

# 2024 FISHERIES PRIORITIES WEST RIVER



## DEPARTMENT MISSION

We serve and connect people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife resources.

The main western tributaries of the Missouri River are the basis for most aquatic habitats in western South Dakota. Dams or ponds, frequently constructed on intermittent streams for watering cattle and other livestock, provide considerable fishing opportunity as do public impoundments constructed during the 1930s. Three large Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs, Shadehill, Angostura, and Orman, are extremely important fisheries. Human population density is the lowest of all management areas.

As part of fisheries planning efforts, priorities for each management area are established. Management issues are identified, and priorities created for work within the management area.

## IDENTIFIED ISSUES

1. Fisheries and angler access are impacted by sedimentation and abundant vegetation in aging reservoirs.
2. Maintaining water levels required for sustainable fisheries can be difficult.
3. Fish stocking needs are not always met, especially for stock dams and small impoundments.
4. Post-stocking survival of walleye juveniles in small impoundments that were produced in recirculating aquaculture systems is unknown.
5. Some anglers living in rural areas may not have quality fishing opportunities within a reasonable travel distance.

## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

1. Sedimentation Removal in Aging Reservoirs.
2. Impoundment Water Level Management.
3. Fish Availability for Stocking
4. Walleye Stocking Evaluations
5. Shore Fishing Access
6. Quality Rural Fishing Opportunities

