

Nebraska Wetland Habitat Conditions and Pumping Plans

For wetlands in the Rainwater Basin and other wetlands where we have water delivery capability

Date: October 15, 2020



These updates are provided by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, with input from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited.

Please note that for a variety of reasons, the pumping plans can change.

Wetland conditions also can change quickly, so it is best to scout areas ahead of time if possible.

| Region | County | Area | Owner | Wetland Condition ¹ | Pumping Plans and Status |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Rainwater Basin | Adams | Ayr Lake WMA ² | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | |
| | Adams | Kenesaw WPA ³ | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Adams | Weseman WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| | Clay | Bluewing WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Excellent | |
| | Clay | Bulrush WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Excellent | |
| | Clay | Eckhardt WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Good | |
| | Clay | Glenvil WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Clay | Green Acres WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Clay | Greenhead WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | |
| | Clay | Greenwing WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| | Clay | Hansen WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Good | |
| | Clay | Harms WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| | Clay | Harvard WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Fair | |
| | Clay | Hultine WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Clay | Kissinger Basin WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | |
| | Clay | Lange WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Clay | Massie WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Fair | |
| | Clay | Meadowlark WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Good | |
| | Clay | Moger WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Good | |
| | Clay | Schuck WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Fair | |
| | Clay | Smith WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Excellent | |
| | Clay | Theesen WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Clay | Verona WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Clay | Verona Ducks Unlimited tracts | Ducks Unlimited | Poor | |
| | Clay | White-front WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | No plans to pump due to restoration work planned for the fall of 2020. |
| | Fillmore | Bluebill WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Fair | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump south wetland as needed. |
| | Fillmore | Brauning WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Fillmore | Griess WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Fillmore | Krause WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Fillmore | Mallard Haven WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Good | |
| | Fillmore | Marsh Hawk WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Excellent | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| | Fillmore | Millers Pond WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| | Fillmore | Morphy WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| | Fillmore | Rauscher WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Fair | |

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|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Fillmore | Real WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Good | |
| Fillmore | Redhead WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Fair | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| Fillmore | Rolland WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Fillmore | Sandpiper WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| Fillmore | Sora WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Excellent | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| Fillmore | Wilkins WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Franklin | Macon Lakes WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Franklin | Quadhamer WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Franklin | Ritterbush WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Franklin | Spoonbill Flats WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Gosper | Elley WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Gosper | Peterson WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Gosper | Victor Lakes WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Hall | Hannon WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Hamilton | Deep Well WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Excellent | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| Hamilton | Gadwall WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | |
| Hamilton | Nelson WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Hamilton | Pintail WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Poor | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| Hamilton | Springer WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Hamilton | Troester Basin WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Harlan | Southeast Sacramento WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | |
| Harlan | South Sacramento WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | |
| Kearney | Bluestem WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Kearney | Clark WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Kearney | Frerichs WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Kearney | Gleason WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Kearney | Jensen WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Kearney | Killdeer WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Kearney | Lindau WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Kearney | Northeast Sacramento WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | |
| Kearney | Prairie Dog WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Kearney | Youngson WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Nuckolls | Smartweed Marsh West WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Poor | |
| Nuckolls | Smartweed Marsh WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Fair | Pumped in late September. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| Phelps | Atlanta WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Phelps | Cottonwood WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Phelps | Funk WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | Water delivery was done earlier in the season, but has now stopped. |
| Phelps | High Basin WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | |
| Phelps | Johnson WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Phelps | Jones WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Dry | |
| Phelps | Linder WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Phelps | Sacramento-Wilcox WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | Pumped earlier in the season. Re-pumping as needed. Water in front of 12 blinds. |
| Phelps | West Sacramento WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | |
| Polk | Flatsedge WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Fair | Began pumping in late September. |
| Seward | Freeman Lakes WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Excellent | |
| Seward | North Lake Basin WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Poor | |

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| Seward | Shypoke WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Poor | No plans to pump until after ongoing restoration work is completed. |
| Seward | Straightwater WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Fair | |
| Seward | Tamora WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Fair | |
| Thayer | Father Hupp WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Excellent | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| Thayer | Prairie Marsh WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| York | County Line WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| York | Heron WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Fair | |
| York | Hidden Marsh WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump SW wetland as needed. |
| York | Kirkpatrick Basin North WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | Pumped earlier in the season. |
| York | Kirkpatrick Basin South WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Fair | Pumped earlier in the season. |
| York | Marsh Duck WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | No plans to pump due to restoration work planned for the fall/winter of 2020 |
| York | Renquist WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Fair | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| York | Sinninger WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| York | Spikerush WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Fair | Began pumping in late September. |
| York | Waco WPA | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Poor | |
| Other | | | | |
| Custer | Berggren-Young WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | |
| Dixon | Elk Point Bend | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |
| Keith | Clear Creek WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | |
| Nemaha | Peru Bottoms WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | Well not operational due to last year's flood. |
| Nemaha | Langdon Bend WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Dry | |
| Platte | Wilkinson WMA | Nebraska Game and Parks Commission | Good | Pumped earlier in the season. Plan to re-pump as needed. |

¹Subjective estimate of conditions based on best professional judgement by the area manager considering vegetation density and the amount of water ponded.

²WMA= Wildlife Management Areas are owned and managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

³WPAs are not owned by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. They are Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We will share what we know about these areas, for additional information, please visit their web site at: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rainwater_basin_wmd/

Please note that for a variety of reasons, the pumping plans can change.

Wetland conditions also can change quickly, so it is best to scout areas ahead of time if possible.

Please note that not all wetlands are pumped. Many existing public areas cannot be pumped fully because the USFWS

or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission do not own enough of the basin. Some areas do not have operational wells and/or pumps.

Some areas are not pumped due to management/restoration projects, or because it has been determined that pumping would not be beneficial at this point in time.

In addition to hunting, wetlands are pumped to provide habitat for migrating waterfowl and the other water birds, to provide areas for people to observe wildlife, and to spread out the distribution of migrating birds and reduce the possibility of disease outbreaks.