

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
WATERFOWLER'S  
WETLAND HABITAT CONDITION REPORT  
MID-SEASON 2008**

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/](http://www.ndow.org/wild/habitat/wma/)

**WESTERN REGION**

<b>STILLWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE</b>			
Contact: Bill Henry, Wildlife Biologist (775) 423-5128 - <i>see weekly update on stillwater.fws.gov/water.htm</i>			
Survey Date: December 1, 2008			
Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments	
Big Water	DRY		
Goose Lake	100	All boat ramps open. Low duck use.	
North Lead Lake	Dry	Dry	
South Lead Lake	100	Shallow water with good Tule cover	
West Marsh	75%	40%	Millen landing is unusable. Deep water. Non-motorized boats allowed
	80%	55%	Non-motorized boats allowed .Good duck numbers
South Nutgrass Lake	DRY		
North Nutgrass Lake	DRY		
Pintail Bay	DRY		
Swan Lake	DRY		
Swan Check	1	Filling Very Shallow	
Tule Lakes	95 %	Boat ramps open. Good Sago & Tule cover.	
Hunt Area	3400 acres	Open to Hunting	
Refuge Lakes	3000 acres	CLOSED TO HUNTING	
Notes: Be sure check SNWR boating regulations. Completed improvements on Bob's, Keith's and Tule Lake boat landings.			

<b>CARSON LAKE &amp; PASTURE / (GREENHEAD CLUB)</b>		
Contact: NDOW Fallon Field Office (775) 423-3171: Biologist Kyle Neill (x:232) or Mike Brown, (x:235)		
Survey Date: December 1, 2008		
Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments
Sprig	100%	Unit is holding the majority of the Carson Lake's waterfowl population. Snow geese and Tundra Swans are heavily using this Unit. Overall, hunting has been poor on the entire Carson Lake area.
Sump	Dry	Unit will not be filled this year.
York	100%	Unit is full with some waterfowl use.
Big Water	Dry	Unit will remain dry this year.
Rice	100%	Unit is full with some waterfowl use.

**MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

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

**Survey Date: November 30, 2008**-Percentages will change over the next week as storage water continues to come onto the area.

<b>Pond/Lake</b>	<b>% of capacity</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bass Pond	90%	Excellent deep water
Bufflehead Pond	95%	
Butterball Pond	65%	Excellent conditions, very shallow, good vegetation
Canvasback Pond	75%	
Cinnamon Pond	70%	
Crappie Pond	90%	
Dipper Pond	Dry	
Diver Pond	Dry	
Goldeneye Pond	100%	Excellent conditions, very shallow, good vegetation
Greenhead Pond	80%	Good duck numbers
Greenwing Pond	90%	Excellent conditions
Gadwall Pond (lower)	65%	Good conditions
Gadwall Pond (upper)	25%	
Hinkson Slough	Full	Excellent deep water
Honker Lake	75%	Lots of open water, not much cover, but good bird #'s
Mallard Pond	70%	Excellent conditions
North Pond	65%	Excellent feed conditions
Perk Slough	50%	
Pintail Pond (lower)	80%	Good conditions
Pintail Pond (upper)	50%	Much vegetation
Redhead Pond	90%	Disabled hunter's blind in great shape.
Ringneck Pond	25%	
Ruddy Pond	90%	Not much cover, heavy with ducks
Scaup Pond	90%	Thick cover
Shoveler Pond	70%	Excellent conditions
Swan Lake	Dry	
Wigeon Pond	85%	Excellent conditions
<b>All Bolster Ponds dry this year</b>		
<b>Goose Fields:</b>		
MV-8	Winter Wheat	Excellent crop condition
MV-10	Winter Wheat	Excellent crop condition
MV-11	Winter Wheat	Good crop condition
B-11	Alfalfa	
B-12	Winter Wheat	Excellent crop condition
B-13	Alfalfa	
B-14	Winter Wheat	Excellent crop condition
B-15	Alfalfa	

**HUMBOLDT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

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

Survey Date: December 1, 2008

<b>Pond/Lake</b>	<b>% of capacity</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Toulon Lake	Dry	All water in the Toulon Drain is being diverted to the Upper Lake to facilitate repairs to dikes on the unit.
Upper Humboldt	1%	Army drain boat launch is accessible. Little to no water is coming down the Army Drain. Very limited hunting opportunities exist near the bird tower.
Lower Humboldt	Dry	This area is expected to remain dry this year.

**FERNLEY MANAGEMENT AREA**

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

Survey Date: November 30, 2008

<b>Pond/Lake</b>	<b>Pond/Lake</b>	<b>Pond/Lake</b>
Entire Area	Entire Area	Entire Area

**ALKALI LAKE MANAGEMENT AREA**

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

Survey Date: November 30, 2008

<b>Pond/Lake</b>	<b>% of capacity</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Entire Area	DRY	

**WASHOE LAKE / SCRIPPS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

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

Survey Date: November 30, 2008

<b>Pond/Lake</b>	<b>% of capacity</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Mitigation Wetlands (south end)	10%	Only one pond on the wetlands mitigation project has water in it, the rest are dry.
Main Lake	20%	
Scripps WMA	DRY	

## EASTERN REGION

### WAYNE KIRCH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: Dana Johnson (775) 238-0240

Survey Date: December 1, 2008

Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments
Adams-McGill Resv.	95 %	Mud flats flooded, reservoir at near maximum level
Tule Reservoir	100%	All areas of Tule flooded, reservoir is at near maximum level
Cold Springs Resv.	100%	Currently early AM skim ice, ducks congregate in shallows on upper end
Dacey Reservoir	90%	Prescribed burn recently completed on Dacey to improve waterfowl habitat conditions.
Dacey Slough	25%	Prescribed burn recently completed on Dacey Slough to improve waterfowl habitat conditions. Slough is currently being flooded.
Haymeadow Resv.	100%	Currently early AM skim ice, ducks tend to congregate in shallows on the upper end.
Old Place	95%	All areas of Old Place are flooded, reservoir is at near maximum level.
<p>Hunters have experienced good to excellent habitat conditions throughout the waterfowl season. Waterfowl continue to be in good numbers on most of the Area due to the mild weather conditions. Areas providing good to excellent opportunity for waterfowl hunters include upper Adams McGill Reservoir, Dacey Reservoir and the Tule Field Unit. Hunters are encouraged to call for up to date waterfowl hunting conditions.</p>		

### FRANKLIN LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: Gary Branzell (775) 777-2369 Survey Date: December 1, 2008

Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments
Entire Area	DRY	

### STEPTOE VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: Mike Zahradka 775-289-1690

Survey Date: November 26, 2008

Pond/Lake	Pond/Lake	Comments
Comins Lake	80%	Mostly holding divers on the south end
NAWCA Wetlands	30%	Pond construction is not finished and will continue until freeze-up.
<p><b>Notes:</b> Two new vault-style restrooms have also been constructed at the Argus Mill site and across the lake on the south end. Hunters in the NAWCA Wetlands may experience some disturbance on weekdays as WMA personnel are doing finishing work and reseeding of disturbed areas near these ponds. Grazing will also continue in the NAWCA Wetlands through the second week of December to remove decadent vegetation.</p>		

### RUBY LAKE WILDLIFE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Contact: Jeff Mackay, Refuge Biologist (775) 779-2237 [www.fws.gov/rubylake/](http://www.fws.gov/rubylake/)

Survey Date: December 1, 2008

Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments
South Marsh	Full	<b>Hunt area is in the North End.</b>
West Marsh units	Full	All are in good shape. CLOSED TO HUNTING
North Marsh	DRY	CLOSED TO HUNTING
East Marsh	DRY	CLOSED TO HUNTING
<p><b>Note:</b> Presently the Ruby Lake NWR marsh is 45 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). More favorable habitat for divers is available in the South Marsh outside of the hunt zone. One unit of the West Marsh units is in drawdown but the other units are flooded. Waterfowl hunting has been poor to fair on the refuge. Waterfowl populations are decreasing and the marsh is expected to freeze by early December.</p>		

## SOUTHERN REGION

### KEY PITTMAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: Ron Mills (775) 725-3521

Survey Date: December 1, 2008

Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments
Frenchy Lake	Filling	Good for mid-season hunting.
Nesbitt Lake	70%	This year the north ponds on the Nesbitt Unit are in great shape. Feed is abundant.
Fields	Harvested. Cover crop planted with winter rye and hairy vetch in the corn stubble and winter wheat and hairy vetch in the rest of the fields.	

### OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Contact: Keith Brose (702) 397-2142

Survey Date: November 20, 2008

Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments
Honeybee Pond	Full	Good Shape
Bulrush Checks	Full	Maintaining very well
Center Pond	Full	Good shape.
Pintail Pond	DRY	Have been burned, currently being made ready to receive water.
Wilson Pond	DRY	
Fields	All the fields look good with Sudan grass in most, some have been over seeded with Alfalfa, B-7 is currently fallow but should be planted to an upland mix soon. The north end of B-1 is currently being tilled.	

### PAHRANAGAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Contact: Merry Maxwell (775) 725-3417 [www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/pahranagat/](http://www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/pahranagat/)

Survey Date: **NO MID-SEASON REPORT SUBMITTED**

Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments
North Marsh	DRY	<b>CLOSED TO HUNTING</b>
Upper Lake	DRY	<b>CLOSED TO HUNTING – Drawn down for dam inspection.</b>
Middle Marsh	75%	Habitat conditions are fair. Flow-through from the draw-down from Upper Lake
Lower Lake	90%	Taking in the draw-down from Upper Lake, mostly open water.

### ASH MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Contact: Carl Lundblad (775) 372-5435 [www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/ashmeadows](http://www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/ashmeadows)

Survey Date: December 1, 2008

Pond/Lake	% of capacity	Comments
Crystal Reservoir	75	Northern 1/3 of reservoir is closed to hunting.
Horseshoe Marsh	Full	Heavy cattails. Foot access only.
Lower Crystal Marsh	40	Filling, foot access only.
Peterson Reservoir	Full	Heavy cattails and other shoreline vegetation.
Waterfowl numbers remain relatively low due to persistence of warm weather. Some aquatic monitoring studies will be ongoing during the hunting season. Some disturbance may occur.		