



NONGAME WILDLIFE

Although the area was originally purchased and developed to preserve wetland habitat, principally for waterfowl, many other wildlife species including raptors, shorebirds, wading birds and other water-associated birds have benefited from this project.

KWMA is visited by a variety of raptors during all seasons. Nesting species include great horned owls and northern harriers. Golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and prairie falcons use the area primarily for feeding. Peregrine falcons and merlins use the area during the spring and fall migration periods and Bald eagles and rough-legged hawks visit the area for winter feeding.

Black-necked stilts, American avocets, greater yellow legs, plovers, dowitchers, long-billed curlews and marbled godwits are common shorebirds on the area. Shorebird populations are most numerous during the fall and spring migrations. One of the most important shorebird habitat areas is located below Kirch's southern boundary in the Murphy Meadows area where bottom land is flooded with winter and spring runoff water, creating a large expanse of shallow flooded area.

Wading birds common to the area include White-faced ibis, great blue herons, black crowned night herons, great egrets, snowy egrets and bitterns. Of those species, black-crowned night herons and great blue herons nest on the area.

Other water associated birds seen on the area include gulls, terns, double-crested cormorants and white pelicans - all foraging on the abundant fish life present in the waters of the area. Pied-billed and eared grebes nest on the



area - primarily in the suitable habitat on the edges of Dacey and Adams-McGill reservoirs, while western and horned grebes are transient visitors. Emergent habitat necessary for Virginia rails and soras is provided on the area. Greater sandhill cranes are also occasional visitors to KWMA.

Passerine populations generally peak during the spring migration period. The greatest numbers occur near riparian habitat and in close proximity to marsh areas. Passerine birds that nest in or near the KWMA include horned larks, marsh wrens, red-winged blackbirds, savannah Sparrows and song sparrows.

The meadow and wetland areas are important habitat for voles, shrews, harvest mice and other small mammals. The uplands provide habitat for pocket mice, kangaroo rats, and other mice. In addition, the open water sources provide abundant insects for several species of bats.

FISH RESOURCES

Populations of both game and nongame fish are present at KWMA. Largemouth bass and black bullhead are self-sustaining game fish species on the area with bass utilizing the shallower shoreline areas of Cold Springs, Haymeadow and Adams-McGill reservoirs for spawning activities. Hatchery-reared trout are stocked twice a year and provide a put, grow and take fishery in Cold Springs, Haymeadow and Adams-McGill reservoirs. Dacey Reservoir is managed for a two-story fishery of bass and trout. Tule Reservoir is not managed as a fishery due to diminished water availability during the hot season and waterfowl management needs.

Four endemic species of fish are found in Flag and Hot Creek springs and include the White River spinedace, the Moorman-White River springfish, the White River speckled dace, and the White River desert sucker. The Hot Creek Refugium, which encompasses Hot Creek Springs, was officially designated in 1966 as a critical habitat for the Moorman- White River springfish. This site has also been designated as a National Natural Landmark. Management of these four endemic species is directed toward preservation of existing habitat and perpetuation of the species.

WATER RESOURCES

The major sources of water for the KWMA are springs, ground water inflow, surface water inflow and precipitation. Water is usually abundant during winter, spring, and early summer, but somewhat less than adequate to maintain levels in Cold Springs, Haymeadow and Adams-McGill reservoirs during the late summer-early fall period. The KWMA is located near the northern end of the White River drainage basin and a considerable amount of water may flow through the project as surface water inflow during runoff periods. The water distribution system is composed of approximately 17 miles of dirt ditches and about nine miles of natural stream channels. The Old Place, Dacey, Adams-McGill

and Tule reservoirs are managed for maximum utilization by waterfowl during the spring and fall migration periods and for waterfowl production. Cold Springs and Haymeadow reservoirs are managed for high stable water levels on a yearly basis to maximize fisheries values.

PUBLIC USES

WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATION

Wildlife observation, sightseeing, photography, horseback riding, camping, educational activities, swimming, and hiking are some of the wildlife-related activities available on KWMA. Camping is available for area users at the Dave Deacon Campground. Boats are frequently used on KWMA by anglers and waterfowl hunters. Three developed boat ramps with docks and four primitive boat ramps are available for easy access to the reservoirs. Roads throughout the area provide excellent viewing of wetland dependent and upland wildlife.

HUNTING

Hunting on KWMA provides a great amount of recreation - particularly for residents of southern and eastern Nevada. Waterfowl and dove hunting are the two most popular hunting activities on the area while rabbit and quail hunting typically occurs incidental to other hunting activities. Hunting pressure is very light for mule deer on KWMA due to the low population level on the area and also due to weapons restrictions that have been established for safety purposes. The Kirch WMA is in both Hunt Management Units 132 and 133.

FISHING

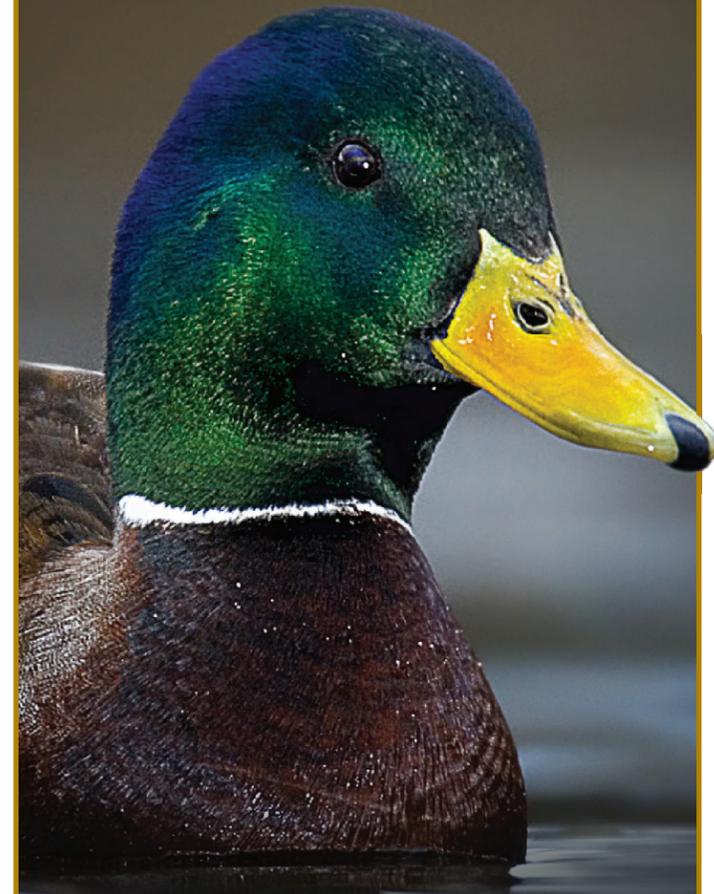
Fishing continues to be the most popular recreational activity on the area. Significant use by trout fisherman occurs from March through August while bass fishing activity picks up in May and continues through September. The fishing season on KWMA is open year round except for Dacey and Tule reservoirs and the upper portions of Adams-McGill, Cold Springs, and Haymeadow reservoirs, which are open to fishing August 16 through February 14. Hot Creek, to its confluence with Adams-McGill Reservoir, is closed year round to fishing and a 100-yard radius around the inflow from Hot Creek to Dacey and Adams-McGill reservoirs is closed to fishing January 1 through April 1. Anglers are encouraged to consult the NDOW fishing regulations booklet for a complete accounting of regulations.



GETTING THERE

- From Las Vegas (approximately 175 miles), take Interstate 15 north to U.S. 93, then take State Route 318 north. Kirch WMA is located about 60 miles north of Hiko.
- From Ely (approximately 75 miles), take U.S. 6 south to State Route 318 and continue to Kirch WMA.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA WAYNE E. KIRCH



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