

Nebraska Wetland Habitat Conditions and Pumping Plans

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



Date: August 26, 2025.

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	Fair	May pump in early September.
	Adams	Kenesaw WPA ³	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Adams	Weseman WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Bluewing WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	
	Clay	Bulrush WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	
	Clay	Eckhardt WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	
	Clay	Glenvil WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Green Acres WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Greenhead WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	
	Clay	Greenwing WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	
	Clay	Hansen WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	
	Clay	Harms WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Harvard WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Hultine WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Kissinger Basin WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	
	Clay	Lange WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Massie WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Massie Southwest WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Meadowlark WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	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	Good	
	Clay	Theesen WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
	Clay	Verona WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	Clay	Verona Ducks Unlimited tracts	Ducks Unlimited	Fair/Good	
	Clay	White-front WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	
	Fillmore	Bluebill WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	
	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	Fair	

Fillmore	Mallard Haven WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
Fillmore	Marsh Hawk WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	
Fillmore	Millers Pond WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
Fillmore	Morphy WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	
Fillmore	Rauscher WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
Fillmore	Real WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
Fillmore	Redhead WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	
Fillmore	Rolland WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
Fillmore	Sandpiper WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	
Fillmore	Sora WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	Plan to pump in late August.
Fillmore	Wilkins WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	
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	Poor	
Franklin	Spoonbill Flats WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
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	Dry	Plan to pump in late August.
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	Dry	
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	Poor	
Kearney	Frerichs WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Kearney	Gleason WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
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	
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	Poor	
Nuckolls	Smartweed Marsh WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	
Phelps	Atlanta WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Phelps	Cottonwood WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Good	Irrigation water delivery planned for early September.
Phelps	Funk WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fair	Irrigation water delivery to the Whitefront Unit planned for early September.
Phelps	High Basin WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	

	Phelps	Johnson WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
	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	Dry	Plan to pump in late August.
	Phelps	West Sacramento WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
	Polk	Flatsedge WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Poor	
	Seward	Freeman Lakes WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
	Seward	North Lake Basin WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Poor	
	Seward	Shypoke WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	Plan to pump in early September.
	Seward	Straightwater WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	Plan to pump in early September.
	Seward	Tamora WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
	Thayer	Father Hupp WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	Plan to pump in late August.
	Thayer	Prairie Marsh WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	Plan to pump in late August.
	York	County Line WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
	York	Heron WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
	York	Hidden Marsh WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	
	York	Kirkpatrick Basin North WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
	York	Kirkpatrick Basin South WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
	York	Marsh Duck WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
	York	Renquist WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
	York	Sinninger WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Poor	
	York	Spikerush WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Dry	
	York	Waco WPA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dry	
Other					
	Custer	Berggren-Young WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	
	Dixon	Elk Point Bend	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Good	Began pumping in late August.
	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	
	Platte	Wilkinson WMA	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Fair	Began pumping in late August.

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.