

Woodland Lake

Located in the heart of Pinetop-Lakeside, Woodland Lake and the park surrounding it have been called the town's "Crown Jewel." In addition to trout fishing, the lake provides a host of other outdoor recreation opportunities, and is heavily used by residents and visitors alike.

Location – Woodland Lake lies on Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests property, just west of White Mountain Blvd. in Pinetop. To get there, turn south on Woodland Lake Rd. at the Chevron gas station. Drive ¼-mile to one of two entrances to the park. The park is closed daily after 8:00 p.m.

Description – Woodland Lake is situated at 6,893 feet. At full capacity, it has a surface area of 18 acres with a maximum depth of 20 feet. Because the lake is part of the local irrigation district, at drawdown, it averages 10 surface acres. It is shallow and nutrient rich, making it subject to water quality problems in the summer. For this reason, the lake is stocked primarily with catchable-sized rainbow trout in the spring and early summer. The lake also contains a few largemouth bass and channel catfish.

Amenities – The town of Pinetop-Lakeside maintains Woodland Park, which includes hiking trails, picnic tables and ramadas, barrier-free restrooms, a sand volleyball court, tennis court, two children's playgrounds, some ball fields, a boat ramp and a barrier-free, floating fishing dock. There is no overnight camping at the park, but many lodging options are available in town. The nearest campground is Lakeside Campground on State Highway 260 about ¼-mile west of Porter Mountain Road. This campground has 82 sites, vault toilets, potable water and firewood for sale. You can make reservations for a site at Lakeside Campground by visiting www.reserveusa.com on the web or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Fishing Techniques – Woodland Lake is a great shore-fishing destination for kids and adults alike. Cast a spinning lure from the dam, fishing pier or the shoreline to try your luck. Also try fishing with a night crawler off the bottom or with a bobber. Trolling can be productive, but only early in the season before the lake weeds begin growing.

Special Notes – Statewide fishing regulations apply. The bag limit is four trout; two for unlicensed anglers under the age of 14. Boat motors are restricted to electric motors only.

