

EXAMPLES OF IDENTIFIED NORTH DAKOTA PRIORITY WATERS:

- Bisbee-Big Coulee
- Brewer Lake
- Buffalo Lodge Lake
- Camels Hump Dam
- Carbury Dam
- Crooked Lake
- Crown Butte Dam
- Green Lake
- Harmon Lake
- Indian Creek Dam
- Matejcek Dam
- McVile Dam
- Josephine Lake
- McDowell Dam
- McGregor Dam
- Raleigh Reservoir
- Sather Dam
- Smishek Dam
- Sheep Creek Dam
- Spiritwood Lake
- Blacktail Dam
- Bowman-Haley Dam
- Clausen Springs
- Froelich Dam
- Larimore Dam
- McVile Dam
- Mount Carmel Dam
- Northgate Dam
- Odland Dam
- Short Creek Dam
- Sweet Briar Dam
- Tolna Dam
- Warsing Dam

If you have any questions or comments,
please contact:

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ND Game and Fish Department
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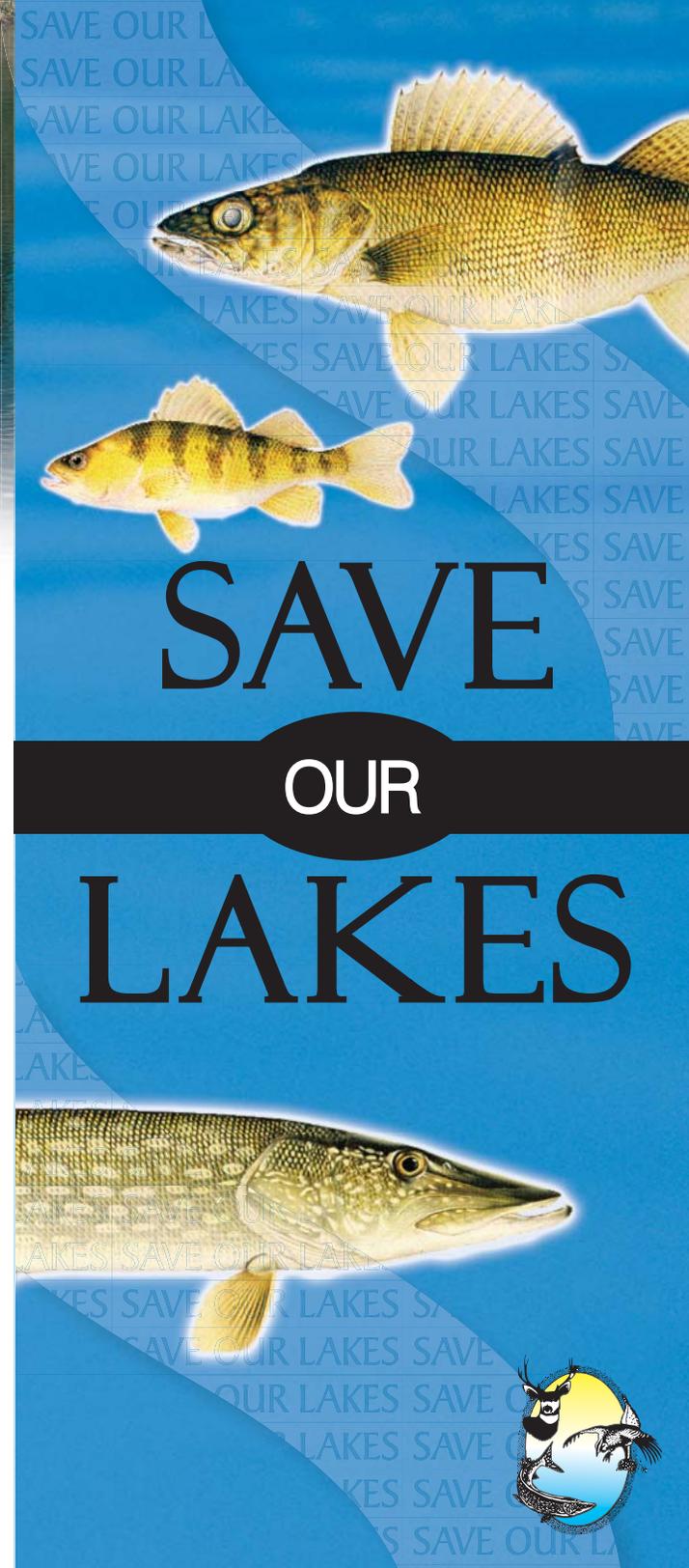
Craig Bihrtle

For more information on participating in this
program, please contact the North Dakota
Game and Fish Department at:

- www.gf.nd.gov
- email: ndgf@nd.gov



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Documented summer "fish kill" at one of North Dakota recreational fisheries.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's *Save Our Lakes* program is designed to develop projects and work with existing programs to restore or enhance aquatic habitat to help improve fishery resources in the state.

Many North Dakota lakes, rivers and streams are suffering the harmful effects of aging. While aging is natural for all bodies of water, it has been accelerated by current land use practices and pollution.

The Game and Fish Department is looking at ways to slow or reverse this process through a variety of conservation measures.

Game and Fish staff and cooperators are working on identifying, assessing and mitigating point source and nonpoint source pollution in lakes, reservoirs and associated watersheds. This includes adherence to Environmental Protection Agency guidelines and standards for clean water.



Fencing of riparian corridors reduces nutrient inputs.

Various factors contributing to watershed erosion and sedimentation of reservoirs and lakes are being addressed with tools that include Best Management Practices, conservation easements, cooperative agreements and watershed modeling.

For example, it is estimated that Sweet Briar Dam in Morton County receives 60,000 to 90,000 tons of sediment annually from land in the surrounding watershed. That is enough sediment to cover 31 acres of land with one foot of soil. At this rate of sedimentation, Sweet Briar Dam will be completely filled with soil in less than 60 years. In addition to sediment, runoff into Sweet Briar Dam and many other North Dakota lakes also carries fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides applied to cropland in the watershed.



Effluent from upstream feedlots significantly decreases water quality and ecosystem health.



"The lake has aged quite rapidly because of the excessive silt and nutrients that enter its water. A major winter-kill of fish occurred in the winter of 1968-69 – when the next kill hits no one knows, but chances for winter-kill increase at this lake as time goes by."

– North Dakota Outdoors 1973

The SOL program emphasizes projects that reduce nutrients in lakes through trapping and/or removal of sediments, noxious water evacuation, creation of buffer strips, and other standard and innovative conservation practices. Watershed projects also include noxious and invasive species control.



Through the SOL program, the Game and Fish Department hopes to implement a variety of restoration efforts, including creation of waste containment facilities, bank stabilization, alternate water sources, buffer strips, sedimentation dams and many others. The SOL program is able to cost-share many of these private lands projects, as well as lend technical advice.

Game and Fish Department staff will work cooperatively with local, state and federal agencies to identify funding sources and implement projects that meet the SOL goal.

Since the SOL program began, Game and Fish biologists have identified more than 30 priority waters based on criteria such as watershed condition, recreation use and opportunity for success. A number of projects have already been completed. Although identifying priority lakes is part of the process, SOL involvement is not limited to just those waters.