

## LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANS

*Updated July, 2012 – Chad S. Jackson*

**Water(s):** Quincy and Burke Lakes

**Location:** Quincy Wildlife Area, Sections 14, 15, 23 Township 19 North, Range 23 East WM; approximately 7.5 miles south southwest of Quincy, Grant County, WA

LAKE	SIZE (SA)	AVE DEPTH	MAX DEPTH	VOLUME (ACRE-FEET)
Quincy	62.5	10.0 feet	26.0 feet	625.0
Burke	70.0	15.0 feet	28.0 feet	1,050.0

**Water Source:** surface and subsurface seepage springs

**Outflow:** small creeks, eventually subsurface

**Management History:** Quincy and Burke lakes are the middle two of four adjacent waters within the Quincy Wildlife Area. They have been managed as opening day trout production fisheries since the middle 1950s. The two lakes north and south (Stan Coffin Lake and Evergreen Reservoir) are managed as warmwater fisheries. The greatest complicating factor in the management of Quincy and Burke lakes is recurring illegal introductions of competing, predatory and/or nuisance fish species (e.g., yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, bass, bullhead catfish, carp, etc.) that negatively impact trout fingerling survival. Both lakes have a long and colorful history of public involvement in management. The Department was actually brought to court in 1983 by several Quincy area sportsmen over the planned rehabilitation of Burke Lake, to which WDFW prevailed.

The season begins March 1<sup>st</sup> and extends through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Statewide regulations apply - the daily limit is five trout and bait is allowed. Boating access is available at both lakes. Plants of rainbow trout fingerlings occur annually during the spring (late-March-May). Yearling trout based on the previous year's stocked fingerlings are typically 12 inches on opening day and range between 11-13 inches. When competing, predatory, and/or nuisance fish species are controlled, Burke and Quincy lakes are capable of producing excellent openers and good catches through late spring.

Burke and Quincy lakes are statewide resources. WDFW surveys since the early 1980's indicate less than 20% of the anglers attending these fisheries were from Grant County. Over 45% were from western counties. At least 9,000 angler trips per season were conservatively estimated on Burke Lake in 1983 and over 6,400 angler trips per season at Quincy Lake in 1988. Even on "off" years, when ice and/or cold prevail, these waters attract 1,000-2,000 anglers on the opener. Participation at near-by Stan Coffin Lake, managed for warmwater fisheries, is estimated at less than 1,000 angler days per season during the best years after rehabilitation in 1992.

Rehabilitation and total fish eradication are not difficult enterprises for either lake, however, the

re-introduction of competing, predatory, and/or nuisance fishes will always be a problem because Burke and Quincy lakes are easily accessible and lie in close proximity to several other waters managed for warmwater fish. Angler participation in the trout fisheries make these projects worthwhile relative to the amount of effort and cost involved in treatment even if required every five years.

*T&E Flora and Fauna:* Professionals from many resource fields have visited this site countless times during the last 40 years. No known report exists of any threatened or endangered species habitually found in or near these lakes. Occasional visits from both bald and golden eagles occur, although no nests of either of these two species are known to exist in the area. Protected species of waterfowl and other birds are sporadically observed here as well.

**Current Management Objectives:**

March 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>, production-type fishery. Five fish limit, no size or gear restrictions. Provide ≥3.0 yearling rainbow trout per angler trip for 3,000-4,000 anglers on opening day, and ~2.0 trout per angler for the remaining part of the season for at least 10,000 additional angler trips. These waters could sustain well over 15,000 angler trips per year.

1. Fishery Objectives:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Trout/Angler</u>	<u>Avg.Size</u>	<u>Exploitation Rate</u>
Rainbow	Prod.	Opening Day	≥3.0	12 inches	90% 1-yr-olds
		Season Average	~2.0	12-14 inches	90% 1-yr-olds

2. Angler use objective (# angler days): Opening Day – 3,000-4,000; Season - 15,000

3. Stocking Objectives:

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of Fish Stocked</u>			<u>Planting Months</u>
		<u>Total</u>	<u>/Acre</u>	<u>/Pound</u>	
Quincy	Rainbow	≤30,000	≤500	≤80	March-May
Burke	Rainbow	≤30,000	≤500	≤80	March-May

E. Management Strategy:

- Plant rainbow fingerlings in spring between late-March to May.
- Check yearling growth; should be about 12 inches by opening day, adjust stocking rate as necessary.
- Harvest up to 90% of yearling fish by end of season.
- Monitor all fish species periodically by electrofishing and/or netting.
- Substitute fall fingerlings and/or catchables for spring fingerling plants when competing species begin to impact spring fingerling survival.
- Control competing, predatory, and/or nuisance fish species with rotenone when spring fingerling trout survival is inadequate to produce an acceptable fishery.