

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2017-18 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of January 1, 2018

WALK-IN AREAS

Reports from last week came in that birds were flying over and around a couple of the fields, however now that much of Lake Oahe has frozen over in these areas it is uncertain how many birds have remained there.

REGISTRATION AREA

The cold front that moved in over the weekend the birds stayed on the water with very few coming out to feed. Lake Oahe started to freeze up over the weekend with reports coming in that it was mostly frozen down to the Fort Sully Area with pockets of open water that the birds in the areas were keeping open. The birds should start to move more as the temperature improves this week.

The 28th Annual Youth Goose Hunt will be taking place on January 6 and 7, 2018. For those interested in signing their child up space is limited with a few spots remaining either Saturday or Sunday. For more information about the Youth Goose Hunt, and how to sign up, a link to the flier is to the left of the Lower Oahe Report link.

With upland game hunting coming to a close on January 7, 2018 hunters are reminded that whenever waterfowl hunters are using the decoy-only registration fields upland game hunting is not allowed along with any signs designating them as open or closed. The access trails going into fields are for registered decoy hunters to get to their field only. These trails are not to be traveled by upland game hunters or waterfowl hunters out scouting.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

There were no reports from hunters over the weekend in the Peoria Flats to Spring Creek or the canal in the Okobojo Creek area because of the cold weather and almost no waterfowl flight.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

Reports before the cold front moved in from the striped green area in Stanley County were that the hunters are setting out decoys and doing well. The cold kept the birds from moving much over the weekend but as the temperatures improve this area should continue to have birds in and around it. Hunters are reminded to be considerate of those already in the field when arriving and leaving. The designated access trails in this area is allowed for dropping off and picking up equipment only. The solid green areas west of 1804 in the Cow and Okobojo Creek area has continued to see a few groups of hunters setting out decoys in the fields, with no reports on success since the cold. The striped and solid green area east of Grey Goose Road had a few flocks of birds around it before the cold this past weekend.

SUMMARY

With the cold temperatures experienced this past weekend most of the ducks and geese remained on the water with very few moving to feed. The aerial waterfowl survey was conducted this week. Results are posted on the website under The Missouri River Fall Waterfowl Counts. The Annual Youth Goose Hunt will be taking place on January 6 and 7, 2018. There will be some registration fields used for the event again this year however there will still plenty of registration fields to choose from for anyone planning on coming out this weekend. **A Beginner's Goose Hunt will taking place this year will be on January 20-21 2018. This event is open to beginner goose hunters; besides hunting they will be covering several topics throughout the weekend. Space is limited. For more information about this event contact Maggie Lindsey, Education Services Coordinator at 605-223-7667.**