



TOP 35

**FISHING WATERS**  
In Grant County, Washington

For more information, please contact:

**Grant County Tourism Commission**

P.O. Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823  
509.765.7888 • 800.992.6234



**TourGrantCounty.com**



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For more information on  
Grant County accommodations  
[www.tourgrantcounty.com](http://www.tourgrantcounty.com)

**Grant County Tourism Commission**  
**PO Box 37**  
**Ephrata, Washington 98837**

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**G**rant County, Washington offers more variety of quality fishing than some entire states in our nation. Packed into this scenic high desert landscape are over 140 lakes and the Columbia River. Anglers travel from all over the country to experience the thrill of catching Chinook salmon, big rainbow trout, walleye, large and smallmouth bass that are of a size that are considered trophies in some areas of the nation. Where does a visiting angler start?

The Grant County Tourism Commission publishes this "Top 35 Grant County Fishing Waters" handbook to help. It is intended to give the reader a quick reference guide to Grant County, Washington's top 35 fishing locations, how to get to each water attraction and what kind of fishing opportunities each offers. The center pages of the handbook are where you will find a Grant County map showing the 35 Fishing Waters locations (GPS coordinates, descriptions and a photograph are listed on each location page). Also contained in this handbook is a good list of Fishing and Hunting Guide Services currently serving visitors to the Grant County region.

Anglers should always check the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Regulations pamphlet for the opening and closing dates of the lakes and rivers that they plan to fish. That pamphlet will also include information on the bag limits, size restrictions, two rod endorsement and other required licenses, permits and passes. The pamphlet is available at most sporting goods stores, and can be found on-line at [www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov).

**Go Fishing  
with Friends**  
in Grant County,  
Washington.



Grant County has over 140 different Lakes and Fishing Waters. There are primarily four types. All four types offer great fishing, hiking, sports and recreational value. More Washington State Fishing Licenses are sold to anglers for fishing in Grant County Lakes and Waters than any other Washington State county.



**Reclamation Lakes/Reservoirs** - These man-made lakes have been established to provide water for great fishing, sports, camping, recreation and irrigation. Joined by a network of canals they are located from the Grand Coulee Dam to the south Grant County line.



**Ice Age Flood Lakes** - These lakes were carved out of the land by the ancient ice age floods and usually offer spectacular and very unique visual settings.



**River, Spring and Creek fed Lakes** - Most common in nature are the lakes that are replenished by springs, creeks and rivers.



**Seep Lakes** - Natural and man-made seeps lakes have occurred south of Potholes Reservoir. These lakes are filled with ground water that has seeped under and around dams and reservoir walls. These southern Grant County lakes are important for fish, small wildlife, birds, and butterfly habitat.



J. Craig Sweat

# 1 Potholes Reservoir

(28,000 acres)  
46.996189,  
-119.298678



Open  
Year-round

The number and size of walleye that Potholes Reservoir produces places it number one of all walleye lakes in the state. It also is known as one of the best bass lakes, for both largemouth and smallmouth. Yellow perch are abundant and of a size that attracts anglers here year-round. Populations of crappie and bluegill have rebounded in the lake, too. Walleye anglers prefer using the Slow Death Hook technique on bottom walkers, and worm harnesses and spinners also are productive, as are crank baits and blade baits. The walleye action has become year-round on Potholes. Bass anglers use a wide variety of plastics and lures and find the best opportunities during the pre-spawn period when bass are feeding aggressively to gain weight to produce optimum spawn. Potholes is the site of multiple bass tournaments and a professional walleye circuit tournament every year. Often overlooked is the great fishing for rainbow trout, with many fish of 3 to 6 pounds taken every year. Potholes is served by a large private resort, a state park and has many WDFW boat launches and accesses.



Don Hamilton

# 2 Banks Lake

(24,900 acres)  
47.85385,  
-119.171805



Open  
Year-round

The annual Jamboree for bass clubs throughout Washington State has been held at Banks Lake for over 25 years, which is a strong statement for the quality of the fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Bass fishing starts in the early spring and lasts clear through November with the Freeze Out Tournament. One of the premier walleye tournaments in the state is also held at Banks Lake. A recent regulation change makes limit fishing for walleye a common occurrence. Excellent fishing for walleye and bass can be found from one end of the 27-mile reservoir to the other. Large rainbow trout are also available on Banks Lake, and a "Triple Fish Challenge" fishing derby challenges anglers to catch a smallmouth bass, a walleye and a rainbow to win the two-day event. It is held the last weekend of April every year. There are also very good numbers of large perch available on Banks, and lake variety whitefish of state record size. The scenery on Banks Lake is spectacular with Steamboat Rock a centerpiece. There is a large campground and marina at Coulee City at the south end of the lake, a large state park at Steamboat Rock, boat launches and public access sites and a resort with a great tackle shop, boat launch and docks along the east shore and at Barker Canyon on the west shore. Walleye anglers find the Slow Death Hook technique productive on Banks, and also use worm harnesses and spinners or jigs. Bass anglers use crank baits in the spring to take aggressive smallmouth and catch some very large rainbow incidentally. Large perch are commonly taken by walleye anglers.



Bill Burke

### 3 Moses Lake

(6,800 acres)

47.184562,  
-119.359089



Open  
Year-round

Moses Lake has historically been one of the top producers of walleye in the state and with a management change it is now producing more large fish. Anglers find good walleye fishing in the spring in the shallower areas of the lake, and then find them deeper as the water warms, although you will not find water much deeper than 30 feet in Moses Lake. The bass fishing in Moses Lake has improved to the point that there are now bass tournaments being held here, along with the annual walleye tournament. Moses Lake produces some of the largest perch in the state and although most are taken incidentally by walleye anglers, these fish attract large crowds of anglers to fish for them through the ice in the winter. Walleye anglers here prefer the Slow Death Hook technique or worm harnesses and spinners. There are shallow flats in Moses Lake that allow bass anglers to fish for them on the beds in the spring. Rainbow trout are not common but when caught are very large, up to 3 and 4 pounds. Crappie are making a comeback, too. There is Blue Heron city park near the mid point of the lake and Connelly Park on the north shore offers an excellent boat launch, fishing pier and day use facilities. The fishing pier provides access to some prime water near the I-90 bridge.



Don Hamilton

### 4 Blue Lake

(534 acres)

47.567302,  
-119.443915



Open  
4th Sat. in April  
– Sept. 30

Managed as a trout water for decades Blue Lake is one of the most popular destinations for the annual Lowland Lake opener, the last weekend of April. It is so consistently good that RV's line up along the highway on its shores many days in advance of the opening weekend. Blue Lake produces excellent catches of rainbow trout that average over 12 inches in the spring, with carryover trout to 18 inches. There are also brown trout available at Blue. The lake is rehabilitated at intervals to maintain the excellent trout fishing, and can be very good for yellow perch and smallmouth bass prior to these "rehab's". There are two private resorts and two WDFW public accesses on the lake. Anglers commonly use a Wedding Ring spinner and a worm behind a gang troll for the trout here. Floating Rapalas can also be very effective trolled. Trolling flies in the evenings is also popular. This area has been a destination resort and state park, open to the public for over 50 years.



Bill Burke

## 5 Park Lake

(338 acres)

47.588003,  
-119.40048



Open  
4th Sat. in April  
– Sept. 30

Just up the road from Blue Lake and with the same trout management plan Park Lake has treated thousands of anglers to excellent fishing for decades. Rainbow trout also average over 12 inches on the opening weekend and Park produces a large number of carryover rainbow of 17 to 20 inches. It is also close to several other popular trout lakes which include Deep Lake, Perch Lake, Vic Meyers Lake and Dry Falls Lake. Trout anglers apply the same techniques to catch Park Lake trout as those on Blue Lake. There is also good smallmouth bass fishing and perch fishing between “rehab” intervals. Park Lake is served by a private resort and state park, which has a nine-hole golf course, and there is one WDFW water access.



Don Hamilton

## 6 Burke Lake

(69 acres)

47.133263,  
-119.915761)



Open  
March 1 –  
July 31

Burke Lake is one of the lakes in the Quincy Wildlife Area that opens on March 1st. This early trout opener attracts hundreds of anglers each year. It is made even more popular by the annual Tagged Trout Derby conducted by the Quincy Tourism Association, usually on March 1st. Anglers who buy tickets can win up to \$2,000.00 by catching a tagged trout with the right code. Burke Lake is always productive for rainbow that average 11 inches and is supplemented with larger fish by the QVTA for the derby, including a couple dozen triploid trout weighing several pounds. There is very good bank access to Burke Lake and a public launch on the south shore and a rough launch at the extreme east end of the lake. Most anglers fish with dough baits from shore at Burke, but trolling is effective with Wedding Ring spinners and worms and other trolling lures. It is best in the early spring and the fall.



Bill Burke

## 7 Martha Lake

(15 acres)  
47.094756,  
-119.836975



Open  
March 1 –  
July 31

Martha Lake is long and narrow and despite its small size draws large crowds for the March 1st opening day of trout fishing. It offers very good shore access and consistently produces some of the best catch rates on the opener. It also produces some of the largest rainbow of these early trout fishing opener lakes. Most anglers will be casting bait from shore here. Best to fish this one early as most of trout are removed by anglers soon after the March 1st opener.



Don Hamilton

## 8 Corral Lake

(70 acres)  
46.96393,  
-119.302999



Open  
Year-round

Corral Lake is just across the road from MarDon Resort on Potholes Reservoir and offers very good shore access. It is open year-round but gets the most attention in the early spring. It is a rainbow trout lake and every year produces some of the biggest rainbow. Most of the fish are taken by anglers using bait cast from shore. Nestled south of O'Sullivan Dam, Corral Lake is fishable on windy days with the dam providing a wonderful wind break. Until the next lake rehab, fishing for largemouth bass is a good option, with catches of up to 19" being reported in the Fall of 2015. There are two WDFW water access sites on the lake, including a boat ramp on the north end and a handicapped site as well.



Bob Adler



Bob Adler

**9**  
**Priest Lake Pool**  
(below Wanapum Dam)



Open  
Year-round

The upper Columbia River salmon season begins right here below Wanapum Dam on July 1st every year. Anglers focus on the bay below the rip rap face of the dam. The best early season fishing for king salmon and often sockeye is found right here. Anglers trolling for salmon crowd this bay and catches can be very good. Most of these salmon anglers are trolling Super Baits or herring for the kings, or dodgers and hoochies tipped with shrimp for the sockeye. There is a launch right at the edge of the bay with a large parking area, and another launch can be used down stream off Huntzinger Road. This launch is also used when the fall Chinook appear in very good numbers in this stretch of the Columbia. Most anglers will troll Super Baits off the mouth of Crab Creek or near the railroad trestle just up stream. The months of July, September and early October are the best months to fish for big kings on the Priest Lake Pool. This pool also provides good walleye and bass fishing. There is now a catch-and-keep sturgeon fishery in the Priest Lake Pool. Typically opening in early June and running through early September anglers can keep two sturgeon per day, from 38 to 72 inches. The big fish are usually found in slack water and can be taken from shore as well as from anchored boats. The best baits are roll mop herring or jarred squid. There are walleye throughout this pool, too, and very good numbers of smallmouth bass.

This stretch of the Columbia attracts more anglers than any other on the upper Columbia for fall fishing for king salmon. The fall return of these “up river brights” is one of the largest and most consistent in the state. Most anglers focus on the area known as White Bluffs all the way up to just below Priest Rapids Dam. Hundreds of anglers account for thousands of hours of fishing here and the catch rate for big kings is excellent. Anglers troll Super Baits in the deeper holes and back troll plugs and eggs in the shallower stretches. The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) conducts the King of the Reach derby each year, the weekend after the salmon season closes. Only CCA members with derby tickets are allowed to fish the Reach, and the reason is that they live capture wild Chinook to deliver to the Grant County PUD hatchery. This has proven to be a very effective way to boost the wild fish numbers for brood stock at the hatchery. This stretch of the Columbia is also known as one of the best places to catch sturgeon on the river, and has excellent bass and walleye fishing.

**10**  
**Hanford Reach**  
(below Priest Rapids Dam)



Open  
Year-round





Bill Burke



Don Hamilton

## 11 Rocky Ford Creek



Open  
Year-round

There is approximately a mile of public access below the Trout Lodge Hatchery and the lower boundary on Rocky Ford Creek, and it is loaded with big rainbow trout. Through an agreement with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Trout Lodge keeps the creek's population of rainbow at a level that attracts fly fishers from all over Washington State and beyond. Open all year, it is a selective gear fishing water requiring fly fishing with single barbless hooks only and no bait allowed. There is no wading allowed so there are vast stretches of the creek that trout can use to rest and avoid anglers. It is a thrill just to walk the edges and see rainbow trout that are well over 20 inches long and weigh over 4 pounds. One of the reasons that Rocky Fork is so popular, besides having the largest population of big trout anywhere in the state, is that it is spring fed and never freezes. When winter has all other waters capped with ice Rocky Ford is fishable. It actually gets more traffic in the late fall and winter than other times of the year. By far the most popular method for hooking these large rainbow is using an indicator with a Scud fly below it. Fly anglers also use Egg patterns, and the White Bunny Leech is also a favorite. Dry flies such as small Adams or Blue Duns also can be effective at times on Rocky Ford.

These two lakes are traditional favorites for anglers when they open on April 1st. They both are known to produce hefty rainbow. In the second year following the occasional rehabilitation they both produce rainbow of 17 inches and larger. Upper Hampton is reached by trail and receives less pressure than the lower lake. As a result it will often consistently produce trout of over 20 inches. Lower Hampton has a boat launch (internal combustion motors prohibited on both lakes), and has good bank access. Of the many lakes in the Seep Lake Wildlife Area of the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge these two are always at the top of the list of lakes to try on the April 1st opener and the early spring months. This set of lakes demands more fishing pressure during the month of September when rainbow over 2 lbs up to 8 lbs are available. Many anglers are fishing with dough baits from shore on both lakes, and fly anglers will carry a float tube or pontoon boat to the upper lake and will troll Woolly Buggler patterns or fish chromomids.

## 12 Upper and Lower Hampton Lakes

(51 & 18 acres

46.933717,  
-119.226877)

46.928442,  
-119.221667

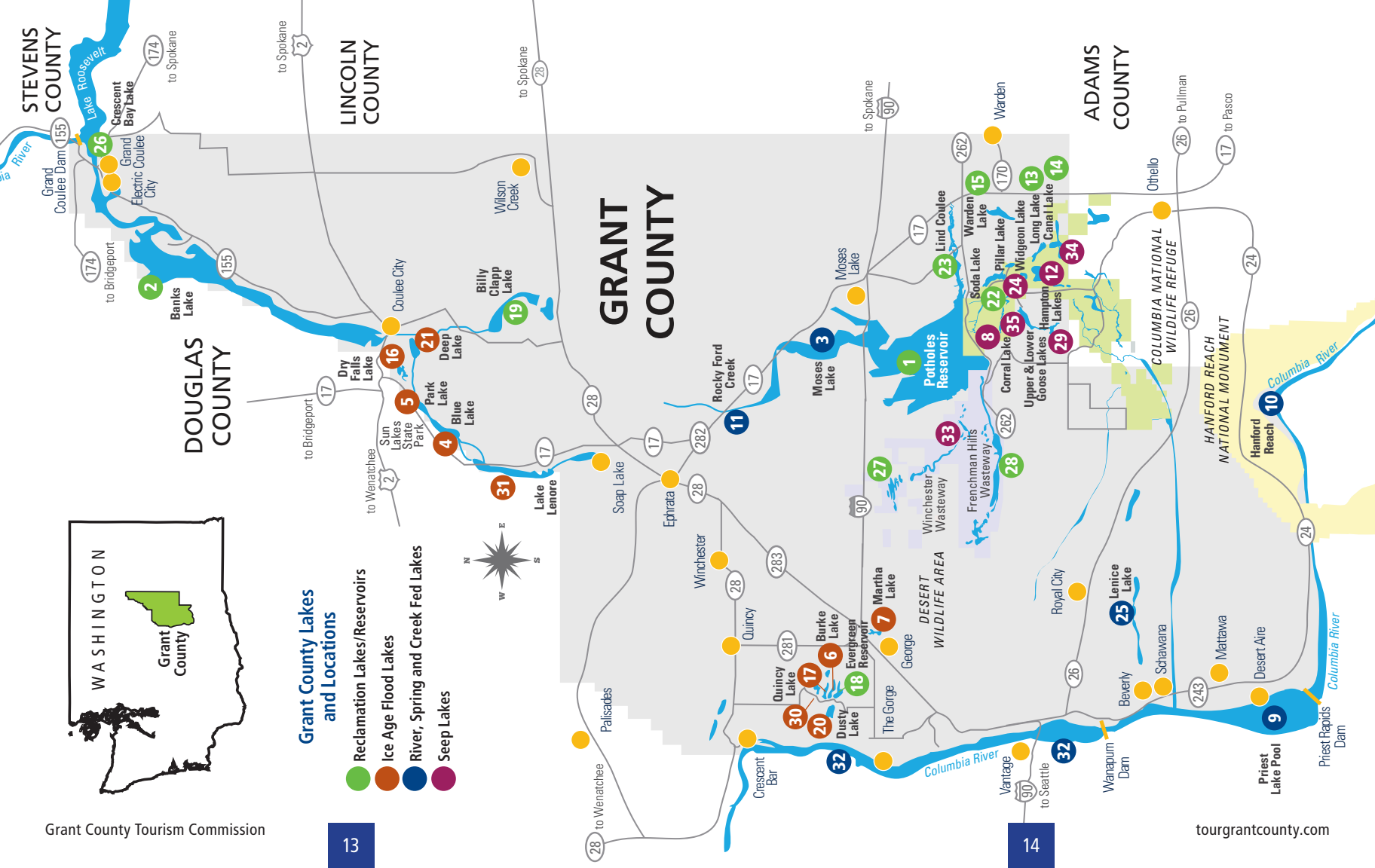


Open  
April 1 –  
Sept. 30



### Grant County Lakes and Locations

- Reclamation Lakes/Reservoirs
- Ice Age Flood Lakes
- River, Spring and Creek Fed Lakes
- Seep Lakes





Don Hamilton



Don Hamilton

## 13 Long Lake

(73.5 acres)

46.931177,  
-119.20702



Open  
Year-round

There is a rough launch at the northern end of Long Lake that gives anglers quick access to good fishing for a variety of species. It is known for very good walleye fishing and is planted with rainbow fry each fall. It is fed by the outflow of Potholes Reservoir and as a result also offers fishing for all the species that exist in the reservoir. Anglers will often find fish at the top end of the lake where the flow from Potholes causes some current. At the bottom end of the lake there is a canal that can be navigated and even fished that leads to the next lake in the chain, which is Crescent Lake. Walleye anglers will most often use bottom bouncers and worm harnesses to catch their fish, and often get perch, trout and other species while trolling these. Walleye to 10 pounds have been landed in Crescent Lake, and catfish weighing into double digits. Fly anglers will walk into Crescent Lake to cast for big carp, too. Trout can be caught on dough baits from shore and are also taken on crank baits while fishing for walleye. Trolling spinners and Rapalas of different styles and medium diving depths also work for the trout.

Trout anglers have enjoyed good trout fishing at Canal Lake since it was rehabilitated in 2010. It is best fished from a boat and there is a good launch at the bottom end of the lake, where a canal leads to the main body of water. There is area for camping and toilets that are also found here. There is some shore fishing sites at this end of the lake as well. Anglers fishing from the shore will use dough baits or nightcrawlers in the canal and cast spinner where it opens to the main lake. Trollers favor a variety of crank bait style lures, as well as gang trollers trailed by a night-crawler. Canal will often receive a plant of catchable rainbow prior to the April opener. Some other good trout lakes that are nearby are Heart and Windmill. Each of these are also typically planted with catchables.

## 14 Canal Lake

(68.6 acres)

46.92596,  
-119.18353



Open  
Year-round



Don Hamilton

## 15 Warden Lake

(200 acres)

46.971015,  
-119.16477



Open  
4th Sat. in April  
– Sept. 30

This lake, which opens the last weekend in April, consistently produces excellent catches for trout anglers. The fishing for rainbow trout and even the occasional tiger trout is very good through May and June. It usually receives a generous plant of catchable rainbow prior to the opening day. Anglers can expect to catch rainbow from 12 inches to over 20-inch carryovers. There is a good launch at the north end of the lake and trolling is a very effective method of filling stringers. While many anglers will pull gang trolls or pop gear trailed with a nightcrawler, others will troll spinners, spoons and crank baits. There is plenty of room for shore fishing at Warden, and dough baits, marshmallow and nightcrawler or marshmallow and egg combos are good baits for trout. The south end of Warden Lake is often under fished. It can be accessed by heading south on the Seep Lakes Road, then taking the first left to South Warden.



Don Hamilton

## 16 Dry Falls Lake

(88 acres)

47.603663,  
-119.359123



Open  
April 1 –  
Nov. 30

Fly fishers have been traveling to fish Dry Fall Lake for decades. For the past five years it has been providing some of the best lake fly fishing in the state. It has been producing excellent catches of rainbow and brown trout of 12 to 20 inches and tiger trout that can be much larger. It is a spectacular place to fish. The lake is at the base of an ancient dry water fall in a large basalt bowl. Dry Falls gets most attention in the early spring, as it is one of the Grant County lakes that open on March 1st, with selective gear rules. It is a very deep lake and can produce catches through the summer months. Anglers use a variety of craft to fish the lake, but all fall into the category of float tubes, kayaks or pontoon boats. A 5 weight rod is adequate here and most anglers are casting floating lines. Fishing with chromomids is by far the most popular method of taking trout here, while others troll Wooly Buzzer style pattern.



Don Hamilton



Don Hamilton

## 17 Quincy Lake

(54 acres)  
47.140942,  
-119.921093



Open  
March 1 –  
July 31

There are large crowds of anglers fishing Quincy Lake when it opens on March 1st. And for good reason. It consistently satisfies trout anglers with very good catches of quality rainbow. Some launch boats, but most of the people that visit Quincy Lake will be fishing from shore. The north shore is the best as the south shore has a long stretch of shallow water. Many visitors will park an RV or camp here for the first week of the early season. Trout, which range in size from 11 to 13 inches, are most common on stringers, but there are carryover rainbow to 20 inches taken every season. Typical baits used by shore anglers include dough baits, marshmallow and egg or marshmallow and worm combos. Some have very good success casting spoons and spinners. Trollers will use gang trolls or pop gear with a worm trailed behind and crank baits are also very effective on Quincy. Although it gets most pressure in the spring it can offer good fishing in the fall.

Known for very good fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass, Evergreen Reservoir also produces good catches of walleye in the spring. This long and narrow reservoir has launches at the top and bottom ends of the lake. Casting plastic worms or Senko style baits to the basal walls or along the weed beds can attract strikes from both largemouth and smallmouth bass. Largemouth are the most difficult to locate and when found can be 3 or 4 pounds and even heavier. The smallmouth are plentiful and can also reach the 3 to 4 pound class. Walleye anglers will troll bottom bouncers with a nightcrawler and the Slow Death Hook method can be very effective. Perch fishing is best in the spring, and most of the fish are small. An exciting prospect is catching a tiger muskie. Most of these are incidental to walleye or bass fishing with crank baits. These fish are often over 30 inches and are tough fighters. Only tiger muskie of over 50 inches may be retained.

## 18 Evergreen Reservoir

(247 acres)  
47.126565,  
-119.918593



Open  
March 1 –  
Oct. 31



Don Hamilton



Bob Adler

## 19 Billy Clapp Lake

(973 acres)

47.452846,  
-119.248485



Open  
Year-round

One of the best kept secrets in Grant County, Billy Clapp Lake offers very good fishing for a variety of species. There are rainbow trout, walleye, smallmouth bass and kokanee in Billy Clapp. It is planted with fry each fall to sustain the rainbow population, which are typically 11 to 13 inches by spring. There are some hefty carryovers to 20 inches taken each year. Anglers troll pop gear with worms or crank bait style lures to catch the rainbow here. Best fishing is in the spring and fall. Walleye are a big attraction to Billy Clapp, and limit catches are possible. Bottom bouncers with worm harnesses are used by most anglers, and the Slow Death Hook method is gaining in use. Smallmouth bass are found in very good numbers in Billy Clapp, and in the spring there are fish over 4 pounds landed. Smallmouth are taken on a variety of bass gear throughout the lake from early spring to October. Kokanee populations vary from year to year, but anglers that target them exclusively can often catch a couple over 20 inches. Kokanee anglers use small dodgers and hoochie style lures, tipped with white shoepeg corn to attract strikes from the kokanee.

This is one of the lakes that opens on March 1st and when it is ice free fly anglers flock to fish it, as it is under selective gear fishing rules, which means not bait and single barbless hooks. Dusty is at the end of a mile-long, steep trail down to the bench on which it sits, flanked by a basalt cliff on one side. In spite of the steep walk in, many anglers pack a float tube or pontoon boat down to the lake. Fly anglers are after the big rainbow trout, brown trout and tiger trout that inhabit the lake. All three of these species often exceed 20 inches in length. Dusty is fairly deep and the trout tend to hang in the bottom of the water column. A 5 weight rod is recommended and a full sinking line. Woolly Bugger style patterns are trolled or stripped in from as deep as 30 feet in Dusty

## 20 Dusty Lake

(41 acres)

47.139093,  
-119.949076)



Open  
March 1 –  
Nov. 30



Bob Adler

## 21 Deep Lake

(101 acres)

47.588614,  
-119.323833



Open  
4th Sat. in April  
– Sept. 30

Deep Lake is long, narrow and very scenic. There is a launch with limited parking and a dock at the very bottom end of the lake, which is reached via the road from the State Park above Park Lake. Angling participation is high on the opening of the lowland trout season, and for good reason. The lake is planted with as many as 15,000 prior to the season opener and the catch rate is excellent. It is often one of the lakes that gets a plant of jumbo rainbow over a pound for the opening weekend. There is a trail on the west side of the lake and people will walk up the path to find a spot to cast bait or lures from the shore. Trollers tend to stay in the middle of the lake, as it is narrow and lined with basalt cliffs. It is also popular with pontoon boat rowing fly fishers. The rainbow plant is supplemented with fry plants of kokanee, and at times there is excellent fishing for kokanee. Although plentiful the kokanee rarely exceed 10 or 11 inches.



Bill Burke

## 22 Soda Lake

(154 acres)

46.963000,  
-119.238451



Open  
Year-round

This lake is the first that is fed by the outflow of the canal from Potholes Reservoir, and anglers can expect to catch everything that is in the reservoir. It receives a small plant of rainbow fry each year and anglers can catch rainbow of 11 to 13 inches and even much larger at times on Soda. It also offers very good fishing at times for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, yellow perch and crappie. There also a good population of very large whitefish that can be caught at the upper end of Soda in the spring. Some walleye anglers will move to Soda Lake if conditions on Potholes are very windy. The basalt rim around the lake offers protection. Perch exist in very good numbers in Soda, and crappie numbers are on the rise. Both of these species can be taken from shore. There is good shore access at the upper end of Soda and some anglers favor the bottom end near the dam. There is a rough launch at the bottom end of the lake and this is one that is recommended by experienced anglers, with an improved gravel launch at the north end. There are rocky shoals here, particularly at the upper end of the lake.



Bill Burke

## 23 Lind Coulee



Open  
Year-round

Lind Coulee is actually an arm of Potholes Reservoir. It feeds the reservoir, like Crab Creek and Frenchman Wasteway, but with distinct differences. It is much wider than the other feeder waterways, and offers good shore access, with improved public fishing accesses on the south shore. There is also an excellent boat launch and parking area off of Road M. Walleye anglers will often fish this waterway in the spring and into summer while the water levels are high. In the spring, fall and winter shore anglers fish for trout from the public fishing accesses and have very good success. The very large rainbow that inhabit Potholes Reservoir will cruise up this channel. In winter, when temperatures are cold enough to put a thick, safe layer of ice on Lind Coulee it is a very popular spot to ice fish for perch, walleye and catfish.



Bill Burke

## 24 Pillar-Widgeon-Walk Lakes

(Ranging from  
6-10 acres)

46.949145,  
-119.225852



Open  
April 1 –  
Sept. 30

This chain of lakes offers anglers, typically fly anglers, an opportunity to get off the beaten path and into the high desert landscape. A trail leads its way along several small lakes, and due to the little pressure that these lakes receive, anglers encounter wildlife not often seen while visiting other lakes in the Columbia Wildlife Refuge. The lakes receive regular plants of fry and the occasional plant of catchable rainbow. Following a rehabilitation the lake will have rainbow of 11 to 13 inches in them, but they are best know for producing trout to over 20 inches in following seasons. The lakes are accessed via trail near the bottom end of Soda Lake. Anglers can expect to spend the better part of a day working their way along all the lakes in the Pillar-Widgeon chain.





Bob Adler



Bill Burke

## 25 Lenice Lake

(92 acres)  
46.840880,  
-119.834982



Open  
March 1 –  
Nov. 30

Lenice has been a favorite of fly fishers for decades. Accessed via a trail off the road from Beverly in the Crab Creek Wildlife Area, it is close enough for anglers to carry their float tubes and small pontoon boats into the lake. Famed for producing consistent catches of rainbow, brown and tiger trout over 20 inches, Lenice can also produce fish of surprising size. Many fly fishers prefer fishing with chromomids here, while others prefer to cover more water by trolling with Woolly Bugger style patterns. It is best fished in the early spring and opens on March 1st, but can also offer good action in the fall. This is a selective fishing rule lake with only single barbless hooks and no bait allowed. Nearby Nunnally Lake is much larger, with the same species available and the same selective gear rules. Although larger than Lenice it is by far less popular. Both lakes will receive plants of a few thousand trout to sustain good populations.

Crescent Bay Lake is a man-made lake formed by a dike on an arm of Lake Roosevelt and is about one-half mile east of Grand Coulee. This lake holds a nice variety of perch, crappie, walleye, whitefish, and large and small mouth bass. Hit it as early in spring as you can. A boat launch ramp (non-motorized watercraft only) is now in place at Crescent Bay Lake, immediately behind Grand Coulee Dam. The facility includes a courtesy dock, parking lot, and vault toilets. Public access is one-half mile east of City of Grand Coulee, Washington.

## 26 Crescent Bay Lake

(90 acres)  
47.576250,  
-118.59.197



Open  
Year-round



Bill Burke

## 27 Winchester Wasteway & Frenchman Hills Lake

(1,020 acres)

47.10702306,  
-119.618153



Open  
Year-round

The wasteway and lake are one of the best kept secrets in Grant County. Anglers in the know will navigate this waterway in float tubes, mini pontoon boats or small boats to access fishing water that very few reach every year. The shallow wasteway winds through the reed-lined banks that open up into small bays or even larger areas of water, like Frenchman Hills Lake. Anglers casting spinners, such as Rooster Tails or Blue Fox, and spoons like the Little Cleo, can encounter rainbow, brown, brookies and tiger trout. This is also very popular with fly anglers. The waterway eventually flows into Potholes Reservoir, so it also has a variety of warm water species, such as bass, crappie, bluegill, perch and others. This waterway is known to produce very large trout in the spring and fall. Water can be cloudy and swift when the irrigation canals are being filled. March is an excellent time to explore the wasteway and lake, which is typically prior to the system being filled for irrigation, and September and October, can also be excellent times to be here. There are parking areas, some with outhouses off Dodson Road and also along Frenchman Hills Road. Some anglers will enter the wasteway off Potholes Reservoir, looking for rainbow that move up here in the spring. These two areas are open to fishing year-round.



Bill Burke

## 28 Frenchman Wasteway

46.96165705,  
-119.5167561



Open  
Year-round

This is another waterway similar to Winchester Wasteway that can offer very good trout fishing. It is often compared to Rocky Ford Creek, as anglers can walk to shorelines and actually sight cast to the fish. There are two “drains” that meet below Dodson Road which is where the Department of Fish and Wildlife has planted the wasteway with tiger trout and brook trout, and rainbow. Once again there can be excellent fishing for trout from fall into spring, with trout of surprising size taken. There are some facilities at the access sites along Frenchman Wasteway, but camping is allowed at Access Site #3. Like Winchester Wasteway and Frenchman Hills Lake, this waterway is largely underutilized and the fishing for trout and other species can be quite good. The best time to fish here is from September through March. Frenchman Wasteway also enters Potholes Reservoir and some anglers venture up this shallow stream looking for big trout, particularly in the spring. It is open year-round.



Bill-Burke

## 29 Lower Goose Lake

(65 acres)  
46.9239818,  
-119.2951397

This is one of the better warm water species lakes south of Potholes Reservoir. Anglers can find very good fishing for walleye, largemouth bass, perch, crappie and even catfish in Lower Goose. There is a gravel launch that can accommodate larger boats, so you can thoroughly explore the lake in a days fishing. Most anglers can expect a good bite for these warm water fish starting in the spring and continuing all through the summer months. A good thing about lakes such as Lower Goose is that if the walleye aren't biting you can switch to bass or perch and save the day. Anglers can expect to find the same species in nearby Upper Goose Lake. Lower Goose Lake is open year-round.



Open  
Year-Round



Stan Coffin Lake



Ancient Lake



Ancient  
Lake Trail



H Lake

All photos by Bill Burke

For those who enjoy hiking through the high desert with a fishing rod in hand, these lakes, in the Quincy Wildlife Area are right up your alley. The Ancient lakes, (North, South and West) are accessed via a trailhead with ample parking which is on the right on the way to the Quincy lakes. The Ancient lakes are planted with both rainbow trout and largemouth bass. Some anglers ride bikes on the trail to the lakes and some also carry in a float tube or mini pontoon boat. There is good shore access on the lakes, too. If you are one that likes doing battle with big rainbow, try the Quincy Walk-In lakes. Don't expect to catch a bunch, but the ones you will catch could be as big as 24 inches. Most plan to fish two or three of these little lakes in a day, and expect to get into one or two dandies along the way. The trailhead that leads to Crystal, Upper and Lower Spring, Cup and Cliff lakes is at the west end of Evergreen Reservoir. A good approach to these lakes is to use a spinning rod and cast spinners or spoons. They are also popular with fly fishers, who sometimes carry in tube or pontoon boat. H Lake can be reached by vehicle, and is just off the road on the way to other Quincy Lakes. You can park and walk a short distance or around the shore of the lake. It is known for good perch fishing and also has a good population of largemouth bass. All of these lakes are fished beginning on March 1st, weather allowing, when all the Quincy Wildlife Area lakes open.

## 30 Ancient Lakes, Quincy Walk-Ins, and H Lake

47.1482292,  
-119.9278156



Open  
March 1



Bill Burke



Bill Burke

## 31 Lake Lenore

(1,670 acres)

47.51473,  
-119.50192

This long and narrow lake is located a few miles from the town of Soap Lake. It is a heavily alkaline lake and only the Lahontan cutthroat that inhabit the lake thrive here. Anglers can expect to take big cutts from Lenore. Some of them exceed 30 inches. Most of the fishing takes place at the bottom end of the lake and the top end, but the fish can be found throughout the lake. There are several islands that the fish seem to like scattered from one end to the other in Lenore. The cutthroat have changed their habits and anglers will need to move around to find fish, rather than anchoring and casting at the extreme ends of the lake, as in the past. It is very popular with fly anglers that use pontoon boats, or small boats outfitted with an electric motor. Trolling large Woolly Bugger style patterns can work on Lenore, and using an indicator with a chironomid below it. Internal combustion motors are not allowed on Lenore. There is good shore access on the highway side of the lake, and anglers cast large spoons along this shore to catch the cutthroat. Lenore opens on March 1st for catch-and-release fishing, and then switches to allow anglers to keep one fish a day from June 1st through the end of November. Fall has been the best time to fish Lenore in recent years. There are launches at the bottom, middle and top end of the lake.



Open  
March 1-  
November

Steelhead, spring, summer-run, sockeye and fall salmon all pass over Wanapum Dam on their way to their spawning grounds on the upper Columbia River. One of the most popular spots is just above the dam, where salmon pool to rest before continuing their journey up river. During the salmon seasons, which begin in the spring, anglers will troll on the west side of the river where most of the salmon are found. Most anglers troll with flashers and Super Baits suspended on downriggers. There are good numbers of sturgeon in this stretch of the Columbia River too. Anglers can now keep two sturgeon per day between 38 and 72 inches during a season that opens in June and runs through early September. Anglers seek these freshwater giants just above Wanapum Dam, and the most popular spots are just below Rock Island Dam. Heavy weights are used to keep the baits, usually herring or squid, on the bottom. The bait can be cast from shore or from an anchored boat. Walleye and smallmouth bass are abundant in this pool, and can be found along rip rap banks or rocky bars. It is possible to get walleye trolling with bottom walkers and spinners, and many prefer jigging for them in the river. Smallmouth are caught by anglers tossing crank baits or Senkos and jigs, also along rip rap banks or in the shallow inlets and bays throughout the pool. Launches are at the State Park just below the Vantage Bridge on the west side, above the bridge on the west side and an improved launch at Crescent Bar. The channel has been dredged to allow access to the Columbia River even at low water now. Apricot Orchard is a new Grant County PUD ramp off Spanish Castle Road between Rock Island and Crescent Bar with a handicapped loading ramp, toilet and parking for at least six boats. There is also a launch called Yo Yo Rock, below Rock Island Dam on the south side of the river.

## 32 Wanapum Pool

(between  
Wanapum and  
Rock Island Dams )

46.875213,  
-119.971004°W



Open  
Year-round



## 33 Harris Desert Lakes

(40 acres)  
47.009833,  
-119.485882

There are four lakes found here, with all totaling 64 acres. Harris Lake is the largest at 40 acres. Anglers that walk the 2.5 mile trail into the area will encounter Harris Lake first. Sedge and Tern lakes come next and are connected, and then just over a large sand dune, is Dune Lake. I remember visiting these lakes many years ago and having good fishing for rainbow trout, and that is still true today. The lakes don't get a lot of pressure so the possibility of catching a carryover rainbow at them is good. Overnight camping is allowed at the Harris Desert Lakes.



Open  
Year-round



## 34 South Teal Lake

(15.3 acres)  
46.914057,  
-119.202800

You can drive right up to the shore of this lake, which is located at the southern end of the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. It is one of the many lakes that open on April 1st and can offer very good early season fishing for rainbow trout. It is known to produce fish from 12 to 20 inches. Anglers that put a small boat, mini pontoon boat or float tube into the lake do the best at South Teal. Trolling is most productive as fish are scattered, so spinners and spoons work, as do Woolly Bugger style fly patterns. If you fish from shore, and access is good, you will probably need to move around to locate fish.



Open  
April 1



Bill Burke

## 35 Blythe Lake

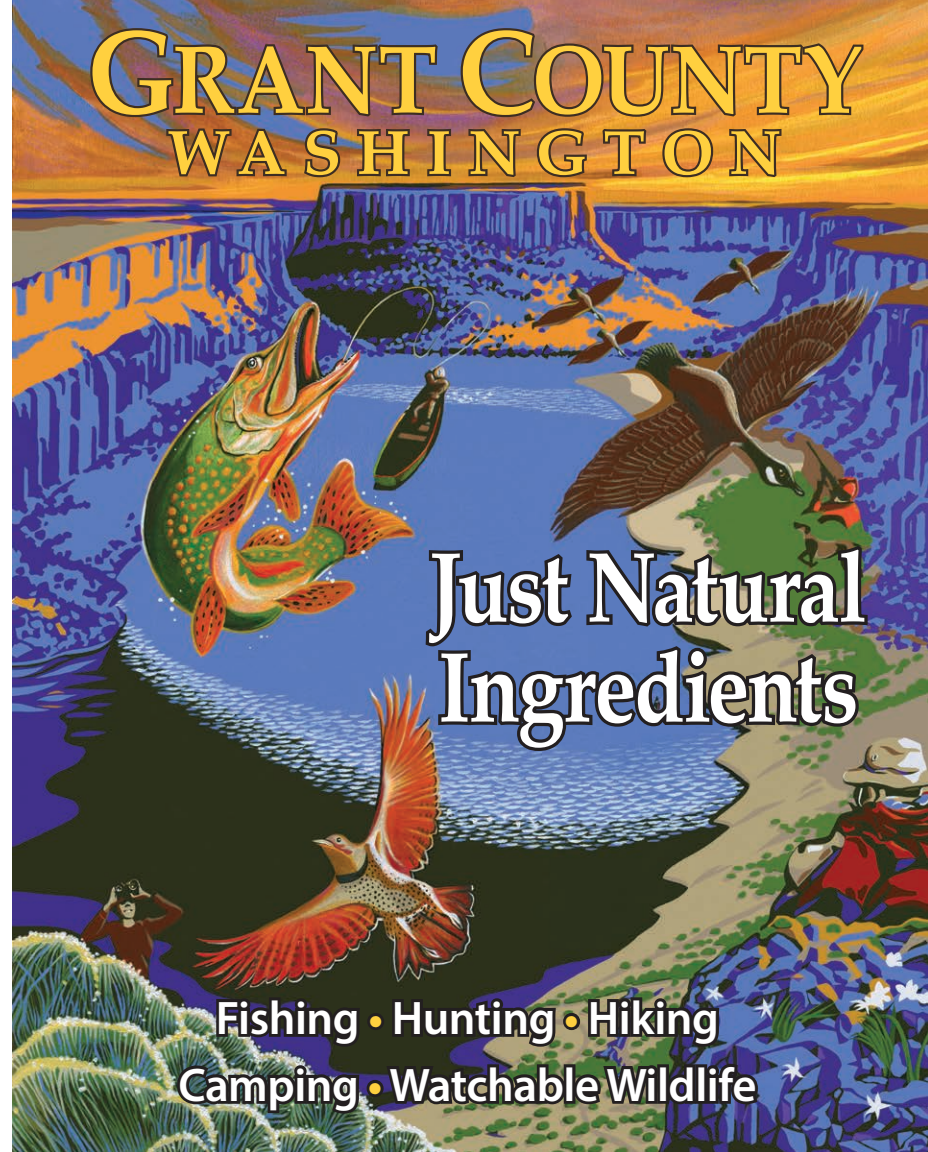
37.2 acres)

46.958207,  
-119.283200

This lake is found below Corral Lake, which is just across the road from Mar Don Resort on Potholes Reservoir. Blythe is a popular rainbow lake, with success varying from season to season. In most years rainbow trout of 12 to 20 inches can be caught here. It is best fished from a small boat, mini pontoon or float tube, but there is good shore access. The lake is also known for good fishing for largemouth bass. Anglers can also walk to Chukar and Scaup lakes from Blythe. These do have some rainbow in them but are now more popular with fly fishers after largemouth bass



Open  
Year-round



# GRANT COUNTY WASHINGTON

## Just Natural Ingredients

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Camping • Watchable Wildlife

# Hunting & Fishing

A complete sportsman's directory of Grant County's Fishing and Hunting Guides, Tours and Hunting Services.

## GRANT COUNTY FISHING

With over 247,000 surface acres of water in Grant County, fishing is a favorite activity. Many local lakes such as Banks Lake, Moses Lake, Potholes Reservoir and others are open for year-round fishing. Local waters offer Walleye, Trout, Kokanee, Bass, Perch, Crappie, Catfish and more. Please refer to the Washington State regulations for specific requirements.

### Big Wally's Guide Service

Keith Jensen  
36907 Rd J NE • Coulee City, WA 99115  
509.770.8318  
www.bigwallysguideservice.com,  
email: Keith.jensen81@yahoo.com

*Walleye, Bass, Trout and Kokanee fishing on Banks Lake, Moses Lake, Potholes Reservoir and the Columbia River.*

### HNG Outdoors LLC

Nathan LaFrance  
1397 Rd O NE • Moses Lake, WA 98837  
509.771.1647  
email: LaFranceNathan@hotmail.com

*Fully guided Walleye fishing trips on Potholes Reservoir, Moses Lake and Lake Roosevelt.*

### Ross Outdoor Adventures

Shelby Ross  
6713 Rd 8.8 SE • Othello, WA 99344  
509.750.7763  
email: duckproross@yahoo.com

*Guided Bass, Walleye and Trout fishing on Potholes Reservoir, Moses Lake, Lake Roosevelt and private ponds in a fully equipped fishing boat or airboat. Tours of the Potholes' Sand Dune Recreation Area.*

## GRANT COUNTY HUNTING

Upland bird and migratory waterfowl hunting in Grant County is some of the best in the entire United States. Prime Mule Deer habitat can be found throughout Grant County on both public and private lands. Be sure to consult Washington State regulations for current information.

### Columbia National Wildlife Refuge

735 E. Main • P.O. Box F  
Othello, WA 99344  
509.488.2668 fws.gov/columbiarefuge

*Offers hunting opportunities for waterfowl and deer. Two special areas, Marsh Unit 1 and Farm Units 226-227 have been established to provide quality waterfowl hunting opportunities. Special permits required for some already constructed blinds on Farm Unit 226-227.*

### Echternkamps Guide Service

9498 Morgan Rd. • Moses Lake, WA 98837  
509.766.6791  
easternwashingtonguides.com  
email: duxdie2@aol.com

*Duck and Goose Hunting, Moses Lake and Potholes Reservoir.*

### Meseberg Adventures, LLC

dba Duck Taxi  
8717 Highland Drive SE • Othello, WA 99344  
509.346.2651  
ducktaxi.com or mardonresort.com

*Field Hunts on privately leased fields on the Royal Slope for Geese.*

### Ross Outdoor Adventures, LLC

Shelby Ross  
6713 Rd 8.8 SE • Othello, WA 99344  
509.346.2651 ducktaxi.com

*Lake Hunts on Potholes Reservoir.*

### Hidden Ranch Outfitters

Rusty Hunt  
1845 Rd. 14 NE • Coulee City, WA 99115  
509.681.0218

hiddenranchoutfitters.com  
huntingdreams@msn.com

*Hunt year around on 2000 private acres for Chukar, Mule Deer and Predator Hunting. License required. Call for specials.*

### Royal Hunt Club

A Royal Youth Boosters Fundraiser  
8198 Hwy 262 SE • Othello, WA 99344  
509.346.2651  
royalhuntclub.com

*Non-profit for Royal Student Programs. Hunting Club open to the public. Limited membership, 25000 acres of posted farmland on the Royal Slope. Season or weekend passes. Pheasants planted each weekend in the early season.*

### Wahluke Enrichment Organization

P.O. Box 2421 • Mattawa, WA 99349  
509.929.4096  
509.830.7438

*Established in 1993 as a non-profit organization made up of volunteers from the community of Mattawa, making almost 8,000 acres available for prime goose and duck hunting. 100% of our profits go toward programs for the students of the Wahluke School District.*

