

Wetland Habitat Conditions – Fall 2015

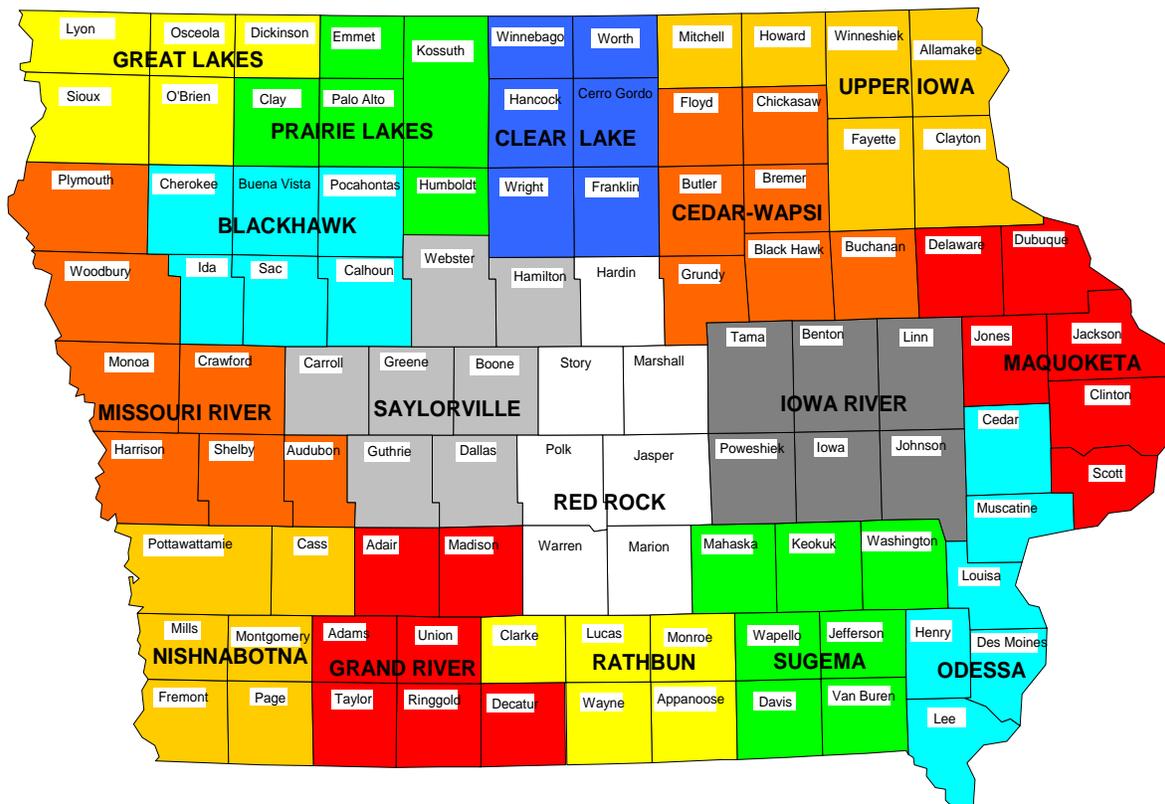
(Updated October 2, 2015)

DNR WILDLIFE UNITS

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Definitions Of Terms Commonly Used In Descriptions Of Areas -

- Crest water level refers to the established optimum or target water level for the lake or wetland or the maximum water level legally allowed on the lake or wetland.
- Emergent vegetation refers to plants like cattails, bulrushes, burreed, etc., that are rooted on the bottom of the marsh but project above the surface of the water.
- Submergent vegetation refers to plants like sago pond weed, curly leave pondweed, wild celery, coontail, etc., that grow beneath the surface of the water. The tops of these plants sometimes reach the surface in shallow water. Water clarity and fish populations largely determine the amount of submergent vegetation in wetlands. Wetlands with good water clarity and few, if any, fish usually have good submergent plant communities that attract a wide variety of ducks.
- Large boats are 16-24 foot boats with 20 hp or larger outboard motors.
- Mid-size boats are 12-15 foot boats with 15 hp or smaller outboard motors
- Small boats are generally shallow draft boats that can be paddled, rowed or poled, or propelled with a small outboard motor (<10 hp) or an electric trolling motor.
- WMA is the acronym for Wildlife Management Area, which includes lands owned and managed by the Wildlife Bureau of the DNR.
- WPA is the acronym for Waterfowl Production Area, which includes lands owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and, in most cases, managed by the Wildlife Bureau of the DNR.

BLACK HAWK WILDLIFE UNIT

Clint Maddix, Wildlife Biologist

BUENA VISTA COUNTY

Little Storm Lake

Water levels: Little Storm Lake is currently at crest elevation.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed around the shoreline and there are scattered pockets throughout the basin, little or no submergent vegetation is present.

Boat Access: The rock boat ramp across from Frank Starr Park is currently accessible.

Notes: Little Storm Lake's elevation is controlled by the main lake and should remain usable through the fall.

Storm Lake

Water levels: Storm Lake is currently at crest elevation.

Vegetation: Very little emergent vegetation present. No submergent vegetation is present.

Boat Access: Storm Lake should be accessible for all boats this fall.

Notes:

CALHOUN COUNTY

South Twin Lake

Water levels: The water level is at or above crest elevation.

Vegetation: Narrow bands of emergent vegetation have developed along the shoreline. Submergent vegetation is almost non-existent.

Boat Access: A rock boat ramp can be used for launching small and mid-size boats.

Notes: The north side of South Twin Lake is a Wildlife Refuge and closed to all access from Sept. 1 to Jan. 31. There are two marker buoys on the lake to the north of the ramp that mark the refuge line.

CARROLL COUNTY

Artesian Lake

Water levels: The water level is at crest elevation. The 30-acre wetland is fed by three artesian wells and should remain at this stage throughout the fall.

Vegetation: There is nice interspersed and diversity of emergent vegetation and more open water than in years prior.

Boat Access: A rock boat ramp can be used to launch small or mid-size boats.

Notes: Navigation may be difficult due to emergent vegetation, pre-scouting recommended.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Little Clear Lake

Water levels: The water level is at or near crest elevation.

Vegetation: There is excellent submergent vegetation throughout the lake with emergent vegetation along the shoreline.

Boat Access: There are two boat ramps that can be used to launch small boats.

Notes:

Lizard Lake

Water levels: Lizard Lake is at or near crest elevation.

Vegetation: The lake is covered with dense vegetation; however there are open areas in the middle.

Boat Access: There is one concrete boat ramp that is usable by boats of all sizes and two primitive boat ramps which are only usable by small boats.

Notes: The boat ramps have varying degrees of accessibility. Pre-scouting is recommended.

Shimon Marsh

Water levels: The water level is currently at crest elevation.

Vegetation: The marsh has fair stands of emergent vegetation and scattered pockets of submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: There is no boat access on this area.

Notes: This is a walk-in area.

Sunken Grove

Water levels: The water level is currently at crest elevation.

Vegetation: The marsh has fair stands of emergent vegetation and scattered pockets of submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: A concrete boat ramp on the west lobe of the marsh can be used to launch small and mid-size boats. A primitive gravel boat ramp is located in the eastern lobe of the marsh and is only usable by small boats.

Notes:

SAC COUNTY

Black Hawk Wildlife Area

Water levels: The Black Hawk Lake Inlet and DU Marsh are currently at crest elevation. State Marsh is currently 6 inches below crest elevation. Adjacent smaller wetlands and pits are at or near crest.

Vegetation: Most wetlands have very dense stands of vegetation. DU Marsh has a heavy stand of emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: State Marsh has a rock boat ramp that is usable. The Black Hawk Lake Inlet has a concrete boat ramp that is usable.

Notes: Pre-scouting is recommended due to the current vegetation conditions. Boat access may be difficult.

Black Hawk Lake

Water levels: Black Hawk Lake is currently 10 inches above crest elevation.

Vegetation: The lake currently has pockets of submergent and emergent vegetation that are a result of increased water clarity due to a recent in-lake fish renovation project.

Boat Access: There are 3 concrete boat ramps that can be used by all boats of any size.

Notes:

Burrow's Pond

Water levels: Burrow's Pond is currently at crest elevation. Adjacent smaller wetlands are also at crest.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent and submergent vegetation present.

Boat Access: The rock boat ramp is usable for small and mid-sized boats.

Notes: Pre-scouting is recommended. Most of the area is only accessible by walk-in hunters.

Kiowa Marsh

Water levels: All wetlands on the Kiowa Marsh complex are at crest elevation.

Vegetation: All wetlands have emergent vegetation along their shorelines, while the north and south main pools have fair amounts of submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: The rock boat ramp is usable for small and mid-sized boats only.

Notes:

Sac City Wetland Complex

Water levels: All wetlands on the Sac City Wetland Complex are at crest elevation.

Vegetation: Diverse vegetation is present on the basins.

Boat Access: None - walk in only.

Notes: This is a walk-in area. Many of the wetlands are isolated and difficult to get to. Some of the smaller basins have filled in with vegetation.

Tomahawk Marsh

Water levels: All wetlands on Tomahawk Marsh are currently at crest elevation.

Vegetation: All wetlands have some emergent vegetation along the shorelines and some have submergent vegetation as well.

Boat Access: None

Notes: This is a walk-in area. Pre-scouting is recommended due to current vegetation conditions.

CEDAR-WAPSI WILDLIFE UNIT

Jason Auel, Wildlife Biologist

BREMER COUNTY

Leopold Area

Water levels: Most wetlands are low.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is abundant in nearly all wetlands.

Boat Access: There is no boat access on this area.

Notes: All water levels are low the recent rains have helped but most wetlands still remain dry. Scouting prior to hunting will be important.

Sweet Marsh

Water levels: All water levels are at or within 6 inches of crest.

Vegetation: Most areas have excellent emergent and submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by small and mid-size boats. Outboard motor use may be difficult in some areas due to the dense vegetation.

Notes: Segments A and C are currently within 6 inches of crest and are currently rising. They will continue to rise to crest as conditions allow.

BUTLER COUNTY

Big Marsh

Water levels: Water levels range from low to crest.

Vegetation: Excellent emergent and submergent vegetation has developed on the area.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by small and mid-sized boats. Outboard motor use may be difficult in some areas due to the dense vegetation

Notes: The water level in the upper pool is at crest. The water levels in the middle and lower pools are within 6 inches of crest and will continue to rise to crest as conditions allow. The walk-in areas on the north side of the marsh have little water. The water in these segments will remain low until we can repair a damaged structure. Repair work will begin October 5th. Scouting this area prior to hunting will be important. There are places to walk-in on other excavated wetlands on Big Marsh and on the main pools. Be aware that you will not be able to walk across the main ditch or barrow areas for the dikes.

CLEAR LAKE WILDLIFE UNIT

TJ Herrick, Wildlife Biologist

CERRO GORDO COUNTY

Union Hills

Water levels: Most wetlands are full including a newly restored 250 acre basin on the west side. Of this 250 acres 180 acres sits within the newly established waterfowl refuge and 70 acres is huntable by boat. New boat ramp is located just north of County Road B55

Vegetation: Emergent and submergent vegetation has developed in most wetlands.

Boat Access: There is one boat access on this area, with access being difficult due to abundant emergent vegetation.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

Ventura Marsh

Water Level: The water level is currently 0.2 ft below crest.

Vegetation: The marsh is densely vegetated with a variety of emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Boat accessibility will be possible this year.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

HANCOCK COUNTY

Crystal Hills WPA

Water levels: Wetlands are near crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed on all of the wetlands except the largest one which has submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Only the largest wetland is accessible by boat.

Notes: This area will provide good walk-in hunting opportunities.

Gladfelter WMA

Water levels: Wetlands are at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed in most of the wetlands.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: This area will provide good walk-in hunting opportunities.

Eagle Lake

Water Level: The marsh is at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed across most of the marsh, with pockets of open water.

Boat Access: Boats will be able to access the area this year.

Notes:

East Twin Lake WMA

Water Level: The marsh is at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed around the perimeter of the main pool.

Boat Access: Small boats will likely be able to access the marsh this year.

Notes: West Twin Lake is a shallow open water lake with no shoreline vegetation, but it can be accessed by boat.

Meredith Marsh

Water levels: Wetlands are at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is dense in all wetlands.

Boat Access: Small boats will be able to access the main east marshes this year.

Notes:

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Harmon Lake

Water levels: Wetlands are at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation growth is good and nicely interspersed.

Boat Access: Small boats will likely be able to access the west, center, and east pools this year.

Notes: Some walk-in hunting opportunities are available.

Myre Slough

Water level: The marsh is 0.2 feet below crest.

Vegetation: The vegetation is very dense.

Boat Access: Only small to mid-size boats will likely be able to access the marsh this year – due to the boat channel being packed with emergent vegetation.

Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities will be available.

WORTH COUNTY

Elk Creek - Pool A

Water level: The water level is 1 foot below normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Vegetated mud flats fringe the pool.

Boat Access: The pool cannot be accessed by boat at the current water level.

Notes: The water level in this pool will be raised after Pools B and C are at crest.

[Elk Creek - Pool B](#)

Water level: Water level is at crest.

Vegetation: Vegetation growth is very dense.

Boat Access: Boats can access the area at the current water level.

Notes: Large boats should be able to access the area.

[Elk Creek - Pool C](#)

Water level: The water level is 0.5 foot below normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Vegetation growth is good and interspersed nicely with open-water areas.

Boat Access: Large boats should be able to access the area.

Notes:

[Rice Lake](#)

Water Level: The main lake is at crest. Joice Slough, at the southeast end of the main lake, is 0.3 feet below crest.

Vegetation: There is abundant emergent vegetation in the main lake. Emergent and submergent vegetation is present in Joice Slough

Boat Access: Boat access to Rice Lake and Joice Slough.

Notes:

[Hanlontown Slough](#)

Water level: The water level is at normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Vegetation growth is dense and interspersed with areas of open water.

Boat Access: Small boat access.

Notes: If the water level reaches crest elevation, the dense vegetation will still make accessing the open water very difficult.

[Silver Lake and Marsh](#)

Water level: The lake is 0.5 feet below crest and the marsh is at crest.

Vegetation: Both the lake and marsh are densely vegetated with emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Boat access is possible on the lake and small boats can access the marsh.

Notes:

WRIGHT COUNTY

[Big Wall Lake](#)

Water Level: The water level is 0.6 feet below crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is abundant and nicely interspersed with pockets of open water. Submergent vegetation is abundant in open water areas.

Boat Access: Most all sizes of boats can be used to access the area.

Notes:

[Elm Lake](#)

Water levels: The water level is 0.1 feet below normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is sparsely distributed along the shore on the south end. A couple of islands of cattails persist in the center of the lake. Submergent vegetation is sparse due to the high carp population.

Boat Access: Boats can be used to access the area.

Notes:

[Lower Morse Lake Wetland Complex](#)

Water levels: Most wetlands on the complex have water.
Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is well developed in most wetlands.
Boat Access: Morse Lake is accessible by boat.
Notes: There are still some walk-in opportunities on the Lower Morse complex.

GRAND RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT

Chad Paup, Wildlife Biologist

ADAMS COUNTY

Lake Icaria

Water levels: Normal pool.
Vegetation: Emergent vegetation cannot be maintained on either Lake Icaria or Zimmerman Pool.
Boat Access: The main lake is accessible by all size boats. Zimmerman Pool is walk-in only.
Notes:

UNION COUNTY

Mitchell Marsh

Water levels: Not at normal pool so as to attract Blue Winged Teal.
Vegetation: Very little emergent vegetation.
Boat Access: Yes
Notes:

GREAT LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT

Chris LaRue, Wildlife Biologist

DICKINSON COUNTY

Christopherson Slough

Water levels: Recent rains have water levels back to normal conditions and the main marsh is near crest. Many small marshes have some water for possible walk-in hunting opportunities.
Vegetation: Vegetation is very good in both the main marsh and many small wetlands have excellent emergent vegetation and sparse submergent vegetation.
Boat Access: Boat access is good.
Notes: Most large wetlands in the complex have some water and vegetation for walk-in hunting.

Diamond Lake

Water levels: The water level is at or very near crest elevation after recent rains.
Vegetation: Diamond Lake has good emergent and sub-emergent vegetation with good water quality.
Boat Access: Access is good for large and small boats with outboard motors.
Notes: Many of the larger marshes have good water for walk-in hunting opportunities.

Dugout Creek

Water levels: Recent rains have Dugout Creek at crest elevation. However, the marsh is in excellent condition and some of the larger wetlands in the complex have some water for walk-in hunting now.

Vegetation: The area has excellent emergent and submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by small or large boats with outboard motors along the main channel to the main pool.

Notes: The marsh is in good condition with some wetlands for walk-in hunting opportunities.

Garlock Slough

Water levels: Garlock the last two years has been below normal crest level due to dry conditions. Recent rains have raised the marsh by +/- 6 inches getting water into some areas with nice new vegetation. Some of the larger wetlands have water for walk-in hunting opportunities but most small wetlands remain dry at this time.

Vegetation: There is abundant emergent vegetation on the north end, while the main marsh is ringed with emergent vegetation. Submergent vegetation is sparse in the main pool.

Boat Access: The main slough is accessible by small boats, but does not have a boat access. Kayaks or canoes would work best along with walk-in hunting.

Notes: Garlock has good water quality due to dry conditions the last couple years and low water levels have prevented carp from returning. Garlock is looking good for many waterfowl species.

Grovers Lake

Water levels: Grovers Lake even with recent rains has remained below crest elevation. Evaporation has kept the water levels down over the summer with excellent vegetation.

Vegetation: Excellent stands of emergent and submergent vegetation have developed on the area over the past several years. Dense stands of vegetation and limited muskrat activity may make it hard to access smaller pools on Grovers Lake.

Boat Access: Boat access should be good for both small and larger boats with outboard motors.

Notes: The area also still offers some good walk-in hunting opportunities on the west bay.

Hales Slough

Water levels: The water level is below the spillway elevation due to dry conditions. Only a few larger wetlands in the complex have little water at this time.

Vegetation: There is good emergent and submergent vegetation in the wetland.

Boat Access: The area is accessible to small boats.

Notes: This area is good for walk-in hunting and small boats possibly.

Horseshoe Lake WMA

Water levels: The water level is near normal crest due to recent rains.

Vegetation: The area has excellent vegetation providing very good habitat conditions.

Boat Access: Boat access looks good for small boats with the normal water level conditions.

Notes: Horseshoe Lake WMA is outside the Jemmerson Slough Waterfowl Refuge and therefore IS open to public hunting. The area also provides good walk-in hunting opportunities.

Jemmerson Slough

Water levels: The water level is below crest elevation in all bays of the Waterfowl Refuge. The West Bay was dewatered to establish new vegetation and is still low even with recent rains.

Vegetation: The Refuge has very good vegetation and habitat conditions for waterfowl. The West Bay is extremely attractive to waterfowl at this time.

Boat Access: **The pools with boat accesses are inside the WATERFOWL REFUGE and therefore Closed To Hunting.**

Notes: **The Jemerson Slough Wetlands Complex is about 1,100 acres in size. About 665 acres is included in the Waterfowl Refuge that was established in 2009. The refuge is closed to all public access when the duck season is open. There are some wetlands outside the refuge that can provide good walk-in hunting opportunities when they have water.**

Kattleson-Hogsback Complex

Water levels: West Hottes and Marble Lake are 2 feet below crest elevation. Both lakes were drawn down with new infrastructure this last year as part of a major water quality project. The drawdowns were done to remove rough fish and to re-establish and enhance aquatic vegetation. These lakes along with Grovers Lake intercept 19% of the watershed for Spirit Lake making this a significant water quality and waterfowl project for the Iowa Great Lakes.

Vegetation: Vegetation looks incredible on West Hottes and Marble Lake for greatly improved waterfowl habitat conditions.

Boat Access: While still in drawdown conditions walk-in hunting or kayak or canoe may be recommended. Small boats may be able to access the main bay but we suggest hunters check the water level situation.

Notes: Some larger wetlands have good water in them for walk-in hunting, while most very small wetlands are still dry even with recent rains.

Little Swan Lake

Water levels: The water level in the main lake is near crest elevation with recent rains. The very old main structure has a blowout around the east end which is causing the lake to drop below crest elevation at times. Recently, a public meeting was held to provide information on the Lake and the old structure which needs replaced. This well attended meeting also provided info for what the possible plan is to improve Little Swan Lake in the near future once engineering is completed and funding is secured.

Vegetation: The west bay has good emergent vegetation, but only sparse submergent vegetation. The lake is in poor habitat condition.

Boat Access: Access is good for all sizes of boats on the main lake.

Notes: The large wetlands in this complex should provide some good walk-in hunting opportunities.

Sidel Marsh

Water levels: The water level is very near crest elevation.

Vegetation: The area has very good emergent and submergent vegetation along with good water quality.

Boat Access: No boat access is available.

Notes: Area has good water for walk-in hunting opportunities and very good habitat conditions.

Spring Run

Water levels: Water levels in most of the area are still below normal crest elevations even with recent rains. Most of the larger wetlands across the complex have good water while smaller wetlands remain dry at this time.

Vegetation: Vegetation conditions vary however much of the complex after a couple dry years have very good vegetation for migratory waterfowl.

Boat Access: Lily Lake and Spring Lake WMA may be accessible by small boat, but the dense vegetation make movement very difficult in some areas. There is excellent walk-in hunting opportunity within the entire complex.

Pleasant Lake WMA is accessible by all boats with outboard motors.

Prairie Lake WMA is accessible by all boats with outboard motors.

Notes: Most of the large wetlands have good water and will provide some good walk-in hunting opportunities. The Spring Run Complex has a wide variety of habitat conditions, which makes it very appealing to migrating waterfowl.

Welch Lake Complex

Water levels: The Welch Lake complex looks very good and water levels are at or just below normal pool elevations. Most of the larger wetlands have some good water while small wetlands remain dry at this time.

Vegetation: Most wetlands have good emergent vegetation and some have excellent stands of submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Welch Lake can be accessed by most boats.

Notes: The Welch Lake Complex also has excellent walk-in hunting opportunities.

Yager Slough

Water levels: The water level is near crest elevation with recent rains.

Vegetation: The main marsh has excellent emergent and submergent vegetation after the lower water levels the last two years.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area. Small boats have been launched from the highway right of way. Dense vegetation and low water may make boating difficult.

Notes: Excellent walk-in hunting opportunities are available on a couple of the large wetlands in the complex with good vegetation for many species of waterfowl.

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Rush Lake

Water levels: The water level is at crest elevation after recent rains.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is good and after the drought of 2012 and a new outlet channel being cleaned in 2013 the lake looks very good with improved submergent vegetation and waterfowl habitat conditions.

Boat Access: Boat access is good for large and small crafts however, cattails have again crowded the access channel and may make launching difficult.

Notes: The channel cleanout project was intended to improve aquatic vegetation to improve the water quality and waterfowl habitat conditions. In future years we may lower levels to enhance vegetation on Rush Lake as needed. At this time the lake looks very good for waterfowl hunting.

IOWA RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT

Tim Thompson, Wildlife Biologist

BENTON COUNTY

Dudgeon Lake

Water levels: Marshes have water but levels may be somewhat lower with spotty rains. O'Brien Pond is approaching the normal fall pool. Additional stop logs have been added which would bring it 8 to 12 inches higher than the normal fall pool. This will be dependent on rain although water is still being diverted from Upper Detrick's Pond into O'Brien Pond. Hill Pond will have little open water because of years of siltation and thick vegetation is present. Sanders Pond to the west of the bridge is slightly below normal pool. Nobles Pond has good water and vegetation. Upper Detrick's Pond is about 18 inches low due to dry periods in September. The Cedar River along the west boundary should be above normal because of the recent rains in the watershed.

Vegetation: Vegetation is good to excellent.

Boat Access: Both ramps are accessible for small boats.

Notes:

JOHNSON COUNTY

Hawkeye Wildlife Area

Water levels: The water in Coralville Reservoir is being raised to 684.4msl by the October 03 duck opener. A second increase is scheduled to raise the lake to 685.4msl by the second opener on October 17. This level will be held through October with a third increase bring the lake level up to the full fall pool of 686.4msl by November 05. Most small marshes have some shallow water and should be huntable.

Round Pond has some leakage at the control structure and filling the pool has been a challenge; adequate open water areas exist that is attractive for ducks. Island Marsh and Plum Creek are filling and should be in good shape for duck hunters. Matson Pond has about normal water levels. Crescent Pond fluctuates with the reservoir level and it is full as the lake levels have increased.

Vegetation: Vegetation on the reservoir area is growing but the height is short. Coralville Lake flooding during the summer did not get back down to normal pool until early August. Smartweed and other moist soil plants are starting cover much of the area. With the above normal September temperatures, the smartweed has been growing rapidly and hopefully will produce mature seed for the ducks. Willows are growing throughout the reservoir area and will provide good concealment cover for hunters. Emergent vegetation is good on most of the smaller marshes.

Boat Access: The Babcock Access and Greencastle Avenue north boat ramps are useable and in good shape. The gravel ramps at Matson Pond and Crescent Pond are useable for small boats. The Speckville boat ramp is not recommended as a large mud flat covers the area.

Notes: On September 21, the wildlife refuge was closed for the remainder of the fall until late December.

Swan Lake

Water levels: The water is at normal crest.

Vegetation: The marsh is mostly open water but it has good vegetation around the perimeter and floating vegetation across the open water.

Boat Access: There is no boat access on this area.

Notes:

TAMA COUNTY

Otter Creek

Water levels: Water levels are currently near crest in all pools due to mid-summer flooding. The current condition of the river will allow for pumping later in the season, although pumping is not projected to be necessary. Segments 1, 6, and 7 have good water and can be accessed with large boats and walk-in hunting opportunities. Segment 4, 4a, and 2 also have good water and will allow good walk-in hunting opportunities. Both of the refuge segments both have good water at this time. Water flowing from Otter Creek is being diverted into segments 2, 4a and 7 and is keeping their levels steady.

Vegetation: All segments have fair to good vegetation conditions and will provide an adequate food source for migrant waterfowl. Barnyard grass and bidens are providing the majority of seed that waterfowl will use.

Boat Access: Segments 1, 6, and 7 will allow great boat access for large and small boats. The rollers will be placed between segments 4 and 6 upon the completion of repairs from recent vandal activities. The rollers are limited to 14 foot boats and under, due to excessive damage to the dikes and rollers. Driving posts into the dike and utilizing electric wenchers is also prohibited at the roller site.

Notes:

MAQUOKETA WILDLIFE UNIT

Curt Kemmerer, Wildlife Biologist

CLINTON COUNTY

Goose Lake

Water levels: Water levels are extremely low due to infrastructure failures on both the north and south pools. The dam on the north end has developed a substantial leak and the main dike on the south end suffered a catastrophic blowout this summer. Repairs are scheduled to be completed later this fall. Water levels will likely continue to recede this fall until repairs have been completed.

Vegetation: The cattails are tall and dense on the north pool, with little open water area. The center pool has remained ringed with cattail and is thick with broad leaved emergent plants in the center, as in the past. The south pool remains nearly choked with vegetation due to several years with low water.

Boat Access: Boat access is unlikely.

Notes: Scouting is highly recommended due to the dry conditions. Construction crews will likely begin infrastructure repairs around October 1st and should be wrapping up around November 1st.

JACKSON COUNTY

Green Island

Water levels: Water level on the West side of channel 4 is within about .5 feet of being full. Water levels on the east side are at normal pool.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is dense throughout the area. The traditional open water areas are thick with lotus, lily pads and arrowhead. Most open water is also choked with submergent vegetation. The year-long high river of 2014 continues to cause noticeable mortality to the standing timber on the area. Because the river behaved for much of the 2015 growing season, there is an abundance of flooded annual weed foods on the west side of channel 4. River Bulrush has made a good come-back in the flats on the entire area.

Boat Access: Accessible by boat on west side of Channel 4 is normal for an opener here. Access will be difficult on the east side, once you leave the dredged channel as usual for outboards, mud motors will be fine.

Notes: These water levels are typical for this time of year. Access is pretty good.
Reminder: Channel 5 is a NO WAKE zone (just like Channel 4) and will be enforced.

JONES COUNTY

Muskrat Slough

Water levels: Water levels are near crest (full pool).

Vegetation: The emergent vegetation is dense throughout most of the marsh, with some open water areas, especially in the traditional areas in the center of the marsh.

Boat Access: Boat access will be difficult.

Notes:

SCOTT COUNTY

Princeton

Water levels: Water levels are normal for this time of year. The water levels in the public hunting area are within .2 ft of full. Pumping has gone well and there is plenty of water for boat access. Unlike the high water year of 2014 where there was no natural food for the ducks, this year there is an abundance of food.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is dense. The cattail fringe has remained relatively stable and the more open water areas are again dominated by broad-leaved emergent vegetation. Wild rice continues to expand on the area as well. Since we were able to time our drawdown this year there are abundant flooded annual weed foods on the area (lots of duck food).

Boat Access: Access by boats is normal for an opener here.

Notes: These water levels are normal for a typical opener.

MISSOURI RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT

Doug Chafa, Wildlife Biologist

NO REPORT

HARRISON COUNTY

Round Lake

Water levels: Low water conditions

Vegetation: Lots of emergent vegetation

Boat Access: Gravel ramp accessible by small boats.

Notes:

Nobles Lake

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

Tyson Bend

Water levels: Navigation season and high flows from Little Sioux have supported slightly higher than normal water levels on the backwaters to the Missouri River.

Vegetation: Open

Boat Access: Backwater access is from the river only, boat ramp on Tyson Bend is just upstream of the backwater. There is sandbar formation across the mouth of backwater.

Notes:

Soldier Bend

Water levels: Missouri River levels have been slightly higher than normal recently.

Vegetation: Open

Boat Access: Remington Boat Ramp is just downstream of the backwater.

Notes:

California Bend

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access: Access is from the River only. The mouth of the backwater may be silted shut

Notes:

MONONA COUNTY

Badger Lake

Water levels: Crest. Recent rains have supported water levels at Badger Lake.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation around the edges.

Boat Access: Small gravel ramps provide small boat access.

Notes:

Louisville Bend

Water levels: Water levels are still dependent on the river level as repairs to the pumps are being made.

Vegetation:

Boat Access: Gravel ramp on the south end of the area provides access. Middle structure has been removed as part of the flood repairs.

Notes:

Tieville Bend

Water levels: Good water levels, about 1 foot below crest. Started pumping August 24th to put water up into vegetation. We will pump to have it at crest for the regular opener.

Vegetation: Lots of flooded vegetation around the perimeter.

Boat Access: New gravel boat ramp finished this summer.

Notes:

WOODBURY COUNTY

Browns Lake

Water levels: At crest.

Vegetation: Lots of cattails and lotus

Boat Access: Concrete boat ramps on the south end

Notes:

Luton WMA

Water levels: Recent rains have filled the shallow wetlands. Lots of sheet water in the area.

Vegetation: Most of the basins have annual weeds and are ringed with cattails.

Boat Access: No boat access, walk-in access.

Notes: Great habitat conditions right now with the newly flooded vegetation, we are seeing teal, pintails, and wood ducks using the area for the last three weeks.

Owego Complex

Water levels: Recent rains have filled the shallow wetlands. Lots of sheet water in the area.

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes: Woodbury County Conservation Board owned and managed.

Snyder Bend WMA

Water levels: At crest

Vegetation: Open

Boat Access: Concrete ramp in the Snyder's Bend County Park.

Notes: Waterfowl refuge on the south end.

Table Marsh WMA

Water levels: Recent rains have filled the shallow wetlands. Lots of sheet water in the area.

Vegetation: Most of the basins are ringed with cattails.

Boat access: walk-in access.

Notes:

Winnebago Bend WMA

Water levels: Nearly empty, small pool in the southeast corner of the former basin. Due to the catastrophic damages of the 2011 flood, the area can no longer be pumped.

Vegetation:

Boat access:

Notes:

NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT

Matt Dollison, Wildlife Biologist

FREMONT COUNTY

Riverton – Main Area

Water levels: All cells that are open to hunting are at full pool and should be sufficient for both the boat area and walk-in area.

Vegetation: The vegetation is average height but very dense. No openings have been mowed or disked throughout the boat area. Openings were disked in the north two segments in the walk-in area. It was too wet to get machinery in to do any mowing or disking in the boat area this year.

Boat Access: There should be adequate water to accommodate most boats, but the vegetation will make it difficult in many areas. The main channels are deep enough to run outboards, but the perimeter of the wetland will likely be too shallow for motors to run effectively outside of the main channels.

Notes: Water levels at Riverton would not normally be this good for teal season. We can not begin pumping before August 15, and we normally have only a small amount of water by the first week of September. The public hunting area and all refuge areas have sufficient water to hold waterfowl.

Riverton – Jensen Tract

Water levels: The water level should be adequate as the wetland is full and the pumping has ceased except for any needed top offs.

Vegetation: The vegetation is very dense. No openings and paths have been mowed for access.

Boat Access: There is good water which should accommodate at least mid-size boats.

Notes: The public hunting area and refuge have sufficient water to hold waterfowl. Most teal seasons will not see water levels at full pool as they are now.

Forney Lake

Water levels: The water level throughout most of the basin is at least 12 to 36 inches.

Vegetation: Most of the area is densely vegetated with river bulrush and perennial smartweed, but the deepest part of the basin in the middle contains valuable flooded annual vegetation.

Boat Access: There is a boat access to a small area of water in the middle of the marsh on the east side of the refuge. The boat ramp area is relatively free of vegetation and a path through the vegetation still exists from last fall.

Notes: There is more hunting opportunity this year than past years because of high water levels due to precipitation.

MILLS COUNTY

Willow Slough

Water levels: There is a good amount of water in the basin.

Vegetation: Much of the basin has been vegetated with cattails and other perennial wetland vegetation, and there are also pockets of beneficial flooded annuals.

Boat Access: Smaller to mid-size boats should be able to use much of the basin.

Notes: Cattails have grown in which should provide plenty of cover for teal hunters.

Haynie Slough

Water levels: There is good water in the basin, however most of the water is completely choked with cattails.

Vegetation: Mainly cattails

Boat Access: Small boats only

Notes: This is a historically shallow wetland that commonly goes completely dry.

Missouri River Flood Plain

Water levels: There is a good amount of water in all of the wetland excavations on Copeland Bend and Nottleman Island. Flood waters have receded somewhat at Frazer's Bend. This left a large amount of mud flats around much of the existing water that will make hunter concealment difficult.

Vegetation: Excessive water that has recently receded has left many of the excavations on Copeland Bend and Frazer's Bend with little vegetation in them. The excavations on Nottleman Island have good vegetation around the edges but it consists mostly of perennials like cattail and willow.

Boat Access: Minimal small boat access on Copeland Bend, Frazer's Bend and Nottleman Island. This will mostly be small boats dragged to wetlands from parking areas. The river boat ramps are open.

Notes: Water depths throughout the excavated wetlands are inconsistent and several sudden deep areas exist.

Cooper Creek

Water levels: The middle and south segment have water in them.

Vegetation: Dense vegetation present.

Boat Access: Walk-in access only.

Draper Bottoms

Water levels: There are several small shallow wet areas throughout the property.

Vegetation: Many of the small wetlands have a good amount of flooded annual vegetation.

Boat Access: Walk-in access only.

ODESSA WILDLIFE UNIT

Andy Robbins, Wildlife Biologist

DES MOINES COUNTY

Blackhawk Bottoms

Water levels: The water level is near normal for this time of year.

Vegetation: Heavy rainfall and high water this summer along with major flooding during the past couple years has greatly reduced the amount of vegetation in Patterson Lake. There is very little lotus compared to historic conditions. There is currently a heavy layer of duckweed covering the entire wetland.

Boat Access: Accessible to small boats.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is recommended. Construction is currently underway on a joint wetland project funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Iowa DNR. The project includes placement of a berm around the old crop fields north of Patterson Lake and the installation of a water control structure, allowing the area to be flooded by Spring Creek.

LOUISA COUNTY

Cone Marsh

Water levels: The water level is near normal fall crest.

Vegetation: There is dense submergent and emergent vegetation throughout the marsh. There is a little more open water than during the last several years.

Boat Access: Accessible to small and mid-sized boats. Shallow drive motors may be necessary in many areas due to dense vegetation.

Notes: Very good wetland conditions. Pre-season scouting is recommended.

Klum Lake

Water levels: Due to heavy local rains during the summer, the water level is currently near normal fall crest.

Vegetation: The area has dense stands of emergent and submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Accessible to small boats.

Notes: Aerial spraying of cattails and river bulrush has taken place during the last two years in an attempt to provide more open water areas. Pre-season scouting is recommended.

Millrace Flats

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

Odessa Wildlife Area

Water levels: Water levels are normal for this time of year.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent vegetation can be found on the fringes and in shallow areas. Early summer flooding prevented a thorough drawdown of the area.

Boat Access: Many areas are still too shallow for larger boats. Smaller boats or shallow drive motors will be necessary to access many areas until later on in the fall.

Notes: There are currently 2 levee breaks in the complex. The water level can still be controlled normally, however there is no protection from flooding, and the Odessa water level has the potential to rise rapidly if there is any significant flooding on either the Iowa or Mississippi Rivers. Levee repair work began in mid-September. Pre-season scouting is highly recommended.

Wapello Bottoms WMA

Water levels: Water levels are above normal due to flooding earlier in the year and heavy local rainfall.

- Vegetation: There is dense submergent and emergent vegetation in some wetlands. The deeper oxbows and sloughs have very little vegetation.
- Boat Access: There is one gravel boat ramp allowing large boats to access to one oxbow. Small boats can access several other wetlands directly from the road. Many wetlands are walk-in access only.
- Notes: Pre-season scouting is recommended.

MUSCATINE COUNTY

Cedar Bottoms

- Water levels:
- Vegetation:
- Boat Access:
- Notes:

Wiese Slough

- Water levels: The water level is just below normal fall crest.
- Vegetation: There is dense submergent and emergent vegetation throughout most of the area.
- Boat Access: Accessible to small and mid-sized boats. Shallow drive motors may be necessary in some areas due to the dense vegetation.
- Notes: Pre-season scouting is recommended.

PRAIRIE LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT

Bryan Hellyer, Wildlife Biologist

CLAY COUNTY

Barringer Slough

- Water levels: The slough is currently at crest.
- Vegetation: A large portion of the wetland is densely vegetated with emergent and submergent vegetation; however there are open water areas to hunt on the south end.
- Boat Access: Boat access will be somewhat difficult for all boats until some boat traffic and muskrat activity opens the area up.
- Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Dan Green Slough

- Water levels: The slough is currently at crest.
- Vegetation: Emergent and submergent vegetation is very dense, but there are pockets of open water that can be accessed by boat.
- Boat Access: The area can be accessed by all size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by the dense emergent and submergent vegetation.
- Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

DU Marsh

- Water levels: The marsh is currently at crest.
- Vegetation: The area is vegetated with small open pockets of water.
- Boat Access: Not accessible by boat.
- Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities will be available and pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Trumbull Lake-Smith Slough Complex

Water levels: Most wetlands in this complex are near crest. Trumbull Lake and Smith Slough are currently at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent and submergent vegetation has developed on a good portion of Trumbull Lake. Smith Slough has good stands of emergent and submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Smith Slough and Trumbull Lake are accessible by boat this year.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

EMMET COUNTY

Cheever Lake

Water levels: The water level is at crest.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent vegetation can be found across the area. Most open water areas contain submergent vegetation. Clumps of cattails float back and forth across the open water when winds are strong.

Boat Access: Boat access channel has been cleaned, however floating clumps of cattails may be blown into the boat ramp over the course of the year, which can make launching boats difficult at times.

Notes: Hunters should be prepared to drag their boats over floating clumps of cattails as these clumps of vegetation can block channels at any time. Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Four-Mile Lake Complex

Water levels: Four-Mile Lake is at crest. Some of the larger wetlands in this complex should provide some walk-in opportunities.

Vegetation: Most wetlands have excellent stands of emergent vegetation. Four-Mile Lake has some open water areas that have become larger since the drawdown.

Boat Access: Four-mile Lake is accessible by small and medium size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by the dense emergent and submergent vegetation.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Ingham-High Complex

Water levels: East Slough is currently at or near crest. Most wetlands should have walk-in opportunities available, including portions of East Slough. Water levels on area lakes are at crest. Burr Oak Lake is at crest and walk-in opportunities should be available.

Vegetation: There are good amounts of emergent vegetation on small wetlands. Large wetlands have fringes of cattails along some shorelines, with scattered pockets of submergent vegetation in the open water.

Boat Access: Most areas can be accessed using small and medium size boats. Several areas are only accessible to walk-in hunting. The boat access at Burr Oak Lake will be difficult until a few boats create a usable channel.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

Iowa Lake-Goose Lake Complex

Water levels: Goose Lake is < 1 foot below managed crest. Most other wetlands are at crest.

Vegetation: Nearly all wetlands have good stands of emergent vegetation. Goose Lake has a fringe of emergent vegetation with good stands of submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Goose Lake is accessible by small boats however submergent vegetation will hamper motor use.

Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities are available than last year. Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Tuttle Lake Complex

Water levels: Overall, water levels are near crest this year in this complex.

Vegetation: Most wetlands have good amounts of emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities should be available.

PALO ALTO COUNTY

Blue-wing Marsh

Water levels: Blue-wing Marsh is at crest, but other small wetlands are below crest.

Vegetation: The marsh has good stands of emergent and submergent vegetation, but little open water due to low boat use and low muskrat activity.

Boat Access: Boat access will be extremely difficult and limited to small boats.

Notes: A few smaller wetlands are accessible by foot.

Dewey's Pasture Complex

Water levels: Most small to large wetlands are below crest. Virgin Lake is 6 inches below crest, but will provide ample hunting opportunity.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent vegetation can be found in most wetlands.

Boat Access: Most areas are not accessible by boat. Boat access at Virgin Lake will be difficult until boat traffic creates some more usable conditions.

Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities should be available.

Fallow Marsh

Water levels: The majority of small wetlands are below crest, but should provide ample opportunities. The main marsh is near crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation growth is good.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: A few walk-in hunting opportunities are available. Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Rush Lake

Water levels: The water level is at crest.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent vegetation persist with more submergent vegetation than last year.

Boat Access: Accessible by all size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by emergent and submergent vegetation.

Notes: There are many hidden pockets of open water off the main channel that provide excellent hunting sites. Accessing them, however, may require pulling the boat into these areas.

RATHBUN WILDLIFE UNIT

Jeff Telleen, Wildlife Biologist

APPANOOSE COUNTY

Rathbun Lake Complex

Water levels: Rathbun Lake elevation as of 9/3/15 is 916.85 (904 is normal summer pool). Heavy summer rains caused the lake to crest at 921.5 on August 2nd. The lake will be drawn down to the fall pool elevation of 905.6 which will leave mudflats along the shorelines. Currently there is some

flooded vegetation on the upper ends of the Rathbun Forks but it is receding daily. The impoundments are full or near full.

Vegetation: The upper ends of the North and South Chariton have flooded vegetation but very little food other than where Pin Oaks may be dropping. North Colyn Marsh has excellent smartweed that is in bloom at this time. The other impoundments are open water. Water is still over the dikes at Brown's Slough and Goodwater Marsh. Coffey Marsh Refuge has excellent smartweed growth and will hold ducks.

Boat Access: Ramps at North Colyn, North County Line, both ramps at Brown's Slough and Greenville Marsh are operational. Ramps at Atwell's, Deadman's Landing, Rolling Cove and Indian Ridge are still flooded. The slope of the South Fork ramp on S-71 is just coming out and is useable if care is taken. Corp ramps on the main lake that are open are: South Fork, Prairie Ridge, Dedication Site, Bridgeview, Rathbun Marina and Honey Creek Park. Ramp conditions will change daily as the lake recedes.

Notes:

Sedan Bottoms

Water levels: Wetlands at Sedan Bottoms received the same rains as the lake and were flooded much of the summer. Most are full or near full. The Brown wetland north of Dean has some water but the stoplogs have been pulled to allow construction of an additional structure. The Refuge has been pulled down to allow work to be done.

Vegetation: Very little food is available for dabbling ducks on the area due to constant high water this summer.

Boat Access: No ramps on the area. Small boats or canoes could be slid into drainage ditches along some of the roads.

Notes:

RED ROCK WILDLIFE UNIT

Todd Gosselink, Wildlife Biologist

JASPER & POLK COUNTIES

Colfax WMA and Chichaqua Bottoms Green Belt WMA

Water levels: Heavy rains end of August have saturated these areas, with major flooding occurring in the Skunk River bottoms the last week of August. River levels have receded, but standing water is common in the lower areas with oxbows, ponds and wetlands full. Higher river levels will maintain saturated soils in the area and full wetlands.

Vegetation: Vegetation in most areas is good. The summer flooding was minimal, and therefore vegetation growth was good of which is primarily flooded again.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Because these wetlands are on the river flood plain and in close proximity to the river channel, they are often underlain by porous soils and water levels are dependent upon the river water level, which is currently high.

Rock Creek Marsh

Water levels: The water level is determined by the elevation of Rock Creek Lake, which is currently at crest.

Vegetation: There has been extremely heavy sedimentation the last few years resulting in reduced water surface area. The main marsh has some open water conditions, but dense willows and arrowhead plants fill much of the marsh. Some of the basins that have been isolated by sedimentation have good stands of emergent vegetation, primarily arrowhead.

Boat Access: Boat access is from the State Park boat ramps. Once north of the bridge, medium and larger boats with outboard motors may have difficulty because of silt deposition.

MARION COUNTY

Red Rock Reservoir

Water levels: The main lake level is currently rising due to recent rains, and is projected to crest at 743.7 on October 3, and return to 743.0 by October 5. Conservation pool elevation is 742.00, and the DNR has requested that the USACE raise the lake level (or maintain) to 743 fall lake level by October 3 and 744 by the second waterfowl opener. Due the fluctuating lake levels currently, it is crucial monitor the lake water level and river flows at the USACE web site: <http://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/new/layout.cfm>. Select Rock Island and then Des Moines River basin. Once on the Des Moines River Basin page there are links to the various gauge stations. The "Lake Red Rock Reservoir" link has much of the information of interest
<http://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/stationinfo2.cfm?sid=PELI4&fid=PELI4&dt=S>

Vegetation: There is minimal flooded vegetation and food for migrating waterfowl east Swan, due to the high lake levels (768) this summer that flooded out the vegetation in these lower areas of the reservoir. Conservation pool lake level was never reached before the levels rose again, and have eliminated any new vegetative growth in the lower pool areas. Areas at higher elevations upstream will have some vegetation in the sub-impoundments. There is also some moist soil plant growth at higher elevations (e.g., 750 and higher).

Boat Access: The boat ramp at "OK Hill" is accessible with very shallow draft boats and launching those may be questionable. The "Box Cars" and Bennington boat ramps are accessible at the high water ramp.

Notes: Due to siltation, access in the Box cars and OK Hill areas can prove difficult, and hunters should be prepared for shallow areas that may not have been shallow the previous year due to flooding in the past year.

Swan Refuge

Water levels: The refuge is very full due to late summer flooding. Water levels will be maintained at higher levels if possible, and pumping will be conducted as needed to maintain water in the refuge this fall.

Vegetation: There are some natural moist soil plants in the refuge, but not ideal due to summer flooding. Aerial seeding of Japanese millet was not possible this year due to high lake levels throughout the summer. All agricultural crops planted this spring were flooded out this summer due to flooding.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: This is a Waterfowl Refuge. Access is restricted from 1 September until the end of the duck hunting season.

WARREN COUNTY

Banner Flats WMA

Water levels: The wetlands on this area are oxbows or constructed basins and currently are full of water. Water levels will vary depending upon the weather and the proximity of the wetland to the river channel, which is currently saturated with high river levels due to recent flooding.

Vegetation: Good stands of moist soil and emergent plants have developed during August after the summer flooding receded, with much of the vegetation flooded again with heavy rainfall.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: These are walk-in areas.

Red Rock WMA South River Hartford Bottoms

Water levels: There are numerous oxbows and constructed wetlands on this area. Most wetlands are currently full of water due to recent flooding.

Vegetation: Good stands of moist soil and emergent plants have developed during August after the summer flooding receded, with much of the vegetation flooded again with heavy rainfall and lake pool flooding.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: These are walk-in areas.

Red Rock WMA Sub-impoundments Little Hartford and Richard's Marsh

Water levels: Little Hartford wetland has some standing water currently due to high river conditions. Richard's Marsh (Big Hartford) is currently nearly full, with water levels a foot higher than normal due to late summer heavy rains and river/lake flooding. Water levels will be maintained at these higher levels if possible to keep water in the vegetation, making it accessible to waterfowl. Pumping will be conducted as needed to maintain water in Richard's Marsh this fall.

Vegetation: There is poor to good moist soil plant growth in portions of Richards Marsh to summer flooding. Due to the higher water levels, there are large open water areas, but good flooded vegetation to the south of the marsh. All agricultural crops planted this spring were flooded out this summer due to flooding. Aerial seeding of Japanese millet was not possible this year due to high lake levels throughout the summer. The few areas with standing water at Little Hartford have good vegetation.

Boat Access: The boat ramp is accessible. The deep water will allow for good access in Richard's marsh with boats. Small to medium boats with outboards will have access to much of the area and large boats with larger outboards should have good access in some of the deeper channels.

Notes: The pumping schedule will be determined by the lake levels and river flow, but at the present time we plan to perform maintenance pumping to keep the water level at or about 5' on the gauge. Little Hartford has severe seepage issues and requires special considerations before any pumping will be undertaken.

Runnells Marsh (newly constructed marsh)

Water levels: The newly constructed Runnells Marsh (directly south of the town of Runnells) is completely full. Water levels will be maintained at full capacity if possible. This marsh is fed by Mud Creek, and is not designed for pumping. With current stream flows, maintaining a full marsh should be attainable.

Vegetation: There is fair moist soil plant growth throughout much of the Runnells Marsh. Since the marsh is at a higher elevation, much of the smartweed was not flooded out due to high lake water levels with this summer's flooding. All agricultural crops planted this spring were flooded out this summer due to flooding. Aerial seeding of Japanese millet was not possible this year due to high lake levels throughout the summer.

Boat Access: There is a temporary gravel boat access at the marsh. A permanent concrete boat access and parking lot is planned for construction next year.

Notes: This marsh is an excellent walk-in site, with good walk-in access from HWY 316. The southwest portion of the marsh can be accessed by crossing the dike and water control outflow structure on the south side of the marsh.

SAYLORVILLE WILDLIFE UNIT

Josh Gansen, Wildlife Biologist.

BOONE COUNTY

Harrier Marsh

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

GREENE COUNTY

Dunbar Slough WMA – Main Wetland

Water levels: The water level is at fall crest.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent vegetation have developed.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by all size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by the dense emergent vegetation.

Notes: The area has been subject to intense flooding this spring which allowed rough fish to enter the system which will impact the water quality and vegetation in the future.

Dunbar Slough WPA

Water levels: Pools A, B, C, and D have good water conditions.

Vegetation: There is good emergent and some limited moist soil plant growth.

Boat Access: There is a boat ramp at pool A, the remaining pools are walk-in access.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Finn Pond WMA

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

Goose Lake WMA

Water levels: The water level is at normal crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is limited to cattails. There is good submergent vegetation present.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by all size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by submergent vegetation.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Snake Creek WMA

Water levels: All wetlands are at crest or above due to recent heavy rains.

Vegetation: Excellent stands of emergent vegetation are present.

Boat Access: None.

Notes: These are primarily walk-in areas.

GUTHRIE COUNTY

Bays Branch WMA

Water levels: Water level is at fall crest.

Vegetation: Summer flooding has reduced vegetation. There are some stands of emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Yes, but the use of larger boats maybe limited.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

Lakin Slough

Water levels: The wetland is at fall crest.

Vegetation: Nice stands of emergent vegetation have developed.

Boat Access: The South ramp provides the best access for large boats and outboard motors.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

McCord Pond

Water levels: The wetland is at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation growth is good.

Boat Access: Yes

Notes:

POLK COUNTY

Saylorville Reservoir

Water levels: Conservation Pool is 836.00. The pool level is currently 837.80. Water levels will be maintained at 838.00, increasing to 839.00 by Oct 17th. At that time, habitat conditions will be evaluated.

Vegetation: Very limited flooding has allowed great stands of annual moist soil plants. Some of the smartweed is 6-7 feet tall and should provide great habitat and hunting conditions this fall

Boat Access: The area is accessible to most boats, but outside the river channel north of the mile-long bridge boat access will be difficult.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is encouraged.

Big Creek WMA

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

Errington Marsh

Water levels: All wetlands are at crest due to recent heavy rains.

Vegetation: Excellent stands of emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: No

Notes: These are primarily walk-in areas.

STORY COUNTY

Hendrickson Marsh

Water levels: Currently heavy rains have water levels above normal fall pool. This area has seen significant summer flooding.

Vegetation: Nice stands of emergent vegetation have developed. Willow bats have also developed during past draw downs and provide good cover.

Boat Access: Yes

Notes:

Colo Bogs

Water levels: Most basins are at crest.

Vegetation: Wetlands have abundant emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: No

Notes: These are primarily walk-in areas.

WEBSTER COUNTY

Brushy Creek Lake

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

SUGEMA WILDLIFE UNIT

Jeff Glaw, Wildlife Biologist

KEOKUK COUNTY

Hayesville Bend WMA

Water levels: Skunk River is in flood condition which means parts of the wetland maybe inaccessible.

Vegetation: Vegetation was good but flooding may alter condition of vegetation.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Make sure to scout the area ahead of duck season.

VAN BUREN COUNTY

Lake Sugema

Water levels: The lake is at normal pool.

Vegetation: There is good vegetation along some of the shorelines.

Boat Access: Accessible to all size boats. All boat ramps are usable.

Notes: Silt retention wetlands on west end of area are holding water and look good this year. Lake Sugema is still in a Canada goose closed zone.

DeVoss/Foster WMA

Water levels: Little water left in borrow areas. Need a few good rains.

Vegetation: A variety of desirable vegetation has developed on the area, including moist soil plants like smartweeds, barnyard grass and bidens.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Make sure to scout the area before duck season.

Fox River WMA

Water levels: The east and west wetlands are drawn down for repairs. Water is found in borrow areas of both segments.

Vegetation: A fair amount of desirable vegetation has developed in all three wetlands.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Three spillways sustained damage from flooding in 2013. Repairs will be done this fall in September or October.

UPPER IOWA WILDLIFE UNIT

Terry Haindfield, Wildlife Biologist

ALLAMAKEE

Mississippi River – Pool 9

Water levels: Water levels are about normal to slightly above average for this time of year.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is normal, with good submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Multiple boat ramps are available for all boat sizes.

Notes:

CLAYTON COUNTY

Mississippi River – Pool 10

Water levels: Water levels are about normal to slightly above average for this time of year.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is normal, with good submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Multiple boat ramps are available for all boat sizes.

Notes:

WINNESHIEK COUNTY

Cardinal Marsh

Water levels: Water levels are good on the Main Marsh, and in 3 of the 4 segments. We are bringing segment A up more slowly as to not overtop the new annual vegetation.

Vegetation: Excellent mix of emergent vegetation and open pockets of water. Good annual vegetation and some submergent vegetation is scattered throughout the wetlands.

Boat Access: The Main Marsh boat ramp provides access for small and medium size boats, motoring may be difficult due to vegetation in some areas. The 4 wetland segments provide excellent walk-in opportunity.

Notes:
