

WASHINGTON

Washington State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area is located 7 miles north and 4 miles west of the town of Washington, a short distance south

of the Nebraska border. The lake was initially constructed and stocked in 1958. The lake was rehabilitated and restocked in 1975. A silt-catching and settling basin was created in

1977 by constructing a dike across the upper third of the lake and lowering the water level 5 feet. The lake still has a tendency to be turbid, especially after periods of heavy rainfall.

FISHING

The 65-acre lake has been stocked with largemouth bass, walleye, channel and flathead catfish, bluegill, and crappie. Test nettings are performed annually to monitor the fish population, and supplemental fish stockings are made when necessary.

Channel catfish can be taken in almost any area of the lake during the spring and summer months using commercially prepared baits, liver, or live baits such as crayfish or salamanders. The area on the south side of the dike is especially good whenever water is being released from the settling basin.

When the lake is clear, largemouth bass fishing can be excellent in early spring, and many are taken along the riprap of the dam and dike and in the coves. Several

brushpile fish attractors have been strategically placed in the lake where they are within easy casting distance from the shore or the floating piers. These harbor largemouth bass, crappie, and bluegill.

Crappie and bluegill fishing can be especially good in the spring when they are spawning. The fish will be concentrated in the brushy areas in shallow water and can be easily taken using minnows, worms, or jigs.

Trotlines and other setlines are not allowed on state fishing lakes.

HUNTING

The lake is surrounded by 352 acres of public hunting land that provides habitat for quail, pheasant, doves, squirrels, rabbits, white-tailed deer, turkey, beaver, muskrats, raccoons, coyotes, bobcats, and numerous nongame birds and animals. The lake also serves as a stopover area for migrating waterfowl in the fall and spring.

Several food plots are maintained to provide a winter food source for wildlife.

Like other public areas, Washington Wildlife Area receives a substantial amount of hunting pressure on opening weekends. Following that initial pressure, the area receives only light hunting activity, and hunters can enjoy quality hunting experiences.

Quail numbers are usually quite good. Pheasants are present in scattered bunches. Small game such as squirrels and rabbits are also numerous, and like the birds, can be found most often near the food plots. Deer also

like to browse in the food plots. The area is open to both archery and firearms deer hunting.

Please consult the current hunting regulations to determine the season dates and bag limits. All of the area is open to hunting except the camping areas.

Primitive camping is available and is free of charge. No reservations needed.

The lake and wildlife area are open year-round. Picnic tables, fireplace grills, and camping areas are available for public use. **Motorboats may be used for hunting and fishing only.** All state and federal boating regulations apply.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

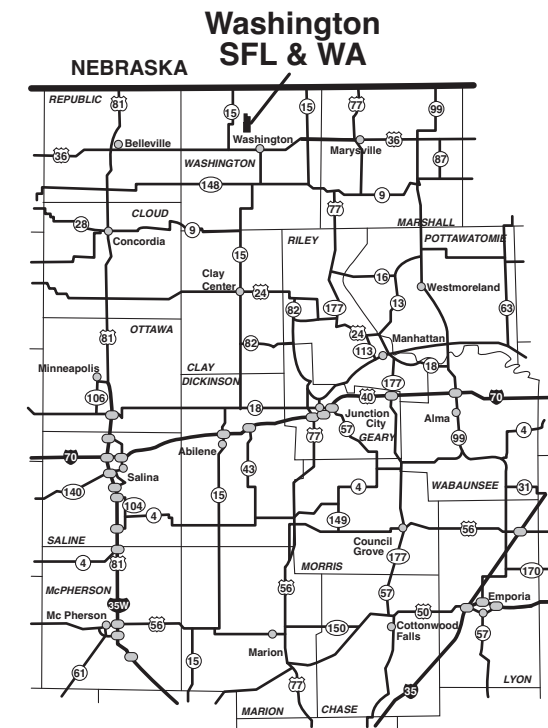
Vehicles are permitted on maintained roads only.

Primitive camping is permitted, but please take your trash with you. No reservations required. Camping is free of charge. Camping is limited to no more than 7 consecutive days.

Consult area information signs for additional rules and regulations on the area. Special regulations may be in effect.

Target shooting is prohibited on all public lands.

Off-road vehicles and horseback riding are prohibited.

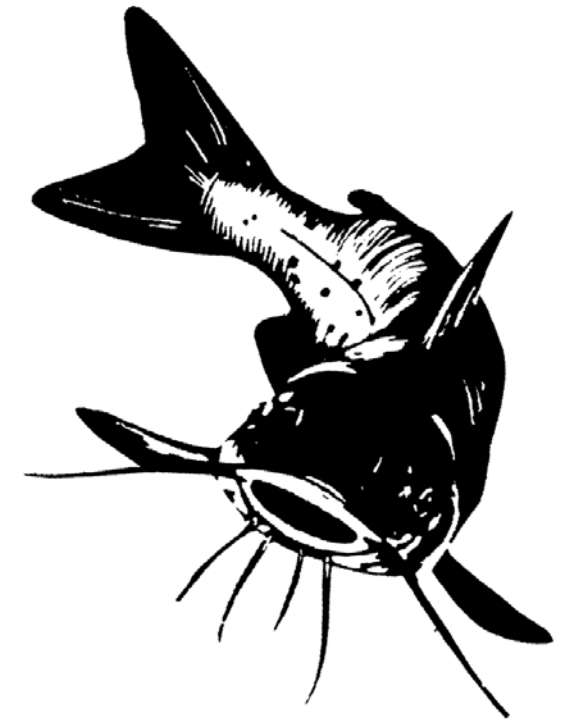


General Area Map

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State Fishing Lake & Wildlife Area



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