

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2015-16 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of January 11, 2016

WALK-IN AREAS

No reports this week from the walk-in areas west and north of Okobojo Creek on waterfowl hunting success. With the low number of birds in the area it continues to be difficult to get a pattern on when and where the birds will fly.

REGISTRATION AREA

The number of birds between the Pierre area and Lower Oahe lands remains low, making it difficult for the hunters. Flight times have continued to vary from day to day with the wide range of temperature swings the past week some birds moved mid-morning while others waited until mid-afternoon. Drawings for the decoy only registration field's takes place each day one hour before sunrise.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

Pass shooting continues to be difficult in the canal and pit areas, with the changing weather patterns and low number of birds it has been hard to get a pattern on them and find some low enough to harvest.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

The striped green area in Stanley County continued to have a few flocks flying over the field's last week heading west out to feed. Flight times have varied depending on temperature and wind conditions.

SUMMARY

The registration area has been holding some flocks of geese in the fields with hunters having mixed success. Reports of some ducks in the fields last week during shooting hours came in but it seemed like it was a short lived deal and most of the ducks started coming out to feed just before sundown or soon after this past weekend. **Reminder the High Plains duck season will close at sunset on Thursday January 14, 2016.** Hunters making plans to come out to hunt the decoy-only registration fields can check the maps on the Lower Oahe webpage to see what types of crops are in the fields along with the open or closed status of the fields. Drawings for the registration field's takes place each day one hour before sunrise.

No reports on any pass shooter success in the canal or pass shooting pit areas. The striped green area in Stanley County continued to see a flight last week however there were no hunter reports.

The 26th Annual Youth Goose Hunt took place this past weekend. Even with the low number of birds the hunt had a great turnout again this year with 100 kids between the ages of 12-15 attending. Harvest totals for the two day event showed that all of the volunteers time and effort paid off for the kids with them harvesting 122 birds overall. Harvest of birds is always nice for the event and kids but everyone involved knows it is all about getting the youth outdoors, teaching gun safety, meeting new friends and having fun while teaching them about waterfowl hunting with the use of decoys. The hunt took place on both private and public lands again this year which helped to make the event a success. The kids were all fed well too over the weekend with 10 gallons of chili, 15 dozen cookies, 12 bags of chips, 2 pans of brownies, 55 large pizzas and several cases of water and soda being consumed. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of several landowners, volunteers in the fields and the individuals and businesses throughout the state that made donations to the hunt.