Field Trip

Frozen Camp WMA



Frozen Camp contains 2,587 acres of mostly wooded, hilly terrain. Open bottom land and a few open ridge tops are scattered around the area. Left Fork Lake (22 acres) and 20-acre Right Fork Lake, along with their associated streams, provide a variety of aquatic habitats. Left Fork Lake is accessible only by foot. Marshy ground along the headwaters has been enhanced to provide wetland habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Right Fork Lake has a boat ramp. Boaters are limited to electric motors only on both lakes. Hunters can make use of a 200-yard rifle range with eight covered shooting benches at Right Fork Lake. Camping is not permitted on Frozen Camp WMA.

Wildlife viewing information: Look for wild turkeys along the forest edges. Many songbirds can be found

Coyotes frequent Frozen Camp. Steve Shaluta / WV Dept. of Commerce

in the area in spring and summer, when many of them migrate here to nest. Waterfowl and wading birds are frequently spotted on the two lakes, and along Left Fork, McCrady Fork and Right Fork. Ruffed grouse can startle you as you hike through the woodlands. Listen for the sound of a whip-poor-will on summer evenings. Cottontail rabbits frequent the brushy areas, and squirrels are regulars around the oak-hickory stands. Coyotes are abundant at Frozen Camp. Look for tracks and scat left on rocks by males as territory markers. Bobcats live in the woods and fields.

The lakes provide great habitat for bass, sunfish and channel catfish. Keeping bass caught in either lake is prohibited. The lakes are also home to aquatic frogs like bullfrogs, green frogs and pickerel frogs. The streams shelter aquatic salamanders, and the moist hillsides provide homes for terrestrial frogs and salamanders. Snake spotters should head for the drier slopes and rock outcrops, where lizards are most likely sunning when conditions are right. Butterflies, dragonflies and other insects are abundant in summer, especially on sunny afternoons.

Directions: There are three access points from the northern boundary. From Ripley, take U.S. Route 33 east approximately 10 miles to a parking area. You can continue east past Marshall to a signed road, or go a little further east and take county routes 8/10 and 8/5 to a parking area on Left Fork.

To access the western boundary and both lakes, take U.S. Route 33 east 9 miles from Ripley to county Route 28. The boat ramp on Right Fork Lake is 5 miles. Drive approximately 4 miles and take county Route 28/2 to the parking area for Left Fork Lake. The parking lot is at the base of the dam on the downstream side, so it is a short, uphill hike to the lake.

The Right Fork boat ramp can also be accessed from the east by taking U.S. Route 33 to county Route 8, which runs into county Route 28 near the boat ramp.

Note: Frozen Camp WMA is a public hunting area. Please check the WV hunting regulations booklet or with the DNR Parkersburg office for season dates.

Ownership: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, 304-420-4550.

