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Weekly Waterfowl Report
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's waterfowl report for Jan. 7, 2009.

The following report is a compilation of state reports and waterfowl surveys from across Arkansas. This report provides a look at habitat conditions across the state.

Duck hunting hot and cold since Christmas

LITTLE ROCK – Mother Nature has hit The Natural State with an odd mix of conditions in the first few days of 2009, complicating matters for the state's waterfowl hunters.

The new year began with a warming trend, and many areas of the state experienced near-record high temperatures over the weekend. But that changed as a cold front moved across the state on Sunday. Winter weather followed earlier this week, and ice and freezing rain coated trees, power lines and some roadways in many parts of the state.

Similarly, many reports indicate hunting success has been somewhat up and down during the first few days of 2009, with hunters finding success one day and not the next.

Above-average temperatures are in the forecast Thursday and Friday, but conditions are predicted to return closer to normal through the weekend and early next week.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission staff are conducting aerial waterfowl surveys this week. Results should be available in time for next week's waterfowl report.

The waterfowl report provides capsule information from agency personnel in all corners of Arkansas and is updated each Wednesday throughout waterfowl season. Just go to <http://www.agfc.com/data-facts-maps/publications/agfc-newsletters/weekly-waterfowl-report.aspx> or to receive the report each week on your computer, send an email to arkansasoutdoors@agfc.com and type "Waterfowl Report" in the subject line.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS					
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Dave Donaldson	Upper Island GTR	Fair to good, with moderate	269.9 msl ~ 95% flooded and holding	View current weather	Area Info and Map

Black River WMA		abundance of mast crop within the GTRs.		conditions and forecast for Delaplaine, Arkansas	Please remember to keep all boats off the levees so AGFC personnel can access the area. Boats that are blocking access will be moved. Unattended trailers are not to be left overnight in parking areas. They will be removed at owner's expense.
	Lower Island GTR	Fair to good, with moderate abundance of mast crop within the GTRs.	268.4 msl ~ 90% flooded.		
	Upper Reyno GTR	Fair to good, with moderate abundance of mast crop within the GTRs.	267.4 msl ~ 95% flooded and rising		
	Lower Reyno GTR	Fair to good, with moderate abundance of mast crop within the GTRs.	266.4 msl ~ 90% flooded.		
	Winchester GTR	Fair to good, with moderate abundance of mast crop within the GTRs.	263.5 msl ~90% flooded and rising		
View Current Gauge Readings					
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Shirey Bay Rainey Brake WMA	Adam's Brake GTR	Fair to good, with moderate abundance of mast crop within the GTRs.	100% flooded	View current weather conditions and forecast for Lynn, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
	Rainey Brake GTR	Fair to good, with moderate abundance of mast crop within the GTRs.	100% flooded		
	Phase III Moist-soil Unit	Fair wetland/type vegetation.	10% flooded		
	Charles Crisp Moist-soil Unit	Fair wetland/type vegetation.	10% flooded		
	Ward Field Moist-soil Unit	Fair wetland/type vegetation.	0% flooded		
	River Field Moist-soil Unit	Good wetland/type vegetation.	100% flooded		
View Current Gauge Readings					
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
St. Francis Sunken	Hunt Area	There is good acorn production in	Water levels in huntable areas are completely dependent on St. Francis	View current weather conditions	Area Info and Map

Lands WMA View Current Gauge Readings		most areas within the floodways.	River flows. The water level at the Oak Donnick gauge is at 213.03 feet.	and forecast for Trumann, Arkansas	The target water level at the Oak Donnick gauge is 212.00 feet. Most natural waterways have water, but may be shallow in some areas. Please use caution while boating! Duck abundance is considered poor in the area.
	Snowden WRA	There is a good stand of smartweed, panic grass, millet and sedges within the borrow areas.	50% Flooded		
	Payneway WRA	There is a good stand of smartweed and a fair stand of millet and sedges within the borrow areas.	40% Flooded		
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Earl Buss Bayou DeView WMA View Current Gauge Readings	South Oliver GTR	Acorn production is considered good.	35% flooded with shallow water found within the natural sloughs and ditches. Current gauge reading is 0.32 feet.	View current weather conditions and forecast for Weiner, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
	Thompson Tract GTR	Acorn production is considered good.	Approximately 75% is flooded, with most water found around the pipeline. Current gauge reading is .048 feet.		
	Lake Hogue WRA	A small amount of smartweed is found around the edges.	Normal pool		
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Big LakeWMA View Current Gauge Readings	North Woods GTR	Good acorn production in the timber	Gauge reading is 235.7. Target level is 235.5. 100% of the north woods are flooded.	View current weather conditions and forecast for Manila, Arkansas	When the Ditch 81 Extension gauge (upstream of Big Lake North end control structure) near Manila reads 17.5, water is beginning to come over the north levee degrade on Big Lake WMA. When the Ditch 81 Extension gauge reads 18.0 or higher, the water level on the WMA will rise extremely fast and caution is needed while on the area. Beware of logs beneath the water in boat runs.
	South Woods GTR	Good acorn production in the timber	Gauge reading is 235.4 MSL. Target level is 234.5. 100% of the south woods are flooded.		
	Simmons Field	Fair	100% of the unit is flooded.		
CENTRAL ARKANSAS					
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Bell Slough WMA	Bell Slough GTR	Mast crop is fair and spotty.	GTR is 100% flooded	View current weather conditions	Area Info and Map
	Palarm Creek	Moderate	Both units are 100%		

	Waterfowl Rest Area	seed production on native vegetation with some residual millet.	flooded.	and forecast for Mayflower, Arkansas	
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Holland Bottoms WMA	Hunt Area	Fair to moderate mast crop.	The WMA is primarily dry, with a few shallow pockets of water. Heavy rainfall in the Cabot area is required to flood large portions of the WMA.	View current weather conditions and forecast for Cabot, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
	Lake Pickthorne Waterfowl Rest Area	Moderate seed production on native vegetation with moderate residual millet.	Both units are 100% flooded.		
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Harris Brake WMA	Harris Brake GTRs	Moderate to excellent mast crop.	Lower unit is 100% flooded, and the upper unit is 80% flooded.	View current weather conditions and forecast for Perryville, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Lake Conway	Pierce and Dix Creeks	Normal	The lake is at 100% of capacity.	View current weather conditions and forecast for Mayflower, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
EAST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS					
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA	North GTR	Excellent mast crop	100% flooded. Water has fallen slightly as a result of falling water levels on the White River.	View current weather conditions and forecast for Bald Knob, Arkansas	Water is currently over the road in several locations and the main gate is closed at Mitchell Corner.
	South GTR	Excellent Mast Crop	100% flooded. Water has fallen slightly as a result of falling water levels on the White River.		
View Current Gauge Readings					
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA	Units A, B, & C	Because of the White River, impoundments A, B and C have been flooded all year. Some food is available on the shallow flats and ridges .	These units are at full pool and are accessible by boat.	View current weather conditions and forecast for Georgetown, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
	-		This unit is at full pool and accessible by ATV by mobility-impaired sportsmen only .		
	-		Only water available is the boat lanes and shallow		
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	-				
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<p>View Current Gauge Readings</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Unit H (Mobility-impaired Blind)</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Units E & F</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Units G & I</u></p>	<p>This unit has a fair stand of Smartweed, Wild Millet, and variety of sedges.</p> <p>These units have a fair stand of Smartweed, Wild Millet, and variety of sedges.</p> <p>These units are designed to be a permanent water source. Food availability is fair around the shallow edges</p>	<p>depressions. Accessible by foot traffic only.</p> <p>These units are at full pool and are accessible by foot traffic only.</p>	<p>A quota permit draw is held two hours before official shooting time on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday throughout waterfowl season. A computer on-line draw has been established for five stations and one mobility-impaired blind throughout the season. Most hunting stations can be accessed by boat but some will require walking.</p>
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Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
<p>Rex Hancock Black Swamp WMA</p> <p>View Current Gauge Readings</p>	Main WMA	<p>Good Mast Crop</p> <p>Food availability is fair</p>	Recent rainfall has improved boating access and hunting opportunities on the WMA.	<p>View current weather conditions and forecast for Cotton Plant, Arkansas</p>	<p>Area Info and Map</p> <p>Need additional rainfall to maintain the present water levels for an extended period of time.</p>

Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
<p>Sheffield Nelson Dagmar WMA</p>	Mud Slough GTR	Good Mast Crop	Water in sloughs. Water has risen about 2/10ths.	<p>View current weather conditions and forecast for Cotton Plant, Arkansas</p>	<p>Area Info and Map</p> <p>Bayou Deview is currently accessible by small watercraft.</p>
	Apple Lake WRA	Lake is in great shape and provides feeding and loafing areas for Waterfowl	Lake is at full pool.		

[View Current Gauge Readings](#)

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS					
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Bayou Meto WMA	Upper Vallier GTR	Good	180.0 (Full Flood Pool 180) 100%	View current weather conditions and forecast for Humphrey, Arkansas	Area Info and Map The Halowell boat ditch has underwater obstructions, so watch for markers.
	Lower Vallier GTR	Good	179.6 (Full Flood Pool 179.5) 100%		
	Government Cypress GTR	Good	179.8 (Full Flood Pool 179.5) 100%		
	Buckingham Flats GTR	Good	100%.		
	Temple Island GTR	Good	100%.		
	Halowell WRA	Under construction.	Under construction, putting in new levees and water control structures. East unit only is 100% flooded.		
	Wrape Plantation WRA	Good	90%		
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Cut-Off Creek WMA	Hunt Area	Fair	131.2 MSL. 100% flooded	View current weather conditions and forecast for Collins, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
	Pigeon Creek Waterfowl Rest Area	Fair	100%		
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Seven Devils Swamp WMA		Fair	131.0 MSL. 100%	View current weather conditions and forecast for Collins, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Trusten Holder WMA		Good	Arkansas River gauge at Pendleton Ferry was at 26.4 feet on Jan. 5.	View current weather conditions and forecast for Yancopin, Arkansas	Area Info and Map River water only, with variable levels of backwater flooding.
View Current Gauge Readings					
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Choctaw Island WMA		Good	Mississippi River gauge at Arkansas City was at 25.2 feet	View current weather conditions and forecast	Area Info and Map River water only,

View Current Gauge Readings			on Jan. 5.	for Arkansas City, Arkansas	with variable levels of backwater flooding.
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Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA		Current conditions are fair.	20-25% flooded (in sloughs only).	View current weather conditions and forecast for Huttig, Arkansas	Area Info and Map

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Dr. Lester Sitzes, III Bois d' Arc WMA	Bois d' Arc Lake WRA	Closed to hunting	100% flooded	View current weather conditions and forecast for Texarkana, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
	Red Slough WRA	Closed to hunting	10% flooded		
	GTR	Few ducks	90% flooded		
	Little Grassy	Few ducks	75% flooded		

Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
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Millwood Lake		Habitat conditions fair to good. Fair number of ducks.	Normal level is 259.2 Current level is 259.09	View current weather conditions and forecast for Texarkana, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
View Current Gauge Readings					

Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
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Sulphur River WMA	Mercer Bayou	Fair because of fluctuating water level and late summer rain .	1 foot below normal pool	View current weather conditions and forecast for Texarkana, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
	Henry Moore WRA	Closed to hunting.	Low because of pump problems.		

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA	Willow Island	Natural Vegetation	100%	View current weather conditions and forecast for Blackwell, Arkansas	Area Info and Map All impoundments are 100% flooded. All moist-soil units have relatively poor stands of productive moist-soil plants for waterfowl
	Little Hole	Natural Vegetation	100%		
	Red Gate	Natural Vegetation	100%		
	Pig Trough	Natural Vegetation	100%		
	Cedar Ridge	Natural Vegetation	100%		

Duck Trap	Natural Vegetation	100%	forage because of late-summer flooding.
Salt Lick	Natural Vegetation	100%	
Bobby's Pond	Natural Vegetation	100%	
Race Track	Natural Vegetation	100%	
Controversy Corner	Disked in August	100%	
Rommel Marsh	Natural Vegetation	100%	
Mud Pond	Natural Vegetation	100%	
Turkey Pond	30% Disked in August, 70% Natural Vegetation	100%	
Teeny Pond	Natural Vegetation	100%	

Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Petit Jean River WMA View Current Gauge Readings	Santa Fe GTR	Green Timber	100%	View current weather conditions and forecast for Ola, Arkansas	Area Info and Map Petit Jean River level at Highway 7 is 7.06 feet as of Jan. 5.
	Olin Cain MSU	Disked in August	100%		
	Blacklands MSU	10% disked in August. 90% natural vegetation.	100%		
	Slaty Crossing MSUs	Disked in August	100%		
	Pullen Pond	Buttonbush	100%		
	Pond Creek GTR	Flooded Hardwoods. Poor mast production from red oak species.	100%		
	Slaty Pond GTR	Buttonbush with little waterfowl forage production.	50%		
	Black Lands Duck Area	Natural vegetation.	100%		

Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Galla Creek WMA	Galla Creek GTR	Buttonbush and smartweed.	0% flooded	View current weather conditions and forecast for Pottsville, Arkansas	Area Info and Map Because of restoration work on this GTR, the water control structure will not be closed this year in an attempt to keep the GTR dry for restoration purposes. Flooding will resume at a time in the future when hydrology work is complete and

					hardwood restoration has been accomplished. This is the second consecutive year that the structure has remained open and it is likely that two additional years will be required.
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Frog Bayou WMA	Unit 1	Planted millet	95%	View current weather conditions and forecast for Alma, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
	Unit 2	Native Vegetation	100%		
	Unit 3	Native Vegetation	85%		
	Unit 4	Planted Millet	90%		
	Unit 5	Native Vegetation	90%		
	Unit 6	Native Vegetation and Volunteer Millet	75%		
	Unit 7	Native Vegetation	100%		
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Lloyd Millwood Nimrod WMA	Nimrod GTR	Flooded green timber.	100% flooded	View current weather conditions and forecast for Plainview, Arkansas	Area Info and Map
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Ozark Pool	Dyer Lake Cells	Planted millet and native vegetation.	3 cells 100% Far western cell is rain dependant (no water) .	View current weather conditions and forecast for Dyer Arkansas	No sheet water in fields along river .
Area	Impoundment	Habitat	Water Levels	Weather	Comments
Dardanelle WMA	Johnson County WRA	Moist soil units in native vegetation .	100% No water in woods	View current weather conditions and forecast for Clarksville, Arkansas	No hunting on Johnson County WRA.
	McKennon Bottoms	Millet and moist soil plants .	100%		Half-day hunting for other areas.
	Potter's	Millet and moist	100%		

	Pothole/Hartman Waterfowl Unit	soil plants.			
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Information on river levels can be found at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/> or <http://water.usgs.gov/realtime.html> or http://www.agfc.com/education/waterlevels_details.html

Sunrise/sunset tables are available at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.html and in the *Arkansas Waterfowl Regulations Guide*.

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