

# 2022 Lincoln Area Fishing Forecast



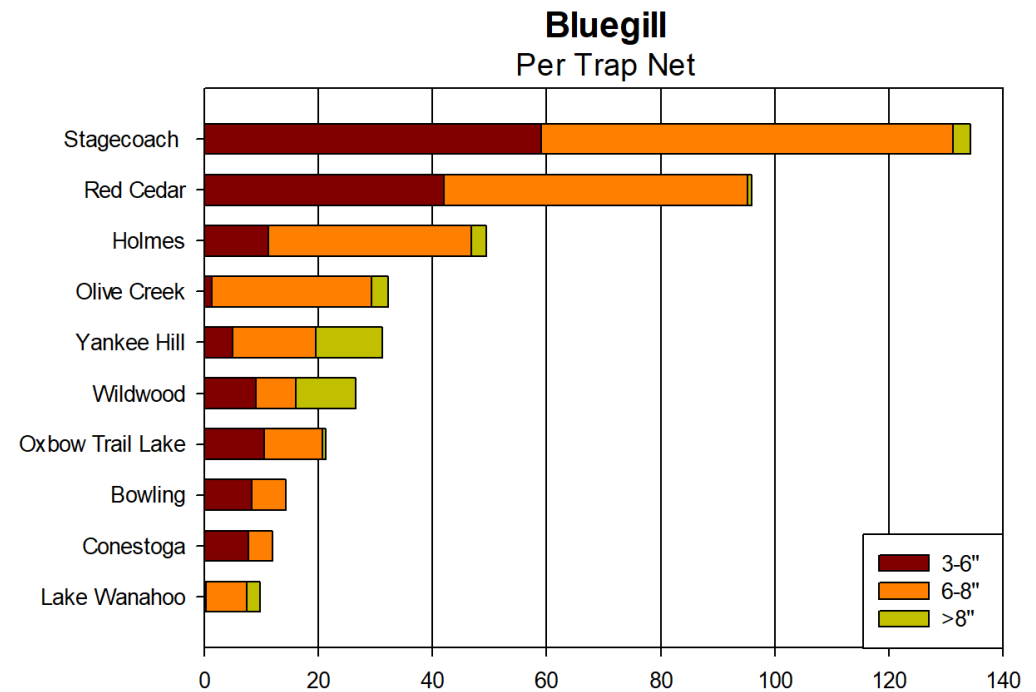
This is the fishing forecast for the Lincoln area. The forecast includes figures for area public water bodies that were surveyed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) in 2021. Additional public water bodies exist in the area, but were not all sampled. Therefore, there are other water bodies in the area that provide good fishing opportunities that are not included in this forecast (see map). The following information will help anglers decide on where the best fishing for a variety of species can be found based on survey results. Anglers seeking more information on area lakes such as locations, lake maps, regulations and stocking reports are encouraged to browse the Nebraska Game and Parks website at [www.outdoornebraska.gov](http://www.outdoornebraska.gov).



Photo 1. Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

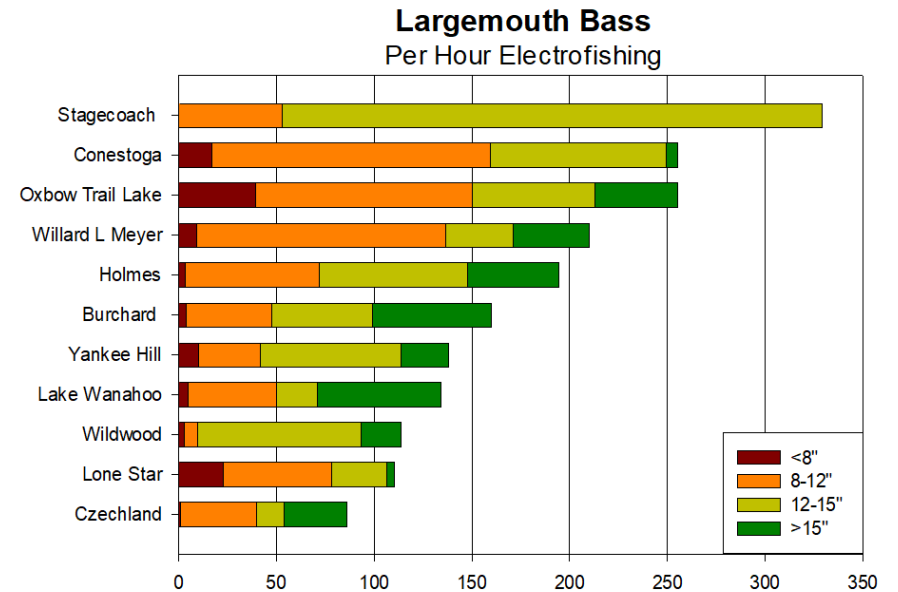
## Bluegills

Multiple lakes in 2021 were sampled for Bluegills in the Lincoln area. **Stagecoach** had the highest catch rates of Bluegills per trap net in the area, followed by **Red Cedar**, **Holmes**, and **Olive Creek**, respectively. **Yankee Hill** and **Wildwood** exhibited a large proportion of fish greater than 8 inches in length which should provide anglers with the opportunity to catch larger Bluegill.



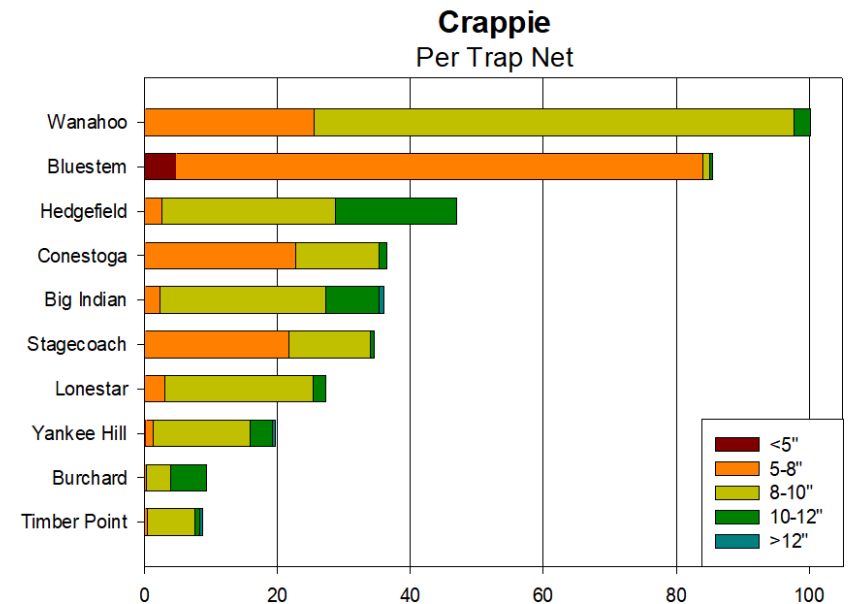
## Largemouth Bass

Largemouth Bass fishing opportunities will continue in the Lincoln area in 2022. **Stagecoach** yielded the highest catch rates with a majority of the fish population between 12 and 15 inches. The recently renovated **Conestoga Lake** is also producing numbers of 12 to 15 inch fish, with some over 15 inches. For anglers targeting larger fish, **Oxbow Trail Lake, Holmes, Wanahoo, and Burchard** will be good lakes to target.



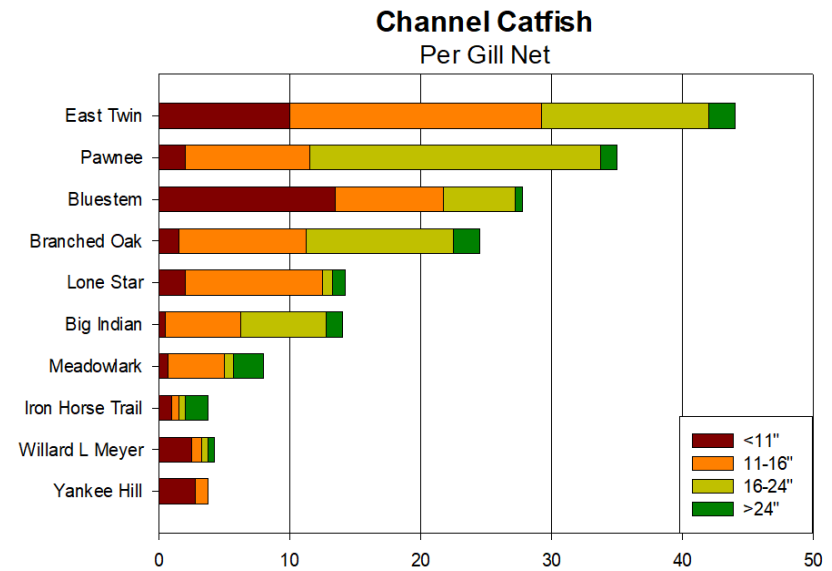
## Crappie

Anglers seeking crappies in the Lincoln area will have excellent opportunities in 2022. **Lake Wanahoo** yielded the highest catch rates in the 2021 sampling; a large proportion of the fish are between 8 and 10 inches. **Conestoga, Hedgefield, and Big Indian** will also be great places to target larger crappies in 2022.



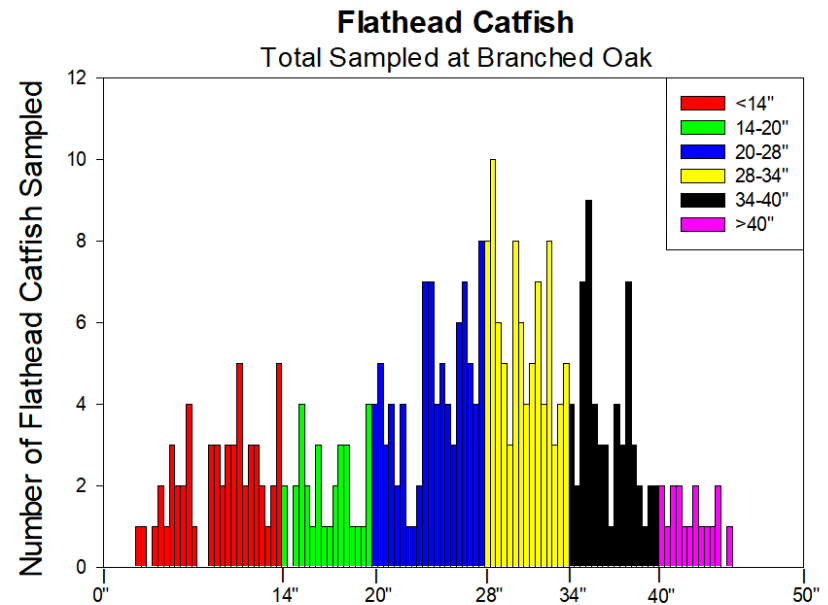
## Channel Catfish

Anglers seeking eater-sized Channel Catfish should head to **East Twin**, **Branched Oak**, **Pawnee**, or **Bluestem**. Anglers seeking larger catfish may want to try **Meadowlark** and **Big Indian**. The catch and release regulation at **Wildwood** continues to provide a great opportunity to catch a trophy Channel Catfish.

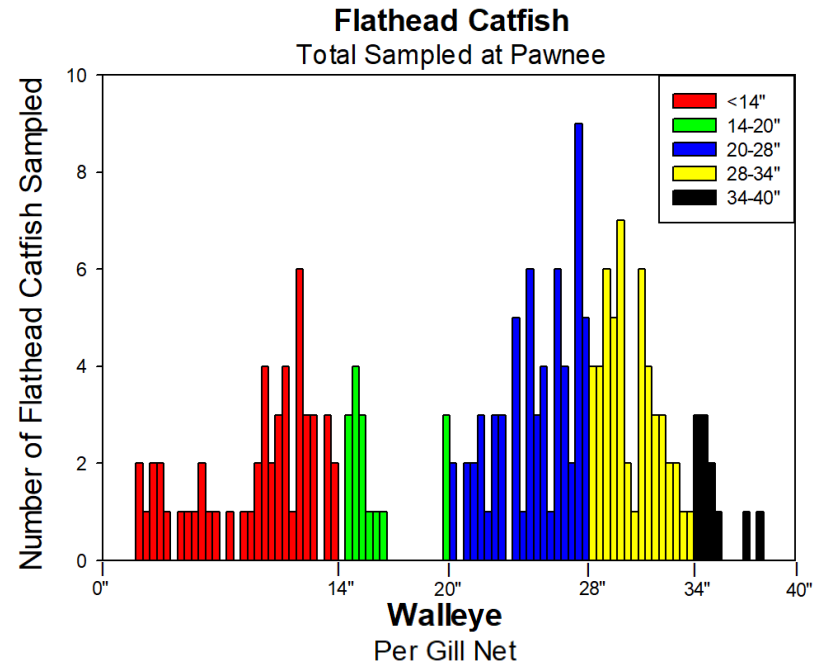


## Flathead Catfish

In 2022, **Branched Oak** will continue to be a top destination in the state with multiple fish over 40", giving anglers a chance to catch a true trophy. Anglers should also note that there is a catch and release regulation on Flathead Catfish at **Branched Oak**.

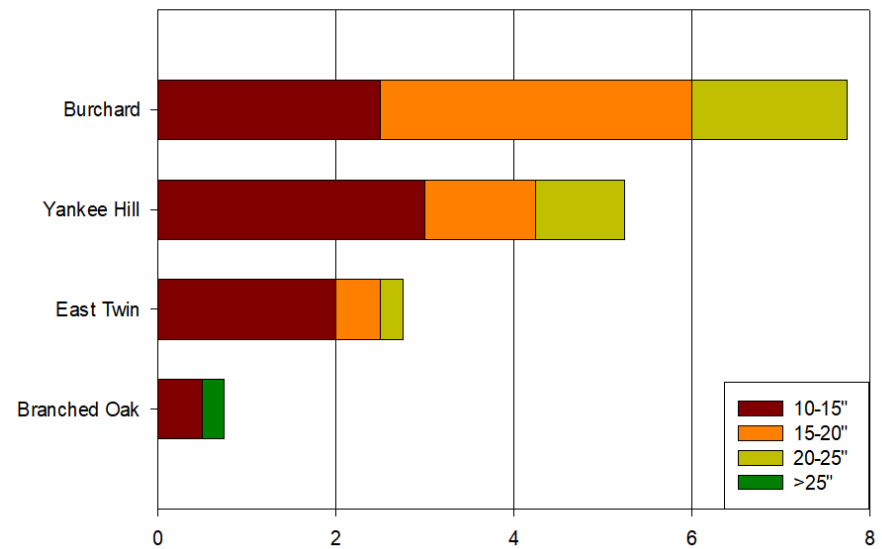


**Pawnee Lake** will also provide some good Flathead fishing in 2022. Unlike **Branched Oak**, anglers are able to harvest up to five Flatheads at Pawnee; however, only one can be over 30 inches.



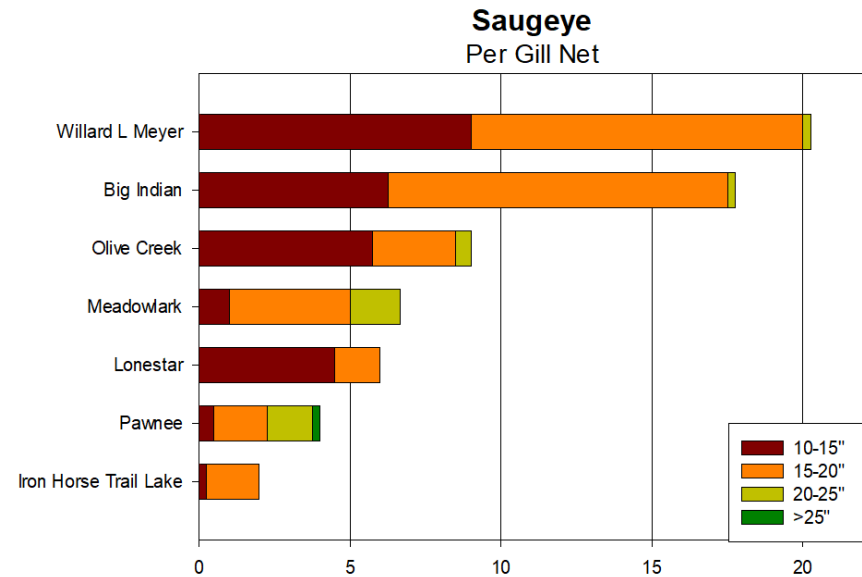
## Walleye

Anglers should have a good chance at catching some keeper sized  $\geq 15''$  Walleyes at **Yankee Hill** and **Burchard** in 2022. Although net results were low, anglers can still expect to catch a few Walleyes at **East Twin** and **Branched Oak**. Other lakes in the Salt Valley to target Walleye include **Holmes**, **Czechland**, **Wildwood**, and **Wanahoo**.



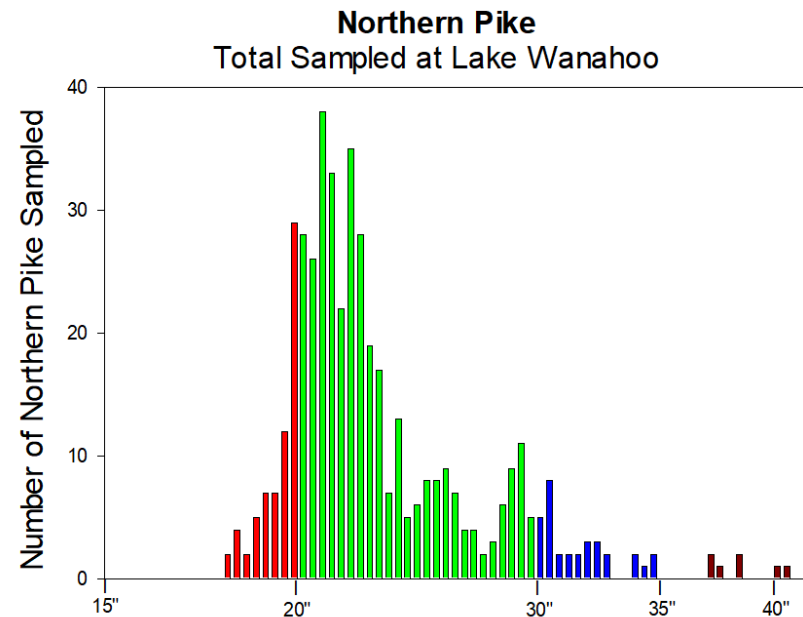
## Saugeye

Saugeye (a hybrid between Sauger and Walleye) were first stocked in a few area reservoirs in 2015, and results have been good so far. Anglers looking to catch legal Saugeye ( $\geq 15$  inches ) in the Salt Valley should head to **Willard L Meyer**, **Big Indian**, and **Olive Creek**. Anglers seeking master angler quality Saugeye should target **Pawnee**.



## Northern Pike

The Northern Pike in **Lake Wanahoo** continue to grow and provide anglers with a unique fishing experience. Multiple fish over 40" have been sampled and supplemental stockings have yielded additional recruitment. Remember that all Northern Pike caught must be released immediately. The Northern Pike tagging study will continue in 2022 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to [NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV).



## Blue Catfish

The Blue Catfish stocked in **Pawnee** over the last few years appear to be doing quite well. Anglers can expect these fish to be around 15-25" now. **Branched Oak** continues to produce some really nice Blue Catfish as well.

## Bullheads

Catchable sized Bullheads can be found at **Lake Wanahoo**. Several master angler Bullheads (>15") were sampled at **Lake Wanahoo** during the Spring sampling efforts. Bullheads can also be found throughout most lakes in the Salt Valley.

## Rainbow Trout

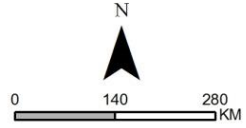
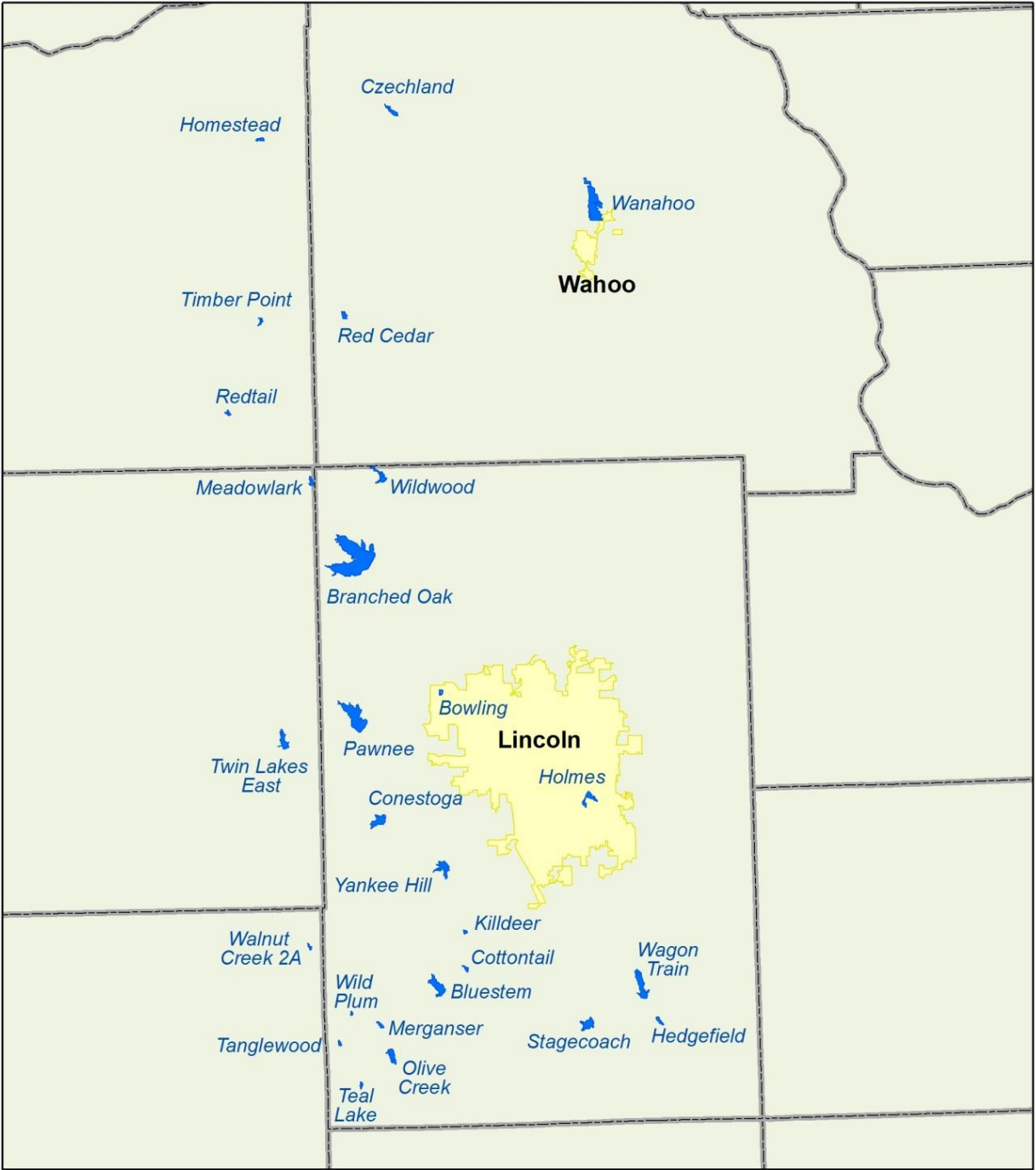
Rainbow Trout also provide a great fishing opportunity for children or beginners. Rainbow Trout are stocked in the Spring, Fall and Winter at **Holmes Lake** and in the Fall and Winter in the south pond at **Bowling Lake**.

## Hybrid Striped Bass (Wipers)

Salt Valley reservoirs such as **Branched Oak** will again provide anglers an opportunity to catch Wipers. Advanced Wiper stockings are doing well in **Branched Oak** with some Wipers over 25 inches residing in the reservoir. Anglers are reminded that they can only keep one White Bass, Striped Bass or Wiper that is 16" or longer per day, except at **Branched Oak** where a catch and release regulation is in place. Remember White Perch, a similar looking species to White Bass, Striped Bass and Wipers, cannot be transported live from any water body as they are an Aquatic Invasive Species.



Photo 2. Flathead Catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*)



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 GAME PARKS

Trisha Schlake, IT Division, 12/18/2012

