

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST



RIVERS

- **Ouachita**
- **Fourche LaFave**
- **South Fork Fourche LaFave**
- **Little Missouri**
- **Poteau**
- **Glover**
- **Caddo**
- **Cossatot**
- **Mountain Fork**
- **Petit Jean**


LAKES-PONDS

Quad Map Location

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*Intersection of these quads

Ouachita River

	Species Present:	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Seven public access points on the main river: Shirley Creek, Rocky Shoals, Fulton Branch, Dragover, River Bluff are Forest Service day use areas; and there are two Arkansas Game and Fish Commission access points, Cherry Hill and McGuire, further upstream at Oden.
	Comments:	While the main river and the south and north forks flow within the Forest, much of the adjoining land is private. Walleye and white bass are known to make spawning runs up the river a short way above Lake Ouachita and can provide some exciting fishing. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Caddo-Womble and Mena-Oden Ranger Districts


Fourche LaFave River

Species Present:	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Access at numerous river crossings and at a newly constructed FS access site east of Boles and south of Parks off the Dooley Road (Scott County Road 18).
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This is a fairly small river that is floatable with large pools. It is fished mainly by locals. Most of it is on private land. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Poteau-Cold Springs and Mena-Oden Ranger Districts

South Fork Fourche LaFave River

Species Present:	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow or Rock Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Access at several river crossings and at South Fourche Recreation Area on Highway 7 south of Hollis.
Camping:	7 sites at South Fourche Recreation Area.
Comments:	This is a fairly small river fished mainly by locals. Could be tough to float it due to low flows any time other than right after storms, and it has a fairly steep gradient. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District


Little Missouri River

	Species Present:	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Access at several road crossings and the Albert Pike Day Use Area and FS property on the river at Highway 84.
	Camping:	A day use area with swim beach at Albert Pike Recreation Area. There is no overnight use at this area.
	Comments:	This is a well-regarded Smallmouth Bass stream in western Arkansas. The Forest Service headwaters are designated as a federally listed Wild and Scenic River and the upper 29 miles are designated as an Arkansas Natural and Scenic River. From Albert Pike downstream through the Narrows, Class III and IV rapids can be encountered under high flows, so use caution. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Caddo-Womble Ranger District

Poteau River

Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Access at numerous river crossings.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This is a fairly small river starting on the Forest that is floatable most of the year with large pools. By the time it gets into Oklahoma, it is larger. It stays fairly murky. Most of it is on private land. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Poteau-Cold Spring and Oklahoma Ranger Districts

Glover River

	Species Present:	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Access at numerous road crossings including the four crossings within the twelve-mile Ouachita National Forest section from the confluence of the East and West Forks on downstream.
	Camping:	No developed Forest Service sites.
	Comments:	This is a premier Smallmouth Bass stream in eastern Oklahoma. A number of the larger tributaries also offer good stream fishing. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Oklahoma Ranger District


Caddo River

Species Present:	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Access at several road crossings
Camping:	No developed sites
Comments:	This is a well-regarded Smallmouth Bass stream in western Arkansas. While the river's headwaters are within the Forest, the FS has no lands directly on the river in the wadeable and floatable sections. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Caddo-Womble Ranger District

Cossatot River

Species Present:	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Access at several road crossings
Camping:	No developed sites within the Forest on the river but Shady Lake Recreational Area is fairly close and the State Park has a day use area at Highway 246
Comments:	This is a gorgeous Smallmouth Bass stream in western Arkansas. The river's headwaters are within the Forest. The upper section is wadeable but not very floatable due to its small size, steep gradient and low flows. The section below the Forest Boundary is within the Cossatot River Natural Area and State Park and it is quite wadeable and floatable though sections have class III to V rapids. Fishing is best left to wading in those stretches! <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Mena-Oden Ranger District


Mountain Fork River

	Species Present:	Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Shadow Bass, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Access at numerous road crossings in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The River only flows through 2 miles of Ouachita National Forest Lands just above Broken Bow Reservoir and the Narrows crossing generally serves as a take-out point.
	Camping:	No developed Forest Service sites.
	Comments:	This is a well-regarded Smallmouth Bass stream in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. A number of the larger tributaries also offer good stream fishing. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Mena-Oden Ranger District and Oklahoma Ranger District


Petit Jean River

Species Present:	Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, and Flathead and Channel Catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Access at several river crossings above and below Blue Mountain Lake. Also several access points on Dutch Creek, a major tributary.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	Runs fairly muddy most of the time. Can get pretty low during the summer. Most of it is on private land. Pools hold some pretty good bass and catfish. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Poteau-Cold Springs and Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger Districts

Dry Fork Lake

	Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, crappie, catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Boat access at the lake
	Camping:	No developed sites
	Comments:	This 105-acre flood control lake offers spotty (hit or miss) warmwater fishing opportunities, but there are some big bass in the lake. There is a health advisory on the lake for consumption of fish due to mercury levels in predatory fish. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District

Cedar Lake

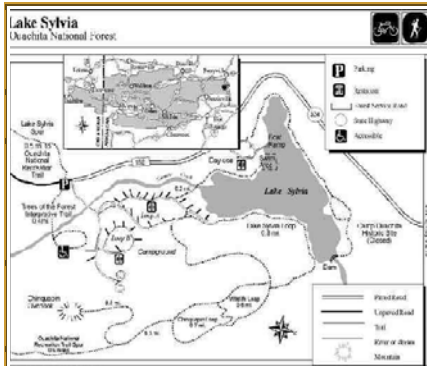
	Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Boat access at the lake with a paved ramp. Outboard motor use restricted to that of motors no greater than 7.5 horsepower. Accessible fishing pier on the lake.
	Camping:	Developed campgrounds and day use areas with two swimming beaches are on the lake.
	Comments:	This 85-acre recreational fishing-swimming lake offers excellent warm-water fishing opportunities. Electrofishing results are some of the best in the state of Oklahoma. The current and former state-record Largemouth Bass were both caught in this lake. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Oklahoma Ranger District

Hunter's Pool



Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake with an unpaved ramp. There are several earthen fishing jetties.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 5-acre recreational fishing lake was completely drained and rebuilt. It was deepened and five earthen fishing jetties were constructed plus a water level control structure. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Oklahoma Ranger District

Lake Sylvia




Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake with a concrete ramp but restrictions on boat-motor use.
Camping:	Lake Sylvia Recreation Area (27 sites plus group facilities)
Comments:	This 17-acre recreation lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. There is a health advisory on consumption of bass over 16 inches. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District

Moss Creek Pond

Species Present:	Largemouth bass, sunfish, crappies, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake with an unimproved dirt ramp.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 7-acre pond offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. Some real nice bluegill have been taken in the fall during electrofishing sampling. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
Directions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Hwy 27 south from Danville. Just outside the city limits, turn west on State Hwy 80 and go about 8 miles until you get to Moss Creek Road on the North side of the Hwy (right after crossing a bridge). • After about 1.5 miles you will cross a bridge over Moss Creek take a left, which will be Mace Road. • Drive about one mile until you get to a concrete slab, turn left over another concrete slab. This is the road to Moss Creek Pond, FS 159. • There is an intersection after about 50 yards, keep right (the left road dead ends) and go approximately 5 miles. • Moss Creek Pond will be on the right and is very noticeable and beautiful.
District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District

Rock Creek Lake

	Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Boat access at the lake with a concrete ramp and graveled parking area.
	Camping:	No developed sites
	Comments:	This 27-acre flood control lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District

Little Bear Creek Lake




Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	No boat ramp. The only boat access is dragging a boat down the northwest corner of the dam. Some use a small boat in the back of a 4-wheel drive pickup to get closer to the water but it is a very steep haul coming back out of the lake.
Camping:	No developed sites
Comments:	Because of the limited access to this lake, it may have one of the better bass populations on the Forest. Sunfish don't seem to do well in this deep and steep-sided lake based on electrofishing samples. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District

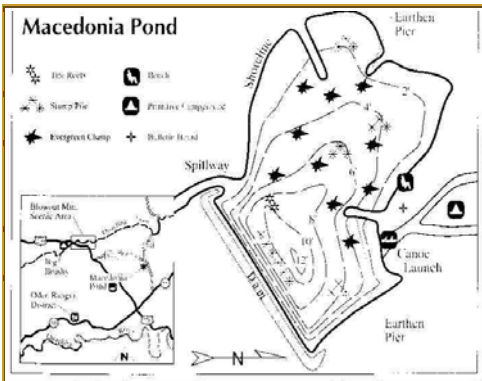
Cove Creek Lake

Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake but unimproved dirt.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 46-acre flood control lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities, and there are some big bass in the lake. There is a health advisory on the lake for consumption of fish due to mercury levels in predatory fish. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District

Huston Lake

	Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Boat access at the lake with a very steep and narrow gravel ramp and graveled parking area. A four wheel drive is recommended on the ramp.
	Camping:	No developed sites.
	Comments:	This 32-acre flood control lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. It seems to be a better bass lake than sunfish lake, at least according to electrofishing samples. This is likely due to the more difficult boat ramp reducing boat angler use. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District

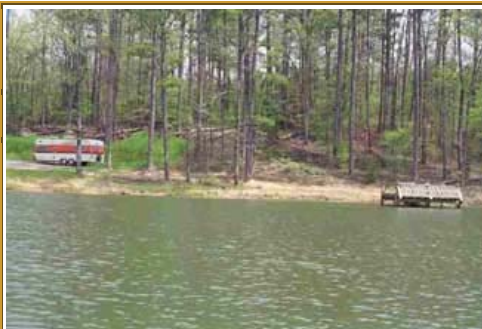
Macedonia Pond



Click map for full version.

Species Present:	Largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake with an unimproved dirt ramp.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 6-acre pond is a real gem. It contains sizeable bass, Channel Catfish, crappie, bluegill and Redear Sunfish. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Mena-Oden Ranger District

North Fork Lake



Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake with a concrete ramp and graveled parking area. There is also an accessible fishing pier on the northwest side of the lake that includes an access road, trail and wooded pier.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 65-acre flood control lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. It receives a fairly heavy amount of fishing pressure but still produces nice catches. However, big bass seem to be in short supply due to heavy fishing pressure. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Caddo-Womble Ranger District

Shady Lake



Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year though the recreation area is closed part of the year.
Access:	Boat access at the lake via a grassed ramp. Boats are restricted to use of electric motors only. A shoreline trail circles the lake.
Camping:	A developed campground and day use area with swimming beach is on the lake.
Comments:	This 25-acre recreation lake offers fair warmwater fishing opportunities. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Mena-Oden Ranger District

Caddo Pond

Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	No developed boat access.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 3-acre pond is located west of Glenwood off Highway 70. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Caddo-Womble Ranger District

Crooked Branch Lake

Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake with an unpaved ramp. Several earthen fishing jetties.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 17-acre recreational fishing lake provides a fishing challenge. The lake contains at least 15 acres of flooded Angler reports and electrofishing results indicate good bass and sunfish catches. This lake was stocked for three years with Florida-strain Largemouth Bass and there are some big bass in the lake. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Oklahoma Ranger District

John Burns Pond

<p>John Burns Pond</p> <p>Shoreline</p> <p>Spillway</p> <p>Canoe Launch</p> <p>Parking</p> <p>4'</p> <p>8'</p> <p>12'</p> <p>16'</p> <p>+</p> Bulletin Board <p>☼</p> Tree Reef <p>☼</p> Sump Pile <p>☼</p> Downed Trees <p>North Arrow</p> <p>Inset Map: Ouachita National Forest, John Burns Pond, Rocky Shoals, Dragonet, Sings, 144, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200</p>	<p>Species Present:</p>	<p>Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish</p>
	<p>Seasons:</p>	<p>All year</p>
	<p>Access:</p>	<p>Boat access at the pond but only with a small boat - no ramp and steep sided pond.</p>
	<p>Camping:</p>	<p>No developed sites.</p>
	<p>Comments:</p>	<p>This 2-acre pond was originally stocked with plans for it to be managed as a bass, bluegill, and Channel Catfish pond. Due to small size and sporadic bass reproduction, we have decided to manage it just for Channel Catfish. However, the other species are present and are doing well. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i></p>
<p>District:</p>	<p>Mena-Oden Ranger District</p>	

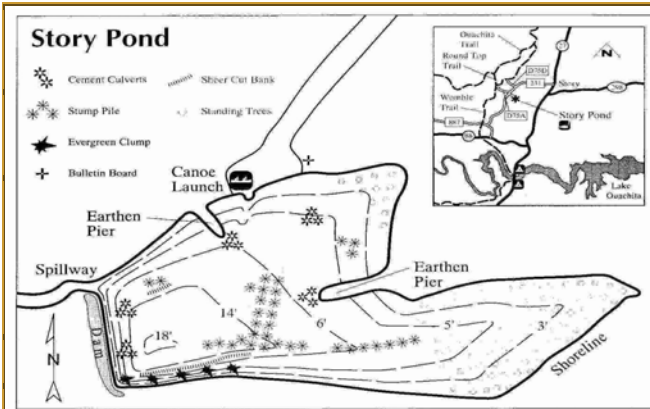
Mauldin Ponds

	Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Boat access only by hand launching.
	Camping:	No developed sites.
	Comments:	These two 1-acre ponds could be tough to fish as much of the shoreline is heavily wooded. They have been stocked with Channel Catfish regularly. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Caddo-Womble Ranger District	

Old Forester Pond


Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake but only with a small boat - no ramp and no suitable turnaround for a vehicle and trailer. Due to the archeological significance of the area, access improvement is not currently planned.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 3-acre pond is the old mill pond for the former mill town of Old Forester. The fish population looks pretty good, particularly considering the age of this old pond. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Mena-Oden Ranger District

Story Pond



Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Access:	Boat access at the lake with an unimproved dirt ramp.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 7-acre pond is another real gem. It contains sizeable bass, Channel Catfish, bluegill and Redear Sunfish. The pond contains a windrow of tree stumps and debris that is a fish haven. A small boat or float tubes would be the most efficient way to fish the structure in this pond. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Mena-Oden Ranger District

Cedar Creek Lake

	Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
	Seasons:	All year
	Access:	Several road access points and a concrete boat ramp and parking lot near the dam.
	Camping:	No developed sites
	Comments:	This is an 85-acre flood control. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
	District:	Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District

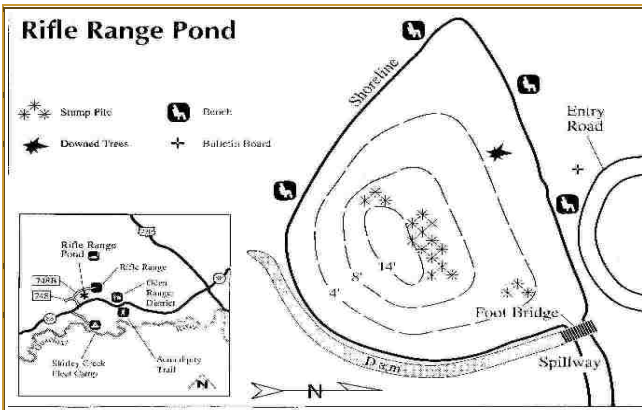
Lake Hinkle

Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access at the lake with paved ramps. No skiing allowed on the lake. Accessible fishing pier on the lake.
Camping:	A developed campground (Little Pines) and day use area with swimming beach is on the lake.
Comments:	This 1,000-acre recreational State Fishing Lake offers good warmwater fishing opportunities. Approximately 400 acres of the lake are within the National Forest. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District

Midway Store Pond

Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, crappie, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access only with a carried in boat
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 1-acre acre borrow pit pond has been heavily stocked with catfish and some nice crappie have been taken in past samples. It also contains non-game fish species such as carp and buffalo. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Oklahoma Ranger District

Rifle Range Pond



Species Present:	Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish
Seasons:	All year
Access:	Boat access with a small boat slide in - no ramp.
Camping:	No developed sites.
Comments:	This 2-acre pond is just off AR State Highway 88. It is being managed mostly for Channel Catfish though it contains small bass and sunfish. <i>State fishing regulations apply.</i>
District:	Mena-Oden Ranger District