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-capturing 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 large-mouth 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 are restricted to no more than 14 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.

Washington State Fishing Lake & Wildlife Area

General Area Map

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 14 consecutive days.

Please consult the current hunting regulations to determine the season dates and bag limits. All of the following apply.

No reservations needed.

Motorboats may be used for hunting and fishing only. All state and federal boating regulations apply.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be filed with the Kansas Department of Labor.

General Area Map

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(785) 461-5402
Regional Office
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