



## 2022 Warmwater Fishing opportunities in Central Washington



## Table of Contents

Washington’s Warmwater Fish Program .....	1
Fish Washington Mobile app .....	1
Region Two Warmwater Team Duties .....	2
Summary of Regional Warmwater Activities in 2021-22.....	3
Walleye Surveys (FWIN).....	3
Adams County .....	4
Cow Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, and Rainbow Trout emphasis) .....	4
Hutchinson—Shiner Lakes (Largemouth Bass and Bluegill emphasis) .....	4
Sprague Lake (Trout, Bluegill, and Channel Catfish emphasis).....	4
Chelan County .....	5
Antilon Lake (Trout and Black Crappie).....	5
Dry Lake (Largemouth Bass 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 (Warmwater species emphasis).....	7
Banks Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Black Crappie, Lake Whitefish emphasis) .....	7
Billy Clapp Lake (Smallmouth Bass, Rainbow Trout, and Kokanee emphasis) .....	8
Desert Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill emphasis).....	8
Evergreen Reservoir (Walleye, Tiger Muskie, Black Crappie, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass emphasis) .....	8
Long Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, and panfish emphasis).....	9
Lower Goose Lake (Walleye, Largemouth Bass, and Yellow Perch emphasis).....	9
Moses Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth, Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie, and Yellow Perch emphasis) .....	9
Potholes Reservoir (Walleye, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass emphasis) .....	10
Red Rock Lake (Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie, and Bluegill emphasis).....	10
Stan Coffin Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Channel catfish emphasis) .....	10
Upper Goose Lake (Bass, Walleye and Yellow Perch emphasis) .....	11
Okanogan County .....	11
Leader Lake (Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass and Rainbow Trout emphasis) .....	11
Palmer Lake (Smallmouth Bass and Kokanee emphasis).....	12
Washburn Island Pond (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Black Crappie emphasis) .....	12
Whitestone Lake (Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish emphasis) .....	13
Regional Warmwater Activities for the 2022 Field Season.....	14

# Washington's Warmwater Fish Program

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Warmwater 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, the Warmwater Fish Program is funded from a portion of freshwater fishing licenses sold to people participating in warmwater fishing.

The Warmwater 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, Douglas, 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 warmwater reports can be found at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications>

## Fish Washington Mobile app



Whether you are an experienced angler or just getting started, the Fish Washington app should be on your smartphone or other mobile device.

The **free** mobile app is designed to convey up-to-the-minute fishing regulations for every lake, river, stream and marine area in the state.

The app does not currently include information on shellfish and seaweed collection rules. The app can be downloaded for free [Google Play](#) and [Apple's App Store](#).

The app contains many great features, including:

- Interactive mapping to help anglers find fishing near them.
- Details on harvest limits and allowable gear for fishable species in each body of water.
- Access to the Fish Washington website and instructional videos designed to convey when, where and how to fish in Washington.
- Locations of boat launches and other fishing access points.
- Ability to add waypoints on maps, and report poaching in progress.
- Downloadable updates and offline capacity designed for those who may not have cell service in remote areas or on the water.

WDFW encourages everyone to download the Fish Washington app by visiting Apple's App Store or the Google Play store. Please use the commenting features in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) to provide feedback, which will help the department make improvements to the app over time. The public can also leave comments at [MobileAppDev@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:MobileAppDev@dfw.wa.gov).

## Region Two Warmwater Team Duties

Marc Petersen is the Region 2 lead warmwater fish biologist. His duties include:

- Standardized fisheries assessments of regional warmwater lakes.
- Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) surveys on major walleye lakes within Region 2 (Banks Lake, Moses Lake, Potholes Res.). These FWIN surveys allow us to monitor walleye populations over time and make timely management decisions.
- 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.
- Assisting in the development and implementation of our agency's R3 (recruitment, retention, and reactivation) plan to recruit and maintain anglers.

Since 1997, our team has surveyed most of the warmwater lakes in Region 2.

[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.

## Summary of Regional Warmwater Activities in 2021-22

In 2021, many activities were reduced or postponed due to health concerns from the Covid-19 pandemic. We were restricted by precautionary safety guidelines for many outdoor activities that involved multi-person interactions such as warmwater surveys. In Region 2, we were able to complete a year-long angler creel survey as well as our Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN), both occurring on Potholes Reservoir. In addition, we took this opportunity to continue working on analyzing our long term FWIN dataset (2002-19) from Banks Lake. This is an extensive data modeling task that will allow us to evaluate natural mortality, fishing mortality (harvest), angler effort, fish population dynamics, and performance of our current Walleye fishing regulation. In addition, our 2016 and 2018 Recreation and Conservation Grants (RCO) for Roses Lake to re-develop the WDFW maintained fishing access is nearing completion. Currently, fishing access parking area has been paved, new double toilets installed, fishing platform installed, boat ramp extended, and boat loading float was expanded. In spring 2022, phase 2 will be completed with the creation of trails leading to another fishing platform for shoreline anglers. Total funds received for this project was \$850,000. A second 2018 RCO grant was successful for Glenn Williams Access Redevelopment on Potholes Reservoir. That project is currently undergoing permitting with construction beginning during 2022. Total award for this project is \$1,250,000.00.

### Walleye Surveys (FWIN)

Fisheries biologists from WDFW began monitoring important Walleye populations in Washington in 2002 using the Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) methodology developed in Ontario, Canada. In 2021, FWIN was limited to Potholes Reservoir along with a year-long angler creel survey. The Region 2 FWIN surveys will now be conducted on one water each year, rotating between Moses Lake, Banks Lake, and Potholes Reservoir so each water is sampled every third year. Moving forward, our goal is to conduct sampling at the minimum level necessary to detect changes within each population in order to effectively manage Walleye.



The average number of Walleye collected during 2021 Potholes Reservoir FWIN was 21 per net. This was lower than the 2016 (25 fish/net) average and slightly below the 16-year average (23 fish/net). Approximately 44% of the Walleye collected from Potholes Reservoir were between 12 and 20 inches, and 16% were 20 inches and larger. The average size of Walleye collected in 2021 was 14.8 inches, below the 2016 average of 16.8 inches. The number of Walleye harvested by anglers specifically targeting Walleye at Potholes Reservoir during 2021 was 10,649 and expended a total of 17,433 individual trips. The 2021 Walleye harvest on Potholes Reservoir was low (0.61 fish/hour), and we expect Walleye harvest to be similar in 2022. FWIN reports can be found here: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications>.

## Prospects for Region Two Warmwater Lakes Adams County

### Cow Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, and Rainbow Trout emphasis)

Cow Lake (200 acres) is located approximately nine miles east of Ritzville off Wellsandt Road. The access area includes a rough boat launch with no restrooms or other amenities. 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 most of these fish were over 12 inches. Anglers should be aware that Brown Bullhead are relatively easy and fun to catch and make excellent table fare. (Statewide Regulations Apply)

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

Hutchinson and Shiner lakes are located approximately four miles west of Othello, WA. The access area has a gravel boat launch, fishing dock, and a restroom. 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 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. (Check for Special Regulations)



### Sprague Lake (Trout, Bluegill, and Channel Catfish emphasis)



Sprague Lake is located in eastern Washington approximately 3 miles southwest of Sprague, Washington. There are two resorts, Sprague Lake Resort and Four Seasons Campground as well as a WDFW access with boat launch and restrooms. 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 fall 2021 WDFW stocked approximately 4,000 adult Black and White Crappie in order to enhance the warmwater fish community. A follow-up survey will be conducted in 2022 to assess their survival. We are interested in angler effort and harvest. Please let us know about your success. (Statewide Regulations Apply)

## 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 the lower lake with good access for small boats and the upper lake launch has become overgrown with brush and is better suited for hand launch watercraft. 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 fair numbers of Black Crappie in Antilon Lake; we simply did not collect many with our sampling gears. (Statewide Regulations Apply)

### Dry Lake (Largemouth Bass and Bluegill emphasis)

Dry Lake (94 acres) is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Lake Chelan and the city of Manson in Chelan County, Washington. Access to Dry Lake is limited to a small, improved area at the East end where a boat can be launched. There are no restrooms available. In spring 2018, we surveyed Dry Lake and found Largemouth Bass and Bluegill were the dominant species. The Bluegill were collected up to 10.5 inches and Largemouth bass to 22 inches. The Largemouth Bass population is structured ideally for producing large Bluegill. Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, and Brown Bullhead were also collected in lower 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. In 2017, a new access was opened following negotiations with private landowners. The public access is located at the northeast corner of the lake and provides limited parking and launching of small boats. (Statewide Regulations Apply)



Largemouth Bass 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. 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. (Check for Special Regulations)



### 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 mixed species Rainbow Trout and 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. There is also a healthy Channel Catfish population in Roses Lake – some of which are very large (see photo). 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. (Statewide Regulations Apply)



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. There are two campgrounds and a public boat launch with restrooms located on the lake. Wapato Lake is an excellent lake for Largemouth Bass, big Bluegill and Black Crappie. In certain years, large Yellow Perch can be found in deeper water. Please consult the WDFW fishing regulations before your trip. (Statewide Regulations Apply)





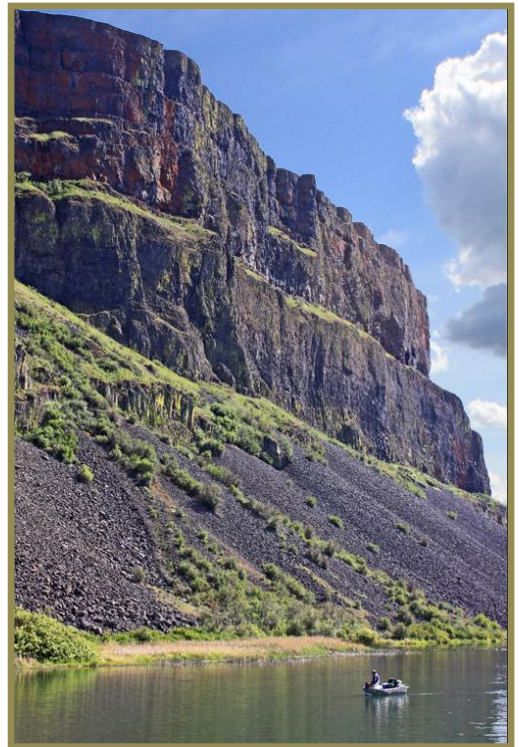
## Grant County

### Ancient Lake South (Warmwater species emphasis)

South Ancient Lake is located within WDFW's Quincy Wildlife Area west of Stan Coffin Lake along the Babcock Bench. 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. (Statewide Regulations Apply)

### Banks Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Black Crappie, Lake Whitefish 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 is known as one of the state's premier Walleye fisheries; 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, and Rainbow Trout. Deepwater fish species found in Banks Lake include Burbot and Lake Whitefish. Lake Whitefish are becoming very popular at Banks Lake and are now being caught throughout the year. Rainbow Trout are stocked annually. Walleye abundance on Banks Lake has been at or above the long-term average since 2010 with numerous fish in the 12–20 inch range. (Check for Special Regulations)



## Billy Clapp Lake (Smallmouth Bass, Rainbow Trout, and Kokanee emphasis)

Billy Clapp Lake (973 acres) is located approximately two miles northeast of the Town of Stratford. The lake has access points and restrooms at each end, though a boat launch is found only at the South access. This lake 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 out-migrating fish from connected Banks Lake, with the exception of Rainbow Trout and Kokanee, which are stocked. 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. Currently (2021), there is excellent Rainbow Trout fishing for 16–20 inch fish. (Statewide Regulations Apply)

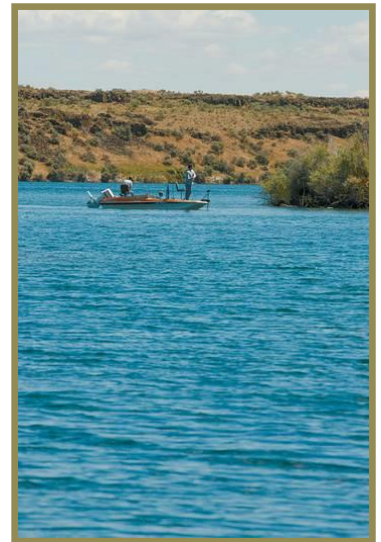


## Desert Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill emphasis)

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. (Statewide Regulations Apply)

## Evergreen Reservoir (Walleye, Tiger Muskie, Black Crappie, 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 300, 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. Black Crappie fishing success varies yearly and can be good at times with anglers catching fish to 12 inches. Search for typical crappie habitat with brushy shorelines, aquatic vegetation, and access to deeper water. (Statewide Regulations Apply)



## Long Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, and panfish emphasis)

Long Lake (75 acres) is located in Grant County approximately 10 miles northwest of Othello, WA. Long Lake is essentially nothing more than an enlargement of the Potholes 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 out-migrating fish from connected Potholes Reservoir. (Statewide Regulations Apply)

## Lower Goose Lake (Walleye, Largemouth Bass, and 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 searching for Yellow Perch should consider visiting Lower Goose Lake. (Statewide Regulations Apply)



## Moses Lake (Walleye, Smallmouth, Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie, and 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. Previous fisheries surveys indicated a consistently 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 can be inconsistent from 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. (Check for Special Regulations)



## Potholes Reservoir (Walleye, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass emphasis)

Potholes Reservoir is one of the most popular fishing destinations in Washington. 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 2021 FWIN data showed a slight increase in Walleye from our 2016 FWIN; Walleye remain abundant and the reservoir remains an excellent Walleye fishery. Other gamefish found in Potholes include Bluegill, Black Crappie, Channel Catfish, Rainbow Trout and Bullhead. During our 2016 and 2021 FWIN surveys, numerous large Channel Catfish, over 20 pounds were collected. Anglers in search of large cats should focus their efforts on Potholes Reservoir. (Check for Special Regulations)



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

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

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. There are a few very large bass in Red Rock Lake. One fish collected was eight pounds! (Statewide Regulations Apply)



## Stan Coffin Lake (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and 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 has an abundant Largemouth 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. (Statewide Regulations Apply)



## 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, although Rainbow Trout fishing has been good. (Statewide Regulations Apply)



## Okanogan County

### Leader Lake (Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass and Rainbow 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. Located in Loup Loup State Forest, Leader Lake 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 are abundant



Warmwater gamefish in Leader Lake. Leader Lake is one of the premier Bluegill fisheries in eastern Washington. Abundant catches of bluegill in the 8–10 inch range are common at Leader Lake as well as Black Crappie to 11 inches. Anglers will also find great opportunities to catch Largemouth Bass with many in the 12–17 inch protected slot; however, there are also some larger bass in this lake. Recent illegal introductions of Yellow Perch have produced an overabundance of small-size perch that could become detrimental to the existing

fishery. We encourage anglers to keep as many perch as desired to reduce competition with other fish species and help maintain this excellent fishery. This lake is a favorite among local anglers throughout the year. (Statewide Regulations Apply)

### 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. Previous surveys indicated Yellow Perch up to 11 inches and Smallmouth Bass up to 22 inches were most abundant in our collections. Black Crappie up to 13 inches are present and nearly half of the Bluegill collected were 6 inches or larger. In addition to great Smallmouth Bass fishing, Palmer Lake offers an excellent angling experience due to both the fish in the lake and the beautiful scenery surrounding the lake. In addition, Palmer Lake also provides excellent Kokanee fishing. (Statewide Regulations Apply)



### 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. Largemouth Bass can be caught to 5 lbs and Bluegill are very plentiful, though few are larger than 7 inches. In 2015, we stocked 500 Largemouth Bass between 12-15 inches in hopes of increasing predation on small, plentiful Bluegill in hopes of improving their size.



Anecdotal information suggests the Largemouth Bass fishery has improved though no information on increased Bluegill size is known. A few Channel Catfish are found here, and if anglers are lucky enough to catch one, they will be quite large. Black Crappie are also present in low numbers but can attain 11-12 inches in length. (Check for Special Regulations)

## 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. (Statewide Regulations Apply)



## Regional Warmwater Activities for the 2022 Field Season

- Angler Creel Survey of Banks Lake (All Year).
- Banks Lake FWIN (October).
- Sprague Lake White and Black Crappie Survey (May).
- Banks Lake 17-year data analysis of Walleye harvest, natural mortality, regulation analysis, and report.
- Moses Lake 16-year data analysis of Walleye harvest, natural mortality, regulation analysis, and report.
- Potholes Reservoir Creel Survey analysis and Report.



Marc Petersen  
Warmwater Team Fish Biologist  
WDFW Region 2  
Ephrata, WA  
(509) 754-4624 ext. 222  
[marc.petersen@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:marc.petersen@dfw.wa.gov)