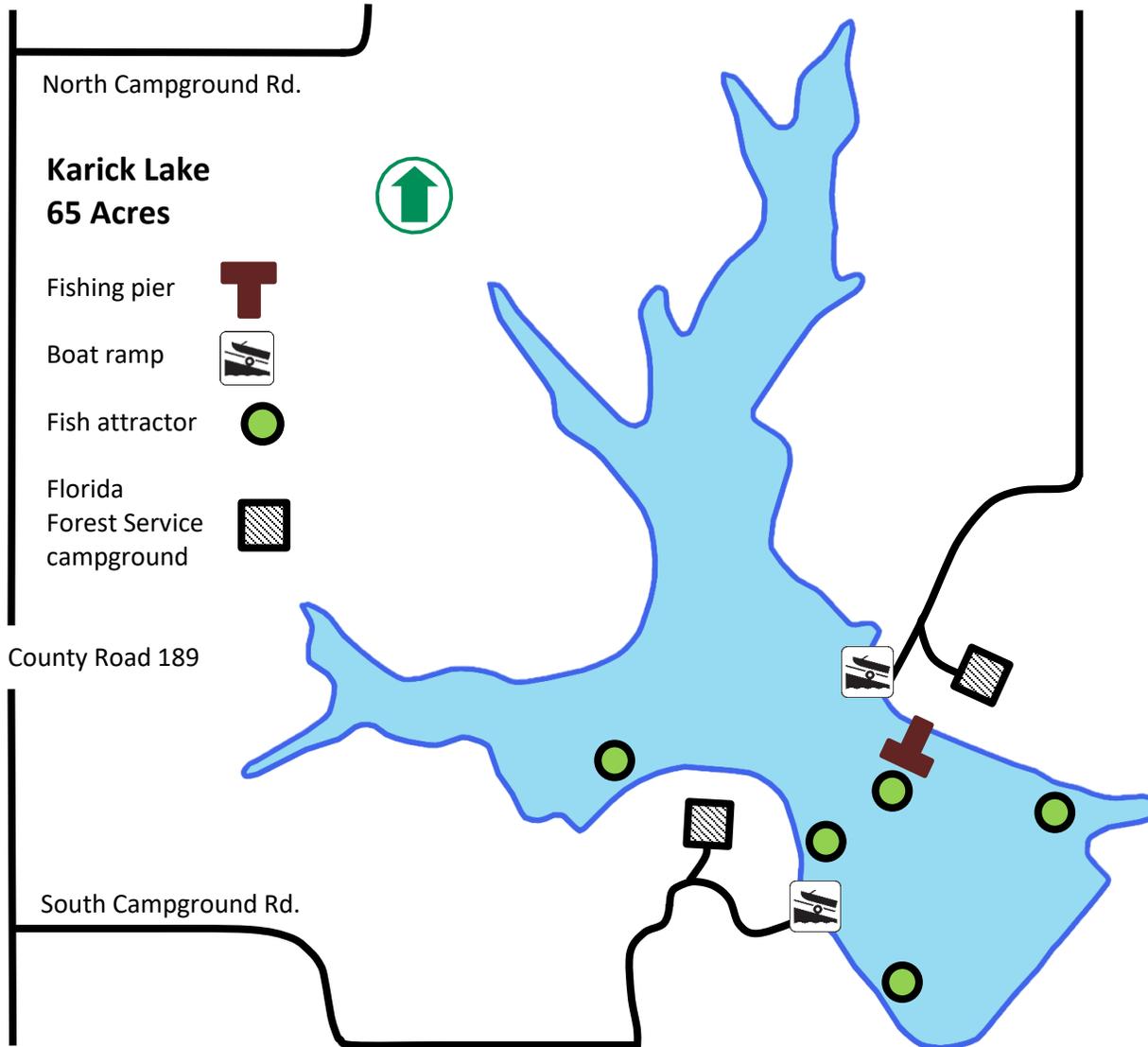


Karick Lake

Fish Management Area

Okaloosa County



Location

Karick Lake is in northwest Okaloosa County in the Blackwater River State Forest. Karick Lake is approximately 8 miles north of Baker and 2 miles south of Blackman, east off County Road 189. It is within driving distance of Crestview and Alabama. There are concrete boat ramps with ample parking located at the north and south campgrounds.

A wheelchair accessible fishing pier is located on the north shore while kiosks near each boat ramp provide information about the lake and regulations. Bathroom facilities, camping and picnic areas are provided by the Florida Forest Service. For reservations contact Reserve America at (888) 622-9190.

Blackwater Fisheries Research and Development Center

8384 Fish Hatchery Road
Holt, Florida 32564
(850) 957-6177
(850) 265-3676

Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com



Karick Lake is a 65-acre artificial impoundment created by an earthen dam built across Deadfall Creek. The lake was constructed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 1965 and opened to fishing in 1966. After major dam repairs, Karick Lake was renovated, restocked, and reopened to fishing in 1986. With an average depth of 7 feet and a maximum depth of 18 feet, a considerable amount of flooded timber remains providing quality fish habitat.

The Florida FWC manages Karick Lake's fishing resources with a variety of different methods:

- **Dewatering (drawdown)** - Exposes and dries the lake bottom, which aerates and consolidates organic muck deposits. This process improves sportfish habitat and increases natural production of flora and fauna. Additionally, it allows for routine maintenance and restructuring of the lake bottom.

- **Fish Stocking** – Various species (channel catfish, bream, and bass) are stocked periodically to provide unique and exciting sportfishing opportunities.
- **Fish Attractors** – Brush and other materials are placed in the lake to concentrate fish and improve angler harvest.
- **Fertilization/Liming** – Fertilizer stimulates the growth of microscopic plants called phytoplankton. It also discourages the growth of nuisance aquatic plants by shading the bottom. Liming alters the pH, alkalinity, and total hardness, improving conditions for phytoplankton and, ultimately, fish production.

FISH SPECIES

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – Often referred to as “bream,” Karick Lake holds several species of sunfish. Congregating around structure, vegetation, or spawning over bare spots on the bottom, known as “bream beds,” these panfish can provide non-stop excitement for anglers. Crickets, worms, or even jigs fished underneath a cork are effective methods. A small rooster tail spinner or beetle spin can also provide a fun way to catch these feisty fish.

Largemouth Bass – This popular sportfish tends to hang around structure or vegetation. In the springtime, they can be targeted spawning in shallower areas of the lake while they generally seek deeper, cooler water during the summer. Plastic worms, spinner baits, crank baits, and even topwater lures can all be used to catch these aggressive fish.

Channel Catfish – These hard-pulling fish generally inhabit the deeper areas of the lake and tend to become more active after the sun goes down. Catfish use their “whiskers” to locate food, so baits that emit an odor will be the most successful at enticing a bite. Chicken livers, beef livers, worms, and commercial “stink baits” fished on the bottom are the most effective methods.

FMA Special Regulations

A fishing license is required for residents, 16-64 years of age, and non-residents, 16 years of age or older, to fish by any method (including cane poles).

Boating and Facilities

- Gasoline powered motors are prohibited, only electric motors are permitted for use.
- No motor vehicles are allowed on the dams, spillways, or fishing fingers.

Daily Bag Limits

- **Largemouth Bass:** Daily bag limit of 5 fish per angler. No minimum size, only one fish may be 16 inches in total length or longer.
- **Channel Catfish:** Daily bag limit of 6 per angler.
- **Panfish:** Daily bag limit of 50 per angler.
- **Crappie:** Daily bag limit of 25 per angler.