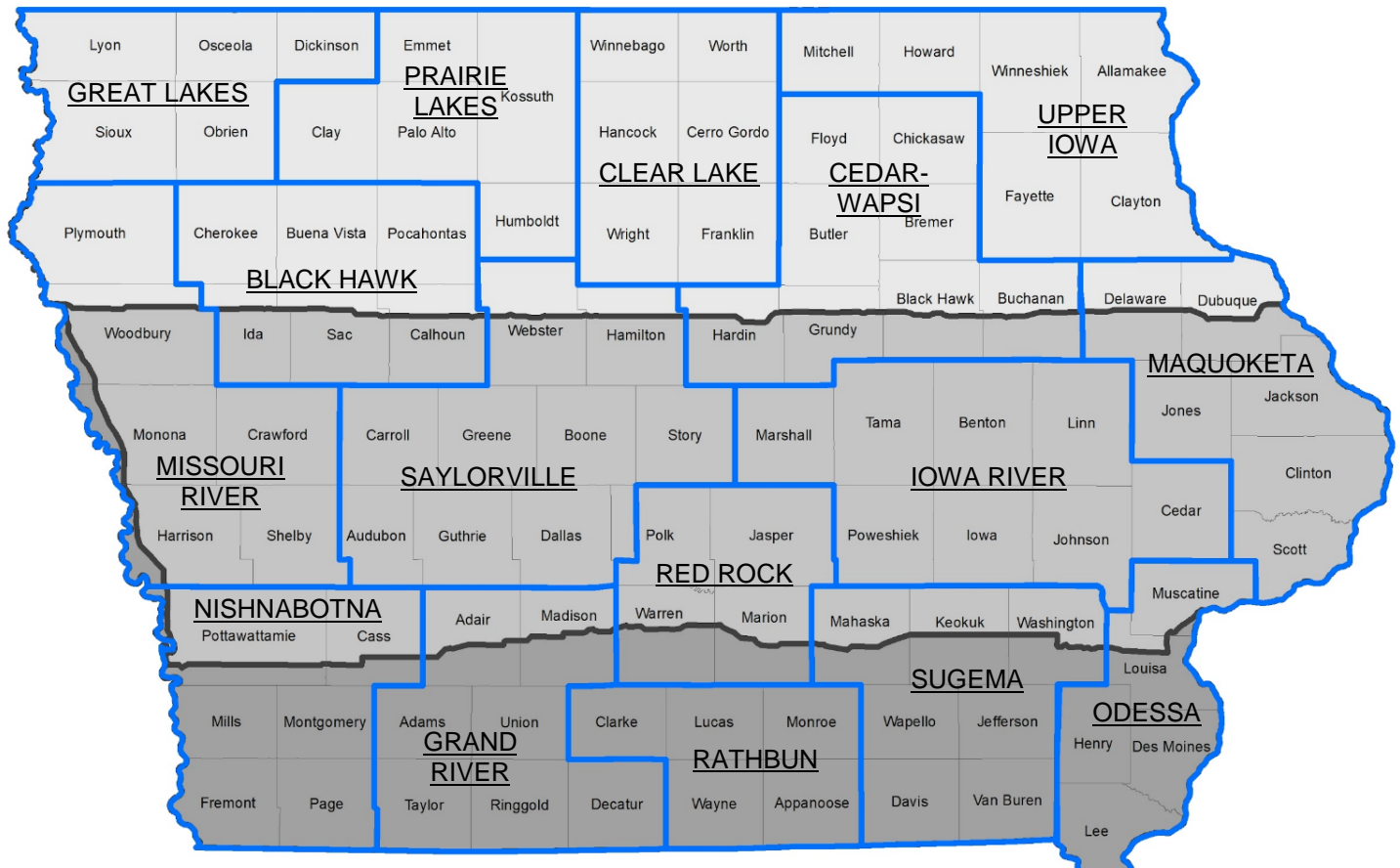


Wetland Habitat Conditions – Fall 2022

South Zone Wildlife Areas Updated: 10/11/22 - 10/13/22



Waterfowl Hunting Zones

North
 Central
 South
 DNR Wildlife Units

DNR Public Hunting Atlas:

<https://iowadnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f9161b90cddb4fcfb35a96901882a4b7/>

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 pondweed, curly leaf 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.
- 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

Wildlife Biologist: Clint Maddix

Date Updated: 10/5/2022

BUENA VISTA COUNTY

Little Storm Lake

Water Level: At least 1.5 feet below crest

Vegetation: Heavy emergent vegetation

Notes: Boat launching may be difficult as there is a thick perimeter of emergent vegetation and shallow water.

Storm Lake

Water Level: At least 1.5 feet below crest

Vegetation: Little to no vegetation present

Notes:

CALHOUN COUNTY

South Twin Lake

Water Level: 2.5 feet below crest

Vegetation: Little to no vegetation present

Notes: Launching of boats will be near impossible

CARROLL COUNTY

Artesian Lake

Water Level: At or near crest

Vegetation: Abundant emergent and submergent vegetation

Notes:

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Little Clear Lake

- Water Level: Approximately 2 feet below crest
- Vegetation: Abundant emergent and submergent vegetation
- Notes: Boat launching and navigation may be difficult

Lizard Lake

- Water Level: At least 2 feet below crest
- Vegetation: Abundant emergent and submergent vegetation
- Notes: Main boat ramp should be usable

Shimon Marsh

- Water Level: Approximately 1 foot below crest
- Vegetation: Abundant emergent and submergent vegetation
- Notes: Boat launching will be difficult, area is open to non-motorized vessels only

Sunken Grove

- Water Level: Approximately 2 foot below crest
- Vegetation: Vegetation is minimal
- Notes:

SAC COUNTY

Black Hawk Wildlife Area

- Water Level: State Marsh is at 3.5 ft below crest and DU Marsh at 6 inches below crest, the Inlet of Black Hawk Lake is approximately 2 feet below crest
- Vegetation: Abundant emergent vegetation
- Notes: Caution should be used boating the Inlet of Black Hawk Lake, a dredge pipe remains in the Inlet and will obstruct navigation

Black Hawk Lake

- Water Level: Approximately 9 inches below crest
- Vegetation: Vegetation is minimal

Notes:

Burrow's Pond

Water Level: Approximately 1.5 foot below crest

Vegetation: Abundant emergent vegetation

Notes: Boat launching may be difficult

Kiowa Marsh

Water Level: Water levels on marshes vary from 6 inches below to approximately 2 foot below crest

Vegetation: Abundant emergent and submergent vegetation, vegetation varies between basins

Notes: Boat launching may be difficult due to water levels and vegetation

Sac City Wetland Complex

Water Level: All basin are dry or nearly dry

Vegetation: Abundant emergent vegetation

Notes: Scouting throughout the season will be important as the small basins can fluctuate quickly depending on rainfall

Tomahawk Marsh

Water Level: All areas well below crest but variable throughout the area

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is dense but varies by basin

Notes:

CEDAR-WAPSI WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Jason Auel

Date Updated: 9/27/2022

BREMER COUNTY

Leopold Area

Water Level: Water levels are half full to near full

Vegetation: Abundant emergent and submergent vegetation

Notes: More rain will be needed to maintain current water levels throughout the season. Scouting throughout the season will be important

Sweet Marsh

Water Level: Water level are within 1 foot of crest

Vegetation: Abundant emergent and submergent vegetation.

Notes: *Martens Lake will be dry for the 2022 duck season as major dike repairs and other infrastructure improvements are being completed this fall and winter.* The water in the other segments will be similar to previous years. The vegetation will make it difficult for outboard motors.

BUTLER COUNTY

Big Marsh

Water Level: The main segments are within 1 foot of crest. The other segments are very low to dry.

Vegetation: Abundant vegetation

Notes: The flow in the West Fork of Cedar River is slow which is not allowing us to fill the marsh very quickly. The priority will be to maintain and slowly fill the main segments. The other segments of the marsh will be filled as fast as the weather and habitat conditions allow. Scouting throughout the season will be important.

CLEAR LAKE WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: TJ Herrick

Date Updated: 9/27/2022

CERRO GORDO COUNTY

Union Hills

Water Level: At crest.

Vegetation: Abundant emergent and submergent vegetation.

Notes: Boat access is possible.

Ventura Marsh

Water Level: At crest.

Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: Boat access is possible but abundant vegetation makes preseason scouting necessary.

HANCOCK COUNTY

Crystal Hills WMA

Water Level: About 1 foot below crest.

Vegetation: Abundant submergent vegetation, limited emergent vegetation.

Notes: Small boat access may be possible.

Gladfelter WMA

Water Level: Wetlands are variable from at crest to 1 foot low.

Vegetation: Abundant submergent and some emergent vegetation on most wetlands.

Notes: Limited to walk-in access (no boat ramp)

Eagle Lake

Water Level: At crest.

Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: Boat access possible.

East Twin Lake WMA

Water Level: Below crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation present along the shorelines

Notes: PReseason scouting encouraged.

Meredith Marsh

Water Level: 9 inches below crest.

Vegetation: Some emergent and submergent vegetation.

Notes: Small boat access may be possible.

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WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Harmon Lake

Water Level: 2 feet below crest.

Vegetation: Abundant vegetation.

Notes: No boat access possible due to low water level..

Myre Slough

Water Level: About 9 inches below crest.

Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: Small boat access will be possible.

WORTH COUNTY

Elk Creek-Pool A

Water Level: 8 inches below crest.

Vegetation: Limited vegetation.

Notes: Boat access possible.

Elk Creek-Pool B

Water Level: 1.5 feet below crest.

Vegetation: Abundant emergent vegetation.

Notes: Water level has been raised over the last 3 weeks.

Elk Creek-Pool C

Water Level: At crest.

Vegetation: Abundant emergent Vegetation (especially arrowhead).

Notes: Boat access is possible but scouting is encouraged for access potential.

Rice Lake

Water Level: 3 inches below crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation in some bays.

Notes: Accessible by all boats.

Hanlontown Slough

Water Level: At crest.

Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: Recent rains have filled this basin and small boat access is possible.

Silver Lake and Marsh

Water Level: Silver Lake is 9 inches low, Silver Lake Marsh is at crest.

Vegetation: Some emergent vegetation along the shoreline (mostly cattail)

Notes: Boat access possible.

WRIGHT COUNTY

Big Wall Lake

Water Level: About 2 feet low

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is VERY thick (mostly wild rice).

Notes: The current Water Level and thick vegetation will cause challenges to access. Preseason scouting is highly encouraged.

Elm Lake

Water Level: About 1.5 feet below crest.

Vegetation: Limited emergent or submergent vegetation

Notes: Boat access is possible

Lower Morse Lake Wetland Complex

Water Level: Wetlands are below crest.

Vegetation: Emergent

Notes:

GRAND RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Chad Paup

Date Updated: 10/13/22

ADAMS COUNTY

Lake Icaria

Water Level: Low but there is water.

Vegetation: We didn't pull the boards so the veg is poor.

Notes:

UNION COUNTY

Mitchell Marsh

Water Level: The marsh is at crest

Vegetation:
Thick

Notes: Wetland vegetation looks good.

GREAT LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Chris La Rue

Date Updated: 9/26/2022

DICKINSON COUNTY

Christopherson Slough

Water Level: The main slough is just below crest

Vegetation: Good emergent vegetation but limited sub-emergents

Notes: The slough is accessible by large and small boats. Some of the larger marshes in the complex have good water for walk-in hunting opportunities however many of the smaller wetlands are dry. Scouting is suggested.

Diamond Lake

Water Level: Diamond Lake is at crest

Vegetation: Excellent emergent and submergent vegetation

Notes: Diamond Lake is accessible by large and small boats. Some of the larger wetlands in the complex have a little water for walk-in hunting but smaller wetlands are dry. Scouting is suggested

Dugout Creek

Water Level: Dugout Creek is at or near crest

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is good with some submergents.

Notes: Habitat conditions on the main marsh are good and it can be accessed by large and small boats. Only a couple of the larger wetlands in the complex have water for walk-in hunting opportunities.

Garlock Slough

Water Level: Garlock Slough is just below crest but near the elevation of West Lake Okoboji

Vegetation: Average emergent and submergent

Notes: Garlock Slough is primarily walk-in hunting however it can be accessed with a carried in canoe or kayak. Some of the larger wetlands in the complex have water for walk-in hunting but all the smaller wetlands are dry.

Please note Garlock Slough will have construction activity for a new water control structure in September and part of October 2022.

Grovers Lake

Water Level: Recent rains have Grovers Lake at or near crest

Vegetation: Good emergent and submergent

Notes: Grovers can be accessed by large and small boats

Hales Slough

Water Level: Below crest level about half a foot and same El. as Spirit Lake

Vegetation: Good emergent and submergent vegetation

Notes: Hales is accessible by large and small boats

Horseshoe Lake WMA

Water Level: Just below crest level

Vegetation: Good emergent and submergent vegetation

Notes: Horseshoe is accessible by larger and smaller boats and the area is huntable being out of the designated Jemmerson Slough Waterfowl Refuge.

Jemmerson Slough Waterfowl Refuge

Water Level: Just below crest level

Vegetation: Excellent emergent and submergent vegetation after the previous two years of drought conditions.

Notes: **The Jemmerson Slough Wetlands Complex is about +/- 1,100 acres in size. Please note that 665 acres are in the designated Waterfowl Refuge that was established in 2009. The refuge is **CLOSED** to all public access during the duck season.**

Kettleon-Hogsback Complex

Water Level: West & East Hottes and Marble Lake are a little below crest elevation and at the same elevation as Spirit Lake currently.

Vegetation: After the drought and restoration efforts on West Hottes and Marble Lake the vegetation is in excellent condition with nice emergent and submergent waterfowl habitat.

Notes: West Hottes and Marble Lake are accessible by large and small boats. Only a couple of the larger wetlands in the complex have average water for walk-in hunting opportunities.

Little Swan Lake

Water Level: Little Swan lake is at crest elevation

Vegetation: Excellent emergent and submergent vegetation and habitat conditions.

Notes: Little Swan is accessible by small and large boats. Please note the new highway culvert now allows boats to carefully pass through the new culvert to the west bay. Just remember to trim up the motor.

Sidel Marsh

Water Level: About 18-Inches below crest level

Vegetation: Excellent emergent and submergent vegetation

Notes: Sidel Marsh is walk-in hunting only

Spring Run

Water Level: Water levels in most of the Spring Run Wetlands Complex are low. Even

with some rainfall this year this area in Dickinson County is still in drought conditions. However, larger marshes and the shallows lakes have water for hunting.

Vegetation: Good emergent and submergent vegetation

Notes: Spring Lake, Pleasant Lake, and Prairie Lake are accessible by large and smaller boats. Pre-scouting will show you where the larger wetlands are with good water for walk-in hunting opportunities.

Please NOTE: Lily Lake has had boards in it since the summer of 2021 and is still over 2 feet below crest. The outlet structure is in need of replacement and it is anticipated for construction in 2023 possibly. Limited rains in the Spring Run Area have only raised Lily slightly. It is NOT accessible by boat at this time unless the area gets significant rainfall.

Welch Lake Complex

Water Level: Most of the wetlands are below crest level but have adequate water for hunting.

Vegetation: The 2 years of drought and some mgmt. have excellent emergent and submergent vegetation in the complex.

Notes: Welch lake is accessible by large and small boats

Yager Slough

Water Level: Below crest level

Vegetation: Good emergent and submergent vegetation

Notes: Yager is not accessible by boat. Most of the larger wetlands have some water for good walk-in hunting opportunities. Scouting is recommended

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Rush Lake

Water Level: At crest level

Vegetation: After the two years of drought there is good emergent and submergent vegetation.

Notes: In 2021 the Great Lakes Unit again had the boat channel cleaned with a long

reach as far as it could go out. However, the end of the channel is loaded with cattails that could not be reached with the excavator that formed during the drought. Hunters may have to work hard to break open a gap for access on the main lake.

IOWA RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Steve Woodruff

Date Updated: 10/13/2022

BENTON COUNTY

Dudgeon Lake

Water Level: Low water levels

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is in good condition.

Notes: Pre-scouting is advised.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Hawkeye Wildlife Area

Water Level: Water levels are low. Boating is very limited.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is in good condition.

Notes: As of 10/13/22 Hawkeye Wildlife Unit water level is 685.27. Lack of precipitation has hindered the rise of the pool level. The goal is to increase water levels every week to achieve maximum fall conservation pool by mid November, but without rainfall, future water levels could be difficult to achieve throughout this year's waterfowl season.

Swan Lake

Water Level: very low water level

Vegetation: perimeter vegetation looks good.

Notes:

TAMA COUNTY

Otter Creek

Water Level: Very little water. Non-boatable

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is in good condition.

Notes: All segments are dry except for segment 6. #6 has a little water, but not boatable. River is too low to pump.

MAQUOKETA WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Curt Kemmerer

Date Updated: 9/26/2022

CLINTON COUNTY

Goose Lake

Water Level: North Pool: The new dam is completed and ready to hold water. However, with very dry conditions the water level is still very low right now. Boat access will be very difficult until we get some decent rainfall and water levels rise.

Center Pool: This pool is roughly one foot below fall crest. Again, boat access will be difficult, but not impossible.

South Pool: This pool is roughly 1 foot below fall crest, but is quicker to respond to rainfall events. Small areas of open water can be found in the usual spot along the south dike.

Vegetation: The area has the usual thick coverage of lily pads, arrowhead and some bulrush surrounded by the heavy cattail fringe. We have cleared the standing cattail and canary grass on the far north end, which could allow for more walk-in opportunities if we get wet weather and water levels come up.

Notes:

JACKSON COUNTY

Green Island

Water Level: West Side: We are roughly 1 foot below normal right now. Pumping operations have begun with the expectation that the water will be near normal level for the duck opener. Boat access may still be a little difficult for the youth duck and goose opener.

East Side: We are slightly below normal pool on this side, but normal pool is very shallow anyway. Boat access will be difficult outside of the dredged ditches.

Vegetation: This has been another good year for growing duck food. Thick vegetation early on will provide lots of cover and food, but will make boat access more difficult. Lots of lotus coverage in Blake's and submergents throughout the area.

Notes:

JONES COUNTY

Muskrat Slough

Water Level: Water level is currently about 2 feet below full pool due to dry weather.

Vegetation: We were able to burn off a good section of cattail on the west side of the marsh this summer. This area should show shallow water and may provide more hunting opportunities when water levels come up. The remainder of the cattail fringe is intact in its usual state.

Notes:

SCOTT COUNTY

Princeton

Water Level: Water level is currently about 1 foot below full pool. Pumping operations have begun with the expectation that the water will be near full pool for the duck opener. Boat access may still be a little difficult for the youth duck and goose opener.

Vegetation: Thick stands of arrowhead and lotus across the usual open water areas. We had some good response from native duck food such as wild millet. The wild rice is still dominant on the north end of the marsh. We were able to get into the refuge by mid-summer to plant corn.

Notes:

MISSOURI RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Doug Chafa

Date Updated: 09/30/2022

HARRISON COUNTY

Round Lake

Water Level: All but empty.

Vegetation: abundant emergent vegetation

Notes:

Nobles Lake

Water Level: 3 ft low.

Vegetation: Perimeter cattails. Very little vegetation within the marsh.

Notes: Recent fish kill from low water levels.

Tyson Bend

Water Level: Empty at this river level.

Vegetation:

Notes: Mo River at Omaha gauge is at 15.05 ft, with flow of 33,900 cfs.

Soldier Bend

Water Level: Empty at this river level.

Vegetation: A ton of arrowhead grew this summer during low river levels.

Notes: Mo River at Omaha gauge is at 15.05 ft, with flow of 33,900 cfs.

California Bend

Water Level: Empty at this river level.

Vegetation:

Notes: Mo River at Omaha gauge is at 15.05 ft, with flow of 33,900 cfs.

MONONA COUNTY

Badger Lake

Water Level: Empty.

Vegetation: Tons of smartweed, but it's all dry.

Notes:

Blue Lake

Water Level: 3 ft below crest in main lake. Northwest Blue, Southwest Blue, and Southeast Blue lake segments are all completely dry.

Vegetation: Empty segments are regrowing (good for next year). Main lake has a wide

mudflat that will make hunting challenging.

Notes: dredging operation finished on main lake.

Louisville Bend

Water Level: 4 ft below crest.

Vegetation: Fringe of smartweed.

Notes: Water is 1 ft below end of concrete ramp but is usable. Pump and dam are still flood damaged and not operational. Decatur guage on Missouri River at 21.19 on August 26, flow is 33,200 cfs.

Tieville Bend

Water Level: 2.5 ft below crest.

Vegetation: Good amounts of smartweed and annuals.

Notes: Water is being pumped for fall migration. River ramp is accessible, Decatur gauge is at 20.83 ft @ 31,900 cfs on 09/26/22.

WOODBURY COUNTY

Browns Lake

Water Level: 5 ft below crest.

Vegetation:

Notes: Boat launch will be very challenging. West end inaccessible by boat. Supplemental water coming in from power plant is shut off for water supply pipe extension project so west end of lake dried up..

Luton WMA

Water Level: The shallow walk-in wetlands are dry

Vegetation:

Notes:

Snyder Bend WMA

Water Level: 1.5 ft below crest

Vegetation: Tremendous annuals again this year.

Notes: Supplemental water coming from power plant.

Winnebago Bend WMA

Water Level: Dry

Vegetation:

Notes: Mo River stage at Sioux City is 12.03 ft, flow is 31,900 cfs on 09/26/22.

Table Marsh WMA

Water Level: Most of the shallow wetlands are dry.

Vegetation:

Notes:

NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Matt Dollison

Date Updated: 10/11/2022

FREMONT COUNTY

Riverton-Main Area

Water Level: 18 inches low.

Vegetation: Very good annual vegetation throughout, that should be attractive for ducks.

Notes: Have had an electrical short in the pump that has caused it shut off periodically. At last check it has been running fairly consistently, so we plan to keep monitoring it rather than pulling the pump and risking a long-term/potentially season long shut down.

Riverton-Jensen Tract

Water Level: At full pool.

Vegetation: Very good annual vegetation throughout, that should be attractive for ducks.

Notes:

Forney Lake

Water Level: Dry.

Vegetation: Attractive annual vegetation present where spraying took place last fall.

Notes:

Copeland Bend

Water Level: Only the deepest excavations have water.

Vegetation: Currently no flooded vegetation. Will be excellent if flooding occurs.

Notes: Mud flats surrounding much of the water, hunter concealment cover limited.

M. U. Payne (formerly Frazer's Bend)

Water Level: Only the deepest excavations have water.

Vegetation: Currently no flooded vegetation. Will be excellent if flooding occurs.

Notes: Mud flats surrounding much of the water, hunter concealment cover limited.

Cooper Creek

Water Level: The only water is in the middle cell borrow ditch.

Vegetation: North cell will be excellent if the area receives significant rainfall.

Notes: Mud flats surrounding the water, hunter concealment cover limited.

Auldon Bar

Water Level: No water except the deep scour holes.

Vegetation: No flooded vegetation.

Notes:

Botna Bottoms

Water Level: Dry.

Vegetation: Attractive vegetation present, but needs rain to be flooded.

Notes:

Draper Bottoms

Water Level: Only the deepest excavations have water.

Vegetation: Attractive vegetation present, but needs rain to be flooded.

Notes:

Percival I-29

Water Level: Dry

Vegetation: Attractive vegetation present, but needs rain to be flooded.

Notes:

MILLS COUNTY

Willow Slough

Water Level: 31 inches below full pool.

Vegetation: Lotus was sprayed and is dead/going away. Some attractive flooded annuals present.

Notes: Deepest portions of marsh ~2 feet deep. Avg. Depth 1.2 feet. 50% of normal full pool area is dry.

Haynie Slough

Water Level: Dry.

Vegetation: Significant cattail/bulrush in the basin.

Notes:

Noddleman Island

Water Level: Dry.

Vegetation: Certain areas will have good flooded vegetation if the area receives significant rainfall.

Notes:

St. Mary's Island

Water Level: Almost no water present except for borrow pits.

Vegetation:

Notes:

Keg Creek I-29

- Water Level: Lower than normal which has created more usable shallow water for waterfowl.
- Vegetation: No flooded vegetation.
- Notes: No hunter concealment cover close to the water.

ODESSA WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Andy Robbins

Date Updated: 10/11/22

DES MOINES COUNTY

Blackhawk Bottoms

- Water Level: Patterson lake/Round Pond are below normal due to lack of rainfall and low water levels on the Mississippi River. The moist-soil impoundment north of Patterson has stoplogs in place, but is currently 16 inches below crest. Significant rainfall is needed to raise water levels.
- Vegetation: Both Round Pond and Patterson have good amounts of emergent and submergent vegetation. The moist-soil impoundment has a diverse mix of millet, sedges, smartweed and other wetland plants.
- Notes:

LOUISA COUNTY

Cone Marsh

- Water Level: Currently about 6 inches below normal for this time of year. Significant rainfall will be necessary to raise the water level.
- Vegetation: Diverse emergent and submergent vegetation throughout the area.
- Notes:

Klum Lake

- Water Level: Klum lake dried up naturally over the summer but is currently being pumped to normal fall crest.
- Vegetation: Diverse emergent and submergent vegetation throughout the area.
- Notes:

Odessa Wildlife Area

- Water Level: Currently 534.2 and rising slowly. The water level will be raised throughout the season to continually flood new food sources for migrating waterfowl. <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=odsi4&wfo=dvn>
- Vegetation: Dense moist-soil vegetation throughout the WMA as a result of the summer drawdown. Mud motors will likely be necessary in many areas, especially during the early part of the season.
- Notes: Evidence of the damage caused by prolonged flooding in 2018 and 2019 is very visible now with approximately 70% of the forest lost. Fallen dead trees and loss of buttonbush has made the area appear more “open” than ever before.

MUSCATINE COUNTY

Wiese Slough

- Water Level: About 6 inches below normal for this time of year. Significant rainfall is needed to raise the water level.
- Vegetation: Diverse emergent and submergent vegetation throughout the area.
- Notes:

PRAIRIE LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Rob Patterson

Date Updated: 8/19/2022

CLAY COUNTY

Elk Lake

Water Level: Water levels at Elk Lake are approximately 1 ft below crest

Vegetation: Water Quality and habitat conditions at Elk Lake are excellent.

Notes:

Barringer Slough

- Water Level: Water level is below crest approximately 1 ft due to below average rainfall.
- Vegetation: Habitat conditions and water quality on Barringer are excellent. A good mix

of emergent and submergent vegetation through the wetland

Notes: With low water levels pre-season scouting is highly encouraged. All boat accesses are usable depending on the size of the boat.

Dan Greene Slough

Water Level: Water level is below crest approximately 1.5 ft due to below average rainfall.

Vegetation: Habitat conditions and water quality on Dan Green are excellent following the recent water level management.

Notes: With low water levels pre-season scouting is highly encouraged. The boat access is usable depending on the size of the boat.

DU Marsh

Water Level: Water level is below crest due to below average rainfall

Vegetation: Habitat conditions and water quality on DU Marsh are excellent.

Notes:

Trumbull Lake-Smith Slough Complex

Water Level: Trumbull Lake- Water level is approximately 2 ft below crest. Stop logs are in the water control structure to bring water up to 18" below crest if inflows increase. Lake will be held at 18" below crest to facilitate a water control structure modification on Smith Slough. Once this is complete all boards will be placed into the water control structure.

Smith Slough- Smith Slough will be managed at low pool to facilitate a modification to the water control structure. Once this is complete boards will be replaced into the structure.

Vegetation: Habitat conditions and water quality are excellent on Trumbull Lake and Smith Slough following the recent water level management.

Notes: Trumbull Lake currently has huntable water. Access may be challenging for larger boats.

EMMET COUNTY

Cheever Lake

Water Level: Water levels at Cheever Lake are near crest.

Vegetation: Habitat conditions at Cheever Lake are good.

Notes: The floating cattail mats near the boat access are less than previous years. Access with smaller boats that can be pulled to open is currently feasible.

Four-Mile Lake Complex

- Water Level:** Water levels at Four Mile Lake are approximately 1 ft below crest. Water levels on small wetlands within the complex are generally low but huntable water exists.
- Vegetation:** Habitat conditions at Four Mile Lake are good.
- Notes:** An access improvement project is under way at the north access and should be completed prior to the teal season. If water levels reach crest the north access should be usable. The access conditions on the south end of the lake have improved and may be a feasible option for smaller craft. Preseason scouting is highly recommended

Ingham High Complex

- Water Level:** Water levels at the Ingham Complex are generally lower than crest. East Slough will be held at low pool to facilitate the construction associated with the West Swan Lake improvement project. Water levels on smaller wetlands vary but are generally below crest.
- Bur Oak Lake is below crest but has huntable water.
West Swan Lake is below crest approximately 1 ft.
- Vegetation:** Habitat conditions and water quality across the complex varies. Smaller marshes around Ingham and High Lake as well as Bur Oak Lake have excellent habitat.
- Notes:** The West Swan Lake improvement project will begin this fall. In late summer DNR staff will begin to lower water levels on West Swan Lake to facilitate construction activities associated with the project.

Iowa Lake and Iowa Lake Marsh Complex

- Water Level:** Water levels at the Iowa Lake and Iowa Lake Marsh Complex are generally lower than crest. Huntable water exists in most of the smaller wetlands.
- Vegetation:** Habitat conditions vary within the complex. Many of the smaller wetlands have excellent habitat for waterfowl.
- Notes:**

Tuttle Lake Complex

- Water Level:** Water levels at the Tuttle Lake Complex are generally lower than crest.
- Vegetation:** Habitat conditions vary within the complex. Many of the smaller wetlands have excellent habitat for waterfowl
- Notes:**

KOSSUTH COUNTY

Goose Lake Complex

Water Level: Water levels at Goose Lake are near managed pool

Vegetation: Habitat Conditions at Goose Lake are excellent following the water level Management event.

Notes:

PALO ALTO COUNTY

Blue-Wing Marsh

Water Level: Blue-wing Marsh is approximately 1 ft below crest. Many of the smaller wetlands have huntable water but are low with the below average rain fall.

Vegetation: Habitat and water quality within the Blue-wing complex is excellent.

Notes:

Dewey's Pasture Complex

Water Level: Water levels on many of the wetland basins that make up the Deweys Pasture Complex are low but huntable water exists.

Vegetation: Habitat conditions are good to excellent

Notes: Boat hunters will be able to access Lost Island Marsh. Many quality walk in options are available.

Fallow Marsh

Water Level: Water levels at Fallow Marsh are below managed pool.

Vegetation: Habitat conditions at Fallow Marsh are good.

Notes: Walk in hunters will find many quality locations

Rush Lake

Water Level: Water levels at Rush Lake are near the managed pool.

Vegetation: Habitat conditions at are good to excellent

Notes: Boat hunters will find good access at Rush Lake.

RATHBUN WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Heath Van Waus

Date Updated: 8/25/2022

APPANOOSE COUNTY

Rathbun Lake Complex

Water Level: Rathbun Lake is currently 903.5. 905ft was pool elevation for the spring and early summer months. All impoundments on the North and South fork arms are extremely low or dry.

Vegetation: Vegetation is excellent but impoundments are dry.

Notes: Scouting will be required

Sedan Bottoms

Water Level: Extremely low or dry

Vegetation: Vegetation is good but the majority of the basins are dry

Notes: Scouting will be required. Very little water in the refuge.

RED ROCK WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Todd Gosselink

Date Updated: 10/6/2022

JASPER & POLK COUNTIES

Colfax WMA and Chichaqua Bottoms Green Belt WMA

Water Level: Dry conditions have substantially reduced water levels in ponds, oxbows and marshes, with the Skunk River at very low conditions. The river levels impact the oxbows in the floodplain, and will likely remain low if river levels remain low.

Vegetation: Vegetation in most areas is excellent. Minimal flooding occurred earlier in the year, but the dry summer has allowed for good vegetation growth in the wetland areas.

Notes: Because these wetlands are on the river floodplain 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 very low.

Rock Creek Marsh

- Water Level:** The water level is determined by the elevation of Rock Creek Lake, which is currently below normal pool.
- 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.
- Notes:** Good for walk-in access.

MARION COUNTY

Red Rock Reservoir

- Water Level:** Lake Red Rock pool is currently at 742.6 as of October 6. The DNR had requested that the USACE raise the lake pool to 743.0 on Sept. 15, 744.0 on Oct 8, 744.5 on Oct 22, and 746.0 on Nov 18, and 746.5 on Dec 13. The dam has had the minimum outflow allowed since September 5, but drought conditions have only allowed for a food raise since then. Due to the potential for fluctuating lake levels, it is crucial to monitor the lake water level and river flows at the USACE web site:
<http://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/Districts/MVR/Forecast/pdf/forecast.html>
- Vegetation:** The vegetation and food for migrating waterfowl is excellent headed into the fall, since there was minimal flooding this spring, which has allowed for plenty of time for good vegetation growth. Large stands of wild millet (barnyard grass) and smartweed cover the areas that will be flooded this fall if river flows allow for a pool raise.
- Boat Access:** The boat ramp at "OK Hill" is brand new this year. The boat ramp is intended to be used once the lake levels are raised up in this shallow area. Small boats should be able to be launched at this boat ramp once lake levels reach 745. The "Box Cars" and Bennington boat ramps are accessible. However, due to more siltation this spring, the Walnut Creek Cut will not be passable until higher lake levels are reached.
- Notes:** The increased lake pool level potential (an additional 3 feet higher from past years) will provide ample waterfowl habitat for migrating birds.

Swan Refuge

- Water Level:** The refuge pumping began on September 30, and is slowly filling.
- Vegetation:** There are excellent natural moist soil plants in the refuge, since there was minimal spring flooding giving enough time for vegetation to grow and

produce seed for migrating waterfowl.

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 Level: The wetlands in this area are oxbows or constructed basins and currently are nearly empty due to the drought. Construction on the large wetland by the shooting range is projected to be finished by Sept 7. The dikes have been repaired so the wetland will hold water again, and a water control structure has been added to the wetland to allow drawdown in the summer to allow vegetation to grow, which can be flooded in the fall for migrating waterfowl. However, there is not much vegetation in the pool area of the marsh this year due to construction. Other wetland water levels are very low, but will vary depending upon the weather and the proximity of the wetland to the Middle River channel, which is currently very low.

Vegetation: Excellent stands of moist soil and emergent plants are present due to the dry conditions this summer.

Notes: These are walk-in areas.

Red Rock WMA

Water Level: There are numerous oxbows and constructed wetlands in the South River Unit, SW of Hartford. Most wetlands are currently low due or completely dry to drought conditions.

Vegetation: Excellent stands of moist soil and emergent plants are present due to the dry conditions this summer.

Notes: These are walk-in areas.

Red Rock WMA Sub-impoundments

Water Level: Little Hartford wetland has no water due to very low river levels and dry conditions. Big Hartford (Richard's Marsh) is currently being pumped, and should be boatable with surface drive boats by October 8.

Vegetation: There is excellent moist soil plant growth in Big and Little Hartford due to dry summer conditions. No agricultural crops were planted this spring.

Notes: Little Hartford boat ramp is unusable since there is no water. The goal is to have Big Hartford boat ramp usable for the first regular duck opener on Oct 8.

Runnells Marsh

- Water Level: The Runnells Marsh (directly south of the town of Runnells) is currently very low due to the dry conditions. The ditch feeding the marsh is currently being excavated and once this is complete, all of the Mud creek flow will be diverted into the marsh, but flows are minimal at this time. Rain will be needed to increase the marsh water levels. The deeper pools have water currently, but minimal vegetation is flooded.
- Vegetation: There is excellent moist soil plant growth throughout all of Runnells Marsh since it did not flood this spring.
- Notes: This marsh is an excellent walk-in site also, with access from HWY 316 and the boat ramp. 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

Wildlife Biologist: Josh Gansen

Date Updated: 8/24/2022 Conditions across most of the Saylorville unit are drought conditions again this year. Localized rainfalls will change conditions if they occur.

GREENE COUNTY

Dunbar Slough WMA

- Water Level: 6 inches below fall crest
- Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.
- Notes:

Dunbar Slough WPA

- Water Level: Low conditions
- Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.
- Notes: Water Control Structure failed this summer, resulting in loss of most of the pool.

Goose Lake WMA

- Water Level: 12 inches below crest
- Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: Access with small boats is best

Snake Creek WMA

Water Level: 6 inches below crest

Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: Walk in access only

GUTHRIE COUNTY

Bays Branch WMA

Water Level:

Vegetation:

Notes:

Lakin Slough

Water Level: 6 inches below crest

Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: Access from the South is currently the best

McCord Pond

Water Level: 12 inches below crest

Vegetation: Abundant submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: Walking access at this time or small boats

POLK COUNTY

Saylorville Reservoir

Water Level: <https://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/stationinfo2.cfm?sid=SA YI4&fid=SAYI4&dt=S>

Vegetation:

Notes: Due to shoreline construction water levels are not planned to be raised this fall.

STORY COUNTY

Hendrickson Marsh

Water Level: At crest

Vegetation: Some areas of emergent Vegetation still present, submergent vegetation is extremely thick

Notes:

SUGEMA WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Jeff Glaw

Date Updated: 10/12/2022

KEOKUK COUNTY

Hayesville Bend WMA

Water Level: Dry. The South Skunk river is low also.

Vegetation: Very little vegetation in the pool.

Notes:

VAN BUREN COUNTY

Lake Sugema

Water Level: Main lake is approximately 20" below normal pool.

Vegetation: Good vegetation in some areas.

Notes: Tug Forks and wetland on Heather Ave. have adequate water to hunt. Scouting the area would be beneficial.

DeVoss/Foster WMA

Water Level: Low water but may be huntable in some of the deeper pools.

Vegetation: Good vegetation since we have keep water in the wetland throughout the growing season.

Notes: Scouting the area would be beneficial.

Fox River WMA

Water Level: East segment has some water but very low. West segment is dry.

Vegetation: Good vegetation in both segments.

Notes: Exceptionally dry in SE IA. Going to take some timely rains to begin to fill up both segments. Scouting the area would be beneficial.

UPPER IOWA WILDLIFE UNIT

Wildlife Biologist: Troy Anderson

Date Updated: 9/28/2022

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY

Mississippi River-Pool 9

Water Level: normal fall pool

Vegetation: With the relatively consistent water levels in the Mississippi River this spring and summer, the river should have a good amount of submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: River conditions can change quickly, preseason scouting is recommended. Heytman's Landing (boat ramp) should be open by Oct. 1 opener but it is very shallow.

CLAYTON COUNTY

Mississippi River-Pool 10

Water Level: normal fall pool

Vegetation: With the relatively consistent water levels in the Mississippi River this spring and summer, the river should have a good amount of submergent and emergent vegetation.

Notes: River conditions can change quickly, preseason scouting is recommended.

WINNESHIEK COUNTY

Cardinal Marsh-Main Marsh

Water Level: Good water conditions in the main marsh. There is a cement boat ramp on the northwest side of the main marsh. Small outboards, surface drive and mud motors should be able to navigate the main marsh at the current water levels. There is also walk-in access around the main marsh.

Vegetation: The main marsh has a good mixture of emergent and submerged vegetation. The cattails around the edge of the main marsh and a few pockets throughout the marsh regenerated again this year creating several places to

hide a boat. The abundance of submergent vegetation may create some issues with standard outboard motor navigation.

Notes: pre-scouting is recommended

Cardinal Marsh-Segments

Water Level: All four segments (A,B,C and D) have excellent huntable water levels

Vegetation: With the drawdown of segment C this summer we had a great response of emergent vegetation. It is loaded with smartweed, bidens, sedges, rice cut grass, and other emergent vegetation. Segments A, B and D have a good mixture of submergent and emergent vegetation with more open water.

Notes: The segments are mainly walk-in access and pre-scouting is recommended. The middle of segment A may be a little deep for waders due to some beaver activity.