

# Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2017-18 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of December 18, 2017

## WALK-IN AREAS

There are no hunter reports this week from the walk-in areas on success but there were good numbers of birds flying over a couple of the walk-in fields over the weekend.

## REGISTRATION AREA

The decoy only registration fields have continued to have hunters reporting back on mixed success, when the birds move off of the water in the morning success has been better, however one day they fly in the morning and then switch to mainly an afternoon flight making it difficult for everyone that is out scouting. Upland game hunting remains open in several areas, however hunters are reminded to watch for the signs designating the area as open or closed along with any waterfowl hunters that are in the field. Reminder to all hunters 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.

**If you are planning on making a trip out to hunt over the holidays, a reminder the Decoy-Only Registration trailer and fields will be closed to for drawing and hunting on Christmas Day and will re-open the day after Christmas with drawings taking place one hour before sunrise until the end of the season.**

## PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

A few reports from the pass shooting areas this week, hunters in the Peoria Flats to Spring creek areas reported seeing good numbers of birds over the weekend, however most were either just to the side of them or too high. Pass shooting opportunities in the canal in the Okobojo Creek area remains tough most days other than the windy ones since most of the birds sitting on the lake have been coming out high.

## SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

Reports coming in from the striped green area in Stanley County are that it slowed down some over the weekend but the area remains good when the birds in the Pierre area decide to fly out further west of town. 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 have seen a few groups of hunters setting out decoys in the fields, with no reports on success. The striped and solid green area east of Grey Goose Road has not seen much for waterfowl traffic however there have been a few flocks going that way on occasion so this area could start to improve.

## SUMMARY

**The Decoy-Only Registration trailer and fields will be closed to for drawing and hunting on Christmas Day and will re-open the day after Christmas with drawings taking place each day one hour before sunrise until the end of the season.**

Last week's aerial waterfowl survey showed an increase in the Canada goose and duck numbers for Lower Oahe and Pierre area. A flight is planned again this week as long as the weather allows, results from the survey will be posted on the website when completed.

Hunters wanting to give the decoy only registration fields a try that do not have decoys can reserve one of the three decoy loaner trailers. These trailers are free of charge to reserve and use. You can reserve one of the trailers by going to the links below the link for this report and selecting one of them. This will take you to a doodle page where you will select the date you would like to reserve a trailer and typing your first and last name along with a phone number. The Doodle pages are updated on Sundays to allow reserving one of the trailers up to two weeks in advance.

**The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Goose Hunt will be on January 5-7 2018 information can be found to the left of the link to this report.**