

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Updated April, 2017 – S. Dougherty

Water(s): Ephrata Lake

Location: South of Soap Lake, Secs 5, 6, 7 and 8, T21N R27E Grant County, WA.

	Size:	Max Depth:
Ephrata Lake	160 acres	9 feet

Water Source: Spring Fed, Ground water seepage

Management History:

Ephrata Lake has a historically high value for waterfowl productivity within the Columbia Basin. However, there have been multiple attempts to establish a recreational fishery, both lawful and unlawful, and a result in 1986 and 1988 the lake was treated to remove the fish that had been introduced into the lake. All fishing has been closed since 2004 to reduce the likelihood that further illegal fish stocking would take place, however, there is currently a large population of largemouth bass. The Regional Fish and Wildlife Programs agree that the lake has a much greater value as a waterfowl production lake and as such have concluded that removing the fish within the waters would help to address the recent declines of the waterfowl.

T&E Flora and Fauna: At present there are no known threatened or endangered species within the waters or inhabiting the surrounding landscape. There are likely infrequent occurrences of bald and golden eagles and potentially peregrine falcons transiting the area but again there are known records for these movements.

Current Management Objectives:

The current objectives for the site are to increase waterfowl production at the site by increasing available food resources and increasing the quality of nesting habitat at the site. In the fall of 2017 the fish within the waters will be removed and an upland restoration plan will be developed and implemented to address the degraded condition of the available waterfowl nesting habitat.