



MAY 2009

# WALLEYE LINES



*Promoting conservation, sportsmanship and education in respect to walleye fishing.*

## LUNKER WALLEYES THROUGH THE ICE



FM Walleye Unlimited, Inc. members will be presenting a video on the fantastic fishing trip they had to Lake Winnipeg in March. I'm sure Steve Hall along with his extremely entertaining group on co-horts will WOW you with brilliant pictures and AMAZE

you with unbelievable tales of a once in a lifetime Ice fishing trip!!!

They will be answering all questions on techniques and how you too can get in on this next year.

Also that evening Barry Chouinard will be updating everyone on MN DNR bills on 2 lines, Tournament Updates and other upcoming events.

**Don't miss this evening of entertainment.**

**Make sure to put Thursday, May 21st on your calendar.**

**THE DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM AND THE SEMINAR WILL START AT 7:00PM.**

*This meeting is free and open the public.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 16**  
One Day Only  
*Lake Traverse, Browns Valley, MN*

**May 19**  
Board Meeting  
Doublewood Inn at 7pm

**May 29-30**  
Pelican Spring Classic

**June 20 & 21**  
Club Outing  
*Devils Lake, Devils Lake, ND*

**July 11**  
Devils Lakes AYA  
Walleye Tournament  
*Devils Lake, Devils Lake, ND*

**July 18 & 19**  
Club Outing  
*Star Lake, Dent, MN*

**August 15 & 16**  
Club Outing  
*Upper Red Lake, Waskish, MN*

**ALL MEETINGS AT 7 PM  
AT THE DOUBLEWOOD  
INN OF FARGO, UNLESS  
OTHERWISE STATED.**



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## President's Comments...

Just got back from our first Club Outing of the year at Waubay Lake, and wanted to thank Steve Hall for another good outing. The weather was perfect on Saturday, but Sunday was a rainout. I am sure that you will be able to read more in Outing article.

I would encourage you to not wait until the last minute for submitting your Pelican Classic entry form, as the spots are starting to fill-up. Looking forward to another well run tournament and getting together with friends from past years.

When you receive this issue, most of us will have been out for the opener, and am hopeful that everyone had a chance to get out and get some of those "eyes".

As always, (but we don't say to state it enough) appreciate the work of club members who volunteer to assist the club in putting on tournaments, and club outings!

*Steve Garten, President*

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

STAN BREWER • GALAN BRIESE • NEAL HAALAND • RANDELL  
HENRIKSEN • DANNY HEUER • MARK MAGNESS • DICK MCCABE • SHANE  
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## 2009 CUSTOM COMBO RAFFLE

*By Scott Brewer*

With the days getting longer and the grass turning green it means that summer is on the way. Summer also brings with it the 2009 Custom Rod and Reel Raffle. During the summer of 2008 we raffled the first ever FM Walleyes premier combo with board member Gary Savagua winning a very nice Thorne Bros built Gloomis/Shimano Stella combo values at \$1000.00. This summers raffle will have a beautiful Chuck DeRemer built StCroix/Shimano Stella combo. Chuck is a local rod builder and member of our club. He spent many hours building what I consider a work of art that is one of a kind and is priceless. With the wood handle and the meticulous thread work, it may be a beautiful rod, but the feel of it is even better than it looks. All the proceeds from the raffle go to our youth education budget and provide things like the FM Walleye University classes. We will be selling tickets until the drawing on Sept. 17 or until they are sold out. To purchase tickets, contact any of the board members or myself (388-4408). We will also have tickets for sale at club functions throughout the summer.

## 2009 FLW RAFFLE

*By Scott Brewer*

The 2009 FLW Co-Angler Raffle was a large success. In the short time we had to sell tickets we were able to generate \$700 profit for the club. This was great considering all the flood fighting efforts going on at the same time. I was very fortunate to be drawn the winner this year and will be heading to Leech Lake in June to fish with the very best walleye anglers in the country. I can only hope to have the same luck as past winners Josh Johnson (6th place) did on Cass Lake in 2008 and Larry Williams (1st place) did on Devils Lake in 2007. Thanks to everyone who bought and/or sold these tickets, for without you, it wouldn't be possible.

## FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. 2009 Schedule of Club Outings Announced

### May 16 - One Day Only

Lake Traverse, Browns Valley, MN  
time: 7:30 am to 4 pm  
weigh in: County Park, MN side

### June 20 & 21

Devils Lake, Devils Lake, ND  
time: 7:30 am to 3 pm  
weigh in: Graham's Island State Park  
lodging: camping at state park  
reservations: (800) 807-4723

### July 18 & 19

Star Lake, Dent, MN  
time: 7:30 am to 3 pm  
weigh in: Frank's Lodge/Campground access  
lodging: Frank's Lodge and Campground  
reservations: (218) 758-2876

### August 15 & 16

Upper Red Lake, Waskish, MN  
time: 7:30 am to 3 pm  
weigh in: Big Bog State Park Access  
lodging: Big Bog State Park Campground  
reservations: (866) 85parks  
online: [www.stay@mnparcs.com](http://www.stay@mnparcs.com)

Contact Steve Hall with any questions: (701) 261-4379

## TAKE A VET FISHING "YOU WON'T REGRET IT!"

*By Ron Sahr*

This will be the 5th year that the YMCA, along with F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. members, has been involved with the "TAKE A VET FISHING" program. We will be meeting Wednesday June 3rd at the Buckhorn Ramp on the north end of Big Cormorant Lake at 3pm.

This is a feel good day for all who have taken place in the past. We need you and your boat. After fishing the YMCA puts on a barbeque and gives out prizes to all vets.

*If you can give a few hours of your time please contact Ron Sahr at PH 293-1918 or 789-7510*

## JEAN NYGAARD AS THE 2008 DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD RECIPIENT

Jean is a 20 plus year veteran of the club. Some of her accomplishments are worked with the Pathways to fishing program, volunteered on the Annual Dinner/Dance fund raiser, worked on the Calendar Raffles, helped with articles for Walleye Lines, served on the Board of Directors as the recording secretary for 6 years, served as the assistant director of the Pelican Tournament for 2 years than moved to director for another 3years (Must have been looking for punishment).

It is my own opinion that the tournament director position is one of the most time consuming, detailed, toughest jobs in this club. It takes hundreds of hours of work and thousands of phone calls to make just one of these tournaments happen.

The pattern is obvious; this member has accomplished a huge amount of work for our club. I'm sure that a closer inspection of this member's involvement in F-M Walleyes, Inc. would reveal many more accomplishments than I could possibly relate to you in only a few paragraphs.

This award comes in 2 parts. The first being a large plaque with picture, naming current and previous winners, which is displayed in the Scheels All Sports fishing Department. The second part is a trophy with clock that is presented to the recipient to display anywhere they wish.

I have known this member for more than 20 years and I can assure you that all of the award objectives have not only been met but have been exceeded. It is with great appreciation for all the years of service to F-M Walleyes, Inc. that the selection committee has picked

*Tami Stillwell (2007 Distinguished Member Recipient)*



## “EXPERIENCE INCREDIBLE MISSOURI RIVER FISHING”

*Presented by Jason Wright and Kurt Schirado*

Provided those who attended the April 16th FM Walleyes meeting with a wealth of timely information on spring and early summer walleye fishing in and around Bismarck, ND. While Eastern North Dakota anglers are anxiously waiting for the ice to melt off of area lakes Jason and Kurt, of Ultimate Outdoor Adventures Television, are fishing the Missouri River. They spend most days during April, May and early June on the river seeking walleyes.

***Jason and Kurt's approach to Missouri River walleyes included these points:***

- **Gearing Up** – Medium or Medium/Light 6'9" Fenwick Elite Tech fishing rods are their tools of choice. The 6'9" length is similar to most 7' rods, but with a shorter handle for easy handling in jigging presentations. They prefer to pair this rod with a smaller 1000 or 1500 series reel spooled with 6-8 lb Berkley Sensation. Jigs ranging in size from 1/8 to 1/2 oz are used in a variety of situations on the river. The 3/16 oz size is their favorite size to use in most situations.
- **Navigating The River** – Anyone who has fished the Missouri River knows the difficulty of navigating around the sand bars and stumps found sometimes inches below the surface of the water. Sonar and GPS are important tools in safely navigating the river waters. More important are the eyes of the navigator. Watching for signs of submerged danger is the best way to avoid ruining a day on the water.
- **Water Levels** – As influential as moon phase and cold fronts, the water level of the Missouri River affects the location and mood of walleyes. Jason and Kurt emphasized the importance of knowing what the river level is doing on a daily basis. Rising water levels will push walleyes into the shallow water areas, sometimes as shallow as two feet of water. On the contrary, falling water levels will signal the walleyes to retreat to deeper water areas surrounding the structure.
- **Presenting Jigs** – Jason and Kurt use several approaches to present jigs to river walleyes. Vertical jigging in areas absent of current is very effective. Pitching or casting jigs to shallow water is necessary when bringing the boat up close would spook weary fish. Their preferred method of fishing jigs is a horizontal presentation, fished behind the boat while slow trolling or drifting the current.
- **Where To Fish** – Slack water, water with little or no current, are key to finding early season walleyes. These areas, when found in conjunction with tapering sand bars, troughs or saddles between bars, or around rocky wing dams will often hold walleyes.

When approaching the Missouri River and it's many miles of twists, turns and sandbars Jason and Kurt recommend dissecting small sections at a time, identifying likely walleye structure and searching for the spots on the spot. While dissecting a section of river, also recommend moving, moving and moving some more. If there are no walleyes caught in the first 10-15 minutes they pick up lines and look for another section to try.

## WALLEYES IN FLOODED TIMBER

By Jason Mitchell

Flooded timber can be a very productive pattern wherever walleye swim. Some fisheries like North Dakota's Devils Lake offer strong year round patterns for walleye in the sticks. While Devils Lake may be the most notorious, the Glacial Lakes in South Dakota also offers similar situations where walleye anglers find themselves fishing amongst flooded trees. Besides the prairie lakes of the Dakotas that have filled from a wet cycle that has flooded the rolling landscape, timber can also be a productive option on flowages and reservoirs. There are perhaps many reasons and theories as to why flooded timber can be so productive from a biological standpoint. First off, rising water or high water universally seems to bring fish in shallow. Freshly flooded terrestrial vegetation is extremely attractive to fish. This high water that is often necessary to flood timber in itself seems to pull fish shallow but when you combine this high water with the cover that flooded timber provides, this pattern becomes even more solid. From the bottom of the food chain, flooded terrestrial vegetation brings a lot of new carbon into the ecosystem. In a nutshell, this new water becomes extremely productive with a spike in zoo plankton. This added productivity combined with the cover often boosts young of the year fish hatches. As long as the water stays high or continues to rise, walleyes can often be found shallow well into the summer long past when tradition would dictate that these fish slide deeper.



Fishing the flooded timber often takes a different mindset and also a modification of equipment and tactics. On Devils Lake where I have made my living as a guide for several years, we have flooded timber that is submerged by as much as twenty feet of water. Over time, many of the flooded trees have been pushed over by ice during the spring. As a result, we are using our electronics more and more to find the flooded timber. In the simplest form, fishing flooded timber can be as easy as finding a stand of trees sticking out of the water and tying off to one of the trees. One of the most effective and popular methods of fishing flooded timber is using a slip bobber. Using slip bobbers to fish flooded timber is very methodical but productive. The advantage of using a slip bobber rig is that you can keep your presentation vertical and away from the boat allowing an angler to probe openings and lanes in the flooded timber. The slip bobber also suspends the bait at a set depth to avoid contact with the bottom where snags often occur. With this type of presentation, remember that this is not a case for finesse. Anglers often have to wrestle fish up out of the branches relatively quickly. Many walleye anglers using slip bobbers around the country often use a monofilament line. The durability of braid however makes walleye anglers much more efficient when fishing flooded timber. The downside of most braids however is that the bobber stops have a tendency to slide up and down on the line too easily where resetting the depth is often necessary after catching a fish. This past year, I have stumbled onto a new line called Vicious Braid that is the best line I have found for this type of fishing because bobber stops grip much better. Vicious Braid also absorbs less water and is much more durable and resilient than many of the other braids I have used.

There are a few adjustments anglers can do to their slip bobber rig to make them more efficient in the timber. When we are guiding, what we often do is tie a small snap swivel onto the end of the braid and use lighter pound test mono or fluorocarbon snells where we tie either a plain hook or small jig. The advantage of the snell is that when snagged, the lighter snell will break but you still get your slip bobber along with bobber stop back. Anglers often add a few split shots above the snap swivel but I find an egg sinker works better as the egg sinker doesn't tangle in the net as easy making it faster to flip fish out of the net and get back into the water. Another option when targeting bigger fish perhaps in a tournament setting is to not use the lighter snell and instead tie the jig directly to the braid. Above the jig and below the bobber, tie another bobber stop onto the line to keep from losing the bobber in the advent of a snag.

Specifically for bobber fishing, we designed an eight foot telescoping slip bobber rod that has the back bone and length necessary for good hook sets and for wrestling fish up out of the wood ([www.jasonmitchellrods.com](http://www.jasonmitchellrods.com)). This rod called the Jason Mitchell Elite Series JMSS80SB is unique in the fact that the rod blank itself is marked with a white dot every foot of the rod blank. This can make you much more efficient and fast when adjusting and setting the depth because an angler can use the rod blank as a ruler, quickly measuring the distance from the hook to the bobber stop. This system is much faster than traditional methods that incorporated clipping a lead depth finder onto the line to set the depth. This measuring method is much faster when fishing depths of less than fifteen feet of water.

The biggest mistake we see many anglers make when we are guiding is how anglers set the hook when using slip bobbers. What I try and teach people when we are guiding is set the hook with the reel. What that means is when a slip bobber goes under, crank on the reel as fast as you can, essentially setting the hook with the reel. Reel fast and you will pick up any slack line and you will see the rod start to load from the fish as you continue reeling. As the rod loads, you can then set the hook but the reeling is very important. A hard hook set does nothing if there is a lot of slack line or if the fish is swimming towards the boat. Reel fast and load the rod. After the rod is loaded where you can actually feel the fish, set the hook if necessary.

Editors Note: The author, Jason Mitchell is a legendary guide on North Dakota's Devils Lake and operates one of the largest and reputable guide services in the upper Midwest. *Mitchell's Guide Service can be found online at: [www.fishdevilslake.net](http://www.fishdevilslake.net) or can be contacted at: 701-662-6560.*

## MINNESOTA WALLEYE STATE FISH STAMP

Minnesota's first walleye stamp will feature the art of Nick Reitzel of Karlstad. His painting was selected from 42 entries during the state's inaugural walleye stamp design contest held in October in St. Paul. The stamp will be available Feb. 15, and purchasing the \$5 walleye stamp is voluntary. The DNR will use revenue from stamp sales for walleye stocking and activities directly related to the state's walleye fisheries.

*Michael Kallok, editorial assistant*

New for 2009 when you are purchasing a Minnesota Fishing License, you will be asked if you would like to purchase a Walleye Stamp. This purchase is completely voluntary, not required for any fishing activity in Minnesota. The funds raised from the Walleye Stamp Sales will be dedicated for Walleye Stocking Programs into Minnesota, open to the public fishable waters. Stamps are available after March 1, 2009.

Due to the budget challenges in Minnesota, it is expected the DNR will lose about \$1.2 Million from the General Fund. The DNR anticipates significant reductions in appropriations. There are 15 vacancies being held at the current time, and anticipate this number will grow by 20-30.

Please consider supporting Walleye Stocking within Minnesota this when purchasing your fishing License by purchasing a Walleye Stamp.

## CLUB OUTING UPDATE

*By Steve Hall*

### WAUBAY LAKE - WEBSTER, SD - APRIL 25TH & 26TH

The weather on Saturday was near perfect - very little wind, no rain, water temperature at 43 degrees, nice day in the boat out on the water! Walleyes welcomed us. My boat hit about five spots and we caught and released about 60 walleyes, sometimes three fish at once! Now that's fun! We got in a fish fry - a real team effort. The cleaners and the cookers! Ron Sahr headed the fish cleaning end of the operation. (I have seen him on the cooking end before. One time at the North Dakota Governor's Cup we had to shut the grill down after Ron nearly burned everything down! We still cooked a full meal on the grill after we shut it off! ) We invited the Breske's to the fish fry. Good idea - they brought cake for dessert - yum! That was about it for Saturday. Let's go back to Friday...You know, I always like to talk about my memories and sometimes you just don't have a camera with. We got to Breske's Resort on Friday. The wind was out of the north at 35 to 40 miles per hour, but we went anyway. As we were unloading the boat we talked to Mr. Breske. We asked him when the ice had gone off the lake. He said it as about four days prior. He then told us that it must have warmed up fast because he saw a guy out swimming on Thursday morning. I thought to myself, oh yeah, right. I later learned he was right, can you believe it was true? Steve Garten got down to his "scivvey's" and took the polar plunge after his boat came off the trailer and drifted away and the rest is now a memory! We had to call the outing on Sunday due to the weather, another switch from spring to winter.

#### Junior Division

1st place: Blake Meyer  
2nd place: Lane Bohlmann

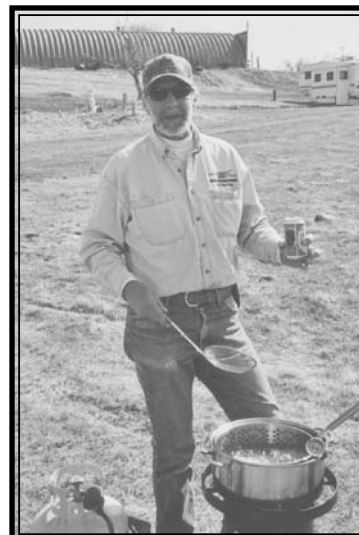
#### Adult Division

1st place: Steve Garten  
2nd place: Barry Chaunard  
3rd place: Brian Fitch

**May Club Outing: Saturday May 16th. One day only. 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Lake Traverse. Circle K Campground. South Dakota side.

**Call with questions. Steve at (701) 261-4379.**



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**Membership Application and Renewal**

F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. - An area sportsman's club, dedicated to the preservation and improvement of walleye fishing, invites you to join and actively participate in our fishing club  New  Renew  
 Application for Membership:  \$20  Jr. Member (under 18) - FREE

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Do you own a boat?  Yes  No Would you like to fish with other club members?  Yes  No

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership requirements: Persons desiring membership must be those who can act in a sportsmanlike manner and will be a credit to the organization. Receipt of this application, yearly dues and approval of the Board of Directors are required for membership.

Mail application to:  
 F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc., PO Box 1017, Moorhead, MN 56560.

Signature of Applicant:   x  

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*Articles for the  
2009 JUNE Issue  
of the Walleye Lines  
will be accepted through the  
31ST of MAY*

Any photos, articles that you have written or printed  
articles that you have obtained permission to have  
reprinted will be accepted.

For more information please contact  
Brian Dahlin, Editor of the Walleye Lines at:  
brian.dahlin@randscasework.com

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25th \$600.00  
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*"Payout Based on 100 Boat Field"  
(See Tournament Rules For Details)*

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Grand Rapids, MN**

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*To Be Announced*

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# NEWS RELEASES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Fishing: A popular pastime that's a backyard boon for Minnesota (April 28, 2009)**

Just how big is fishing in Minnesota? Big enough that it contributes \$4.7 billion to the state's economy every year and attracts 1.4 million licensed anglers to Minnesota's 11,842 lakes.

### **Let's fillet those numbers into more digestible morsels:**

- If every licensed angler ventured out at the same time, each of Minnesota's 11,842 lakes would have to accommodate 118 anglers.
- One out of every five Minnesotans fish, meaning that 1.1 million of Minnesota's 5.2 million residents pick up a fishing pole at least once during the year ... and that's not counting youth.
- Minnesota ranks fourth among states with the highest number of anglers. The top three states are Florida, Texas and California. Wisconsin is fifth, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- As a percentage of population among those states, Minnesota boasts the largest number of resident anglers at 28 percent and is tied nationally with Alaska for the largest participation of resident anglers.
- Anglers spend \$2.8 billion on fishing each year in Minnesota, according to the American Sportfishing Association's (ASA) Sport fishing in America survey.
- Dollars directly spent on fishing in Minnesota create an additional \$1.9 billion in economic activity, boosting angling's total state wide economic impact to \$4.7 billion, according to the ASA's Sportfishing in America survey.
- Equipment (rods, reels, line, boats, trailers, etc.) accounted for \$1.2 billion of the \$2.8 billion spent. Trip-related expenses accounted for \$860 million. Other expenses such as bait and equipment rental accounted for \$646 million, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.
- Salaries, wages and business earnings directly related to fishing in Minnesota total \$1.3 billion, according to the ASA's Sportfishing in America survey.
- Fishing creates Minnesota 43,812 jobs, according to the ASA's Sportfishing in America survey.
- Minnesota angling generates \$350 million in federal tax revenues and \$342 million in state and local tax revenues, according to the ASA's Sportfishing in America survey.
- In 2008, Minnesota fishing license sales generated \$19 million in revenue.

### **Just who are these anglers and where are they from:**

- Most resident anglers - 755,000 of them in fact - are from the seven-county metropolitan area. The remaining 388,000 resident anglers live outside the Twin Cities, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.
- Men account for 69 percent of resident anglers. Women account for 31 percent, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.
- The highest percentage of participation comes in the 35-44 year old age group. Most of the remaining participants come from the 45-64 year old age group, with those 16-24 years old accounting for only 12 percent of the people who fish, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.
- An estimated 40 percent of Minnesota anglers have household incomes of \$50,000-\$100,000. Households that make less than \$50,000 annually account for 27 percent of Minnesota anglers, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.
- An estimated 388,000 children ages 6-15 go fishing each year, with Twin Cities-area youth accounting for 76 percent of the total. More girls (52 percent) went fishing than boys (48 percent). Participation among age groups (6-8 years, 9-11 years and 12-15 years) remained fairly constant, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.

### **Finally, here's a look at where these resident anglers go and what they're trying to hook:**

- Significantly more time is spent fishing on lakes rather than rivers and streams, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.
- The average Minnesota angler spends 20 days fishing each year, with 86 percent of resident anglers never fishing anywhere else but Minnesota, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.
- Only 3 percent of Minnesota anglers try their luck on Lake Superior, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.
- The most sought-after fish species, in order of preference, are walleye, bluegill, northern pike, crappie and bass, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS. Most resident anglers spend nearly half their time fishing for walleye and bluegill, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by USFWS.