

# Land the big one

## A guide to fishing at Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area

**T**here are several species of fish found in the Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area. Be sure to check with the park office to find out where the best spots are.

Gas-powered boating on Victory Lake and Lake No. 20 only; other lakes electric motor and non-powered boats allowed. Accessible piers. Modern and primitive camping.

### Bullhead

A chubby, scaleless fish having an adipose fin, 8 barbels (those under mouth black in color) that are used to locate food, and a slight notch on the rear margin of the tail. Many anglers have the misconception that the whiskers (barbels) can sting them. What has to be avoided are the hard spines (one in the dorsal fin and one in each pectoral fin) that can inflict a puncture wound if the fish is mishandled. Bullheads will overpopulate and compete with other fish if predators are lacking. When it becomes overpopulated, its bottom-feeding activity stirs up bottom sediments – making the water muddy. Primarily feeds on immature aquatic insects, small crustaceans, plant material and an occasional small fish. Often caught by anglers.



### Bluegill

A flat, slab-sided fish with a rather smallmouth. Pectoral fin is pointed and relatively long; gill cover tab dark colored to edge. Dark spot at the rear base of the dorsal fin. Insects are the predominant food item, often captured at the surface of the water, followed by small crustaceans, small fish, and snails; sometimes algae if animal food is scarce. When spawning, many nests (roundish depressions on the bottom) are located close together in small, shallow-water areas (beds). Excellent prey fish for largemouth bass, particularly in farm ponds. Can hybridize with green sunfish.



### Common Carp

A heavy-bodied fish with long dorsal fin, two barbels (each corner of mouth) and a stout, saw-toothed spine at front of both dorsal and anal fins. A native of Asia that was brought to Europe and then to the United States and stocked widely by various state fish commissions. They are omnivorous, consuming a variety of animal and plant material; primarily feed on the bottom but will also suck in objects floating on the surface. Their aggressive feeding activities (uprooting plants and roiling bottom sediments) can make the water very muddy. There is a genetic variation called the mirror carp that differs only by having over-enlarged scales or an uneven scale pattern, or no scales.



### Channel Catfish

An olive-brown or slate-blue, scaleless fish having dark spots (especially on small fish), an adipose fin, 8 barbels that are used to locate food, and a deeply forked tail. Its anal fin has 24-29 rays

Fishing off the dock at Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area.