

Winterkill Waters

Confirmed lakes with winterkill are listed by fisheries management districts. Biologists use three levels to describe the severity of a fish kill: total, where all fish died; significant, where the game fish population is greatly reduced; or partial, where dead fish were observed, but game fish are still present. "Most of the lakes that experienced winterkill are prone to die-offs," said Scott Gangl, North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries management section leader. "So while there was some disappointment in losing good fisheries, there weren't many surprises."

North Central

- North Carlson Lake, Ward County (partial)
- Coal Mine Lake, Sheridan County (significant)
- Cottonwood Lake, McHenry County (significant)
- Crooked Lake, McLean County (significant)
- South Carlson Lake, Ward County (partial)

Northeast

- Buffalo Lake, Pierce County (significant)
- Harvey Dam, Wells County (significant)
- Island Lake, Rolette County (significant)
- Morrison Lake, Ramsey County (significant)
- Niagara Dam, Grand Forks County (significant)
- School Section Lake, Rolette County (total)
- Sykeston Dam, Wells County (significant)

Northwest

- East Spring Lake Pond, Williams County (significant)
- Iverson Dam, Williams County (total)
- Lake Darling, Renville (partial)
- McLeod (Ray) Reservoir, Williams County (significant)
- Nelson-Landers Pond, Ward County (total)
- Skjermo Lake, Divide County (significant)
- Stanley Pond, Mountrail County (total)
- Stanley Reservoir, Mountrail County (total)
- Tioga Dam, Williams County (total)
- Watford City Park Pond, McKenzie County (total)
- West Spring Lake Pond, Williams County (total)

South Central

- Beaver Lake, Logan County (significant)
- Braddock Dam, Emmons County (significant)
- Cherry Lake, Kidder County (total)
- Dollinger-Schnabel Lake, McIntosh County (total)
- Fresh Lake, Kidder County (total)
- Lake No. 5, Kidder County (total)

Southeast

- Crystal Springs, Stutsman County (partial)
- Bisek Slough, Richland County (significant)
- Boom (Marion) Lake, LaMoure County (significant)

Runoff Notes

Greg Power, North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries division chief, penned the following in spring:

Spring runoff in 2009 was one for the record books. According to my notes, record river flows occurred at the following: Red River at Fargo, Missouri River at Bismarck (since Garrison Dam was completed), James River at Kensal and LaMoure, Sheyenne River at Valley City and Lisbon, Knife River at Hazen and Beaver Creek at Linton.

With all of this water flowing it had to end up somewhere ... and it did. The following is some of our larger lake/reservoir water levels that were noteworthy: Record high levels at Devils Lake, Stump and Irvine in Ramsey, Benson and Nelson counties, Alkaline Lake in Kidder County, and Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs in Stutsman County. Further, Heart Butte Reservoir reach its third highest level on record, and lakes Sakakawea and Oahe rose 23 and 30 feet respectively in one year and both are or will be considered full.

What a difference a year or two makes in North Dakota.