The Department of Natural Resources is currently surveying Silver Lake in Forest County to determine the status of this fishery. Silver Lake covers 320 acres and has a maximum depth of 20 feet.

Walleye
Our electro fishing and netting catch rates show that Silver Lake has a small population of walleyes. During the 2011 survey we captured 40 adult walleyes ranging in size from 18.7 to 25.6 inches.

Northern Pike
Northern Pike were not specifically targeted during our surveys on Silver Lake. However, they appear to be the most abundant game fish in Silver Lake. We captured 139 different northern pike during our electro fishing and netting surveys. Fish sampled ranged from 9.0 to 24.9 inches in length.

For information on fish management contact your local fisheries biologist Greg Matzke @ 715-528-4400 ext 122
Muskellunge
Muskellunge were captured and marked with an identifiable fin clip as part of a 2-year assessment of the muskellunge population. We captured 36 muskellunge during our fyke netting and electrofishing surveys in 2011. These fish ranged from 15.4 to 46.8 inches in length. Muskellunge will be sampled again in 2012 to estimate the adult population.

Pan fish
Pan fish were sampled using fyke nets over a 2-day period in June. We captured 1,321 bluegills during our survey making them the most abundant pan fish species in Silver Lake. Bluegill size structure is poor with only 11% of bluegills being over 6 inches in length.

Pumpkinseed was the 2nd most encountered pan fish species with 64 fish captured. Pumpkinseed size structure is better than that of bluegills with 24% of fish being over 6 inches in length.

Black crappie and bluegill-pumpkinseed hybrids were also captured during pan fish netting. Yellow perch were observed in low numbers during earlier surveys but were not captured during our pan fish survey.

Other Species
Yellow bullheads were observed in high numbers throughout all of our electrofishing and netting surveys. 538 yellow bullheads were captured during our pan fish survey, making them more abundant than every pan fish species except bluegills. The size range of yellow bullheads measured was 8.4 to 12.4 inches.