

Nebraska Wetland Habitat Conditions and Pumping Plans

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



Date: October 30, 2024

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	Good	Began pumping in mid-October.
	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	Fair	Pumped in late August. Began re-pumping in late September.
	Clay	Bulrush WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
	Clay	Eckhardt WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	Pumped in early October.
	Clay	Glenvil WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Green Acres WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Greenhead WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Pumped in early September. Re-pumping as needed
	Clay	Greenwing WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late August. Re-pumping as needed.
	Clay	Hansen WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	Pumped in early October.
	Clay	Harms WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Harvard WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	Pumping started October 1st, SW unit good, starting to fill south middle
	Clay	Hultine WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Kissinger Basin WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Pumped in early September. Re-pumping as needed
	Clay	Lange WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
	Clay	Massie WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	Pumping started October 15th, will run for 16 days
	Clay	Massie Southwest WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Meadowlark WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Moger WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	Pumping started October 21st, north wetland will be pumped for 5 days.
	Clay	Schuck WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Smith WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	Pumping started October 1st and ended Oct. 15th.
	Clay	Theesen WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Verona WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Verona Ducks Unlimited tracts	Ducks Unlimited	Dry/Good	Pumping began in mid Oct. Youth tract is excellent, other wetlands good, some dry.
	Clay	White-front WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late September. The motor on one of the two pumps is broken.
	Fillmore	Bluebill WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late August. Re-pumping as needed.
	Fillmore	Brauning WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
	Fillmore	Griess WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Fillmore	Krause WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	

Fillmore	Mallard Haven WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Fillmore	Marsh Hawk WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
Fillmore	Millers Pond WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Fillmore	Morphy WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Fillmore	Rauscher WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Fillmore	Real WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Fillmore	Redhead WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late August. Re-pumping as needed.
Fillmore	Rolland WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Fillmore	Sandpiper WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late August. Re-pumping as needed.
Fillmore	Sora WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late August. Re-pumping as needed.
Fillmore	Wilkins WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
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	Fair	Pumping started on October 21st.
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	Dry	
Hamilton	Deep Well WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Pumped in late August. Began re-pumping in late September.
Hamilton	Gadwall WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
Hamilton	Nelson WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Hamilton	Pintail WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Began pumping October 9th.
Hamilton	Springer WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Hamilton	Troester Basin WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
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	Fair	Pumping began in mid-October and is planned to end October 18th.
Kearney	Frerichs WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Kearney	Gleason WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	Pumping began in mid-October.
Kearney	Jensen WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Kearney	Killdeer WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
Kearney	Lindau WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	Plan to pump in late October.
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	Dry	
Nuckolls	Smartweed Marsh West WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
Nuckolls	Smartweed Marsh WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Pumped in late August. Re-pumping as needed.
Phelps	Atlanta WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	Pumping began in mid-October.
Phelps	Cottonwood WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	Began pumping in mid-October.

Phelps	Funk WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	Canal water delivery started 4 September into Teal, Mallard, and Ruddy units. Pumping started 30 Sept., water added to Mallard Moist Soil Unit, other unit(s) may be pumped mid-October
Phelps	High Basin WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
Phelps	Johnson WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	Pumping began in mid-October.
Phelps	Jones WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Phelps	Linder WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Phelps	Sacramento-Wilcox WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Pumped in late August. Began re-pumping in late September.
Phelps	West Sacramento WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
Polk	Flatsedge WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Began pumping late September
Seward	Freeman Lakes WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
Seward	North Lake Basin WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	
Seward	Shypoke WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Began pumping in late August.
Seward	Straightwater WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Poor	Began pumping in late August but the pump malfunctioned in late September and it may not be able to be replaced this fall.
Seward	Tamora WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
Thayer	Father Hupp WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late August. Re-pumping as needed.
Thayer	Prairie Marsh WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late August. Re-pumping as needed.
York	County Line WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
York	Heron WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
York	Hidden Marsh WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	
York	Kirkpatrick Basin North WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Began pumping in mid-October.
York	Kirkpatrick Basin South WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Began pumping late September
York	Marsh Duck WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
York	Renquist WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Began pumping in late August.
York	Sinninger WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
York	Spikerush WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Began pumping late September
York	Waco WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Other				
Custer	Berggren-Young WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Pumped in early October.
Dixon	Elk Point Bend	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in mid-August and 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	
Nemaha	Langdon Bend WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	Pumped in late August. Plan to re-pump in mid to late October.
Platte	Wilkinson WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in mid-August and 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/

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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.