

# Becker Lake

Becker Lake is managed as a catch-and-release, trophy trout lake with special regulations. Located near Springerville, it also includes the 622-acre Becker Wildlife Area, where wintering bald eagles can be spotted most years in nearby cottonwood trees. Built around 1880, Becker Lake is one of the oldest reservoirs in the White Mountains. The Arizona Game and Fish Department acquired the lake in 1973.

**Location** – The lake is located at 6,910 feet. Easily accessible, it is a mere two miles from the center of Springerville, off the west side of U.S. Highway 60.

**Description** – Becker Lake has 107 surface acres with a maximum depth of 21 feet and an average depth of 10 feet. It is located on a diversion of the Little Colorado River. The

Department owns water rights in the lake, so water levels can be maintained. The lake is stocked with sub-catchable rainbow trout in the spring. Many of these fish survive the winter, reaching a good size the following spring. The lake also contains native Little Colorado suckers and illegally introduced green sunfish. It is open to angling year-round. An occasional brown trout enters the lake through the diversion from the Little Colorado River.

**Amenities** – The lake has a boat ramp, dirt parking and barrier-free restroom. A fishing pier was installed on the northwest corner of the lake, with barrier-free parking and access at the end of the road. The Department has developed two hiking trails through the Wildlife Area and a designated barrier-free parking area on the shoreline, near the boat ramp. No camping is allowed at the lake, but there is a private RV campground nearby. Restaurants and lodging options ranging from hotels to bed and breakfast inns can be found in the nearby towns of Springerville and Eager.

**Fishing Techniques** – Becker Lake can only be fished with artificial flies and lures with a single barbless hook. In spring, trout spawn in gravel beds near the boat ramp. Big fish also lurk along the weed beds on the south end. Flies to try are midges, Prince Nymph, brown Montana stone and KP bugger. Using a boat or float tube are the best ways to fish here. There is limited opportunity for shore fishing and wading because of heavy vegetation, but there is a floating fishing pier. Spin fishermen can try Z-rays, small Kastmasters or Panther Martins with the treble replaced with a single barbless hook.

**Special Notes** – Special fishing regulations apply at Becker Lake. Year-round angling is catch-and-release with artificial fly and lure with a single barbless hook. No bait fishing is allowed, and all trout must be released immediately. Boat motors are restricted to either electric or 10 hp gas motors or less.

The landscape around Becker Lake is open, and boaters should exercise caution on windy or stormy days. It's illegal to move live fish from one lake or stream to another because of the potential to harm existing fisheries. Without exception, no live baitfish may be used or be in possession in Apache, Coconino or Navajo Counties.

Please pack out your trash, including discarded fishing line and other tackle.

