

## **WATERFOWL HUNTING AREAS IN REGION ONE 2011**

(prepared by Region 1 District Biologists)

### **PEND OREILLE RIVER**

The “upper” Pend Oreille River from Newport downstream to Usk probably offers the best general waterfowl hunting opportunity within northeastern Washington. Outside of the east shoreline alongside the Kalispell Indian Reservation most of the river itself is open for hunting along with a number of islands. In most instances a boat is required, however, either as a hunting blind in itself or for access to islands, sandbars, and the like which are open to hunting. There are also Pend Oreille Public Utility District lands as well as U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service refuge land (the “Cusick” Unit) open to public hunting. These parcels are located near the mouths of Tacoma and Trimble Creeks into the Pend Oreille River.

Dabbling Ducks: -Moderate numbers during migration, mostly gadwall, wigeon, teal, mallards, and some pintails.

Diving Ducks: Moderate numbers with highest densities during peak migration periods

Geese:- Moderate to high numbers of Canada geese.

### **LAKE ROOSEVELT**

Lake Roosevelt up to the 1310 feet elevation contour is mostly federally owned and managed by the National Park Service. Much of the lake shore also borders the Colville and Spokane Indian Reservations, however, and in these areas the tribes manage the shoreline area. As such, where you can legally hunt is somewhat complicated. A telephone call to the National Park Service for clarification would be prudent before hunting. The NPS Office at Kettle Falls, WA can be reached at 509-738-6266.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers during migration, mostly wigeon and mallards.

Diving Ducks: Relatively few but higher densities during peak migration periods.

Geese: Low to moderate numbers of Canada geese.

### **COLVILLE VALLEY**

The Colville Valley has a substantial population of Canada Geese. Almost all of the valley bottom is private land, however, so obtaining written permission for hunting access is essential. Ducks are also present, generally only where there are slow, meandering streams and/or farm ponds.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers during migration, mostly mallards.

Diving Ducks:- Relatively few but higher densities during peak migration periods, especially on the Colville River.

Geese:- Low to moderate numbers of Canada geese.

### **SPRAGUE LAKE** - (1,840 acres)

This large lake is approximately two miles west of the town of Sprague, approximately 45 minutes from Spokane. The western half of Sprague Lake is a Game Preserve and illegal to hunt there. The Preserve starts at the Lincoln/Adams county Line where it crosses the Lake. You can hunt on the Lincoln County side; it is the Adams County side that is off limits. If on the preserve, you cannot have a dog or a gun in

the boat. Moderate waterfowl numbers. A boat is pretty much needed to hunt. Moderate to high hunting pressure.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers

Diving Ducks: . low to moderate numbers

Geese: moderate numbers

### **FISHTRAP LAKE** – (7,000 acres)

BLM owns and manages this land. This lake is located six and a half miles east of Sprague, on the Lincoln/Spokane County line, with about 173 acres in Lincoln County. From Spokane it takes about 20-30 minutes to get to Fishtrap Lake. Moderate waterfowl numbers. Moderate to high hunting pressure. Note: the BLM has issued an emergency closure for recreational shooting and target practice affecting the northeastern portion of Fishtrap Lake Recreation area.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers

Diving Ducks: low to moderate numbers

Geese: low to moderate

### **ROCK LAKE**

This narrow, 7.5 mile-long lake is a long way from any of eastern [Washington](#)'s major population centers, so it's a good place for getting away from the crowds. Be forewarned, there are some shallow spots where you might not expect them. The lake access is managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. It has a one-lane gravel ramp with a parking area large enough for about 30 cars and trailers on the south end of the lake. Take Highway 23 south from Sprague or west from St. John to Ewan and turn north on Rock Lake Road and go north approximately 3 miles to the access area. Moderate waterfowl numbers. Need a boat. Moderate to high hunting pressure.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers

Diving Ducks: Low to moderate numbers

Geese: Low to moderate

### **TWIN LAKES**

BLM owns and manages this land. This area is a unique part of the Channeled Scablands of public land located in Lincoln County. Upper (39.2 acres) and Lower (44.9 acres): Located in the Lake Creek drainage about 20 miles southeast of Davenport. A dirt boat launch ramp is available for small boats. Low to moderate waterfowl numbers. Need a boat. Low to moderate hunting pressure.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers

Diving Ducks: Low to moderate numbers

Geese: Low to moderate

### **SNAKE RIVER**

The Snake River ,between Clarkston and Ice Harbor Dam (Approximately 120 river miles).

Predominantly limited to boat access (sites available on the USACE website: The USACE manages lands adjacent to the river as mitigation to the lower four Snake River Dams. Multiple canyons drain into the Snake River providing inlets that waterfowl concentrate in. Public Access to shoreline is limited. Low hunting pressure. Low to moderate waterfowl numbers. Recommend finding possible hunting locations using Google earth or Google maps to plan a hunt.

Dabbling Ducks - Low to moderate numbers during migration, mostly wigeon and mallards.

Diving Ducks - Relatively few but higher densities associated with beds of aquatic vegetation.

Geese - Low numbers of large Canada geese. Higher concentrations near the lower section of the river.