



 US HIGHWAY

 WASH. HIGHWAY

 WATERFOWL HUNTING SPOTS

RIVERS, CREEKS, & WASTEWAYS

 LAKES & RESERVOIRS

WATERFOWL HUNTING AREAS IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN

BASIC BASIN TIPS

1. Private Property - ASK BEFORE YOU HUNT!!!!!!!!!!!!
2. Hunting sites near waterfowl reserves and refuges can be productive.
3. Hunting sites between food sources and waterfowl concentrations can be productive.
4. Mallards use mostly grain. Geese use grain and green forage.
5. Spend time scouting. No single site will be good every trip
6. Evening is a good time to scout when birds are moving to fields to feed.
7. Waterfowl need to feed more during cold and snowy weather.
8. Hunt in the south Basin, when waters freeze up in the northern basin.
9. Birds will move back to the north Basin if there is a late season thaw. The best hunting can occur in January.
10. Peak waterfowl numbers often occur in late November.

A RUFUS WOODS RESERVOIR - DeLorme Atlas Page # 84, 86, 100-102

Reservoir on the Columbia River behind the Chief Joseph Dam. The north side of the river is on the Colville Indian Reservation and a tribal hunting permit is required (Colville Confederated Tribe Dept. of Fish and Wildlife - Phone 509-634-2110). Most of this pool is only accessible by boat. Boat access sites are located upstream from Chief Joseph Dam and down stream from Elmer City. Public Access to shore line is limited. Low hunting pressure. Low to moderate waterfowl numbers.

Dabbling Ducks - Low to moderate numbers during migration, mostly wigeon and mallards.

Diving Ducks - Relatively few but higher densities associated with beds of aquatic vegetation.

Geese - Low to moderate numbers of large Canada geese.

B LAKE PATEROS - DeLorme Atlas Page # 84, 100

Reservoir on the Columbia River behind the Wells Dam. The north side of the river east of the Okanogan River is on the Colville Indian Reservation and a tribal hunting permit is required (Colville Confederated Tribe Dept. of Fish and Wildlife - Phone 509-634-2110). Public shoreline hunting at Bridgeport Wildlife Area. Most of the pool is only accessible from a boat. Boat access sites occur at Brewster and Bridgeport. Low to moderate hunting pressure. Waterfowl populations are large but difficult to hunt on the large open water.

Dabbling Ducks - Moderate numbers during migration, mostly wigeon and mallards.

Diving Ducks - Very Large diving duck concentrations occur periodically, and are associated with large beds of aquatic vegetation between Bridgeport and Brewster, mostly redheads, canvasbacks, and scaup.

Geese - Low to moderate numbers of large Canada geese.

C BANKS LAKE DeLorme Atlas Page # 85

An equalizing reservoir for the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project. Most of the shoreline is public property. A game reserve occurs 4 miles north of Coulee City and is clearly marked with red triangular signs. Seven boat access occur on the lake. Wheat fields on state wildlife lands south of Steam Boat State Park and provide good goose hunting. Much of the lake is deep with steep shoreline. Hunting pressure is low to moderate

Dabbling Ducks - Low to moderate numbers mostly wigeon and mallards, on occasion large numbers of mallards use the game reserve.

Diving Ducks - Low to moderate mostly in aquatic beds in the northern part of the lake.

Geese - Low to moderate numbers of small and large Canada's.

D STRATFORD GAME RESERVE - DeLorme Atlas Page # 69

Brook and Billy Clapp lakes are within the Stratford Game Reserve. No hunting is allowed within the Game Reserve. This reserve can hold up to 30,000 Canada geese. Access for pass shooting as geese leave the reserve occurs above the bluffs south of Brook Lake (off of Road K NE) and east of Billy Clapp Lake (off of Road 26 NE).

Dabbling Ducks - on rare occasion

Geese - Moderate to very large numbers of small Canada geese

E QUINCY WILDLIFE AREA - DeLorme Atlas Page # 68

Many lakes and wetlands that can be hunted without a boat. Boat launches on larger lakes. Hunting is often poor to mediocre, but can be good when birds are using the Wanapum Reserve (see above) and weather is cold and stormy.

Dabbling Ducks - Low to moderate numbers of teal, gadwall, and mallards.

Diving Ducks - Few

Geese - Few

F GLOYD SEEPS WILDLIFE AREA DeLorme Atlas Page # 69

This is a state wildlife area that includes many ponds and wetlands that are associated with Crab Creek. Good opportunity for shoreline hunting and jump shooting. Waterfowl use of this area is variable. Hunting pressure can be high.

Dabbling Ducks - variable but can have large numbers of mallards

Diving Ducks - low numbers

Geese - low to moderate numbers

G WINCHESTER LAKE DeLorme Atlas Page # 68

A Lake near the headwaters of Winchester irrigation wasteway. Can be hunted from shore but is best

from a boat. Aquatic vegetation and waste agricultural grain attract birds to the area. Hunting pressure can be high. Boat access sites occur on the east side of the lake. Waterfowl populations are highly variable.

Dabbling Ducks - highly variable numbers of mallards, gadwall and teal.

Diving Ducks - low to moderate numbers

Geese - low to moderate numbers

I WANAPUM LAKE - DeLorme Atlas Page # 52, 67,68

A reservoir on the Columbia River behind the Wanapum Dam. A game reserve occurs between Sunland Estates and Quilomene Bay. This reserve can hold huge numbers of mallards and Canada geese. These birds move into the irrigated part of the Columbia Basin to feed on waste grain. Most of the hunting requires a boat. Boat access sites occur south of Sunland Estates and Vantage. Large waterfowl numbers. Hunting pressure can be heavy close to the reserves.

Dabbling Ducks - Very large numbers of mallards occur regularly.

Diving Ducks - Can be large numbers of scaup and redheads on south part of the reservoir.

Geese - Large numbers of geese use the reserve.

J FRENCHMAN WASTEWAY DeLorme Atlas Page #52, 53, 68

Frenchman Wasteway feeds irrigation return flows to Potholes Reservoir. Much of the ground associated with this wasteway is managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Many ponds and wetlands occur on and along the wasteway. The area is important waterfowl breeding habitat and provides good early season hunting. The Frenchman Hills Game Reserve is located about 5 miles west of Potholes Reservoir. This reserve can hold large numbers of mallards and Canada geese.

Dabbling Ducks: Variable but often supports large numbers of mallards, gadwall, and teal.

Diving Ducks: Moderate to low numbers early in the season.

Geese: Variable

K WINCHESTER WASTEWAY DeLorme Atlas Page # 68, 69

Winchester Wasteway feeds irrigation return flows to Potholes Reservoir. Much of the ground associated with this wasteway is managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Many ponds and wetlands occur on and along the wasteway. The area is important waterfowl breeding habitat and provides good early season hunting. A boat access occurs off of Dodson Road. The Winchester game reserve is located about 3 miles south of Interstate 90. This reserve can hold huge numbers of mallards and Canada geese.

Dabbling Ducks: Variable but often supports large numbers of mallards, gadwall, and teal.

Diving Ducks: Moderate numbers early in the season.

Geese: Variable

L POTHOLE RESERVOIR DeLorme Atlas Page # 53, 69

This reservoir is part of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project. A game reserve occurs on the NW part of the reservoir. Boat access occurs at 5 different locations. The north part of the reservoir has many islands. Lind Coulee enters the reservoir on the SE corner of the Lake.

Dabbling Ducks: Often supports huge numbers of mallards.

Diving Ducks: Low numbers

Geese: Variable but can support large numbers.

M SEEP LAKES WILDLIFE AREA DeLorme Atlas Page # 53

State wildlife area with many seep lakes. Many of the lakes are deep and poor waterfowl habitat. The area rarely holds large waterfowl numbers. Birds from Columbia National Wildlife Refuge do stray into the area during poor weather. Boat access occur on several lakes. Hunting pressure is often low.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers.

Diving Ducks: Low to moderate numbers.

Geese: Low to moderate numbers.

N COLUMBIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DeLorme Atlas Page # 53

A large National Wildlife Refuge with many ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Hunting is allowed only on specific parts of the refuge. Hunting areas are posted. Maps and information is available from the refuge office (Phone 509-488-2668). Large waterfowl numbers and moderate to high hunting pressure.

Dabbling Ducks: Variable but often large numbers of mallards

Diving Ducks: Low to moderate

Geese: Variable but often large numbers of large and small Canada geese.

O LOWER CRAB CREEK DeLorme Atlas Page # 52

Lower Crab Creek irrigation return flows back to the Columbia River. Has a mixture of state, federal, and private ownerships. Moderate waterfowl numbers support good early season hunting. Mostly walk-in hunting and jump hunting. Large numbers of mallards can use the area at times. Moderate to high hunting pressure.

Dabbling Ducks: Moderate to large numbers

Diving Ducks: low to moderate numbers

Geese: low to moderate

P PRIEST RAPIDS RESERVOIR DeLorme Atlas Page # 38

A reservoir on the Columbia River behind the Priest Rapids Dam. Some public access at the Priest

Rapids Wildlife Area west of Mattawa. Most of the hunting requires a boat. Public boat access sites occur south of Wanapum Dam and off of Road 26 SW. Private access that charges a fee for public access is available at Desert Aire

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers.

Diving Ducks: Moderate to high.

Geese: Low to Moderate.

R BAILEYS BOYS RANCH DeLorme Atlas Page # 53, One mile north of Basin City.

State Wildlife Area with small lakes and ponds. Hunting only on weekends and Wednesday. Popular hunting area. Vehicles must be parked in designated numbered parking slots and users must register at access sites. Access is limited by available parking sites (5 vehicles in each parking area). You can not access the area if all parking sites are full. No boat access.

Dabbling Ducks: Highly variable. Can have large numbers of mallards and teal.

Geese: Low to moderate numbers.

S WINDMILL RANCH WILDLIFE AREA DeLorme Atlas Page # 53, Access points on Merion and Colonial roads.

State Wildlife Area with small lakes and ponds. Field hunting available in corn fields. Popular hunting area. Vehicles must be parked in designated numbered parking slots and users must register at access sites. Access is limited by available parking sites (5 vehicles in each parking area). You can not access the area if all parking sites are full. No boat access.

Dabbling Ducks: Highly variable. Large numbers of mallards used the corn fields during cold weather.

T SCOOTNEY RESERVOIR DeLorme Atlas Page # 53

An irrigation reservoir managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Water level in the reservoir is often low during winter and boat access can be difficult. Shore hunting can be productive.

Dabbling Ducks: Highly variable low to moderate numbers, mostly mallards.

Diving Ducks: Low numbers.

Geese: Low numbers

Boat Launch

U RINGOLD DeLorme Atlas Page # 53

Free flowing section of the Columbia River. Mostly boat access with some shore access on the east shore. Boat launch at Ringold. Waterfowl Closure above wooden power line crossing about 5 miles upstream. Several USFWS islands that are posted as closed down stream.

Dabbling Ducks: Moderate to large number of mallards late in the season.

Diving Ducks: Low numbers.

Geese: Low to moderate numbers