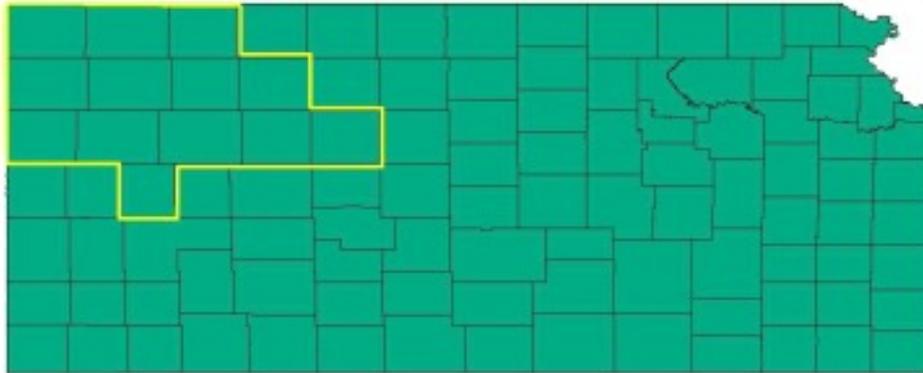


Cedar Bluff District Fisheries

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Fisheries Division
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The above figure shows the 13 counties outlined in yellow that comprise the Cedar Bluff District

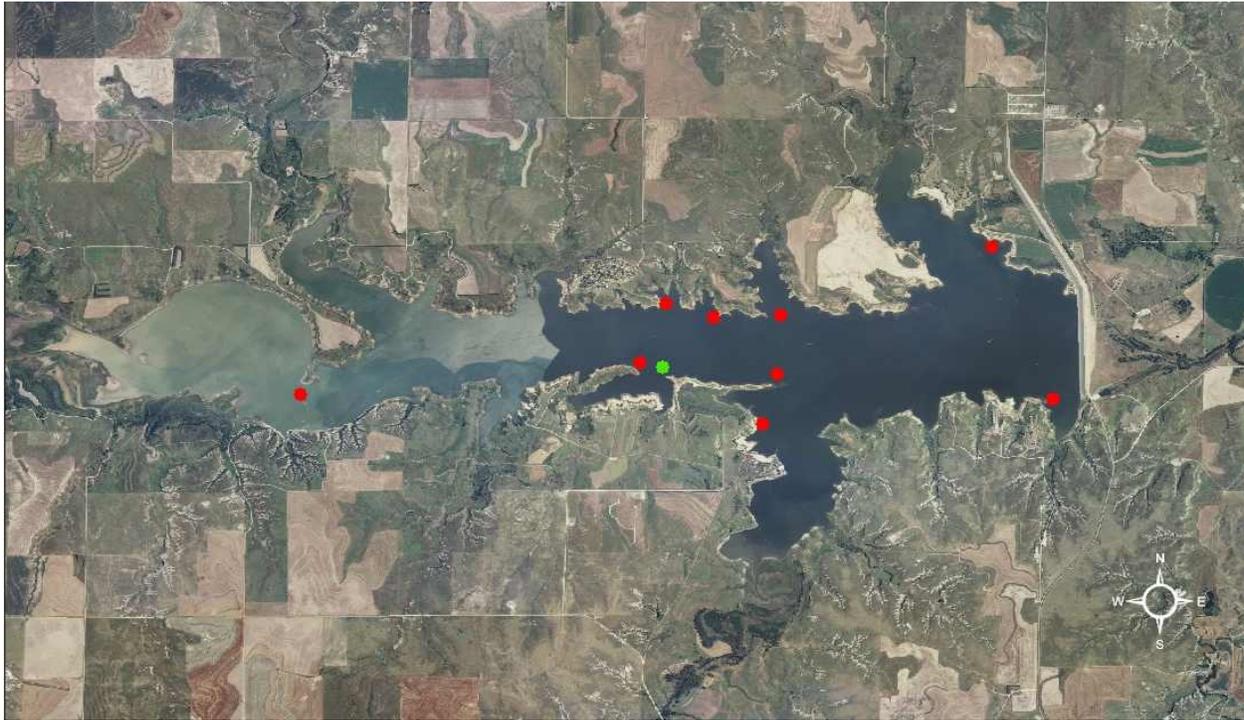
Cedar Bluff Fish Attractor Construction

Supplementation of aquatic habitat is a common practice conducted by fisheries managers. This work takes many forms and is done to meet a variety of goals. Gravel or rock can be added to shallows to provide spawning areas for fish. Aquatic vegetation can be established to provide critical nursery habitat. A common practice in Kansas impoundments is to add woody structure to concentrate fish for angler's benefits.



Cedar Bluff fisheries staff placing an eastern Red Cedar tree in the reservoir

Fish Attractor continued...



Fish attractor locations at Cedar Bluff with dots showing existing (red) and new (green) structures

During the 2018 summer a new fish attractor was established at Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The new attractor consists of approximately 70 eastern red cedar trees, more trees will be added as time allows in the future. The new attractor is located on the east point leading into Old Marina Cove. This new structure is configured differently than other attractors in the lake with it being a linear structure that spans an approximate 10-foot change in water depth. This differs from existing attractors as they are more of a round configuration placed on a flat bottom. Given the location and configuration of the new attractor it is hoped that it will mimic an underwater point and be conducive to fish concentration.

Cedar Bluff District Stocking Report-2018

Lake	Stocking Date	Species	Size	# Stocked
Atwood Township Lake	4/13/2018	Saugeye	Fry	40,000
	7/5/2018	Largemouth Bass	Adult	150
	8/21/2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	85
	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	430
Cedar Bluff Reservoir	9/18/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	7,279
Colby-Villa High Lake	10/30/2017	Rainbow Trout	Adult	200
	12/13/2017	Rainbow Trout	Adult	300
	2/6/2018	Rainbow Trout	Adult	300
	3/19/2018	Rainbow Trout	Adult	300
	4/16/2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	267
	5/17/2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	167
	9/14/2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	297
Ellis City Lake	4/13/2018	Saugeye	Fry	90,000
	5/25/2018	Saugeye	Fingerling	1,002
	8/21/2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	130
	9/6/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	752
	10/2/2018	Largemouth Bass	Intermediate	605
Graham Co.-Antelope Lake	4/13/2018	Saugeye	Fry	67,600
	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	2,003
Hays-Vineyard Park Pond	4/16/2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	80
	5/17/2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	80
	9/14/2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	50
Scott State Fishing Lake	4/13/2018	Saugeye	Fry	115,000
	9/11/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	4,032
Scott State Park-Barrel Springs Pond	10/30/2017	Rainbow Trout	Adult	700
	11/16/2017	Rainbow Trout	Adult	700
	12/13/2017	Rainbow Trout	Adult	700
	2/9/2018	Rainbow Trout	Adult	700
	2/20/2018	Rainbow Trout	Adult	700
	3/19/2018	Rainbow Trout	Adult	700
Sheridan State Fishing Lake	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	1,006
St. Francis-Keller Lake	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	75
St. Francis WA North Pond	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	25
FISH TR Co.-Connor Ponds	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	125
FISH GH Co.-Hofstetter Pond	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	130
FISH RA Co.-Rippe Pond	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	50
FISH GH Co.-Trexler Lake	9/13/2018	Channel Catfish	Intermediate	400

Cedar Bluff Channel Catfish Stocking

Cedar Bluff Reservoir has not been known as a catfish angling destination in recent history. Since 2000, channel catfish have only ranked in the top five species preferred by Cedar Bluff anglers in one of five creel surveys conducted over the past 19 years. Comparison of fall sampling results with other Region 1 reservoirs indicates that channel catfish abundance is relatively low at Cedar Bluff. Despite low abundance, Cedar Bluff channel cats can attain sizes attractive to anglers as individuals weighing 4 to 12 pounds are not uncommon. All told, this fishery has room for improvement, and boosting catfish density would increase the quality and diversity of angling opportunities available at Cedar Bluff.



Low channel catfish abundance is due to poor recruitment of young catfish to the fishery. Reasons for the sub-par recruitment are currently unknown but may be linked to the typical lack of connection between the reservoir and the Smoky Hill River. Inflow supplies to the reservoir only occur after periods of heavy rainfall and during winter terrestrial vegetation dormancy.

KDWPT supplements channel catfish recruitment in small lakes with the release of intermediate-sized fish each fall. However, this practice rarely occurs in the larger reservoirs.



Example of one of the channel catfish stocked

Because of hatchery surplus, 7,000 channel catfish that averaged 6 to 8 inches long were stocked September 19, 2018 into Cedar Bluff. This release is considered a low stocking rate at approximately two fish per acre. Similar stockings will be requested in upcoming years in hopes of increasing catfish abundance and ultimately improving catfish angler success. Historically, channel catfish existed in the river before impoundment and that is the origin of catfish in Cedar Bluff. Prior to this recent stocking, channel cats were only stocked once before in 1960.



Channel catfish acclimating to their new home post-stocking