

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Water: Worth Lake

Management Type: Warm Water (Largemouth Bass and Bluegill)

Location: Colonial Road, four miles east of Basin City, Washington in Franklin County, Sec 20, T13N, R30E

Size: 12 acres, 10 feet maximum depth, 75-120 acre-feet, depending on control structure weirs

Water Source: Intermittent irrigation and wetland runoff

Outflow: Irrigation canal (intermittent)

Management History:

Historically, Worth Lake has provided rainbow trout and warm water angling opportunities. Between 1958-1979, WDFW stocked the lake with over 83,000 rainbow trout. WDFW records indicate that no stocking occurred between 1980 and 1999. In 2000, 75 adult black crappie were stocked into Worth Lake and rainbow trout were again stocked in 2004. No crappie or rainbow trout were sampled during a population survey in 2005. Worth Lake has been rehabilitated twice since 1969 (1969 and 1979) in efforts to eliminate non-game fishes such as carp. However, because of the lake's connectivity to the Columbia Basin irrigation system and/or limited rehabilitation success, carp always re-inhabit the lake within several years. A fish survey conducted in 1998 by WDFW Warmwater Program personnel revealed that carp had once again immigrated into the lake. In 2004, the original water control structure was reconstructed at the outlet of the lake to regulate water levels and to prevent upstream immigration of carp. Carp removal efforts using electrofishing were conducted in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. Carp densities have remained at low-to-moderate levels in recent years.

Current Management Objectives:

We intend to establish Worth Lake as a successful warm water fishery and improve its popularity by maintaining the lake as one of the few local waters with moderate to strong populations of both largemouth bass and bluegill. Given a reasonable chance of eliminating the populations of undesirable species, the beneficial effects should be noticeable one-two years post treatment.

Fishery Objectives:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Fish/hour</u>	<u>Fish/angler</u>	<u>Ave size</u>
Largemouth Bass	Quality	Statewide	2-4	6-12	50% <10" 40% 10"-14" 10% 14"+
Bluegill	Quality	Statewide	6-12	12-24	90% <6" 10% 6"+

Angler use objective (# angler days/week): 10-20

Stocking Objectives:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total Fish</u>	<u>Fish/Acre</u>	<u>Fish/lb</u>	<u>Planting Month</u>
Largemouth bass	25	2	1.0	May
Largemouth bass	1,200	100	50+	October
Bluegill	250	21	5.0	May
Bluegill	4,800	400	50+	October

Management Strategy:

- Maintain Statewide Regulations including slot limit for largemouth bass
- Provide an abundant bluegill fishery
- Develop a quality largemouth bass population and fishery
- Monitor angling activity and catch rates periodically throughout season
- Closely monitor any invasive species and react immediately to control population by all means before treating with rotenone (angling, electroshocking, netting, and regulation changes).