

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
WATERFOWLER'S
WETLAND HABITAT CONDITION REPORT
PRE-SEASON 2010**

This report is provided to inform waterfowl hunters of the current conditions of some wetland areas within Nevada. Conditions are subject to rapid change and it is always a good idea to check in advance of hunting. Also see periodic Waterfowl Population Reports on our website for the most recent aerial survey findings. Learn more about NDOW's WMAs at www.ndow.org/wild/habitat/wma/

WESTERN REGION

| STILLWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Contact: Bill Henry, Wildlife Biologist (775) 423-5128 - <i>see weekly update on stillwater.fws.gov/water.htm</i> | | | |
| Survey Date: August 25, 2010 | | | |
| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments | |
| Goose Lake | 98 % | Good Sago & Tule cover. | |
| Swan Check | 100% | Good Sago & Tule cover. | |
| Tule Lakes | 95 % | Good Sago & Tule cover. | |
| South Nutgrass Lake | 80 % | Good Sago & Nutgrass cover. | |
| West Marsh | Millen Lake | 55% | Millen landing is unusable. Good Sago & Tule cover. |
| | Willow Lake | 60% | Good Sago & Nutgrass cover. |
| Swan Lake | 15 % | Good Sago | |
| West Nutgrass Lake | DRY | November Flood | |
| East Lead Lake | DRY | November Flood | |
| Pintail Bay | DRY | November Flood | |
| South Lead Lake | Wet Puddle | South Lead Lake landing is DRY | |
| | | | |
| Hunt Area | 4600 acres | Open to Hunting | |
| Refuge Lakes | 2600 acres | CLOSED TO HUNTING | |
| Notes: Be sure check SNWR boating regulations. Completed improvements on Bob's, Keith's and Tule Lake boat landings. | | | |

| CARSON LAKE & PASTURE / (GREENHEAD CLUB) | | |
|--|---------------|--|
| Contact: NDOW Fallon Field Office (775) 423-3171: Mike Brown, (x:235) or Kyle Neill, Biologist (x:232) | | |
| Survey Date: August 31, 2010 | | |
| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
| Sprig | 95%, filling | Shallow – 1.4 depth, good cover, good layout boat opportunities. |
| Sump | Dry | |
| York | Dry | |
| Big Water | Filling | Shallow at about .9 on the staff gauge |
| Rice | Dry | |

MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: Pat Kelly, Management Area Supervisor (775) 463-2741

Survey Date: August 31, 2010-Percentages will change over the next week as storage water continues to come onto the area.

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Bass Pond | 100% | Excellent deep water |
| Bufflehead Pond | 50% | Burnt and filled in July |
| Butterball Pond | Moist Soil | Much vegetation, will be flooded near opener |
| Canvasback Pond | 45% | Filling |
| Cinnamon Pond | 25% | Good duck numbers |
| Crappie Pond | 65% | |
| Dipper Pond | Dry | |
| Diver Pond | Dry | |
| Goldeneye Pond | Moist Soil | Much vegetation, will be flooded for opener |
| Greenhead Pond | Dry | |
| Greenwing Pond | 75% | Good mosaic |
| Gadwall Pond (lower) | 50% | Treated with herbicides via plane-possible burn off before season opener |
| Gadwall Pond (upper) | Dry | Treated with herbicides via plane-possible burn off before season opener |
| Hinkson Slough | 100% | Excellent deep water |
| Honker Lake | 80% | Lots of open water |
| Mallard Pond | 30% | Grazed off with cattle this year |
| North Pond | 75% | Excellent feed conditions |
| Perk Slough | 35% | Heavy with ducks, much vegetation |
| Pintail Pond (lower) | 40% | Good conditions |
| Pintail Pond (upper) | Moist Soil | Much vegetation, will be flooded near opener |
| Redhead Pond | 60% | Disabled hunter's blind in great shape, good duck numbers. |
| Ringneck Pond | Dry | |
| Ruddy Pond | 40% | Good duck numbers |
| Scaup Pond | 65% | Burnt and filled in July |
| Shoveler Pond | Dry | Will be filled prior to Oct.16, Grazed and sprayed via plane with possible burn off before season opener |
| Swan Lake | Dry | Much vegetation |
| Wigeon Pond | 50% | Much vegetation-Filling |
| All Bolster Ponds dry this year | | |
| Goose Fields: | | |
| MV-8 | Wheat | |
| MV-10 | Wheat | |
| MV-11 | Corn | |
| B-11 | Alfalfa | |
| B-12 | Wheat | |
| B-13 | Alfalfa | |
| B-14 | Corn | |
| B-15 | Alfalfa | |

HUMBOLDT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: NDOW Fallon Field Office (775) 423-3171: Mike Brown, (x:235) or Kyle Neill, Biologist (x:232)

Survey Date: 8/31/2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Toulon Lake | Dry | |
| Upper Humboldt | Dry | |
| Lower Humboldt | Dry | |

FERNLEY MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: NDOW does not have any on-area staff.

Survey Date: 8/31/2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Entire Area | 0-1% | |

ALKALI LAKE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: NDOW does not have any on-area staff.

Survey Date: 8/31/2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Entire Area | DRY | |

WASHOE LAKE / SCRIPPS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: NDOW does not have any on-area staff.

Survey Date: 8/31/2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Mitigation Wetlands (south end) | 20% | Some inland ponds are dry and others are drying, but evaporation will decrease with colder weather. |
| Scripps WMA | 35-40% | Water is receding. Some ponds are isolated with dry shoreline between water and cover. Little Washoe is cut off from the main lake. Good amount of sago for forage. |

EASTERN REGION

| WAYNE KIRCH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| Contact: Marcus Jones (775) 238-0240 | | |
| Survey Date: August 30, 2010 | | |
| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
| Adams-McGill Resv. | 75% | West mud flats are flooded should remain flooded by duck opener |
| Tule Reservoir | 70% | Most areas are flooded and it will be filling through the season |
| Cold Springs Resv. | 100% | Ducks tend to congregate in the shallows on the upper end |
| Dacey Reservoir | 75% | Dacey will be low for opener but still optimum waterfowl conditions |
| Dacey Slough | dry | Currently being grazed, will be slowly filling throughout the season |
| Haymeadow Resv. | 100% | Ducks tend to congregate in the shallows on the upper end. |
| Old Place | dry | Seeded with millet, grain sorghum, and smartweed, will be partially filled prior to duck opener. |
| Notes: Good numbers of ducks and geese should be found on the WMA for the opener and hunter success is expected to be comparable to last season. | | |

| FRANKLIN LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA | | |
|---|---------------|----------|
| Contact: Gary Branzell (775) 777-2369 | | |
| Survey Date: August 31, 2010 | | |
| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
| Entire Area | DRY | |

| STEPTOE VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA | | |
|--|---------------|--|
| Contact: Mike Zahradka 775-289-1690 | | |
| Survey Date: August 30, 2010 | | |
| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
| Comins Lake | 80% | Holding good numbers of dabblers on the south end with divers found throughout the lake. Should be productive during the early part of the hunt and is usually frozen over by mid-December. |
| NAWCA Wetlands | 75% | Good numbers of divers and dabblers found throughout the wetland area. Most of the ponds will be frozen by mid-December with the 3 springs in the area creating some open water throughout the hunting season. |
| Notes: Comins Lake-gate access was installed on the south end of the lake on the east side. The area was also grazed heavily prior to the hunting opener to remove rank vegetation and help improve hunter access to the water. NAWCA Wetlands- currently being flooded with Steptoe Creek and stored water from Comins Lake, at least 10 of the 13 new ponds should be full by the opener. New parking areas, signs, and access steps were constructed on both Eastside and Westside roads. Hunters can expect some disturbance during the week as WMA personnel will be doing restoration work on the new ponds. | | |

RUBY LAKE WILDLIFE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Contact: Jeff Mackay, Wildlife Biologist (775) 779-2237 www.fws.gov/rubylake/

Survey Date: September 8, 2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| South Marsh | 85 | Hunt area is in the North End. |
| West Marsh units | 100 | CLOSED TO HUNTING |
| North Marsh | 10 | CLOSED TO HUNTING |
| East Marsh | DRY | CLOSED TO HUNTING |

Note: Presently the Ruby Lake NWR marsh is 55 percent flooded. The South Marsh is flooded but the water elevation is reduced from last year creating enhanced habitat for dabblers in the hunt zone (north end of unit). Within the hunt zone, approximately 20 percent located in the northeast quadrant, is dry or very shallow. More favorable habitat for divers is available in the South Marsh outside of the hunt zone.

SOUTHERN REGION

KEY PITTMAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: Ron Mills (775) 725-3521

Survey Date: August 30, 2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| Frenchy Lake | 80% | Will be good for hunting from the beginning of the season. |
| Nesbitt Lake | 70% | The north ponds on the Nesbitt Unit will be mowed and are in great shape with abundant feed. The north end of Nesbitt Lake is low. Aquatic vegetation/feed in Nesbitt Lake is abundant. |
| Fields | | Spring or summer crops will be harvested by September 1st. Cover crops will be planted before the beginning of waterfowl season and will consist of winter rye, hairy vetch, strawberry clover, and a three-way mix of oats, wheat and barley. The fields should provide a good feeding area for migrating waterfowl by late October or early November. |

OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: Elmer Bull (775) 688-1560

Survey Date: September 13, 2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|----------------|---------------|--|
| Honeybee Pond | Full | |
| Bulrush Checks | DRY | Additional leveling work has been done in a number of the checks and filling of these units will commence after Pintail and Wilson ponds are filled |
| Center Pond | Full | Good shape. |
| Pintail Pond | DRY | Wilson Pond is filling at this time after which Pintail Pond will be filled. Efforts have continued to keep growth of cattails and hardstem bulrush minimized. |
| Wilson Pond | Filling | |
| Fields | | The fields are in pretty fair condition with alfalfa present in some of the fields while additional winter grain is being planted in fields B-1, B-5 and B-7. |

PAHRANAGAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGEContact: Chivia Horton (775) 725-3417 www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/pahranagat/

Survey Date: September 1, 2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|------------------|----------------------|---|
| North Marsh | 60% | CLOSED TO HUNTING |
| Upper Lake | 40% | CLOSED TO HUNTING |
| Middle Marsh | 70% | Habitat conditions are good. Early October flooding expected. |
| Lower Lake | 70% | Mostly open water. |

ASH MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGEContact: Carl Lundblad (775) 372-5435 www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/ashmeadows

Survey Date: September 1, 2010

| Pond/Lake | % of capacity | Comments |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| Crystal Reservoir | 85 | Drawn down for shorebird breeding and stopover habitat as well as exotic fish management. Will be filling throughout fall. |
| Horseshoe Marsh | Full | Heavy cattails. Foot access only. May become temporarily closed during January-February for a prescribed burn to reduce marsh cover and increase open water. Contact refuge for details and current status. |
| Lower Crystal Marsh | 80 | Drawn down for snowy plover breeding and shorebird stopover. Will be filling throughout fall. Foot access only. Access may be briefly restricted in January-February during Horseshoe Reservoir burn. |
| Peterson Reservoir | 75 | Heavy cattails and other shoreline vegetation. Expected to be below full capacity throughout season. |

Refuge will be **closed** to hunting December 13-17, 2009. Aquatic restoration, application of prescribed fire, and other refuge management activities may cause some disturbance and/or result in temporary closures.