

II. ACQUISITION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AREAS

At present the farmer cooperative habitat development projects are four in number for eastern Washington; Spokane, Lincoln and Adams counties in one project, Walla Walla and Columbia county in one project, Douglas County, one project and the Columbia Basin (Grant, Franklin and Benton) in one project. The Columbia Basin project is new and so far has consisted mainly of multiflora rose plantings along field borders in the irrigation districts. For all projects, acquisition of areas on farmland for upland bird habitat development between January 1 and December 31, 1952 are as follows:

Spokane - Lincoln - Adams County

<u>No. Farms Signed on Agreements 1952</u>	<u>No. Habitat Areas Set up 1952</u>	<u>Acres in Habitat Improvement Areas</u>	<u>Total Farm Acreage Open to Hunters</u>
26	117	160	34,770

Walla Walla - Columbia County

<u>No. Farms Signed on Agreements 1952</u>	<u>No. Habitat Areas Set up 1952</u>	<u>Acres in Habitat Improvement Areas</u>	<u>Total Farm Acreage Open to Hunters</u>
11	42	93.1	7,007

Douglas County

<u>No. Farms Signed on Agreements 1952</u>	<u>No. Habitat Areas Set up 1952</u>	<u>Acres in Habitat Improvement Areas</u>	<u>Total Farm Acreage Open to Hunters</u>
12	41	88.9	26,680

Columbia Basin

<u>No. Farms Signed on Agreements 1952</u>	<u>No. Habitat Areas Set up 1952</u>	<u>Acres in Habitat Improvement Areas</u>	<u>Total Farm Acreage Open to Hunters</u>
46	46	31	5,914

Other Misc. Areas Throughout the State

<u>No. Farms Signed on Agreements 1952</u>	<u>No. Habitat Areas Set up 1952</u>	<u>Acres in Habitat Improvement Areas</u>	<u>Total Farm Acreage Open to Hunters</u>
0	0	0	0

Acquisition Totals for All Projects 1952

<u>No. Farms Signed on Agreements 1952</u>	<u>No. Habitat Areas Set up 1952</u>	<u>Acres in Habitat Improvement Areas</u>	<u>Total Farm Acreage Open to Hunters</u>
95	246	373	74,371

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III. DEVELOPMENT OF HABITAT AREAS, JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1952

A. Number and Average Size of new Areas Developed during 1952

It is usually impossible to completely develop any one habitat area with one operation at one time; shrub planting is carried out in the spring, fencing practically the year around, water development work usually late summer and fall. Many times it is possible to make an important improvement on an individual farm with one operation such as a water development or fencing a draw from stock to allow natural cover to return. In many cases this single improvement practice is sufficient to assist the land in supporting a shootable population of game.

During the year shrub plantings were made on 246 areas throughout the projects, 104 areas were fenced from stock, grass and sweet clover plantings made on 18 areas and food patch plantings on 5 areas. Assistance was given farmers in construction of 4 farm ponds and at least 9 natural brush areas totaling approximately 16 acres were specifically set aside as game areas not to be disturbed in any way. 25 areas were planted with Volga Rye clones. 46 cisterns installed and 11 springs developed.

The average size of all habitat development areas is approximately 3.1 acres (1065 habitat areas totaling 3368.5 acres). The actual size ranges all the way from less than a tenth of an acre to as high as 65 acres. The aim of the program is not the acquisition of land for development, but in making the correct habitat improvements on any one farm to better the game population.

B. Number and Composition of Planting Stock on Habitat Areas

Shrub plantings range all the way from a single row planting of multiflora rose along fence lines and field borders up to a 20 row block including the majority of the species listed below. Climatic conditions, site, depth of soil, etc., determine mainly the species used in various plantings.

During the spring of 1952 a total of 506,798 shrubs were planted on the farmer cooperative projects broken down in percentages as follows:

Multiflora rose.....	43.5%	Dogwood.....	2.6%
Garagana.....	14.0%	Black Locust.....	2.0%
Matrimony vine.....	12.1%	Southern Wood.....	1.9%
American Plum.....	9.9%	Russian Olive.....	1.0%
Snowberry.....	8.4%	Austrian Pine.....	0.4%
Colutea.....	4.2%		

Also during the year a total of 24,454 Rye Grass clones were planted in conjunction with the shrub plantings.

Spacing between the rows is from 7 to 9 feet on most sites; spacing between the plants for small shrubs $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet; medium shrubs 4 to 6 feet and trees 9 to 12 feet.

Working in conjunction with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, experimental plantings of a great many other species of shrubs are being made annually and kept under observation. This is discussed further in the latter part of this report.

C. Number of Units Fenced During 1952

During the year a total of 104 areas were fenced with 4 strand barbed wire; a total of 8788 rods were constructed or approximately $27\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Fencing takes

place either when a habitat area is being developed and is threatened by stock or when a natural cover area is deemed desirable to protect from stock.

D. Number of Water Developments Installed during 1952

The new fiber glass self-filling water cistern, previously designed and ordered by the Game Department, was put out this year for the first time. This cistern is similar in size and operates on the same principal as the old concrete one but has great advantage in the ease of installation and the fact that it can be moved if deemed necessary. During the year 46 plastic cisterns were installed, 11 spring developments constructed, 3 stock tanks completed and assistance given farmers in construction of 4 multipurpose farm ponds. Prior to 1952, 53 self-filling concrete cisterns had been installed and 59 springs developed.

E. Monthly Summary of Development Work Performed

In order to present as clear a picture as possible, the following monthly summary is presented:

Fencing:

February	- 9 areas	- 550 rods
March	---- 7 areas	- 500 rods
April	---- 6 areas	- 520 rods
May	----- 5 areas	- 490 rods
June	----- 6 areas	- 675 rods
July	----- 2 areas	- 110 rods
August	---20 areas	-1225 rods
September	-11 areas	-1032 rods
October	--12 areas	-1006 rods
November	- 7 areas	- 720 rods
December	-19 areas	-1960 rods
Total	-- 104 areas	-8788 rods

Shrub Planting:

February	- 2 areas-	7,089 shrubs
March	----54 areas-	93,316 shrubs
	22 Col Basin	
	farms ---	83,580 shrubs
April	---103 areas-	196,388 shrubs
May	----- 65 areas-	126,425 shrubs
Total	-- 246 areas-	506,798 shrubs

Food Patches:

April	---- 4 areas	- 5 acres
May	----- 1 area	- $\frac{1}{2}$ acre
Total	---- 5 areas	- $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres

Water Development:

June	-----	1 spring
July	----- 2 cisterns	
September	- 20 cisterns	
October	-- 17 cisterns	4 springs
November	- 1 cistern	6 springs
December	- 6 cisterns	
Total:	46 cisterns	11 springs

Grass-Sweetclover seeding:

April	---- 15 areas	- 41 acres
May	----- 3 areas	- 13 acres
Total:	18 areas	- 54 acres

Rye Grass Plantings:

March	--- 1 area	- 800 clones
November	- 22 areas	- 21,476 clones
December	- 2 areas	- 2,178 clones
Total:	---25 areas	- 24,454 clones

Other:

October	-- 3 cattle guard, 2 stock tank
November	- 1 stock tank, 3 catch basin
December	- 1 food hopper
Total:	--- 3 cattle guards, 3 stock tanks, 3 catch basin, 1 food hopper

IV. SUMMARY - ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENTA. Acquisition Summary

Project	No. Farms Under Agreement		No. Habitat Areas Set Up.		Acres in Habitat Improvement		Acres Farmland Under Agreement Open to Hunting	
	1952	To date	1952	To date	1952	To date	1952	To date
Spokane, Lincoln, Adams --	26	249	117	738	160	2219	34,770	208,595
Walla Walla, Columbia --	11	20	42	113	93.1	520.7	7,007	33,357
Douglas ---	12	51	41	119	88.9	502.3	26,680	71,790
Col. Basin -	46	50	46	50	31	31.5	5,914	6,914
Other misc.	0	37	0	45	0	95	0	6,450
Total --	95	407	246	1,065	373	3368.5	74,371	327,106

B. Development Summary

	1952	Total to date
Rods of fencing-----	8,788	26,688 or approx. 90 miles
Shrubs planted-----	506,789	866,937
Grass, sweet clover acres seeded-----	54	498
Giant Rye clones-----	0	15,000
Volga Rye clones-----	24,454	28,718
Reed Canary Grass-----	0	3,800
Asparagus plants-----	0	1,250
Spring developments-----	11	70
Cisterns-----	46	99
Windmills in use-----	0	6
Food patches planted-----	5	25
Food hoppers & shelter---	1	54
Cattle guards installed--	3	5
Stock tanks installed----	3	5

V. MAINTENANCE

During the year from one to four cultivations were performed by development crews on approximately 275 areas. The majority of the shrub plantings were sprayed during the summer of 1952 to combat grasshopper and other insect damage and some areas were sprayed for weed control. Approximately 50 feed hoppers and shelters were checked and maintained when deemed necessary during the winter months. Normal maintenance of all equipment was taken care of by crew personnel in the shop at Ritzville.

A. Soil Conservation Service

During the year Memorandum of Agreements between the Department of Game and the following S.C.S. Districts were drawn up, presented to the various Boards of Supervisors and signed by both parties:

Davenport - Reardon	S.C.S. District	Sprague - Harrington	S.C.S. District
Rock Creek - Latah	" "	Ritzville	" "
Columbia	" "		

These Memo of Agreements were worked up between Game Department and S.C.S. District personnel with the idea in mind of giving a sounder basis for future cooperation. The program is working out very well in all districts; the District Game Department Habitat Biologists and the District Unit Conservationist for the S.C.S. cooperating to the fullest extent possible on all land management problems and assisting each other in properly coordinating conservation practices.

A sample Memorandum of Agreement is presented on the next page.

The Soil Conservation Service has been of great assistance in conducting experimental shrub plantings in cooperation with the Department of Game on various habitat areas in eastern Washington. A special study on determining the possibilities of treating evergreen stock to increase survival after planting was made during 1952; a complete report on this is presented later in this report.

B. Production Marketing Administration

Attendance of P.M.A. meetings by Habitat Development personnel continued during 1952 and the 1953 Washington State Handbook contained several practices affecting game in a favorable way. No attempt will be made to go into detail in this report as the 1953 State Handbook is available by request to Production and Marketing Administration, 309 Hutton Building, Spokane, Washington and the following practices affecting game may be read in detail:

- Practice B-8. Establishing cover crops in orchards
- B-9. Permanent waterways
- B-11. Seeding of perennial grasses and/or legumes
- B-13. Clearing suitable land for permanent pasture or for biennial or perennial legumes or perennial grasses.
- B-14. Control of perennial weeds
- B-16. Establishing a living fence on the contour for erosion control. (Multiflora Rose)
- B-17. Establishing a cover of perennial grasses, perennial legumes or shrubs on field borders to protect against erosion.
- C-4. Establishing contour strip cropping on non terraced land.
- C-5. Establishing cross slope strip cropping.
- E-3. Development of springs and seeps for the purpose of supplying water for livestock.
- E-4. Dams or reservoirs for livestock water, including the enlargement of inadequate earthen structures.
- F-1. Planting or interplanting forest trees and shrubs on farm land for forestry purposes, windbreaks, shelterbelts, and for erosion control.
- F-2. Improving a stand of forest trees.
- F-3. Maintaining a stand of trees and shrubs in windbreaks and shelterbelts.

As a follow through on the 1953 Handbook all the District Meeting for P.M.A. County Committeemen were attended and talks given to bring the representatives attention to the Practices affecting game and the Game Departments attitude and advice on carrying out the practices. Also the opportunity was taken to distribute the farmers Bulletin.

C. Sportsmen's Groups

During the year sportsmen's groups in both Columbia-Walla Walla project and the Spokane-Adams-Lincoln project were worked into the Farmer Cooperative Program to some extent and with satisfactory results.

The Spokane Sportsmans Club took over two areas in the vicinity of Espanola, Spokane County, and planted some 1700 Shrubs and built 2200 feet of fence, following through with a few hand cultivations. Favorable publicity was received by the local papers and a number of farmers in the area made favorable comment on the project. The Walla Walla group took over the cultivation on seven habitat development areas in that project and likewise received favorable publicity. By request of the Richland Sportsmans group a plastic cistern was turned over to them and installed in Benton County.

D. Public Relations General

A number of appearances on the radio farm programs was made by habitat development personnel, discussing various aspects of the farmer cooperative program and urging farmers to make improvements on their own. Tours were conducted by Habitat Biologists on the various projects accompanied by representatives of local sports groups and when possible local newspaper reporters. Sportsmens meetings are attended whenever possible.

SAMPLE

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, DAVENPORT-REARDON SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AND
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF GAME

To properly coordinate sound conservation practices into a program for wildlife management, the Board of Supervisors, Davenport-Reardon Soil Conservation Service District and the State of Washington Department of Game do hereby enter into this mutual assistance program.

Board of Supervisors Agrees to:

1. Encourage seeding of grass in field waterways to prevent erosion and to furnish nesting cover for upland game birds.
2. Encourage stubble utilization practices which hold the soil and provide winter food for wildlife.
3. Encourage the planting of shelter belts, windbreaks, and other shrub plantings which help to control and which provide food and cover for wildlife.
4. Encourage conservation of existing native shrub, tree and grass cover to protect the soil and prevent destruction of this cover which in some areas is very limited.
5. Encourage the protection of multi-purpose farm ponds through the use of fences, shrubs, and grass; thus controlling livestock and furnishing wildlife cover.

Department of Game Agrees to:

1. Assist in the preparation of the overall wildlife program for the district.
2. Work out joint technical recommendation with the Soil Conservation Service, County Agricultural Extension Service, and other conservation agencies as to wildlife plantings.
3. Provide technical assistance in wildlife conservation planning on farms away from the main State Game Department development project.
4. Provide suitable fish, in accordance with laws of the State of Washington, for farm ponds which are fenced and protected by shrubs and grass.
5. When suitable planting sites are made available, free multiflora rose, or other
5. stock available will be furnished farm owners upon request.

Date _____ 19____

Signed _____ Board of Supervisors

Signed _____ Department of Game

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

By Ken McLeod

The Council attained the greater part of its legislative objectives during the 1953 session of the Washington State Legislature when the legislature by an overwhelming vote in both houses enacted the Council sponsored general raise in hunting and fishing licenses to become effective in 1954 except for big game seals which go into effect in the fall of 1953.

Bills were prepared and presented at the legislature covering every subject called for by resolution action of the Council during the preceding two years. Among these, in addition to the license increase, were bills which provided for:

1. Authority of the Game Commission to fix non-resident license fees.
2. Establishment of a State Food Fish Commission.
3. To require a license for any kind of fishing in fresh water.
4. To permit members of Armed Services to obtain resident hunting and fishing licenses at same fee as resident.
5. To permit use of state owned lands for recreational purposes.
6. To control deer killing dogs.

None of the last six were enacted into law.

There were a number of other bills introduced by various interests which required considerable effort on the part of the sports clubs throughout the state to defeat or amend to the point where they would be less objectionable. Among these latter were a vicious trespass bill and another measure which would seriously impair the Game Department's land acquisition and development program, a program originally sponsored by the Council. By agreement with the County Commissioners Association, the Council had arrived at a bill that was satisfactory in respect to in-lieu-of-tax payment for certain game department properties, but when the county commissioners legislative representative broke the traces in the closing days of the session, we found it necessary to insist on our version of the bill or attempt its defeat. The bill was defeated.

We also succeeded in amending the State Power Bill to provide added safeguards to the Lower Columbia River Fish Sanctuary Law in effect since 1949.

Total expenses incurred as a result of the effort the Council put forth during the session amounted to \$445.67. Of this, \$237.12 was paid to Harold Pebbles for services and Expenses, \$147.55 toward expenses of John Biggs and the balance of \$61.00 for telegrams, special letters and expense at the public hearing on Feb. 4.

Your Chairman wishes to acknowledge the wonderful work of Harold Pebbles, and John Biggs and Wes Hunter of the Game Department, and all officers and members of the Council who responded so quickly and effectively when the call for help went out from this office on various measures.

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MIGRATORY WATERFOWL COMMITTEE

By Frank Ermance, Chairman

The migratory birds are the most numerous of all our game birds. They give the sportsman more hunting days and hunting pleasure.

We had a wonderful carry over of ducks and geese and a good chance to have flocks increase.

The bag limit seems to be all right with most hunters, but in order to harvest the birds properly we would like a longer season. The season on snow geese should run until Jan. 15th and the brant season until Jan. 15th to give the hunters a chance to shoot some of the late flocks that don't come south until January. Brant flocks are numerous in the upper Sound and Hoods Canal then.

The jump season on Canada geese in Eastern Washington has proved successful and as the bodies of water are getting larger there are more resting places for geese. The goose hunters in eastern Washington would like to change shooting days from three to four days a week - Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

To protect swan in eastern Washington there should be open season on snow geese.

To eliminate enforcement problems and standardize shooting hours the Committee recommends shooting time to be one half hour before sunrise to 4 P.M.

Dove and pigeon seasons are satisfactory.

PREDATOR COMMITTEE
By Paul Clark, Chairman

During the past year, due to a mild winter throughout the Northwest, predators have prospered due to the inability of getting them concentrated so as to use poison baits. Also the light snows in the higher areas did not force the larger cats down so they could be taken in any numbers.

It is not all as bad as it seems on the surface. Coyotes were systematically trapped and poisoned whenever they were found. Magpies and crows were worked harder than ever before this past nesting season by Department personnel and observation shows they have been held in check. The big cats were taken in numbers, particularly on the west side by bounty hunters, and it is believed that they are on the decline. The take of foxes is on the increase, but is done entirely by Game Department personnel. Here some good old Sports Club projects could be put to valuable use.

The Sportsmen and Game Department hunters are continuing to get splendid cooperation from farmers and stockmen throughout the state, a very healthy situations, and the land owners themselves are beginning to take an active part in this work which they are carrying on the year round.

Many Sportsmen and Sports groups are working on predator control as a club project to a good end, and are eliminating many small colonies, thereby removing a future threat in a small area, a job being well done and recognized by this committee as an important service, one that should be taken up by all groups and not just a few.

It was the opinion of this committee that a program for the control of the hair seal population should be inaugurated. This will probably have to be done by Sports groups that all are adjacent to the salt water area where the seals are in large numbers. Many reports are that these seals feed in coastal waters unmolested and are taking a huge toll of our already depleted salmon.

Again the problem of house cats was brought to this committee, and it has been here before, and is a very touchy one to say the least, as Tabby is more or less a

sacred animal unless he gets too far from his house. It was agreed the house cat was being taken care of and would never increase in numbers beyond normal population. Automobiles are the controlling factor that keeps the balance about even.

Another item upon which much importance was placed, was the terrific destruction done to upland birds during the nesting season by bird dogs permitted to run loose by their owners. It was estimated by some committee members that 80% of the upland birds are destroyed during nesting and before flight stage in certain areas. If this is true, and personal observance shows it to be close, it is a terrific toll of our game birds that should be stopped either by stricter enforcement or a change of law to discontinue this practice of dogs running at large during this critical period.

The complete summary of predators taken is a matter of record by Game Department statistics and may be had for the asking. We will not quote any of these figures in this report as they are a matter of public record.

During the past year the State of Washington has waged a constant war on predators, also they are systematically being taken by Sports groups, bounty hunters, stockmen, farmers and Game Department personnel. Much interest is being shown and many predators are taken by this combined effort. It is paying good dividends and is the hope of this committee that this work can be continued in the future--and remember "never give a predator and even break".

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SAFETY COMMITTEE

By H. J. "Tiff" Skelsey, Chairman

The safety program altho in its infancy has shown progress since its adoption as a committee function within this council and with the support and cooperation of the council and its member clubs a safety program second to none is possible.

Safety is a vast field requiring a great deal of study and research to develop a workable program that will aid the ever increasing numbers of hunting and fishing enthusiasts to pursue the sport of their liking with a feeling of safe being.

Effort and time spent by all of us in aiding the safety movement will pay off with satisfaction in knowing that through our efforts we have prevented an accident.

From a review of reports made by this committee during the past year we find the following accomplishments:

- (1) Funds were raised to purchase the film "Shooting Safety". This film purchased by the council is available to all member clubs of this council.
- (2) A recommendation to the Educational Committee asking them to make a study of the possibility of a Junior Sportsmen's Camp was carried out by their committee resulting in a successful Junior Camp during August 1952. The camp directors stressed safety throughout their program. Congratulations to the committee and camp director for a job well done.

There remain a number of recommendations presented to the council for consideration that have not been acted upon. They are as follows:

- (1) A Safety Poster Contest in the schools sponsored by the member clubs and the

council in an effort to bring the need of safety in recreational activities before the public.

- (2) The use of Safety Bumper Strips on members cars during the hunting season. I have recommended that 2500 of these bumper strips be purchased by the council and distributed to the member clubs for the 1953 hunting season.

You have been urged to make use of materials available through the Arms and Ammunition Institute. Much of the material is free.

Figures on boating and firearms fatalities over a three year period were given showing the need of a safety program.

The Arms and Ammunition Institute offer to furnish the council with 146 complete sets of firearms safety posters (six posters per set) for distribution to clubs comprising the Council. A total of 876 posters at one-half actual cost, or two cents per poster, making a total cost of \$17.52, plus actual postage and handling estimated at \$7.00 maximum.

On June 10th I attended a meeting of the Recreational Safety Committee (of the Washington State Safety Council) held at the U. of W. In attendance at this meeting were representatives from various recreational groups and state and federal services. In the meeting, plans were set up to operate a Recreational Safety Committee under the above heading. Discussions were held on Finance, Rescue, Skiing, Hunting and Fishing, Organized Camping, Organized Recreation, Mountaineering, Aquatics. Chairmen for each group were named and it fell to my lot to be named chairman of the Hunting and Fishing Division.

These committees are asked to furnish information pertinent to their particular areas, such as number of participants, etc. In order to request financial aid from the State in our hunting and fishing committee we must furnish data concerning hunting and fishing accidents and show there is a definite need for financing our project. I am suggesting and hoping that all member clubs appoint someone in their group to keep a record of all accidents and deaths in these two forms of sport in their area. This information to be available to your Safety Committee for use in seeking financial aid from the State.

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SPINY RAY COMMITTEE
By Edgar Burkebile, Chairman

As the Spiny Ray Committee now has a well defined program, of which most of you are entirely familiar, and also inasmuch as the agenda for this meeting of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council is quite crowded, I will refrain from repeating anything that I have reported in previous reports and make this report as brief as possible, even though some remarkable achievements have been accomplished by this committee, since my last report to you.

I do, however, wish to tell you that our plan to have a spiny ray lake established in each community where practical, is going along exceedingly well.

Since my last report, there have been four petitions filed with the State Department of Game asking that certain lakes be set aside and established as spiny ray lakes.

These petitions were circulated by the various local sports clubs and bore the signatures of several hundred persons living in the communities where the lakes named in the petitions are located.

The petitions asked that the following lakes be established as spiny ray lakes and developed as such:

Big Lake, near Kalama, Washington, was requested by the Kalama Sportsmen's Club; Jackson Lake, by the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club; Lake Cassady, by the Marysville Sportsmen's Association and Lower Twin Lake, near Quilcene, by the Olympic Conservation Association.

One of the other projects on our program is the "Farm Fish Pond" and is also being received favorably by the farmers and has been discussed in several granges and favorable action taken, thereon.

Our newest project on our program is the furthering of the spinning or slip cast type of fishing. There are hundreds now turning to spiny ray fishing who have never fished for these fishes before. This sudden movement into the ranks of the spiny ray angler is due to the fast growing popularity of the new type of gear as the spinning rod and reel are naturals for bass and other kinds of spiny ray fish.

Your spiny ray chairman, along with a group of prominent sportsmen, met recently with Colonel Tandy, who is in charge of the building of the McNary Dam and the development of the recreational area above the dam and I was assured that several areas above the dam would be set aside and established as recreational areas for both smallmouth and largemouth bass and other spiny ray fishing.

These areas, in addition to the other spiny ray lakes, including the Equalizing Reservoir and Potholes will make Eastern Washington an ideal spot for the spiny ray angler.

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