

# Warmwater Fishing opportunities in central Washington





## Table of Contents

Washington’s Warmwater Game Fish Program .....	1
Fish Washington .....	1
Region Two Warmwater Team Duties .....	2
Region Two Warmwater Team work completed in 2015.....	3
Standardized Warmwater Surveys .....	3
Walleye Surveys (FWIN) .....	3
Adams County .....	4
Cow Lake .....	4
Hutchinson—Shiner Lakes (Largemouth Bass and Bluegill emphasis) .....	4
Sprague Lake (Trout and Warmwater emphasis) .....	4
Chelan County .....	5
Antilon Lake (Trout and Black Crappie).....	5
Dry Lake (Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie and Bluegill emphasis) .....	5
Fish Lake (Trout and Yellow Perch emphasis).....	6
Roses Lake (Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and trout emphasis).....	6
Wapato Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Black Crappie and trout emphasis) .....	6
Grant County.....	7
Ancient Lake South .....	7
Banks Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Black Crappie emphasis).....	7
Billy Clapp Lake (Smallmouth Bass, Kokanee emphasis) .....	8
Desert Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill emphasis).....	8
Evergreen Reservoir (Walleye, Tiger Muskie, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass emphasis).....	8
Long Lake .....	9
Lower Goose Lake (Walleye, Yellow Perch emphasis).....	9
Moses Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch emphasis) .....	9
Potholes Reservoir (Walleye, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass emphasis) .....	10
Red Rock Lake .....	10
Stan Coffin Lake (Largemouth Bass, Channel catfish emphasis).....	10
Upper Goose Lake (Bass, Walleye and Yellow Perch emphasis).....	11
Okanogan County .....	12
Leader Lake (Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass and trout emphasis) .....	12
Palmer Lake (Smallmouth Bass and Kokanee emphasis).....	12
Washburn Island Pond (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Black Crappie emphasis) .....	13

Whitestone Lake (Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish emphasis)..... 13  
REGIONAL WARMWATER ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2016 FIELD SEASON..... 14

# Washington's Warmwater Game Fish Program

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Warmwater Game Fish Program began in 1997 at the request of fishing organizations interested in Bass, Walleye, Crappie, Bluegill, Perch, and Catfish in Washington. The enabling legislation authorized WDFW to fund the program through a \$5 fishing license surcharge. Today a portion from each freshwater fishing license sold funds the Warmwater Game Fish Program.

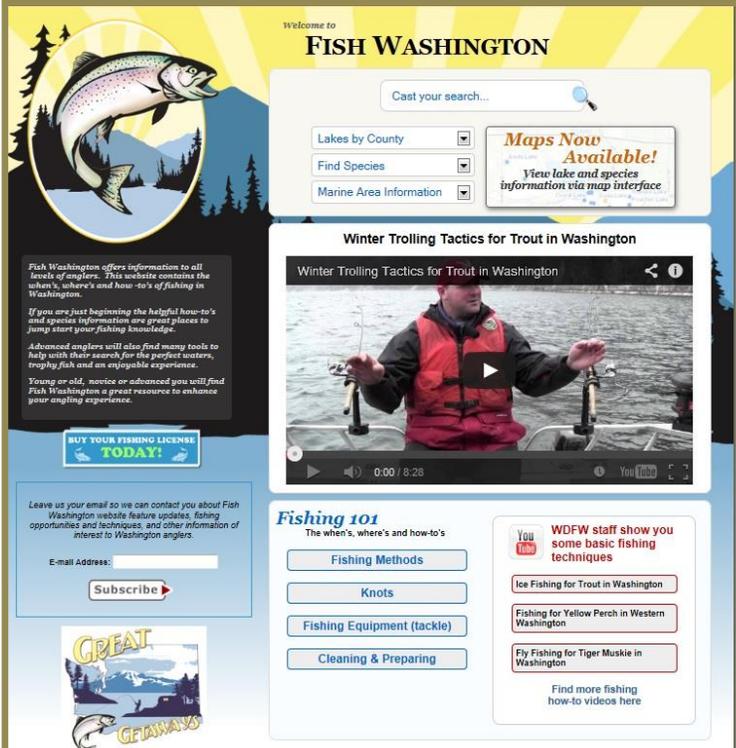
The Warmwater Game Fish Program's goal is to increase opportunities to fish for and catch warmwater game fish. To do so, the program conducts fish community assessment surveys in select lakes and identifies management strategies to improve the quality of fishing. Volunteers are used whenever possible, to involve and educate the public, minimize costs and gain the greatest return for the investment.

This document provides anglers with a summary of Region Two (Adams, Grant, Chelan and Okanogan Counties) waters where warmwater fish are managed. There are also links to more detailed reports throughout this document. It is important to remember that lakes are biological systems and fish communities change over time. We will provide the best information we have at the time of publication. Our reports can be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/> Click on: Fish/Shellfish Research.

## Fish Washington

Whether you are looking for a trophy bass lake or a place to take the kiddos for an afternoon of perch action, [Fish Washington](#) is your one-stop shop for fishing opportunities in the great state of Washington. You can search for lakes by county or species sought. If you know the lake you're looking for [Fish Washington](#) will show you what you can expect to catch and a brief summary of the management history of the lake. In addition, you will find links to maps, regulations and stocking summaries. There are also informational videos on some great fishing opportunities in Washington! We have created videos on everything from winter trolling for trout on FDR to Largemouth Bass fishing on lowland lakes in western Washington.

Cast your search today!



The screenshot shows the 'Fish Washington' website homepage. At the top, it says 'Welcome to FISH WASHINGTON'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Cast your search...'. There are three dropdown menus: 'Lakes by County', 'Find Species', and 'Marine Area Information'. To the right of these menus is a box that says 'Maps Now Available! View lake and species information via map interface'. Below the search area is a video player titled 'Winter Trolling Tactics for Trout in Washington'. The video shows a person in a red life jacket on a boat. Below the video player is a 'Fishing 101' section with the subtitle 'The when's, where's and how-to's'. It includes buttons for 'Fishing Methods', 'Knots', 'Fishing Equipment (tackle)', and 'Cleaning & Preparing'. To the right of this section is a 'You Tube' section with the text 'WDFW staff show you some basic fishing techniques' and several video thumbnails, including 'Ice Fishing for Trout in Washington', 'Fishing for Yellow Perch in Western Washington', and 'Fly Fishing for Tiger Muskie in Washington'. At the bottom left of the page, there is a 'BUY YOUR FISHING LICENSE TODAY!' button and a 'Subscribe' button. There is also a small graphic that says 'GREAT FISHWAYS'.

## Region Two Warmwater Team Duties

Marc Petersen and Mike Schmuck are the Region Two warmwater fish biologists. Their duties include:

- Standardized fisheries assessments of regional warmwater lakes.
- Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) surveys on major walleye lakes within Region Two (Banks Lake, Moses Lake, Potholes Res.). These FWIN surveys allow us to monitor walleye populations over time and make timely management decisions. Our FWIN reports can be found on WDFW's [website](#).
- Relocate warmwater fish from lakes where these fish are un-wanted into lakes where these fish are needed.
- Develop and conduct creel surveys designed to determine angler effort and harvest on local warmwater lakes.
- Meet with angler groups (Walleye and Bass clubs) to discuss our work, present results of fisheries surveys and answer questions.
- Write and publish reports that summarize data collected during surveys.
- Research aspects of warmwater fisheries either considered unique to Washington or otherwise unknown to biologists as a whole.

Since 1997, our team has surveyed most of the warmwater lakes in Region Two. Our reports can be found on WDFW's [website](#) and downloaded in a printable format.

[Adobe Acrobat](#) is required for viewing these reports.



Above (L to R): Stocking juvenile Tiger Muskies into Evergreen Reservoir, Walleye tournament weigh-in on Moses Lake, WDFW biologists with a 20lb Channel Catfish from Potholes Reservoir.

## Region Two Warmwater Team work completed in 2015

### Standardized Warmwater Surveys

In 2015 we conducted an angler creel survey on Roses Lake (Chelan Cty.) in order to determine angler use and effort on this mixed-species fishery. In addition, we stocked Largemouth Bass into Dry Lake (Chelan Cty.). We conducted standardized surveys (sampling fish communities using gill nets, fyke nets and boat electrofisher) of Leader Lake, Whitestone Lake (Okanogan Cty.), Long Lake (Spokane Cty.), Upper Goose Lake and Soda Lake (Grant Cty.). In October we conducted Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) surveys on Billy Clapp Lake, Banks Lake, Moses Lake and Potholes Reservoir.

### Walleye Surveys (FWIN)

Fisheries biologists from WDFW began monitoring important Walleye populations in Washington in 2002 using the Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) methodology. The FWIN methodology was developed in Ontario, Canada as a means of monitoring a wide variety of biological parameters in Walleye populations in a standardized fashion.

In 2015, the average number of Walleye collected per net (CPUE) for all FWIN lakes combined was 20 Walleye per net. This is a decrease from 2014 (27) but is the third highest mean CPUE from all years. The only lake that had an increase



WDFW biologists retrieve a FWIN gill net on Potholes Reservoir.

in Walleye CPUE was Scooteny Reservoir. The most significant decrease in Walleye CPUE occurred on Moses Lake. Approximately 37% of the Walleye collected from all lakes were at least 16 inches. Moses Lake, Potholes Reservoir and Banks Lake had the three highest percentages of Walleye at least 16 inches, respectively. In 2015 the age-1 year-class was the most abundant collected on Scooteny Reservoir, Potholes Reservoir and Moses Lake, respectively. On Banks Lake the age-3 Walleye year-class was the most abundant collected and on FDR the age-2 year-class was the most abundant collected.

# Prospects for Region Two Warmwater Lakes

## Adams County

### Cow Lake

Cow Lake (200 acres) is located approximately nine miles east of Ritzville off the Wellsandt Road. This lake was rehabilitated in 2007 to eradicate nuisance fish and restore a mixed species fishery. Fishing for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill Sunfish is fair to good. WDFW also stocks the lake with catchable size Rainbow Trout. Grass Pickerel and Brown Bullhead are also very abundant and provide a different kind of fishing opportunity. We surveyed Cow Lake in September 2012. Largemouth Bass and Bluegill dominated our catch, representing 40% and 25% of the total number of fish collected, respectively. The majority of Largemouth Bass collected were less than eight inches. Very few Bluegill over six inches were collected during this survey. Brown Bullhead represented the largest percentage of biomass of fish collected and the majority of these fish were over 12 inches. Anglers should be aware that Brown Bullhead are relatively easy and fun to catch, and also make excellent table fare.

### Hutchinson—Shiner Lakes (Largemouth Bass and Bluegill emphasis)

Hutchinson and Shiner lakes are located approximately four miles west of Othello, WA. These lakes are part of the Seep Lakes chain that originates south of Potholes Reservoir. Hutchinson and Shiner lakes, combined, have a surface area of 83 acres, and a mean depth of 11.5 ft. Water drains from Shiner Lake into Hutchinson Lake via a small channel approximately 150 ft. long. These lakes are managed for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill. Anglers can also find Black Crappie and Yellow Perch. We encourage anglers to keep as many Yellow Perch as possible since we would like to keep their numbers down. We surveyed these lakes in fall 2013. Largemouth Bass was the most abundant species collected followed by Bluegill. These lakes are consistent fisheries year after year, especially for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill.



### Sprague Lake (Trout and Warmwater emphasis)



Sprague Lake is located in eastern Washington approximately 3 miles southwest of Sprague, Washington. The lake has a surface area of 1,760 acres, a mean depth of 11.5 ft., and is approximately 6 miles in length. Sprague Lake was rehabilitated in 2007. Since the rehab, WDFW stocked rainbow trout for a transitional fishery until warmwater species become established. In recent years Sprague Lake has been producing rainbow trout from 2.5 – 5 pounds consistently.

In summer 2008 DFW stocked bluegill, largemouth bass and black crappie in order to create a new warmwater fish community. We are interested in angler effort and harvest. Please let us know about your success.

## Chelan County

### Antilon Lake (Trout and Black Crappie)

Antilon Lake is actually two lakes (total area 96 acres) located north of Roses Lake near Manson, WA. Antilon Lake is managed as a Brown Trout and Black Crappie fishery and anglers report excellent fishing for both. There is an unimproved launch at both sites with good access for small to mid-size boats. We last visited Antilon Lake in May 2011 to determine the abundance and size distribution of the Black Crappie population. We did not collect a lot of Crappie but we did find very large Pumpkinseed and a healthy Brown Trout population. There are a lot of Black Crappie in Antilon Lake, we simply didn't collect many with our sampling gears.



### Dry Lake (Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie and Bluegill emphasis)

Dry Lake (94 acres) is located approximately one and one half miles northeast of Lake Chelan and the city of Manson in Chelan County, Washington. Access to Dry Lake is limited to a small, unimproved area where a boat can be launched. WDFW has no improved access on Dry Lake. In spring 2016 we surveyed Dry Lake and found Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Black Crappie. The Bluegill population is comprised of mostly large fish with 70 percent over six inches. The Largemouth Bass population is structured ideally for producing large Bluegill. Approximately 16 percent of bass are over 12 inches and 10 percent are over 16 inches. The majority of Largemouth Bass are under 12 inches and well suited for preying on juvenile Bluegill. The Black Crappie collected were large and should provide anglers with a lot of opportunity (see photo on right). We also collected Yellow Perch, and Brown Bullhead, although in low numbers. In spring 2015 we stocked 1,100 adult Largemouth Bass into Dry Lake in order to increase bass availability for anglers and to improve the size structure of Bluegill.



Largemouth Bass and Black Crappie collected on Dry Lake, May 2016.

## Fish Lake (Trout and Yellow Perch emphasis)

Fish Lake (492 acres) is about 16 miles north of Leavenworth and a mile northeast of Lake Wenatchee. Access is through the Forest Service approved concession "Cove Resort". This lake produces good fishing throughout the year. Angling effort is split between trout and Yellow Perch. Fly-fishing for Rainbow Trout is best in spring and fall months. Trophy Brown Trout are available for those willing to work at it. Perch fishing is best in the winter through the ice, but good catches are made all year.



## Roses Lake (Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and trout emphasis)

Roses Lake is located approximately one mile northeast of Lake Chelan and 1 mile north of Manson, Washington. The lake is 131 acres, and a maximum depth of approximately 30 feet. Roses Lake is managed as a winter Rainbow Trout fishery as well as a warmwater fishery. We surveyed Roses Lake in the fall of 2004 and since then we have revisited the lake several times to monitor the Largemouth Bass and Bluegill populations. In 2009 we began monitoring Largemouth Bass growth in Roses Lake. Several hundred Largemouth Bass were tagged in order to monitor growth. There is also a healthy Channel Catfish population in Roses Lake – some of which are very large (see above). The band of bulrush and cattail surrounding Roses Lake holds many large bass. Anglers should focus on these areas as they provide excellent cover for both bass and the small prey fish that bass prey upon. Our report can be found on WDFW's [website](#).



20 lb. Channel Catfish collected on Roses Lake, June 2015.

## Wapato Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Black Crappie and trout emphasis)

Wapato Lake is approximately 3 miles from Manson Washington. Wapato Lake has a surface area of 216 acres and has a maximum depth of 68 feet. Wapato Lake is an excellent lake for Largemouth Bass and big Bluegill and Black Crappie. In certain years large Yellow Perch can be found in deeper water. Wapato Lake has more restrictive fishing regulations than most waters. Please consult the WDFW fishing regulations before your trip.



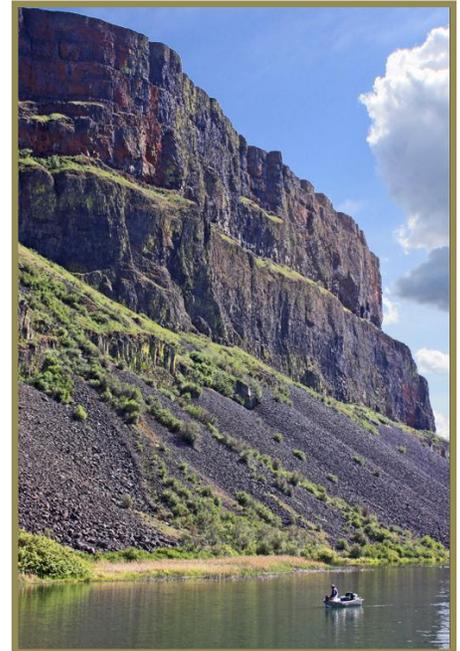
## Grant County

### Ancient Lake South

South Ancient Lake is located within WDFW's Quincy Wildlife Area west of Stan Coffin Lake. The lake is managed as a mixed species fishery. Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Pumpkinseed are present in Ancient Lake. We know very little about this fish community due to limited access for launching a boat. Access to the lake is hike-in only. Camping at or near South Ancient Lake is also an option for anglers; however, campers should be aware that rattlesnakes abound on the Quincy Wildlife Area wherever you find rocks and water.

### Banks Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Black Crappie emphasis)

Banks Lake is located between Coulee City and Electric City along Highway 17. Banks Lake is an irrigation impoundment, has a surface area of 26,887 acres, and a mean depth of 46 ft. Banks Lake was once known as the state's premier Walleye fishery; however, recently Smallmouth Bass have become a much more abundant and popular gamefish in this lake. Anglers will also find excellent Yellow Perch fishing along the jetties on the south end, near the north end west of Steamboat Rock, and seasonally in the shallow bays of the northeast side of the reservoir. Other gamefish found in Banks Lake include Black Crappie, Bluegill, Bullheads, Rainbow Trout and Kokanee. Deepwater fish species found in Banks Lake include Burbot and Lake Whitefish. Rainbow Trout and Kokanee are stocked annually. Walleye abundance on Banks Lake has been above average since 2010 with numerous fish in the 12–16 inch range.



### **Billy Clapp Lake** (Smallmouth Bass, Kokanee emphasis)

Billy Clapp Lake (973 acres) is located approximately two miles northeast of the Town of Stratford. This lake (actually a reservoir) offers good fishing for a variety of species including Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, panfish, Rainbow Trout, and Kokanee. Species composition in Billy Clapp Lake is influenced heavily by outmigrating fish from connected Banks Lake. Kokanee fishing at Billy Clapp Lake varies year-to-year, but when it is good, Kokanee exceeding 20 inches can be caught routinely during late-winter through early-spring. We conducted a fisheries survey of Billy Clapp Lake in 2008. Smallmouth Bass represented 46% of the total number of fish collected while Walleye represented approximately 5%. Due to steep sided shorelines and lack of littoral habitat it is difficult to survey Billy Clapp Lake using a boat electrofisher.

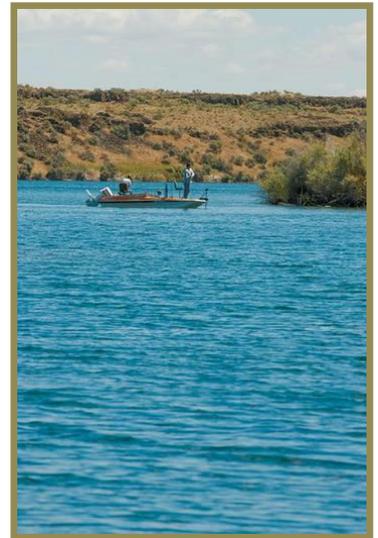


### **Desert Lake** (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill emphasis)

Desert Lake is a hike in lake located just south of the Winchester Wasteway and a mile west of Potholes Reservoir. This lake has an abundant Largemouth Bass population and anglers can expect hours of fun catching 13–16 inch bass. There is very limited shore access due to abundant bulrush and cattail around the lake. Anglers are encouraged to carry in a float tube in order to access the great fishing opportunities that exist on this lake. Make sure to bring a camera as there are also great birding opportunities on the Desert Wildlife Areas as well.

### **Evergreen Reservoir** (Walleye, Tiger Muskie, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass emphasis)

Evergreen Reservoir lies within the Quincy Wildlife Area in Grant County, Washington, approximately 8 miles southwest of Quincy, Washington. Evergreen Reservoir has a surface area of 247 acres and a mean depth of 19 ft. Walleye, Largemouth, and Smallmouth Bass are popular species sought by anglers at Evergreen Reservoir; however, Black Crappie and Bluegill are also targeted by a growing number of fishermen. Evergreen Reservoir is our only Tiger Muskie lake in central Washington and we stock approximately 150, 12–13 inch fish per year. Tiger muskies are voracious feeders and are often caught near the edge of weed beds where they hunt for small fish.



## Long Lake

Long Lake (75 acres) is located in Grant County approximately 10 miles northwest of Othello, WA. Long Lake is essentially nothing more than an artificial enlargement of the Potholes East Canal. The lake has a large inflow and outflow and flushing rates are relatively short. Public access is provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The access site has pit toilets, a gravel boat ramp and camping is allowed. Long Lake is open to fishing year-round and anglers may use boats equipped with internal combustion engines. This lake offers a variety of fishing opportunities for bass, Walleye, occasionally panfish, and Rainbow Trout. Rainbow Trout fingerlings are stocked annually during the fall. The fish community within Long Lake is heavily influenced from outmigrating fish from connected Potholes Reservoir.

## Lower Goose Lake (Walleye, Yellow Perch emphasis)

Lower Goose Lake lies among the seep lakes in Grant County approximately 9 miles northwest Othello, Washington, and approximately 3.5 miles south of Potholes Reservoir. Lower Goose Lake has a surface area of 50 acres and a mean depth of 25 ft. Lower Goose Lake was surveyed in spring 2013 and large numbers of fish were collected. Gamefish collected (in order of abundance) included: Yellow Perch Bluegill, and Pumpkinseed Sunfish. Very few Largemouth Bass, Walleye or Smallmouth Bass were collected. Anglers in search of abundant Yellow Perch should visit Lower Goose Lake in 2014.



## Moses Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch emphasis)

Moses Lake (6,800 acres) has year-round fishing opportunities for both warmwater fish and Rainbow Trout. Regulations on Moses Lake allow anglers to retain eight Walleye with a minimum size of 12 inches with one fish allowed over 22 inches. Recent fisheries surveys indicate a high abundance of Walleye and Smallmouth Bass. Walleye in Moses Lake can reach and exceed the 10 pound mark. Smallmouth Bass can reach and exceed the 5 pound mark. Largemouth Bass fishing can be excellent in select areas of Moses Lake. During certain times of the year anglers also catch Rainbow Trout up to 20 inches. Bluegill and Black Crappie fishing at times can be very good, but is usually not consistent year-to-year. Yellow Perch fishing is usually very good during the fall through winter. During certain winters, Moses Lake freezes offering a good ice fishery for Yellow Perch and Rainbow Trout. The most popular ice fishing location is near Blue Heron Park. Moses Lake is one of the lakes on which we conduct FWIN surveys. The results of our latest FWIN survey can be found on WDFW's website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/>.



## Potholes Reservoir (Walleye, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass emphasis)

Potholes Reservoir is one of the most popular fishing destinations in Region Two. It is a 28,200-acre reservoir in Grant County, formed by the construction of O'Sullivan Dam across the Crab Creek Valley in 1949. Potholes Reservoir is another of our regional FWIN waters. Our data have shown a slight decline in Walleye; however, they remain abundant and this reservoir remains an excellent Walleye fishery. Other gamefish found in Potholes include Bluegill, Black Crappie, Channel Catfish, Rainbow Trout and Bullhead. During our 2015 FWIN survey we collected 15 very large Channel Catfish, some over 20 pounds. Anglers in search of large cats should focus their efforts on Potholes Reservoir.



WDFW biologists with a 20lb. Channel Catfish collected on Potholes Reservoir, October 2015.

## Red Rock Lake

Red Rock Lake is approximately 3 miles southeast of Royal City, Washington. Water levels in Red Rock Lake fluctuate a great deal during the spring and summer which makes boat access difficult. Our last survey of Red Rock Lake occurred in spring 2005. Yellow Perch was the most abundant species collected followed by Largemouth Bass. Other gamefish found in Red Rock Lake include Black Crappie, Bluegill, and Brown Bullhead. Tiger Muskies were once present in Red Rock Lake; however; no Tiger Muskies were collected during this survey, and we haven't stocked them in Red Rock Lake since 2001. There are a few very large bass in Red Rock Lake. One fish collected was eight pounds! Our report can be found on WDFW's [website](#).



## Stan Coffin Lake (Largemouth Bass, Channel catfish emphasis)

Stan Coffin Lake is located in the Quincy Wildlife Area. This lake has a surface area of approximately 40.9 acres and is approximately 20 feet at its deepest point. Stan Coffin Lake is the only catch-and-release Largemouth Bass fishery in the state and this lake has an abundant bass population. Other gamefish found in Stan Coffin Lake include Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch and Bluegill. Anglers are encouraged to keep all panfish they catch as these populations are over-abundant and are in need of control.



## Upper Goose Lake (Bass, Walleye and Yellow Perch emphasis)

Upper Goose Lake lies among the seep lakes in Grant County approximately 10 miles northwest of Othello, Washington, and approximately 3 miles south of Potholes Reservoir. Upper Goose Lake has a surface area of 130.5 acres, and a mean depth of 46 ft. We surveyed Upper Goose Lake in fall 2015. The most abundant species collected was Yellow Perch, although most were less than 9 inches. The remaining fish species were in low abundance and we cannot make any recommendations with regard to this lake. Anglers should note that during the summertime the lower gate is locked and access is by walk-in only.



The reason the lower gate is locked during the summertime is to discourage garbage dumping, vandalism, and other illegal activities.

## Okanogan County

### Leader Lake (Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass and trout emphasis)

Leader Lake (155 acres), located along Highway 20 just west of Okanogan is managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources Northeast Region. It is located in Loup Loup State Forest and offers outstanding views with great fishing. Washington Dept. of Natural Resource's 10 campsites are spread around a portion of the lake with some close to the water and others tucked into the ponderosa pine and aspen forest. The lake itself is managed as a mixed-species fishery. In addition to stocked Rainbow Trout there is an abundant



Warmwater game fish community in Leader Lake.

Leader Lake is one of the premier Bluegill fisheries in eastern Washington. Abundant catches of bluegill in the 8–11 inch range are not uncommon at Leader Lake.

Anglers will also find great opportunities to catch Largemouth Bass. Most fish will be in the 12–17 inch protected slot; however, there are also some large bass in this lake as well. This lake is a favorite among local anglers in both summer and winter.

### Palmer Lake (Smallmouth Bass and Kokanee emphasis)

Palmer Lake is located approximately 5 miles north of Loomis, WA. The lake has a surface area of 2,110 acres, and a mean depth of 51 feet. We last completed a full warmwater survey in Palmer Lake during the fall of 2009.

[Smallmouth bass](#) was the most abundant species collected and fish up to 18 inches were collected. We also collected largemouth bass (one fish measured 22 inches!), Black Crappie, Bluegill and Yellow Perch. This lake offers an excellent angling experience due to both the fish in the lake and the beautiful scenery surrounding the lake. In addition to excellent Smallmouth Bass fishing Palmer Lake hosts an excellent Kokanee fishery. In 2012 and 2013 we visited Palmer Lake weekly during the summer in search of hatchery reared and marked Black Crappie in order to determine their contribution to the existing population.



## Washburn Island Pond (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Black Crappie emphasis)

Washburn Island Pond is located approximately 5 miles southeast of Brewster, Washington off Hwy 17. The pond, which is primarily used by hunters and fishermen, has a surface area of approximately 140 acres, and a maximum depth of 21 feet. Washburn Island Pond is another of our Largemouth Bass—Bluegill fisheries. We conducted an abbreviated survey of Washburn Island Pond in 2013. Bluegill was the most abundant species collected followed by Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed, Black Crappie, Brown Bullhead and Channel



Catfish. Most Bluegill collected were less than 6 inches so anglers are unlikely to find many large fish. This population is likely suffering from a lack of predation. We will visit Washburn Island Pond in spring 2014 to better determine the need for stocking additional Largemouth Bass.

## Whitestone Lake (Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish emphasis)

Whitestone Lake is located in the Okanogan River drainage approximately 5.7 miles northwest of Tonasket, Washington. The lake has a surface area of 173 acres, and a maximum depth of 25 feet. In 2008 we collected 6,000 small Bluegill from Whitestone Lake for transplant into Sprague Lake. In spring 2015 we conducted a fisheries survey of Whitestone Lake, Bluegill were most abundant and large bass dominate that population. Very few small bass were collected during this survey. In addition to excellent Largemouth Bass fishing anglers can also expect to find good fishing for Black Crappie in Whitestone Lake.



## REGIONAL WARMWATER ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2016 FIELD SEASON

- Warmwater Fisheries Survey of Soda Lake, Largemouth Bass growth study on Roses Lake, Channel Catfish abundance estimates on Roses Lake and Stan Coffin Lake.
- Fisheries Survey of Fish Lake, Chelan County.
- Spring Pike Index Netting (SPIN) on the Pend Oreille River.
- Produce a “How to fish for Bluegill” video on Leader Lake
- FWIN surveys (Banks Lake, Moses Lake and Potholes Reservoir).

Marc Petersen  
Warmwater Team Fish Biologist  
WDFW Region Two  
Ephrata, WA  
(509) 754-4624 ext 222



Mike Schmuck  
Warmwater Team Fish Biologist  
WDFW Region Two  
Ephrata, WA  
(509) 754-4624 ext 227

