

2019-2023 GFP FISHERIES WEST RIVER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

WHY IS A FISHERIES PLAN NEEDED?

Outlining management priorities with a strategic plan is a way to optimize use of limited resources (staff, money, facilities and equipment) by prioritizing how these resources are used to best meet fisheries management needs.

The purpose of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Adaptive Management System is to guide fisheries and aquatic resource management based on the mission of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). This West River Fisheries Management Plan is a dynamic tool addressing the issues, challenges, and opportunities in managing fisheries and aquatic resources in western South Dakota.

This plan begins with an Inventory section, which describes the resources present in this management area and is divided into three categories: People, Fish and Habitat.

Following the Inventory section is an Issues section, which lists the current issues involving fisheries management for the area.

Lastly, the plan contains a number of measurable objectives and strategies for staff to implement. Actions to accomplish the priorities of both the Department plan and numerous Aquatics plans are incorporated into annual work plans.

DEPARTMENT MISSION

We provide sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship, and safely connecting people with the outdoors.

ISSUE EXAMPLES

1. Aging impoundments have a decreased ability to consistently support fisheries.
2. Remote locations mean habitat projects may be a low statewide priority.
3. A lack of information on angler use and management preferences hinder management.
4. Angler access to large western Missouri R.tributaries is insufficient.

HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. Improve angling access on small dams.
2. Completely renovate one small dam.
3. Keep angler satisfaction rates high.
4. Complete research projects on prey and sport fish to improve fishing.

1. RABBIT CREEK DAM IN HARDING COUNTY
2. ANGLER WITH BLACK CRAPPIE ON WESTERN DAM.
3. SMALL DAM ON THE BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

