



## Thrasher Lake 2012 Management Report



Thrasher Lake is a 36-acre impoundment located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Amherst County. This is one of three public reservoirs owned by the County and offers a scenic view of the mountains while providing opportunities for fishing and family outings. The various facilities include picnic tables, restroom, play area, boat ramp, and associated parking. The lake is open year round but nighttime activities are prohibited except for fishing. Anglers are required to obtain a permit from the county to fish at night. Boats propelled by oar or electric motor are welcome but outboard motor use is prohibited.

The largemouth bass population fluctuates both in number and quality. There are good numbers of bass but most are 12-13 inches with an occasional fish available up to 20 inches in length. The bass population is regulated with a 12-15 inch protective slot limit.

Crappie reproduction is generally poor most years with an occasional good reproduction year that improves fishing for only 1-2 seasons several years later. Reproduction is not expected to get much better due to limited crappie habitat in the lake and heavy bass predation. Thrasher Lake crappie have maintained good growth rates so a 9-inch minimum size limit was initiated in the spring of 2012 to protect additional fish and improve the population by extending good year classes. The outlook for 2012-2013 is poor since reproduction in recent years has been very low.

The panfish population is primarily bluegill with only a few redear sunfish available. The bluegill population is in good condition and dominated by larger adult bluegill but is starting to decline in quality since the largemouth bass population has been improved. Excessive largemouth bass predation on sunfish results in reduced sunfish populations but improves growth for those remaining which typically provides very good sunfish fishing opportunities.

To access this reservoir, turn northeast on Rt. 610 from Rt. 60 (approximately 9 miles west of Amherst), then turn left on Rt. 617, and the lake access road will be the first road on the left. Permits for night fishing are available through Amherst County at 434-946-9371.