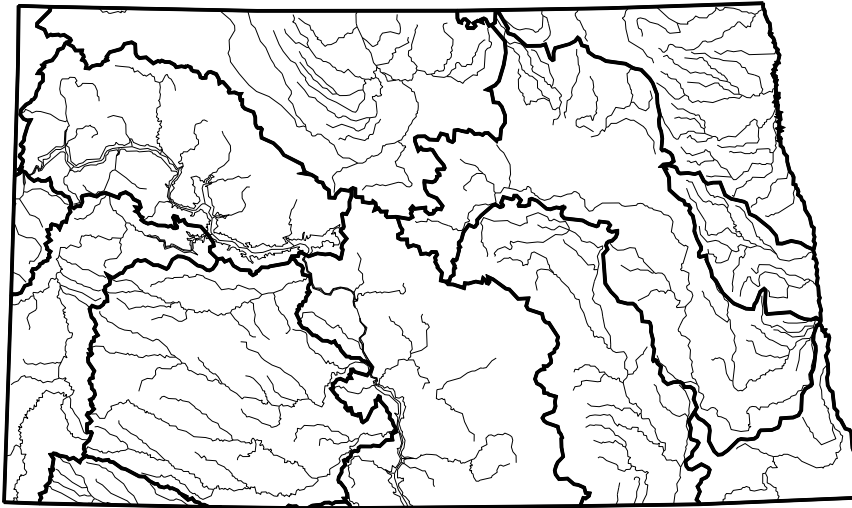


North Dakota



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

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Surface Water Quality

North Dakota reports that 78% of its surveyed rivers and streams have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses now, but good conditions are threatened in most of these streams. Eighty-nine percent of the surveyed streams fully support swimming. Elevated siltation, nutrients, ammonia, pathogens, oxygen-depleting wastes, and habitat alterations impair aquatic life use support in 22% of the surveyed rivers and impair swimming in 11% of the surveyed rivers. The leading sources

of contamination are agriculture, removal of streamside vegetation, municipal sewage treatment plants, and other habitat alterations. Natural conditions, such as low flows, also contribute to violations of standards.

In lakes, 95% of the surveyed acres have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses, and 98% of the surveyed acres fully support swimming. Siltation, nutrients, oxygen-depleting substances, and suspended solids are the most widespread pollutants in North Dakota's lakes. The leading sources of pollution in lakes are agricultural activities (including nonirrigated crop production, pastureland, irrigated crop production, and feedlots), municipal sewage treatment plants, and urban runoff/storm sewers. Natural conditions also prevent some waters from fully supporting designated uses.

Ground Water Quality

North Dakota has not identified widespread ground water contamination, although some naturally occurring compounds may make the quality of ground water undesirable in a few aquifers. Where human-induced ground water contamination has occurred, the impacts have been attributed primarily to petroleum storage facilities, agricultural storage facilities, feedlots, poorly designed wells, abandoned wells, wastewater treatment lagoons, landfills, septic systems, and the underground injection of waste. Assessment and

protection of ground water continue through ambient ground water quality monitoring activities, the implementation of wellhead protection projects, the Comprehensive Ground Water Protection Program, and the development of a State Management Plan for Pesticides.

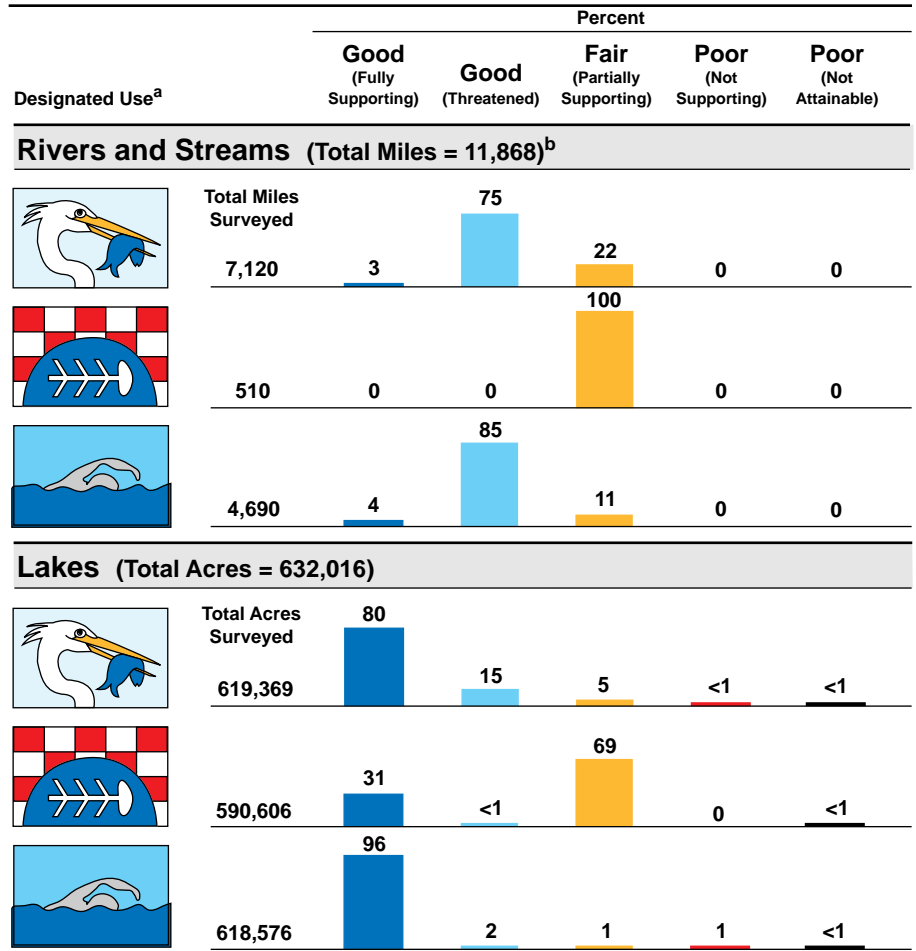
Programs to Restore Water Quality

North Dakota's Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has provided financial support to 26 projects over the past 4 years. Although the size, type, and target audience of these projects vary, the projects share the same basic goals: (1) increase public awareness of nonpoint source pollution, (2) reduce or prevent the delivery of NPS pollutants to waters of the State, and (3) disseminate information on effective solutions to NPS pollution.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The North Dakota Department of Health monitors physical and chemical parameters (such as dissolved oxygen, pH, total dissolved solids, and nutrients), toxic contaminants in fish, whole effluent toxicity, and fish community structure. North Dakota's ambient water quality monitoring network consists of 61 sampling sites on 31 rivers and streams.

Individual Use Support in North Dakota



^a A subset of North Dakota's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.