



South Dakota Highlights



A Watershed Approach to Enhance Fisheries The Lake Poinsett Watershed Implementation Project began in 1998 with a goal of restoring the beneficial uses of Lake Poinsett and Lake Albert (Hamlin and Brookings Counties) as recreational fisheries. Nutrient and sediment loading were identified as impacting the ability of these lakes to function from excessive algae blooms and turbidity. The presence of critical rooted aquatic macrophyte cover was nonexistent in the algae dominated system, while the erosion and suspension of clay shoreline soils impacted spawning of amphibian and fish species.

The first phase of the project assisted in stabilizing 18,000 ft of the housing developed Lake Poinsett shoreline. Elimination of 95% of livestock access to Lake Albert through USDA Conservation Reserve Programs and private management has stabilized and eliminated nutrient sources. Perennial vegetation has been established on 5,800 acres, grazing management plans on 2,500 acres, riparian protection to 25,000 feet of streams, cropland residue management plans on 2,200 acres and sediment dams to contain 400 acres have been successful in reducing the sediment load by an estimated 35,000 tons per year. Feedlot containment of animal nutrients completed at 17 facilities combined with the sediment reduction resulted in a reduction of phosphorous by 19,000 lbs per year.



In 2007 Lake Poinsett switched from a turbid, algae dominated state to a clear water state with extensive beds of native aquatic macrophytes, some documented for the first time. The fish populations have responded positively to the improved habitat conditions and the lake currently provides high angler use with very good catch rates.

Photo: A state record smallmouth bass (6lb., 9 oz.) was recently caught in Lake Poinsett. SDGFP

Other highlights include:

- Completed one lakeshore restoration demonstration project with several others in the planning stage on heavily developed glacial lakes. This project was funded by NFHAP.
- The Nature Conservancy published "Identifying Lake Conservation Priorities for The Nature Conservancy in MN, ND, and SD Volume II: A Classification and Portfolio for ND and SD."
- Worked with many private lakeshore residents on shoreline stabilization and improvement projects throughout eastern South Dakota.
- Developed a newly acquired 28 ac. urban fishery in Sioux Falls including, access roads, floating fishing piers, shore fishing areas, rainbow trout stockings, parking areas, and restrooms.
- Worked with partners to develop shore fishing opportunities on numerous lakes (Mitchell, Enemy Swim, Rush, Kampeska, Pelican, Big Stone and Eureka).
- Major access roads that were damaged due to high water were repaired at Horseshoe Lake, Lake Cavour, and Twin Lakes.



Photo: New floating fishing pier at Enemy Swim Lake awaits eager anglers. SD GFP