Waterfowl Impoundment Condition Report

Updated December 11, 2013

Every effort has been made to accurately report existing and/or anticipated conditions, but please note that conditions are subject to change for a variety of reasons and in some cases may vary from the information presented in this report.

NOTE: For all areas, refer to the current North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest to determine applicable hunt days for waterfowl and special regulations which may apply.

On managed (posted) waterfowl impoundments, hunters shall not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates, and hunting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates; decoys shall not be set out prior to 4:00 a.m. and must be removed by 3:00 p.m. each day. No person shall operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine on a managed waterfowl impoundment. On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."

COASTAL REGION

North River Game Land
Hunt Areas: NR1, NR2, and NR3 Impoundments (Permit Only Areas)

This area has three sub-impoundments. One sub-impoundment is managed for aquatic vegetation and the other two are managed for moist soil plants. All areas are flooded. Impoundment NR-1 (Blind 2) has an excellent stand of fall panicum with sedges and scattered smartweed. Impoundment NR-2 (Blind 3) is managed as an aquatic unit with an excellent stand of dwarf spikerush with sago pondweed present. Impoundment NR-3 (Blind 1) has scattered areas of fall panicum and Walter’s millet.

J. Morgan Futch Game Land
Hunt Areas: JMF1, JMF2, and JMF3 Impoundments (Permit Only Areas)

All areas are currently flooded. A variety of management is done on these impoundments including moist soil, aquatic, and flooded cropland with grain crops left. See map at end of this report for crop and blind locations. All blinds have been installed and are brushed.
Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land  
**Hunt Areas: Conoho Farms Impoundments; Unit A and Unit B ( Permit Only Areas)**

Unit’s A and B are combined to provide hunters with increased hunting areas. A hunter with a permit can hunt in either zone. Pumping continues in the Dr. Ray D. Minges Impoundment, but is nearing full pool. Swamp habitat is included in the area and offers additional opportunities. Impoundments have moist soil plants including smartweed and sedges, as well as some areas planted in Japanese millet. The three northern most impoundments are not flooded.

**Gull Rock Game Land**  
**Hunt Area: Loop Road Impoundment ( Non-Permit Area)**

This impoundment is managed for moist soil vegetation. E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Impoundment is currently flooded and offers hunting opportunities.

**Lantern Acres Game Land**  
**Hunt Area: Posted Waterfowl Impoundments ( Permit Only Areas)**

Two impoundments are located at Lantern Acres. Both impoundments are managed for moist soil plants, including smartweed and spike rushes. Both impoundments offer hunting opportunities.

**Goose Creek Game Land**  
**Hunt Areas: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Spring Creek, Hunting Creek, Smith Creek, Hobucken impoundments ( All Permit Areas after Oct. 1) and Parker Farm ( Permit Only Area)**

With the exception of Parker Farm, all Goose Creek waterfowl impoundments are being flooded to optimal levels and hunters should have ample areas to hunt. The rainfall dependant Parker Farm Tract offers only limited hunting opportunities due to inadequate rainfall over the last several years and an increase in dense vegetation that has occurred during these drought periods. Waterfowlers hunting at Pamlico Point should be aware of several recently constructed interior drainage ditches and cleaned rim canals. (Refer to Ditch Location Map at end of this report). Optimum water levels on all impoundments will be maintained, when possible, at 10 inches for the benefit of waterfowl. Rainfall and abnormally high wind tides sometimes increase water levels on Pamlico Point. Hurricane Irene destroyed the pump house and many access bridges on the Pamlico Point impoundments. The bridges have been replaced and a new pump house is under construction. Hunters may consider taking along small boats to aid in access.
Croatan Game Land
Hunt Areas: Catfish Lake Impoundment, Great Lake and Catfish Lake (Non-Permit Areas)

Both Catfish and Great Lakes support water levels sufficient to attract waterfowl and provide hunting opportunities. Recent rain has improved the availability of water. Sub-impoundments 1, 2, and 6 will be ready for the Oct. 2-5 season. All Catfish Lake Sub-impoundments will be flooded to optimum water levels for waterfowl use by the Nov. 9 season. Moist soil management has produced excellent stands of native vegetation, especially smartweed, and disking has produced areas of open water.

Holly Shelter Game Land
Hunt Areas: Lodge Road Impoundment and Greentrees 1 & 2 (Non-Permit Areas)

Lodge Road Impoundment has sufficient water levels to attract waterfowl and provide hunting opportunities. Dike leaks, caused by ground fire from the 2011 Juniper Road Wildfire, have been repaired and are being monitored for further leaks. Pumping will continue to obtain optimum water levels. Voluntary millet crops, and 10 acres of Japanese millet, are excellent and the wildfire created much open water in the impoundment. Hunters may consider taking along small boats to aid in access.

Due to issues with water control structures, Holly Shelter Greentree Reservoirs 1 and 2 are not flooded and currently offer no waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Rhodes Pond Game Land
Hunt Area: Rhodes Mill Pond (Permit Only Area)

Recent damage to the dam has required draining of the lake for repairs. Normal water levels are not expected throughout the 2013-2014 waterfowl season and no permits will be issued.

Suggs Mill Pond Game Land
Hunt Areas: SMP1, SMP2, SMP3, SMP4, SMP5, Jessup’s Mill Pond, Little Singletary Lake, and Suggs Mill Pond Lake (Permit Only Areas)

Suggs Mill Pond Lake, Little Singletary Lake, and Jessups Mill Pond have adequate water levels and provide hunting opportunities in all areas of these waters. All impoundments 1 through 5 have sufficient water levels to offer hunting opportunities. Small grains planted in these impoundments include Japanese millet, grain sorghum (milo), and corn. There was an excellent response of highly desirable native vegetation from last year’s soil disturbance prior to flooding. A continued effort to promote native vegetation has occurred this year with additional areas being disked that will provide open-water areas this hunting season. Excessive rainfall throughout the growing season gave little opportunity to manage weeds in areas planted in small grains, leaving the condition of crops marginal. These impoundments are managed to provide small grains, open water, and native vegetation for waterfowl and waterfowl hunting.
White Oak River Game Land  
Hunt Area: White Oak Impoundment (Permit Area after Oct. 1)  

This impoundment is currently flooded to optimum levels and offers hunting opportunities for the waterfowl season.

PIEDMONT REGION  

R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land  
Hunt Areas: Brumley and Caswell Impoundments (Permit Only Areas)  

The Brumley Impoundments are fully flooded and offer ideal water conditions for hunting. The Caswell Impoundment is essentially at full pool and recent rainfall should maintain or improve this condition. Call (336) 694-9272 prior to scheduled hunt dates for updated information.

Butner Falls of the Neuse Game Land:  
Hunt Areas: Flat River, Butner Depot, Beaverdam, and Bluff Impoundments (Permit Only Areas)  

All of the permit-only impoundments are at or very near full pool for the late season and offer ideal conditions for a diversity of species. **Note that certain areas and specifically the major ditches are too deep for safe wading.** Pumping will continue until desired water levels are achieved, provided that source water remains available. Near optimal conditions are currently present in all portions of the Butner Depot, and most all portions of Beaverdam and Flat River Impoundments. Flat River “A” remains well-flooded and Flat River “B” is slightly below full pool, though additional pumping may bring it to capacity soon. Following the recent grading and sub-impoundment dike work, Bluff Impoundment now has considerable open water for hunting. The eastern sub-impoundment has been filled, and pumping will continue on the western sub-impoundments but at a limited capacity because of water transfer issues. The remainder of Bluff outside the sub-impoundment dikes will be slightly shallower, more safely wadeable, and likely more appealing to puddle ducks than in previous years. **Note that a foot bridge (marked with reflectors) has been completed that allows hunters to cross the main central ditch from the small field below Brickhouse Road into the main field of the impoundment and towards the newest sub-impoundment.**

Hunt Areas: Upper Brickhouse Road and Patterson Road (Greentree Impoundments); and Knapp of Reeds (Open Impoundment) – Non-Permit Areas  

Knapp of Reeds Impoundment may only support limited and temporary hunting opportunities for the late season. This area has retained only a fraction of the recent rainfall runoff and currently lacks adequate water to support suitable hunting conditions or favorable waterfowl habitat. A significant leak in the water control structure has prevented water accumulation, and therefore only after large scale rain events may the water backed up stay present for a few days. This situation is currently being evaluated for an immediate/temporary fix to hold until the end of
hunting season, but it is likely that a permanent solution will not be found until next summer when the pipe and riser can be fully inspected and repaired or replaced. **Note that although no permit is required to hunt Knapp of Reeds, this is a posted impoundment and hunting is prohibited after 1:00 pm.** The greentrees will have huntable water in the late season. Patterson Road Impoundment is at full pool, with water spilling over the water control structure. Upper Brickhouse Road Impoundment has huntable water along the hillside and the main channels but has not reached a level to flood extensive bottomlands at this time. If adequate rainfall continues, additional runoff and pumping from Knapp of Reeds Creek may further fill this impoundment for the end of the late season.

Lower Brickhouse Road, Little River, and Hwy. 98 Impoundments are not included in the 2013-2014 flooding schedule.

Call (919) 620-0089 for updated information on condition of Butner-Falls impoundments.

**Jordan Game Land:**
**Hunt Areas (Greentree Impoundments): #1 Upper Little Creek, #4 Stagecoach, and #6 Beaver Creek - Non-Permit Areas**

All impoundments scheduled for flooding have significant huntable water for the late season. All of the stop logs have been dropped in the water control structures and the impoundments are at full pool after recent rains.

Impoundments #2 Lower Little Creek, #3 New Hope River, #5 Northeast Creek, and #7 I-40 are not included in the 2013-2014 flooding schedule.

Call (919) 620-0089 for updated information on condition of Jordan impoundments.

**Second Creek Game Land**
**Hunt Area: Posted Waterfowl Impoundment (Permit Only Area)**

The posted waterfowl impoundment on Second Creek Game Land does not include control structures to facilitate artificial manipulation of water levels. This area is completely dependent on rainfall and collection of surface water; therefore, conditions may vary throughout the season.

Current water level in Second Creek Impoundment is estimated to be approximately 60-70 percent of full pool capacity.
Pamlico Point Impoundment - Goose Creek Game Land
Ditch Location Map