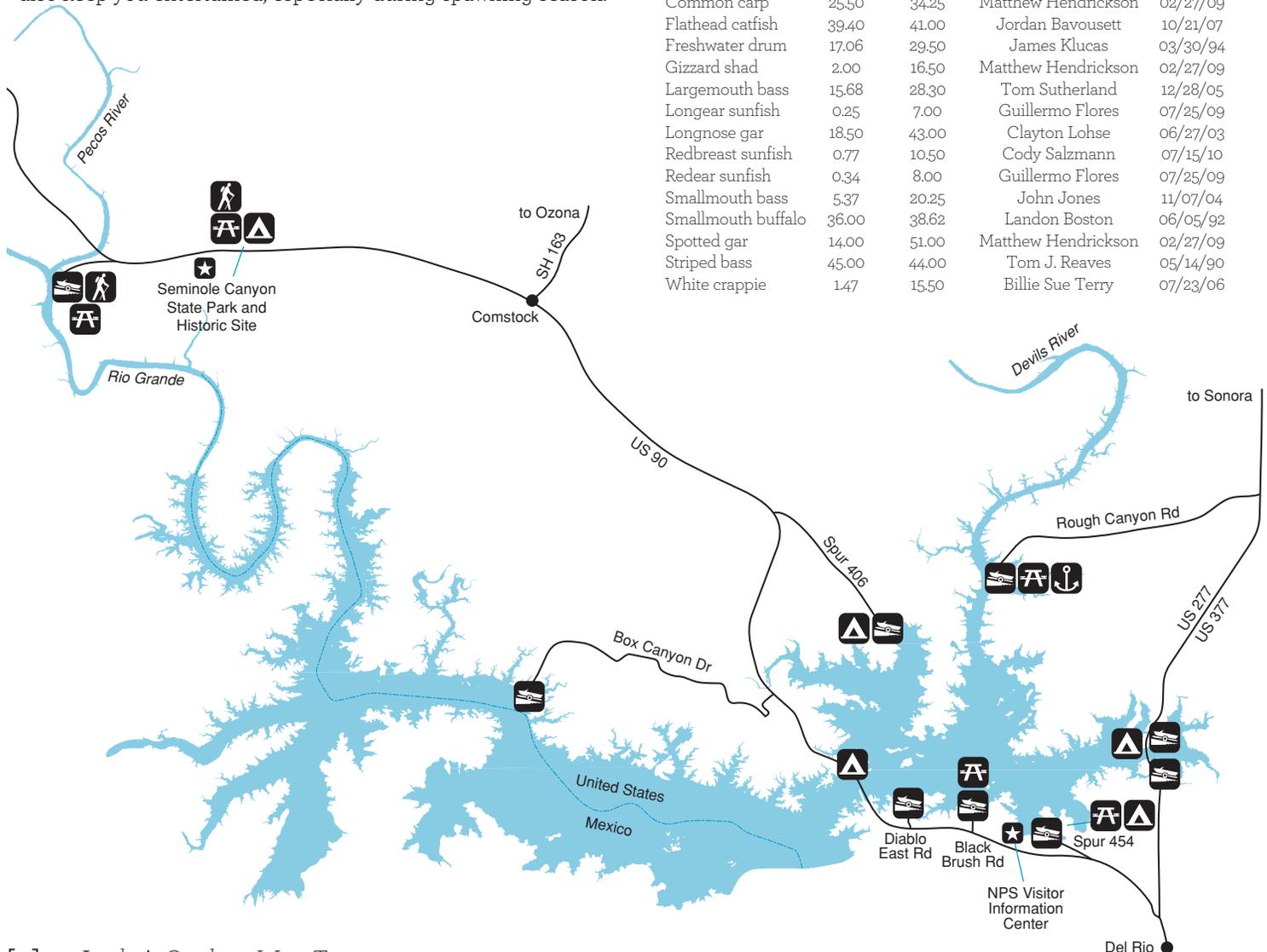
Impounded in 1969

This reservoir is located on the Rio Grande, 12 miles northwest of Del Rio. The Pecos and Devils rivers also flow in to this blue water gem of West Texas. The dam and lake are managed by the International Boundary and Water Commission representing the United States and Mexico. The lake was developed for flood control, irrigation and hydroelectric power generation, and the surrounding land is managed as a National Recreation Area. Because Amistad is a border lake, you are required to have a Texas fishing license to fish Texas waters and a Mexico fishing license to fish Mexican waters. Amistad Reservoir caught a significant amount of water in 2004 and filled in 2008 creating a “new lake” effect which has resulted in some incredible fishing. The shoreline consists mostly of rocky structure, ledges and points with flooded terrestrial vegetation and hydrilla throughout the lake. Largemouth bass are the most sought-out sport fish on Amistad, but striped bass, catfish and crappie can also keep you entertained, especially during spawning season.

You can choose a variety of fishing techniques on this reservoir because there is such a wide diversity of habitats and other variables that come into play. The National Park Service requires a lake-use permit for boating on the lake and there is a fee for using the campgrounds. The National Park Service (NPS) can be reached at (830) 775-7491. The NPS (www.nps.gov/amis/index.htm) and the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce (www.drchamber.com) can provide information on marinas, bait stands, lodging, and more. For more information, call the San Antonio Inland Fisheries District Office at (210) 688-9460.

LAKE AMISTAD ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Alligator gar	214.50	89.50	Shane Neal	08/11/05
Bluegill	0.66	10.25	Guillermo Flores	03/19/06
Blue tilapia	6.73	20.00	Chris Ansick	03/15/08
Channel catfish	23.29	36.00	Jordan Bavousett	05/29/07
Common carp	25.50	34.25	Matthew Hendrickson	02/27/09
Flathead catfish	39.40	41.00	Jordan Bavousett	10/21/07
Freshwater drum	17.06	29.50	James Klucas	03/30/94
Gizzard shad	2.00	16.50	Matthew Hendrickson	02/27/09
Largemouth bass	15.68	28.30	Tom Sutherland	12/28/05
Longear sunfish	0.25	7.00	Guillermo Flores	07/25/09
Longnose gar	18.50	43.00	Clayton Lohse	06/27/03
Redbreast sunfish	0.77	10.50	Cody Salzmann	07/15/10
Redear sunfish	0.34	8.00	Guillermo Flores	07/25/09
Smallmouth bass	5.37	20.25	John Jones	11/07/04
Smallmouth buffalo	36.00	38.62	Landon Boston	06/05/92
Spotted gar	14.00	51.00	Matthew Hendrickson	02/27/09
Striped bass	45.00	44.00	Tom J. Reaves	05/14/90
White crappie	1.47	15.50	Billie Sue Terry	07/23/06





LAKE BALMORHEA

573 acres

[Reeves County]

Impounded in 1917

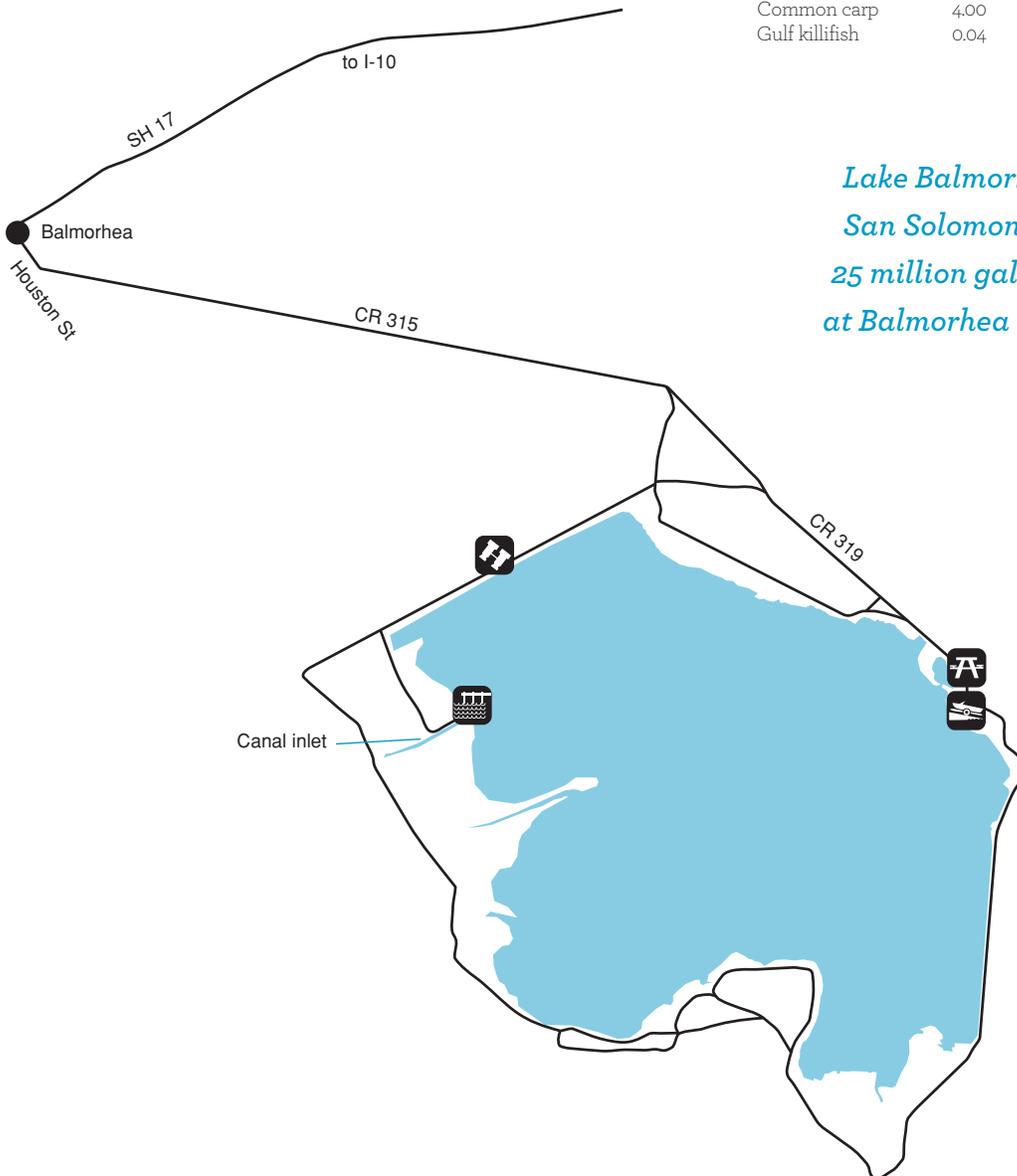
This lake is located two miles southeast of Balmorhea on Sandia Creek. Since 2004, it has experienced intermittent toxic golden alga blooms, which has limited the development of the fishery. In the past, largemouth bass, white crappie, redear sunfish, bluegill and channel catfish were popular sport fish here. During toxic spells, fish tend to seek refuge at the mouth of the spring-fed canal, which generally remains unaffected.

There is one paved boat ramp (fee charged) and the majority of the shoreline is accessible to bank anglers. There are also picnic areas. Excellent birding opportunities exist at the lake as well as at nearby Balmorhea State Park. It is operated and controlled by the Reeves County Water Improvement District No. 1 (432-375-2238). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

LAKE BALMORHEA ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Bluegill	0.22	6.25	James Watson	06/26/09
Common carp	4.00	20.75	Bob Morrison	07/14/97
Gulf killifish	0.04	3.75	James Watson	07/26/09

Lake Balmorhea receives its water from San Solomon Springs, which gushes out 25 million gallons per day from its source at Balmorhea State Park's swimming pool.





BRADY CREEK RESERVOIR

2,020 acres

[McCulloch County]

Impounded in 1963

This lake is located four miles west of Brady and is typical of West Texas impoundments, where water levels fluctuate greatly from year to year. In boom years, where the rocky gravel shoreline is flooded with terrestrial vegetation, fishing can be fantastic. Largemouth bass are highly sought-out; numerous bass tournaments are held on this lake each spring and summer. Success with crappie and channel catfish can be excellent during spawning season while fishing up Brady Creek. Good stringers of crappie can be caught during the winter months from the crappie house located near the dam. Brady Creek offers primitive and RV camping, as well as screen shelters. Brady Lake Store (325-597-1823) provides bait, tackle, groceries and other supplies. For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

BRADY CREEK RESERVOIR ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Bluegill	0.09	5.00	Robert Maindelle	07/27/04
Common carp	10.63	29.06	Bob Morrison	04/28/99
Flathead catfish	58.00	47.50	Clarence Wilkerson	04/29/92
Green sunfish	0.18	5.88	Robert Maindelle	07/27/04
Largemouth bass	12.95	26.00	Linda Slaughter	07/14/96
Smallmouth bass	4.75	20.50	James K. Simpson	02/12/89

Fisheries management responsibilities were transferred to the San Angelo fisheries office in 2011.





CHAMPION CREEK LAKE

1,560 acres

[Mitchell County]

Impounded in 1959

The lake is located on Champion Creek, seven miles south of Colorado City. There is good fishing for largemouth bass, white crappie, white bass, channel catfish and flathead catfish. There is one boat ramp at Fisher Park that is usable when the lake is near full; launching off the shoreline is possible at lower lake levels, but 4-wheel drive is recommended. There is good shoreline access on the south side of the lake where it is possible to launch a small boat out of the back of a truck. The lake is accessed by a locked gate. Anglers can obtain a key for a refundable deposit of \$20 per trip, or purchase a key for \$20 via City Hall (325-728-3463). The controlling authority is the City of Colorado City. For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

CHAMPION CREEK LAKE ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Flathead catfish	40.50	45.50	Weldon Tipton	10/24/95
Largemouth bass	11.80	26.00	Wendell Pinkerton	12/03/05





COLORADO CITY LAKE

1,618 acres

[Mitchell County]

Impounded in 1949

COLORADO CITY LAKE ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Flathead catfish	35.00	41.00	William Sutherland	04/23/94
Largemouth bass	10.69	26.75	T.C. Love	04/13/93
Red Drum	30.08	44.00	Carolyn Robbins	07/19/97

This lake is located on Morgan Creek, a tributary of the Colorado River, five miles west of Colorado City. It has been severely impacted by episodic toxic golden alga blooms since 2001. Multiple restocking efforts since 2003 have not resulted in the development of adequate fish populations to support a fishery. The lake is being monitored for any long-term improvements in water quality which would then allow for the redevelopment of the fishery. There are two paved boat ramps, one at Lake Colorado City State Park (325-728-3931) and one privately operated ramp at Cooper's Cove (325-728-5885). Recreational boating during the hot summer months can cool you off and if you don't have your own boat, the state park rents paddle boats and kayaks. Cabins, tent camping, and RV hookups are also available at the state park. The controlling authority is City of Colorado City (325-728-5331). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).



LAKE E.V. SPENCE

14,950 acres

[Coke County]

Impounded in 1969

This lake, located on the Colorado River two miles west of Robert Lee, has been severely impacted by intermittent toxic golden alga blooms since 2001. Multiple restocking efforts since 2003 have not resulted in the development of adequate fish populations to support a fishery. The lake is being monitored for sustained improvements in water quality which would allow for restocking. Water level varies annually and can be extremely low at times. As of this writing, the lake is at its historical low of two percent capacity. There are two public boat ramps: Wildcat Marina (325-453-2801), which also has a temporary metal ramp that is used when water level is very low, and Paint Creek Marina (325-453-2982). The controlling authority is the Colorado River Municipal Water District (432-267-6341). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

LAKE E.V. SPENCE ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Blue catfish	54.44	47.50	Larry Walters	10/02/99
Flathead catfish	54.31	47.25	C.L. Crosby	04/16/90
Largemouth bass	14.20	27.38	Michael Ritchey	10/25/97
Striped bass	35.13	41.75	R.L. Flanagan	04/21/88

Texas Tech and TPWD are studying golden algal blooms and water chemistry in E. V. Spence, Colorado City, and Moss Creek reservoirs, as well as non-impacted reservoirs in the watershed, in an effort to determine what causes these blooms and how to manage them.

LAKE IMPERIAL

1,530 acres

[Pecos County]

Impounded in 1930

This lake, located about 25 miles south of Monahans, has not been managed as a fishery since 1996. Extremely high salinity and periodic draining eliminated the sport fishery. For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

MOSS CREEK CITY LAKE

350 acres

[Howard County]

Impounded in 1931

This lake is located on Beal's Creek, 10 miles southeast of Big Spring. It has been severely impacted by episodic toxic golden alga blooms since 2001, which has prevented the recovery of the fisheries. An electrofishing survey in fall 2009 yielded very poor results; only three green sunfish and some common carp were captured. The lake is being monitored for any significant improvements in water quality that would allow rebuilding of the fishery. There is an entrance fee and a fee for using the (two) boat ramps. The lake is subject to large water level fluctuations. The controlling authority is the City of Big Spring (432-264-2395). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).



LAKE NASWORTHY

1,598 acres

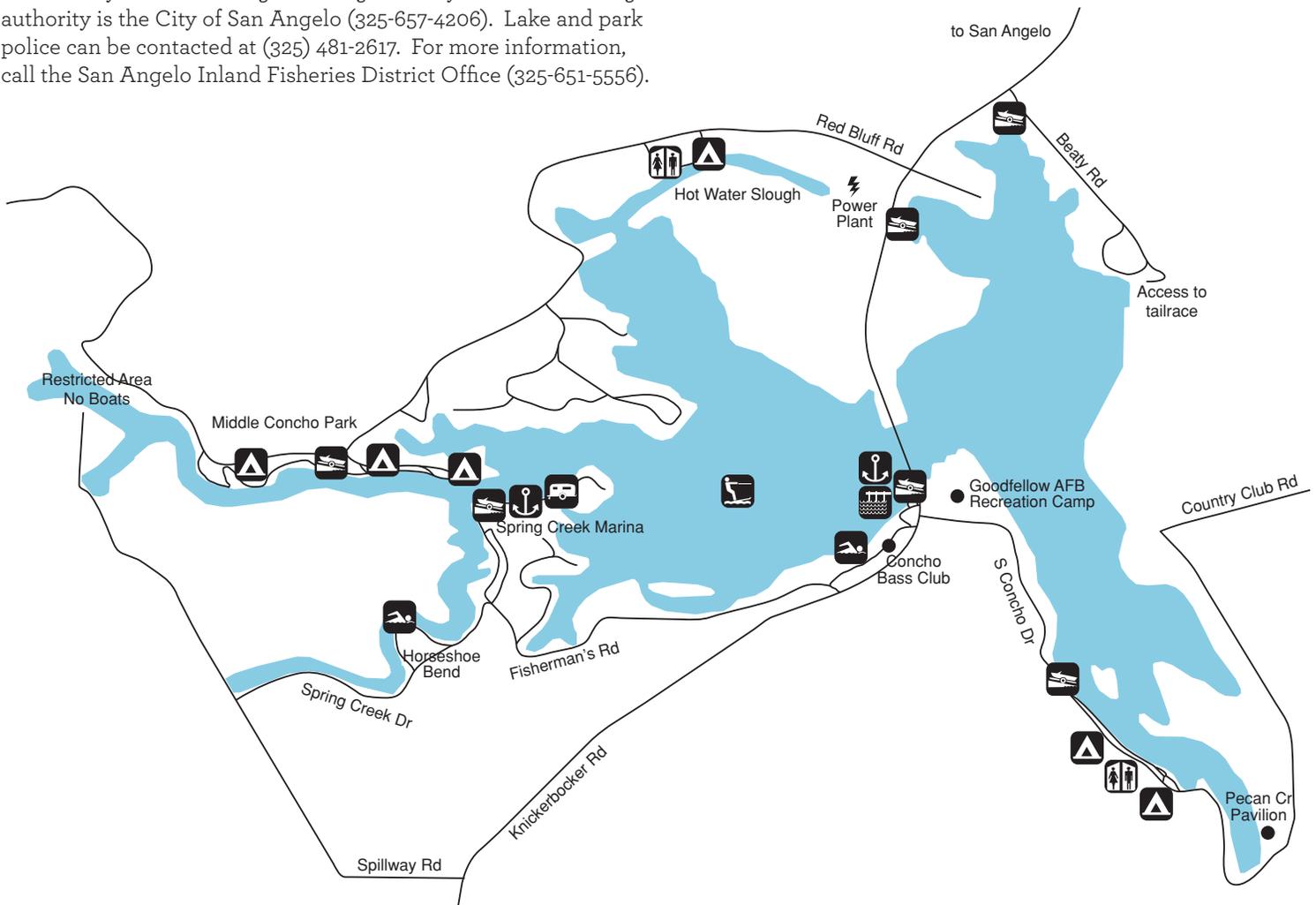
[Tom Green County]

Impounded in 1930

The lake is located on the southwest side of San Angelo, just below Twin Buttes Lake on the Middle Concho River drainage. The abundant vegetation and high nutrient load provide good fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, channel and flathead catfish, crappie and sunfishes. The reservoir used to be warmed by discharge from an adjacent power plant, but that plant was shut down in 2004. As a result, the lake no longer supports red drum, a species that cannot tolerate cold water. Nearly constant water level is maintained by discharge from Twin Buttes Lake. There are 10 public boat ramps and many camping areas, mostly operated by the City of San Angelo (325-657-4206). Spring Creek Marina (325-944-3850) is privately operated. Bank fishing access is good at the numerous lakeside city parks, including one disabled-access fishing pier behind the Nature Center adjacent to Mary Lee Park. A major dredging project was completed in 2002 to maintain boating lanes; watch out for ski boats and personal watercraft, especially in the marked ski lanes. Fishing the main lake during summertime can be frustrating due to the recreational boaters, so fish early in the morning or during weekdays. The controlling authority is the City of San Angelo (325-657-4206). Lake and park police can be contacted at (325) 481-2617. For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

LAKE NASWORTHY ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Bluegill	0.63	9.50	Donna Madron	09/21/92
Channel catfish	14.88	30.75	Joseph Mulvey	07/19/99
Characins	1.25	11.50	Odessa McDonald	05/28/01
Common carp	14.85	33.00	Daniel White	06/01/10
Flathead catfish	51.50	46.00	David Schobel	03/29/89
Largemouth bass	12.71	29.25	Charlie Lovelace	10/02/99
Longear sunfish	0.11	5.50	T. Dean McInturff	07/29/06
Palmetto bass	18.95	31.25	Logan Webb	03/28/09
Red drum	29.38	44.50	Trevor J. Romans	01/31/93
Redbreast sunfish	0.24	7.75	T. Dean McInturff	07/29/06
Smallmouth bass	2.37	20.13	Jeff Morris	10/12/98
Striped bass	27.76	38.50	Greg Aguliar	12/15/90
White bass	1.32	14.25	Kenneth Jones	02/27/04
White crappie	1.65	15.00	Jon Wayne Johnson	02/24/08





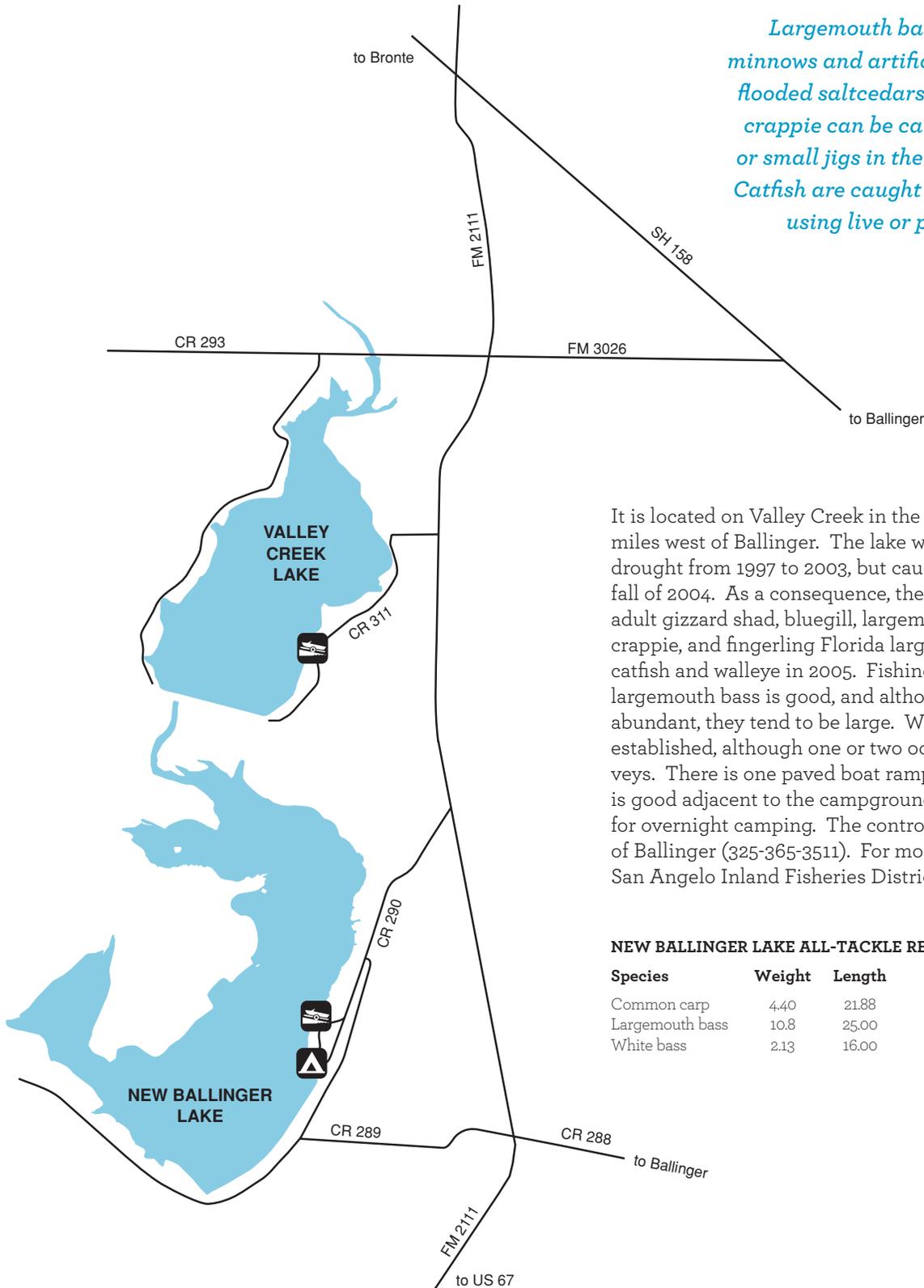
NEW BALLINGER LAKE

575 acres

[Runnels County]

Impounded in 1984

Largemouth bass are caught on minnows and artificial lures around the flooded saltcedars and rip-rap. White crappie can be caught with minnows or small jigs in the flooded saltcedars. Catfish are caught throughout the lake using live or prepared baits.



It is located on Valley Creek in the Colorado River basin, five miles west of Ballinger. The lake was severely impacted by drought from 1997 to 2003, but caught significant water in fall of 2004. As a consequence, the lake was stocked with adult gizzard shad, bluegill, largemouth bass and white crappie, and fingerling Florida largemouth bass, channel catfish and walleye in 2005. Fishing for white crappie and largemouth bass is good, and although white bass are less abundant, they tend to be large. Walleye have failed to get established, although one or two occasionally show-up in surveys. There is one paved boat ramp and bank fishing access is good adjacent to the campground. The only fee required is for overnight camping. The controlling authority is the City of Ballinger (325-365-3511). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

NEW BALLINGER LAKE ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Common carp	4.40	21.88	Bob Morrison	06/11/02
Largemouth bass	10.8	25.00	Bobby Lockhart	08/22/99
White bass	2.13	16.00	John Ingle	01/1/97



LAKE O.C. FISHER

5,440 acres

[Tom Green County]

Impounded in 1953

This lake is located on the northwest side of San Angelo on the North Concho River. The 2008/2009 survey showed that bait fish were abundant and the white crappie population was doing very well. Fishing for catfish was good. Largemouth bass were less abundant, but tended to be in good condition. At the time of publication, water level was extremely low, leaving all three boat ramps [accessible through San Angelo State Park (325-949-8935)] unusable; however, determined anglers could access the water via the shoreline or canoe/kayak. The park charges an entrance fee, but during certain promotions, people may fish in state parks without a state fishing license. There are camping and picnic areas along with hiking, biking and equestrian trails throughout the state park. The controlling authority is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (325-947-2687). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).



LAKE O.C. FISHER ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Blue catfish	51.00	44.50	Bill Young	06/20/03
Channel catfish	13.06	30.50	Greg Benson	07/13/82
Common carp	5.96	25.00	Russell Smith	04/28/01
Flathead catfish	57.00	48.00	Joe Dillard	04/27/82
Freshwater drum	0.69	11.75	Abel Lopez	05/6/99
Largemouth bass	15.69	27.00	Charles Sirmons	09/23/96
Palmetto bass	16.59	27.50	Jesse Hasty	10/22/00
Walleye	7.75	26.25	Bob Miller	02/16/85
White crappie	1.91	14.00	John Ingle	11/21/09



LAKE O.H. IVIE

19,200 acres

[Concho, Runnels, Coleman Counties]

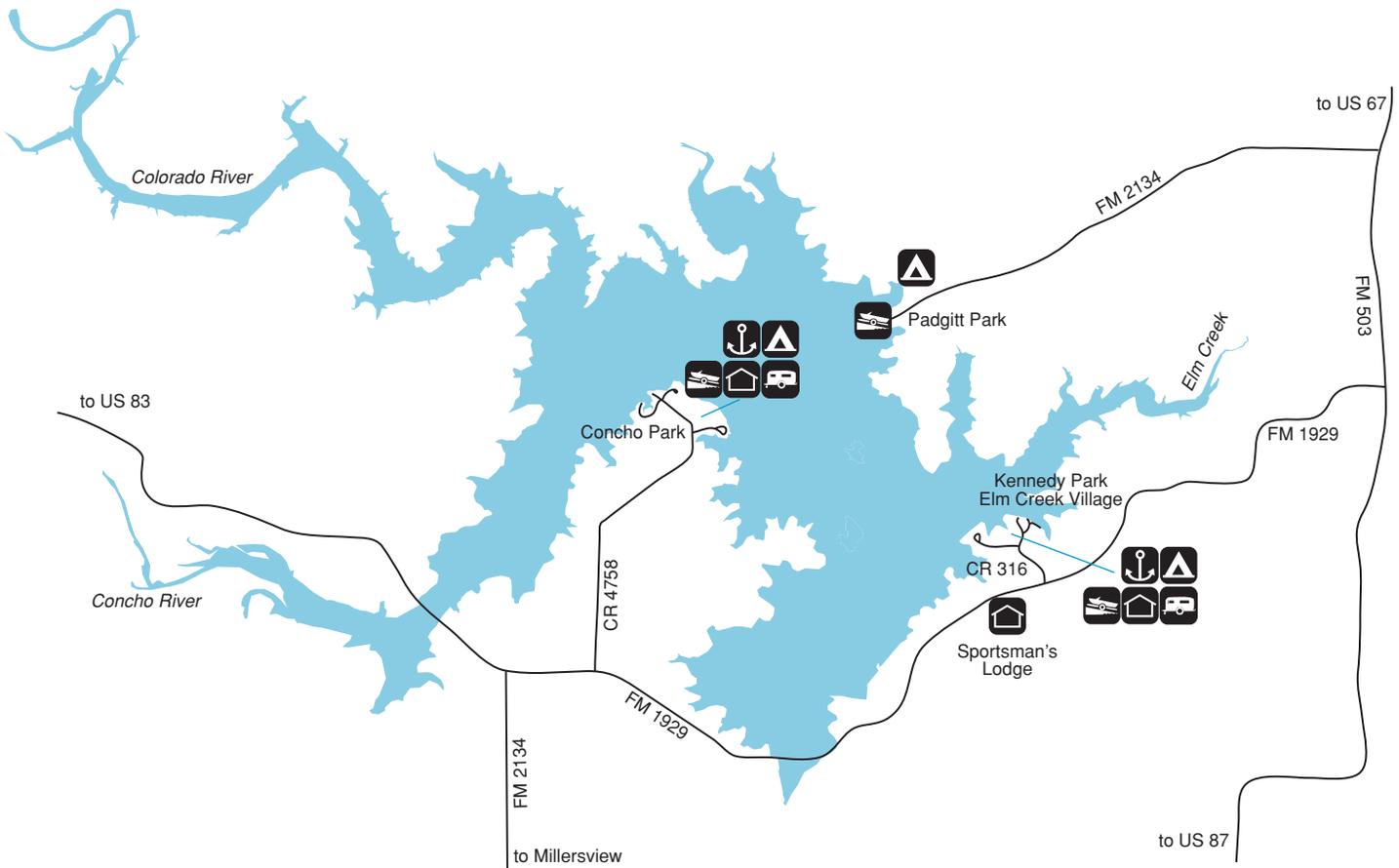
Impounded in 1990

This lake is located on the Colorado and Concho rivers, 55 miles east of San Angelo. It has been a consistent producer of trophy largemouth bass, including 11 fish over 13 pounds donated to TPWD ShareLunker Program in the 2009/10 season and seven in the 2010/11 season. It is also known for large bluegill and has a decent crappie population. The lake supports a popular jugline and trotline fishery for catfish. For largemouth bass there is no minimum length limit (MLL); however, only two of the five fish per bag may be less than 18 inches. For smallmouth bass the MLL is 18 inches. The daily bag limit is five bass in any combination, of which no more than three fish can be smallmouth bass. There are three public boat ramps located at the Concho Recreation Area, operated by Concho Marina (325-357-4466); Kennedy Recreation Area, operated by Elm Creek Marina (325-357-4776); and Padgett Recreation area, operated by the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD). A CRMWD permit is required for each vehicle (\$5/day) and can be obtained at either marina or at ramp kiosks. Primitive camping is free with a vehicle permit, and RV campgrounds are also available at each marina. Motel-style lodging is available at the Concho and Elm Creek marinas and at privately owned

Sportsman's Lodge (325-357-4996) just off the lake. Guide services are available. The controlling authority is CRMWD (432-267-6341). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

LAKE O.H. IVIE ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Black crappie	2.31	16.00	Warren Stroud	03/26/99
Blue catfish	78.50	49.00	Kyle Blevins	03/28/09
Bluegill	1.02	11.00	Linda Sumrall	07/08/03
Channel catfish	27.45	37.00	Terry Winchester	03/04/00
Common carp	7.23	25.25	Paul Cobb	10/15/09
Flathead catfish	68.50	49.00	Sherwin Evans	05/20/96
Freshwater drum	6.20	25.00	Melvin Rose	03/26/00
Largemouth bass	16.08	28.00	Jerry Bales	04/30/10
Longnose gar	17.00	58.00	Kelli White	05/25/09
Palmetto bass	16.40	30.00	Dianne Sumrall	04/12/03
Smallmouth bass	5.32	22.00	Michael Schooler	04/19/09
Smallmouth buffalo	29.00	37.00	Mark White	05/25/09
Striped bass	13.25	30.00	Sam Keel	02/10/95
Walleye	3.31	22.00	Jim Schwarz	08/28/93
White bass	2.84	19.25	Austin Terry	03/28/97
White crappie	2.74	16.50	Nina Brewer	03/9/93





OAK CREEK LAKE

2,375 acres

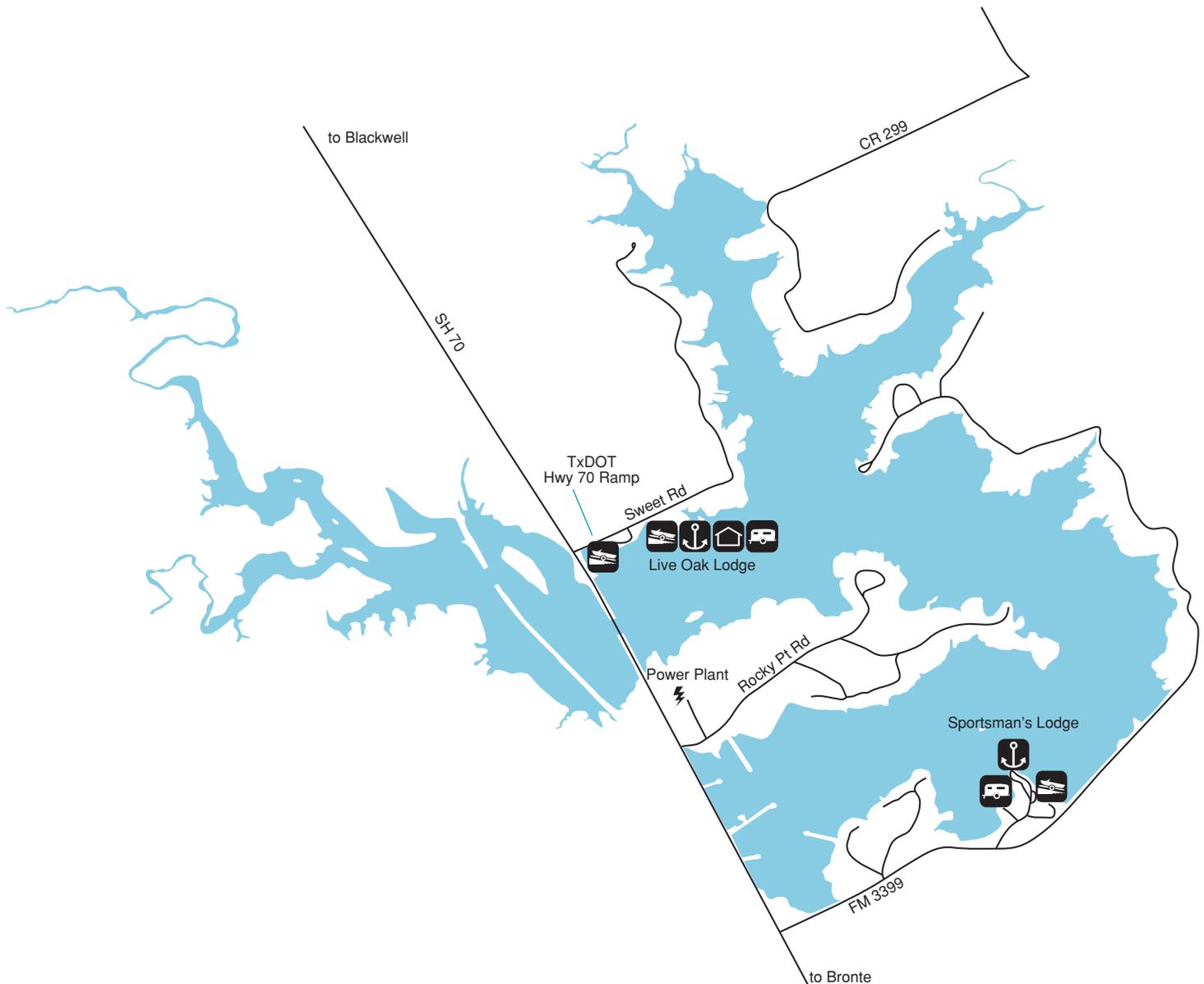
[Coke County]

Impounded in 1952

It is situated on Oak Creek, 45 miles north of San Angelo. Water level dropped significantly from 1998-2007 before the lake filled in July 2007. Favorable post-drought conditions, along with a stocking of fingerling Florida largemouth bass in 2008, have allowed fish populations to quickly expand. As a consequence, fishing opportunities for bass, crappie and catfish are excellent. There are three public boat ramps: Sportsman's Lodge (325-895-0331), Live Oak Lodge (325-282-3071), and the Texas Department of Transportation Highway 70 ramp. The power plant is no longer operational. The controlling authority is the City of Sweetwater (325-235-4166). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

OAK CREEK LAKE ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Blue catfish	31.85	38.00	Ronny Loyd	08/12/10
Bluegill	0.17	6.13	John Hardin	09/02/96
Flathead catfish	44.00	46.00	Don Garner	05/25/06
Green sunfish	0.18	6.25	John Hardin	09/02/96
Largemouth bass	12.88	28.50	Jerry Long	05/17/00
Longear sunfish	0.08	4.00	John Hardin	09/02/96
Redbreast sunfish	0.12	5.50	John Hardin	09/02/96
Smallmouth bass	4.56	21.50	Lee Niemann	05/29/95
White crappie	1.81	15.50	Bob Lang	11/03/94





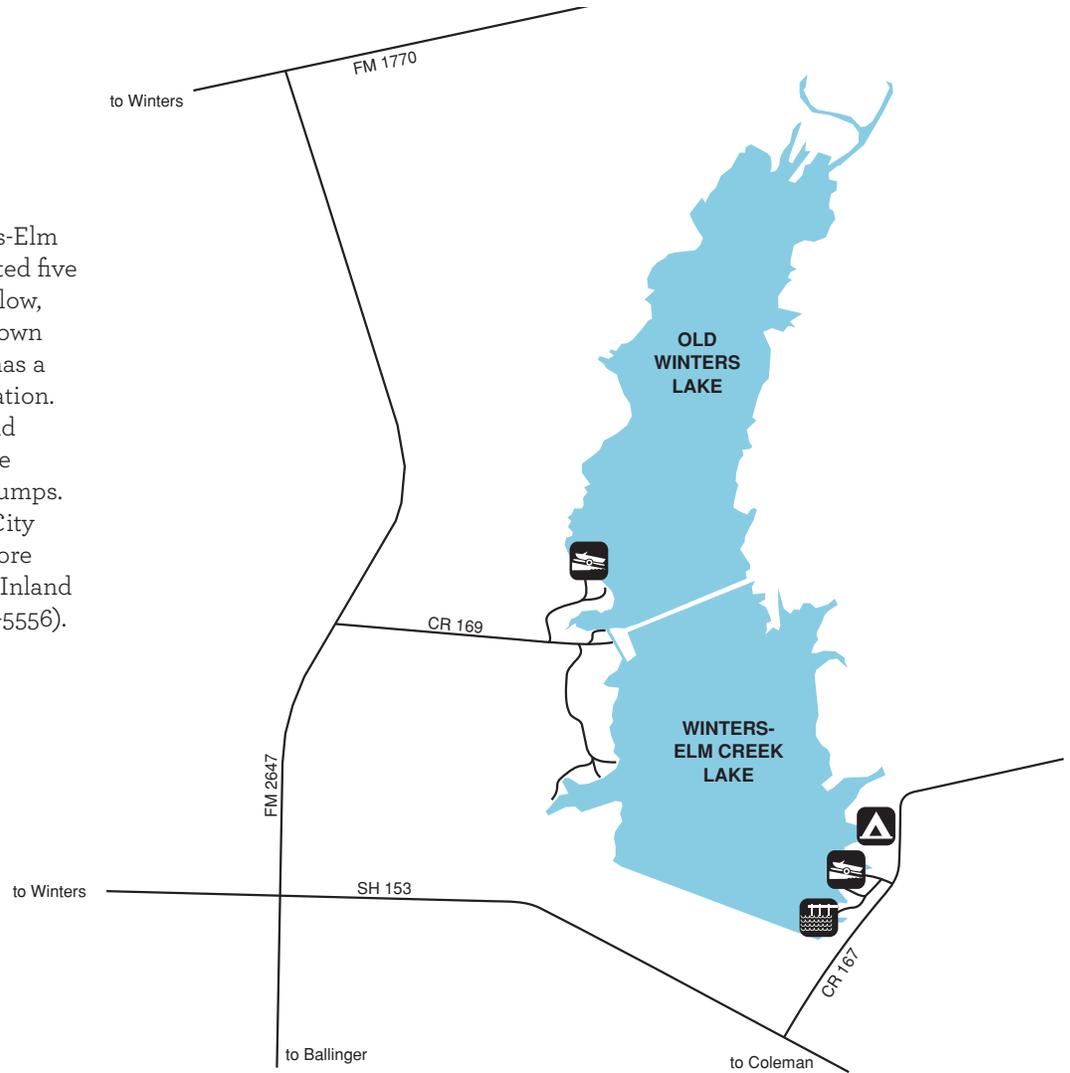
OLD WINTERS LAKE

150 acres

[Tom Green County]

Impounded in 1945

This lake is connected to Winters-Elm Lake by a small canal and is located five miles east of Winters. It is a shallow, old and very muddy reservoir known for good catfish, but sometimes has a surprisingly good crappie population. There is one public boat ramp and caution is required boating on the upper end due to siltation and stumps. The controlling authority is the City of Winters (325-754-4424). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).



RED BLUFF LAKE

11,700 acres

[Reeves, Loving County]

Impounded in 1936

This lake is located on the Pecos River, 45 miles north of Pecos at the New Mexico border. Red Bluff once supported a hybrid striped bass population but reoccurring bouts of toxic golden alga has decimated the overall fish population. Until the water quality improves and TPWD is able to rebuild the fish population, fishing will be very poor. In addition, it has a history of severe water level fluctuations and high salinity. There is public access for fishing and boat launching from the shoreline near the dam. The controlling authority is the Red Bluff Power Control District (432-445-2037). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).



TWIN BUTTES LAKE

9,080 acres

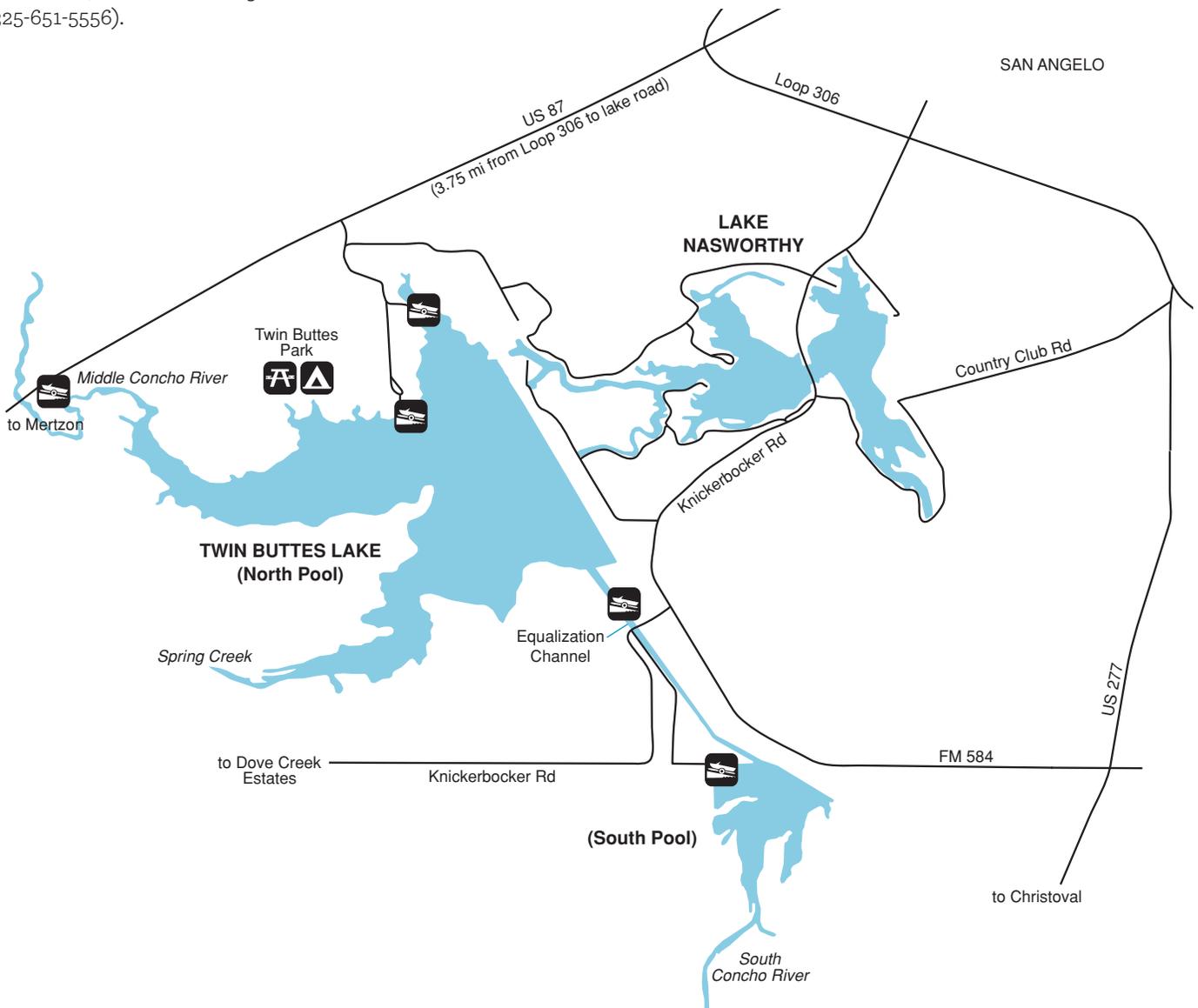
[Tom Green County]

Impounded in 1963

This lake is situated three miles southwest of San Angelo on the Middle and South Concho rivers. It also receives water from Spring Creek. The north and south pool are connected by an equalization channel which is rarely navigable. There's good fishing for largemouth bass, crappie, channel catfish and white bass. The public boat ramps on the north pool are located at the equalization channel off Knickerbocker Road, the main park off US 67, and at 12-mile "bait stand" off US 67. Recently, only the ramps at the main park have been usable due to low water levels. Access to the south pool is contingent on the condition of the unimproved roads winding through the area, and there is no boat ramp, but anglers often launch off the bank. There are picnic and camping areas. The controlling authority is the City of San Angelo (325-657-4206). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

TWIN BUTTES LAKE ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Blue catfish	52.50	42.00	John De La Cerda	04/07/02
Bluegill	0.35	7.50	Ronald Thomson	06/12/07
Common carp	20.66	33.00	C. Wade Everton	04/24/06
Flathead catfish	63.50	47.00	Wayne Peck	03/24/91
Gizzard shad	2.55	17.50	C. Wade Everton	03/02/05
Gulf killifish	0.02	3.50	T. Dean McInturff	08/26/06
Largemouth bass	14.25	26.00	Greg H. Benson	08/24/91
Longnose gar	20.50	56.00	Henri Adams	05/29/08
Smallmouth bass	5.31	22.00	Barry Bennett	05/26/90
Striped bass	23.39	36.50	Chance Duke	10/31/09
Walleye	8.25	29.50	Kim Holmes	09/04/82
White bass	3.30	18.50	Elliott Parks	04/01/06
White crappie	1.86	14.75	John Young	02/13/09





VALLEY CREEK LAKE

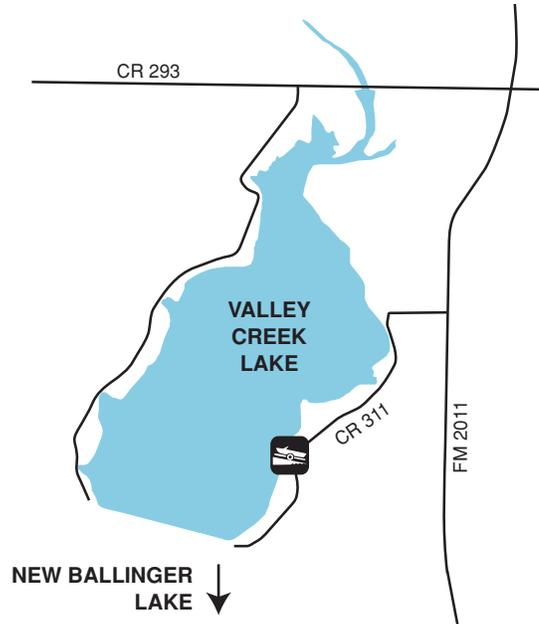
187 acres

[Runnels County]

Impounded in 1985

This lake was previously known as Old Ballinger Lake and is situated upstream of New Ballinger Lake on Valley Creek, five miles west of Ballinger. It was severely impacted by drought from 1997 to 2003, but caught significant water in fall 2004 and was stocked with channel catfish and adult bluegill in 2005. The controlling authority is the City of Ballinger (325-365-3511). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

This lake, like Old Winters Lake, has no lake records. Be the first to catch a fish of any size and submit your application to the Angler Recognition Program (www.tpwd.state.tx.us) and you'll be certain to have a new lake record.

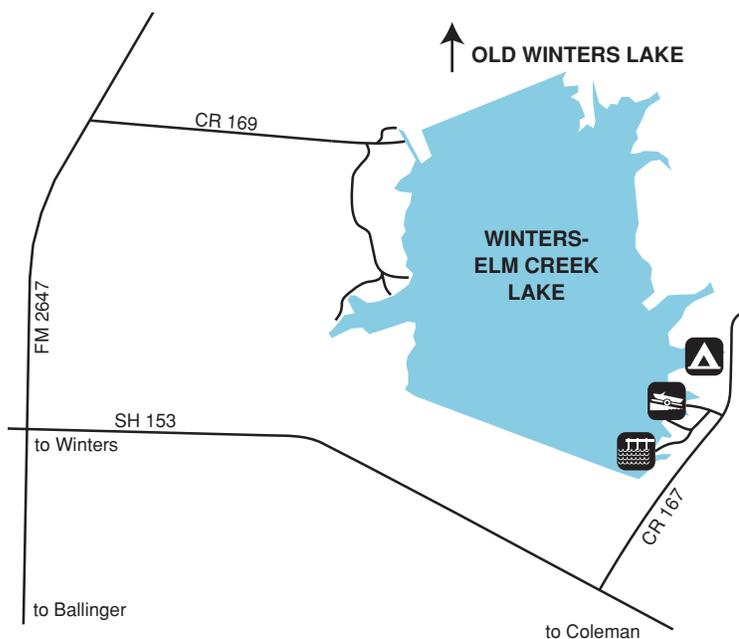


WINTERS-ELM CREEK LAKE

337 acres

[Runnels County]

Impounded in 1982



The lake is seven miles east of Winters and is connected to Old Winters Lake by a small canal. Under normal conditions, it has significantly clearer water than Old Winters, and is known for big largemouth bass and good crappie fishing. The upper end is loaded with standing timber where many large crappie have been caught. A user permit is required (325-723-2081) and there is one boat ramp and a campground available. The controlling authority is the City of Winters (325-754-4424). For more information, call the San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556).

WINTERS-ELM CREEK LAKE ALL-TACKLE RECORDS

Species	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Flathead catfish	26.22	36.50	Keith Fry	03/21/06
Largemouth bass	12.13	26.00	Richard McCuiston	04/26/09
White bass	2.70	17.00	Michael Fry	03/23/06
White crappie	1.45	13.75	Charles Fry	03/12/01

COMMUNITY FISHING LAKES (CFLs)

A community fishing lake is a public impoundment 75 acres or smaller located totally within an incorporated city limits or a public park, or any impoundment lying totally within the boundaries of a state park. Community Fishing Lakes are subject to special regulations. For those CFLs stocked with channel catfish or rainbow trout there is a five fish per day bag limit and no length limit. Also, pole-and-line is the only allowable fishing method on the CFLs.

San Angelo Community Fishing Lakes

The North and South Concho rivers flow through San Angelo, and small lakes are formed along the rivers by a series of low water dams (see map on next page). Statewide regulations apply to Metcalf, Ben Ficklin and Lone Wolf lakes along the South Concho, and passive-gear fishing methods (i.e., juglines and trotlines) are allowable there. The City of San Angelo allows boats on the city lakes, but they cannot be powered by a gasoline motor.

Largemouth bass, channel catfish, sunfish, crappie, carp and longnose gar live in the lakes and provide excellent fishing.

A 29th Street Lake

This 7-acre lake goes from the stilling basin at O.C. Fisher Lake to the low water dam at 29th Street and can be accessed through Kirby Park.

B North Concho Park

This 8-acre lake runs from 19th Street to 14th Street. It is a shallow lake with limited shoreline access.

C Picnic Bend Park

This 5-acre lake runs from 14th Street to the low water crossing at Elm Street. This park has good shoreline access with large trees and picnic tables and off-street parking.

D Houston-Harte

This 5-acre lake lies between the low water crossing at Elm Street and the dam under the Houston-Harte Expressway. Shoreline access is good and almost completely shaded. Fallen trees and aquatic vegetation provide excellent places to fish for sunfish and largemouth bass.

E Central High

This is a 3-acre lake that goes from the dam under the Houston-Harte Expressway to the dam at 1st Street. This lake has good shaded shoreline access along both sides.

F Irving Street

This lake is 10 acres and goes from the dam at 1st Street to the low water crossing at Irving Street. It has good shoreline access on the north side near the golf course and limited access on the south side.

G Oakes Street

This 4-acre lake lies between the low water crossing at Irving Street and the dam under Oakes Street. The north side of the lake has a paved walkway, making it ideal for physically challenged anglers. Under the Neighborhood Fishin' Program, Oakes Street Lake is stocked every two weeks year-round; rainbow trout in the winter and channel catfish for the rest of the year.

H Bell Street

This 34-acre lake goes from the dam under Oakes Street to the dam at Bell Street, and back up the South Concho River to the dam at Avenue K. Shoreline access along this lake is diverse; most of it is mown park land with picnic tables and shade trees. There is also a boat ramp near Bell Street. Fallen trees and aquatic vegetation provide excellent fishing spots for largemouth bass and sunfish.

I Lone Wolf

This 51-acre lake is located between the dams at Avenue K and South Bryant. Shoreline and small boat access is available at Glenmore Park off of Avenue L and the areas under the South Bryant and South Chadbourne overpasses. Bass, crappie, catfish and sunfish are abundant.

J Ben Ficklin

This 30-acre lake runs from the dam at South Bryant to the dam near the San Angelo Country Club. Small boat access is available under the South Loop 306 overpass. The catfish population is very good here.

COMMUNITY FISHING LAKES (CFLs)

K Metcalf

This 59-acre lake lies between the dam near the San Angelo Country Club and Lake Nasworthy. Access is restricted to the area behind the Lake Nasworthy dam, reached via Beaty Road off of Knickerbocker. Large boulders provide excellent bass and sunfish habitat.

L Concho River

While not technically a CFL, this section of the river is accessible from Rio Concho Park on Bell Street or at the Loop 306 crossing. It provides a more natural setting, and can provide good bass, catfish, sunfish, and rough fish fishing opportunities for those willing to launch a canoe or kayak. Remember to stay within the river channel, as most of the land on either bank is privately owned.

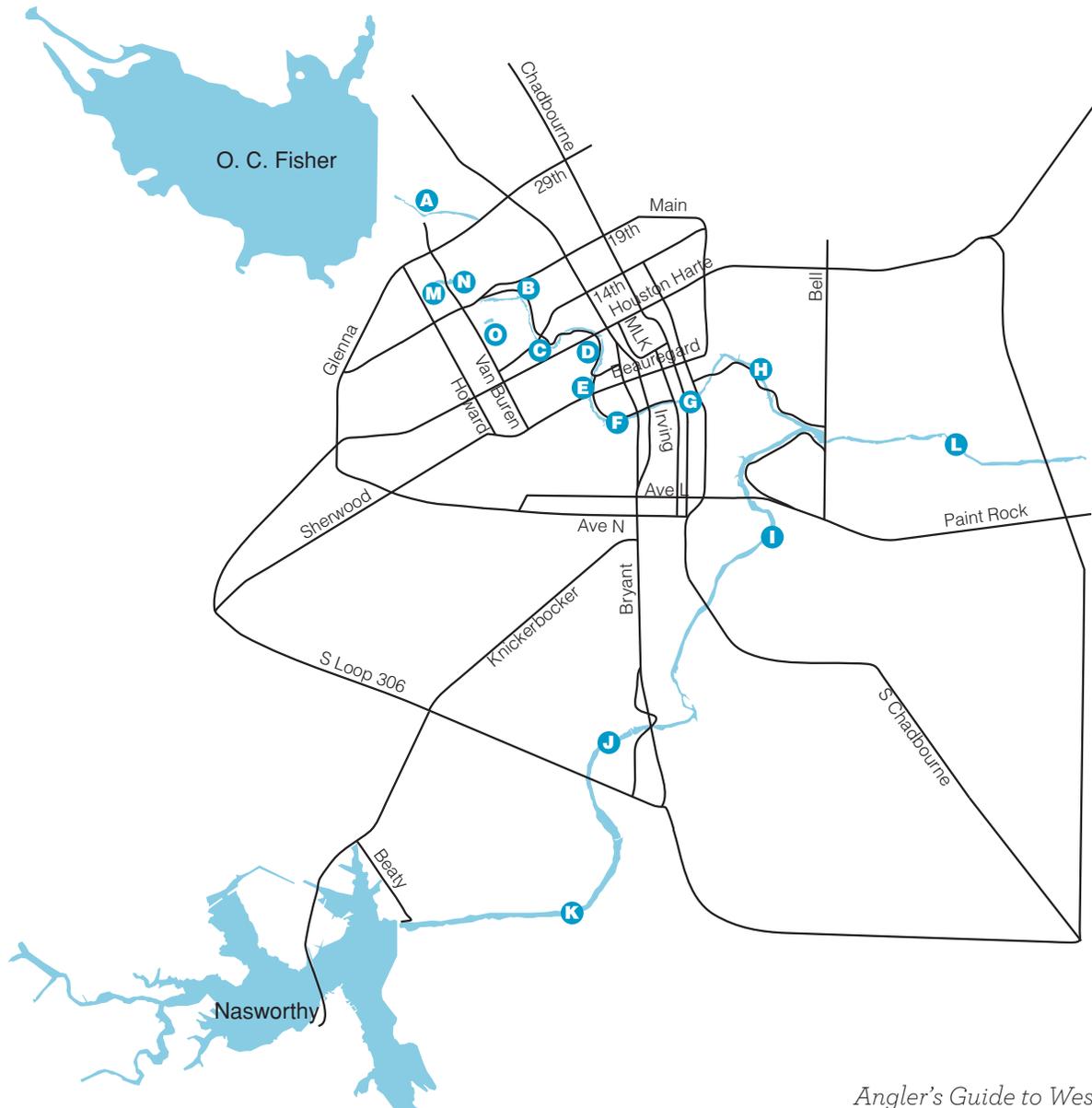
M Van Buren West

N Van Buren East

These small connected lakes straddle Van Buren Street in northwest San Angelo. They have not been actively managed by TPWD in the recent past, but there is limited public access near the street.

O Brentwood Park

This lake is approximately 1 acre and sits just off of Van Buren, adjacent to Cornerstone Christian School. Although an electrofishing survey in 2010 showed very little in the way of game fish populations (only small sunfish were collected), the lake was stocked with advanced channel catfish fingerlings and rainbow trout since the survey.



OTHER CFLs

Andrews City (4 acres), Andrews City, 432-523-4820

Ascarate (50 acres), El Paso, 915-772-5605

Beal Park (1 acre), Midland, 432-685-7370

C. J. Kelly (1 acre), Midland, 432-685-7370

Comanche Trail (35 acres), Big Spring, 432-264-2377

Comanche Trail Park (1 acre), Odessa, 432-368-3548

Monahans Perch Pond (5 acres), Monahans, 432-943-4343

For a complete list of CFLs and their stocking history see the TPWD website at
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/cfl.phtml?r=3

NEIGHBORHOOD FISHIN' PROGRAM IN SAN ANGELO



**NEIGHBORHOOD
FISHIN'**
REEL FUN
CLOSE TO HOME

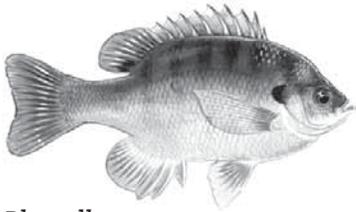
San Angelo is lucky to be a part of Texas Parks and Wildlife's Neighborhood Fishin' program. In partnership with the City of San Angelo, adult-size, ready-to-catch fish are stocked in Oakes Street Lake every two weeks, year-round. This provides continuous fishing opportunity for all the residents of San Angelo and visitors.

Channel catfish, 12" and up, are stocked from April through October, excluding August because of exceptional heat stress on the fish. Rainbow trout, averaging 12", are stocked from November through March.

A regular state freshwater fishing license is required to fish in this program. Fishing licenses can be bought at the TPWD Law Enforcement office at 3407 S. Chadbourne Street, or at any of our local fishing tackle vendors.

To complement the stocking program, TPWD and the City of San Angelo Recreation Department provide a free tackle loaner program. With this program, anyone 17 years old or older may check-out fishing poles and stocked tackle boxes for up to a week, at no cost. Fees apply if the equipment is not returned on time, in the same condition it was checked-out. Visit the Recreation Department office at 702 S. Chadbourne Street, or call them at 657-4450 for details.

FISHES OF WEST TEXAS



Bluegill

Sunfishes

There are several types of sunfishes in our lakes and rivers. Many people call sunfish “perch.” Some of the different types of sunfishes you might catch are bluegill (pictured), green sunfish, longear sunfish, warmouth, redbreast sunfish and redear sunfish. All of the sunfishes look similar to the bluegill, but are not exactly the same. Sunfishes can grow up to 8-9 inches and weigh over a pound.

Sunfishes stay in shallow water near the bank during the warmer months and they are easy to catch using a small hook (size “8” or smaller) baited with corn, cheese, crickets, grasshoppers, a small piece of a worm, or just about any bug. You can either fish with a bobber or on the bottom and can catch as many with a cane pole as with a rod and reel. Using light weight line, like 4-pound test, and ultralight rods and reels really makes sunfish fishing fun. Some sunfishes are also easy to catch using lures like flies, spinners and small, soft-bodied grubs.

There are no regulations on sunfishes so you do not have to worry about how big they are or how many you can keep.



Crappie

Crappie

White crappie are a flat, silvery-white fish with vertical black bars on their sides. Black crappie do not have the black bars—their markings are more “blotchy.” Crappie are sometimes called “paper-mouths” because they have a very thin membrane around their mouth.

Crappie eat insects while they are young, and then switch to minnows and other small fish when they get larger. Crappie can be caught using lightweight tackle (4- to 6-pound test line), small rubber or marabou jigs and minnows. In the spring, crappie move to shallow water and school-up preparing to spawn. This makes it easy to catch a large number of them. After spawning, the fish move back to deep water and are harder to catch.

Crappie must be a minimum of 10 inches before you can keep them and you can keep 25 per day.



Channel Catfish

Channel Catfish

These are the type of catfish that you can buy in the grocery store. They do not have scales and are light colored on the sides, and most are speckled with black spots and have a forked tail. They also have sharp spines at their dorsal and pectoral fins. Channel catfish can grow to several pounds in a few years and are very fun to catch. The current state record is 36.5 pounds.

Channel catfish stay in deeper water during the warm months. They eat many things, which makes fishing for them relatively easy. You can use corn, cheese, liver, worms, insects, crawfish or prepared baits. It is best to fish for them on the bottom, but you can still catch them with a bobber.

There are special regulations on channel catfish in certain water bodies called Community Fishing Lakes (see previous section). Within San Angelo city limits, in our small lakes and North Concho river sections, channel catfish have no length limit, and you can keep only five per person, per day. In the South Concho River sections from Nasworthy dam to Lone Wolf dam, and also in our larger reservoirs, they must be a minimum of 12 inches long before you can keep them, and you can keep 25 per day.

FISHES OF WEST TEXAS



Blue Catfish
Courtesy of USFWS/Duane Raver

Blue Catfish

Blue catfish look very similar to channel catfish. However, they have a longer anal fin (30-36 rays) than a channel catfish (24-29 rays), and they do not have dark spots on their bodies like smaller channel catfish do.

The blue catfish will eat anything, but prefers live bait, like minnows, shad and small sunfish. Unlike channel catfish, they do not spend most of the time near the bottom, but swim around in the middle and near the surface of the lake. Blue catfish can reach much larger sizes than channel catfish; the current state record is a 121.5-pounder.

Blue catfish must be a minimum of 12 inches long before you can keep them, and you can keep 25 per day.



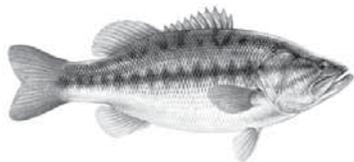
Flathead Catfish

Flathead Catfish

Also known as yellow catfish; flathead catfish can grow to be very large, and are very long lived. The flathead is scaleless and does not have a forked tail. Its lower lip sticks out giving its head a flattened appearance.

Flathead catfish prefer to eat live fish. The best way to catch them is to use a large hook and bait it with a live sunfish or shad. You also need to use heavy line and a stout rod and reel.

Flathead catfish must be a minimum of 18 inches long before you can keep them, and you can keep three per day.



Largemouth Bass

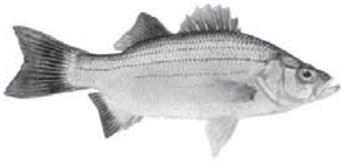
Largemouth Bass

They are a scaly fish with large mouths (hence their name) and are greenish in color. They can grow to several pounds.

These fish prefer to feed on other fish. Largemouth bass live near the shore associating with vegetation, fallen branches, rocks, standing timber, or man-made structures such as boat docks. They can be caught by baiting a medium-sized hook with minnows or small sunfish. You can fish on the bottom or with a bobber. They are also readily caught with artificial lures such as crankbaits, spinnerbaits, plastic worms and grubs, rattling baits and many others.

Largemouth bass must be a minimum of 14 inches long before you can keep them (with the exception of O. H. Ivie Reservoir) and you can keep five per day.

FISHES OF WEST TEXAS



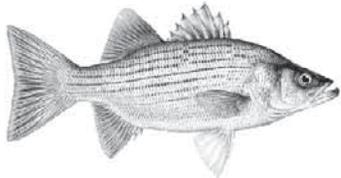
White Bass

White Bass

They are a flat, deep-bodied fish with white sides. Dark, broken horizontal stripes run along its sides. This fish can be distinguished from the hybrid striped bass by a tooth patch on its tongue. The white bass has one U-shaped patch and the hybrid striped bass has two oval-shaped patches.

White bass are a schooling fish that feed mainly on shad. They are often found when they have chased a school of shad to the surface of the water, causing the shad to jump and splash. These schools of shad at the surface can often be found by watching for diving seagulls. On calm days the commotion on the water can be seen and heard for a great distance. The best baits to use for white bass are minnows and small, shad-like lures on lightweight line.

White bass must be a minimum of 10 inches long before you can keep them, and you can keep 25 per day.



*Hybrid Striped Bass
(Palmetto Bass)*

Hybrid Striped Bass (Palmetto Bass)

Hybrids are whitish in color with black stripes down their sides and have two oval-shaped tooth patches on their tongue (white bass have one U-shaped tooth patch). Their black stripes are usually more distinct and broken than those on white bass. They grow very quickly and can weigh several pounds in a few years.

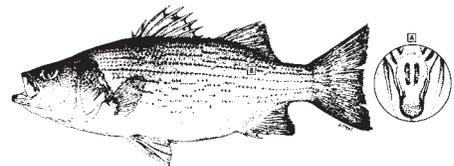
These fish prefer to feed on live fish, but also eat other things. The best way to catch them is to bait a medium-sized hook with a live shad and use a bobber. They can also be caught fishing on the bottom with live shad, minnows or sunfish, and with other baits like liver and worms. You can also use artificial lures to catch hybrids. The best types are shiny lures like silver spoons and shiny rattling baits.

Hybrid striped bass must be a minimum of 18 inches long to keep them, and you can keep five fish per day.

White Bass/Hybrid Striped Bass Identification

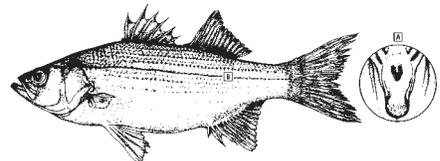
Hybrid Striped Bass

- A. Has two, distinct tooth patches near the middle towards the back of the tongue.
- B. Stripes distinct, usually broken, several extend to tail.

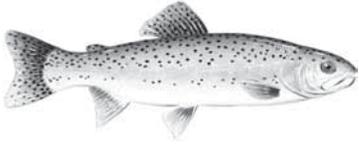


White Bass

- A. Has one tooth patch near the midline towards the back of the tongue.
- B. Stripes faint, only one extends to tail.



FISHES OF WEST TEXAS



Rainbow Trout

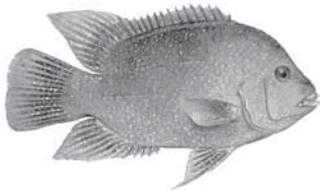
Rainbow Trout

Rainbow trout are cold-water fish that are stocked by TPWD in the wintertime in certain lakes. These trout are stocked biweekly into Oakes Street Lake in San Angelo as part of the Neighborhood Fishin' program from December to March. They are also stocked in several other Community Fishing Lakes across West Texas. See the TPWD website in November to find the statewide trout stocking schedule for the winter.

Rainbow trout are very shiny and have small scales. Their bellies are silvery and they have a pink or red stripe extending down their sides. Many of them also have black spots on their sides and backs. They are only stocked in the winter because the water gets too warm for them to survive the summer.

Trout will bite small minnows, whole kernel corn, cheese, prepared baits, artificial flies and inline spinners. Lightweight and ultralight tackle is best. Rainbow trout put up a tremendous fight when hooked. Do not set the hook very hard when you feel a nibble or you will pull the bait out of their mouths.

There is no size limit on rainbow trout, but you can only keep five per day.



Rio Grande Cichlid

Rio Grande Cichlid

Rio Grande cichlids are distinctive in that they exhibit cream and turquoise colored spots, giving them a speckled look. Background color varies from very dark to light olive. Lighter-colored specimens usually exhibit five dark vertical bars. Both dorsal and anal fins are long and tapered, extending behind the caudal peduncle (fleshy portion of the tail). Unlike tilapia and most sunfishes, which typically have three spines on the anal fin, Rio Grande cichlids are equipped with five to six anal fin spines. Adult males may also develop a pronounced "hump" on the head which is not present in tilapia. Adults usually range up to about six inches in length.

Like most of its family, the Rio Grande cichlid is generally considered a warm-water fish, and is very sensitive to cold. In general, this fish does not survive at water temperatures below 49° Fahrenheit. The species may do well in heated water and in spring-fed waters with constant favorable temperatures.

The Rio Grande cichlid is a fine fighter, and easily caught with light tackle that you would use to catch sunfish. It is considered good table fare. The Texas state record was caught in the South Llano River in 2001 and weighed 1.59 pounds.

There is no size or bag limit on this species.

FISHES OF WEST TEXAS



Common Carp

Common Carp

The carp is found all over the United States. It is a native to Asia and was imported over 100 years ago. It has large scales and is usually orangish in color. They have small fleshy mouths with barbels and they can grow to be very large. The state record is 43.75 pounds.

Carp are tremendous fighters when hooked, which makes them very fun to catch. They eat many different things and good baits are corn, cheese and dough baits. The best way to fish for them is with a small treble hook and weight on the bottom.

There are no size or number restrictions on this species.



Smallmouth Buffalo

Smallmouth Buffalo

The back and sides are light brown or otherwise dark with a coppery or greenish tint. The belly is pale yellow to white. Smallmouth buffalo scales are large, and the species is sometimes confused with common carp by the novice. However, buffalo lack the barbels of carp.

Specimens in excess of 82 pounds have been landed by rod and reel anglers, whereas the trotline record is 97 pounds in Texas. Buffalo will sometimes take doughballs made with cottonseed meal, and when hooked, provide exceptional sport. Many people may be unaware that smallmouth buffalo is quite a food fish.

There are no size or number restrictions on this species.



*Freshwater Drum
(Gaspergou)*

Freshwater Drum (Gaspergou)

Freshwater drum are widely spread in lakes and rivers across the U.S. Except for their silvery color and lack of tail spot, they resemble their relative, the red drum (redfish), a highly prized species of the coastal regions. In some regions, gaspergou are considered to be fine table fare.

Freshwater drum can grow larger than 30 pounds and are very fun to catch. They feed mostly on fish, crawfish and insects near the bottom. They are known to take a variety of bass and crappie lures.

There are no size or number restrictions on this species.



Longnose (Needlenose) Gar

Longnose (Needlenose) Gar

Longnose gar is by far the most common gar species in West Texas. Many people mistakenly call our local gar "alligator gar," but alligator gar is a larger species found in big coastal rivers and reservoirs.

Longnose gar are mostly targeted by bowfishers. Gar flesh is said to have the taste and texture of shrimp, and some people in Texas harvest them for food.

There are no size or number restrictions on this species.

ANGLER PROGRAMS



Angler Recognition Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recognizes fishing excellence through its Angler Recognition Program. The program maintains state record lists for public and private waters and water body records for all public lakes, rivers and bays. The program also issues certificates for other types of angler achievements. Further details are available on the TPWD website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us. The San Angelo Inland Fisheries District Office (325-651-5556) has certified weighing scales and can receive applications.



Toyota ShareLunker Program

The ShareLunker program runs from October 1 through April 30, and was established with the aim of improving the maximum size of trophy bass by selective breeding. Females weighing 13 pounds or more are paired with pure Florida-strain males in an effort to produce offspring with the genetic potential to grow bigger when stocked in Texas waters. The ultimate goal of this program is to produce largemouth bass big enough to break the state and world records.

To get these 13-pound-plus fish, Texas Parks Wildlife Department relies on anglers to temporarily donate their catch to the program. At the end of the ShareLunker season, the angler can choose whether to release the fish or to permanently donate it to the program. Any angler who donates a qualifying fish to the program receives a fiberglass replica of the fish, Toyota ShareLunker clothing, and recognition at an annual awards banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. In addition, if a Texas resident donates the largest fish of the season, that angler will get a lifetime fishing license.

If you catch a 13-pound-plus largemouth bass and want to enter it into the program, call David Campbell at (903) 681-0550 or page him at (888) 784-0600 and leave a phone number including area code. The fish will be picked up by TPWD personnel within 12 hours. For further details, visit: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker/.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND WILDLIFE OFFICES

Contact your local law enforcement office for information regarding license fees, regulations, boat registration, and boater and hunter education. You can also report game and fish violations by calling Operation Game Thief at (800) 792-GAME.

Law Enforcement

El Paso Office

401 East Franklin, Suite 520
El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 834-7050

Midland Office

4500 West Illinois, Suite 307
Midland, Texas 79703
(432) 520-4649

San Angelo Office

3407 South Chadbourne
San Angelo, Texas 76904
(325) 651-4844

Wildlife

San Angelo

San Angelo Regional Office
3407-B South Chadbourne
San Angelo, Texas 76904
(325) 651-4748





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