

APPENDIX B

**Valley City National Fish Hatchery
Draft Fishing Plan**

February 2019

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Valley City National Fish Hatchery
11515 River Road
Valley City, ND 58072
Barnes County**

Submitted: _____
Project Leader _____ Date

Concurrence: _____
Geographical Supervisor (MT, ND, SD) _____ Date

Approval: _____
Assistant Regional Director - FAC _____ Date

VALLEY CITY NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY DRAFT FISHING PLAN

I. Introduction

National Fish Hatcheries are guided by the mission and goals of the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS), the purposes of an individual hatchery, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter referred to as the Service or USFWS, interchangeable) policy, and laws and international treaties. Relevant guidance includes selected portions of the Code of Federal Regulations and Fish and Wildlife Service Manual.

The Valley City National Fish Hatchery was established by Act of Congress, 46 Statute 372, otherwise known as the White Bill, approved on May 21, 1930. The primary purpose of the hatchery was for the production of warm water fish for stocking waters on FWS Refuges and Tribal lands as well as the participation in the Farm Pond Program. The hatchery property consists of 71.5 acres.

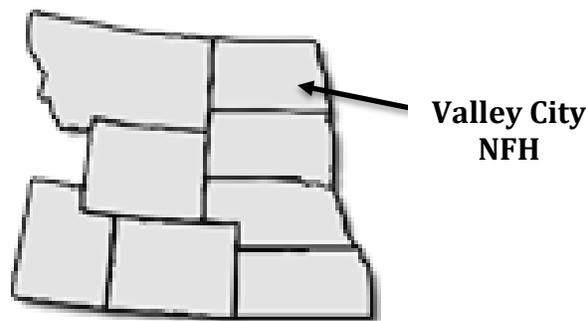


Figure 1. Location of Valley City National Fish Hatchery, Valley City, ND

For visitors to the area, Valley City National Fish Hatchery offers a nature trail, a pollinator garden, Kids Fishing Pond, Sheyenne River canoe access and visitor center to ensure a rewarding experience for all visitors.

There has not been a formal program previously established on Valley City NFH to fish public waters. Fishing from boats occurs on the Sheyenne River adjacent to the hatchery. The hatchery annually hosts a fishing derby for children and has the Kids Pond open year-around for fishing.

II. Statement of Objectives

Allowing fishing from hatchery property is consistent with the Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program's Strategic goal to "Enhance Recreational Fishing and Other Public Uses of Aquatic Resources". The Service has a long tradition of fostering public uses and enjoyment of aquatic resources through its work to conserve these resources, to support fishing and other aquatic outdoor recreational activities, and national education programs.

Fishing Plan Goal

Increase angling participation. Diverse, stable and productive angling opportunities are the basis for increased angling participation. Programs should foster life-long participation in fishing and the outdoors based on simple, easily available opportunities and skills that can be learned at any age.

Fishing Plan Objective

The objective of a fishing program on Valley City NFH is to provide opportunities for visitors to fish from hatchery property in accordance with FAC goals and the ND Game and Fish Department's fishing regulations.

The program will:

- Include clear and concise regulations that are readily available to visitors on the hatchery website;
- Pose minimal conflict with overall FAC and hatchery objectives;
- Pose minimal conflict with other priority public use activities; and
- Provide a quality angling program that provides opportunities for visitors to fish from or on hatchery lands.

Fishing Plan Strategies:

- a. Allow anglers to access the Sheyenne River with watercraft to fish at an identified access point, and/or to bank fish along the shore bordering the hatchery. Facilitate angling for families and kids in a relatively safe location to fish the Kids Pond.
- b. Provide fishing rods and reels for day use to young anglers fishing the Kids Pond to encourage participation in the sport.

The Hatchery will use an adaptive management approach by reviewing the Fish Plan every 5 years and revising if necessary.

III. Description of Fishing Program

A. Areas to be Opened to Fishing

Bank fishing would occur along the shore bordering the hatchery as well as the river itself. Available shoreline area is limited by extensive riparian growth including trees and shrubs as well as the flood control berm.

B. Species to be Taken, Fishing Periods, Fishing Access

The areas will be open for anglers year around from dawn to dusk. Anglers will access the Sheyenne River by unloading their watercraft at the river access area east of the main hatchery entrance. Parking is also permitted in the day use parking area. Anglers may also access the river at any point where the hatchery borders the river. The Kids Pond is accessible from the hatchery entrance road and parallel parking is permitted in this area.

Species available in the Sheyenne River and Kids Pond include rainbow trout, black crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, common carp, largemouth bass, bullhead, and yellow perch.



Figure 2. Aerial view of Valley City National Fish Hatchery, Valley City, ND

C. Fishing Permit Requirements

Anglers who are eligible to fish under North Dakota law are eligible to fish public waters from hatchery property. They must obtain a North Dakota fishing license and follow North Dakota state laws, limits, and regulations.

D. Consultation and Coordination with the State

The Service reviewed any applicable state fishing regulations to ensure consistency, and has been in contact with North Dakota Game and Fish Department about support for the Service proposal.

E. Law Enforcement

The Service has the Wetlands Management District (WMD) staff co-located at the hatchery. As the hatchery has no law enforcement component, WMD officers would be able to enforce State laws and regulations on hatchery property.

The following methods are used to control and enforce regulations:

- Hatchery and fishing area boundaries will be clearly posted;
- The hatchery website will provide information for anglers including links to State

- websites relative to regulations and obtaining fishing licenses;
- Fishing information will be available in the visitor kiosk and/or in the visitor center.

F. Funding and Staffing Requirements

There will be costs associated with the development of infrastructure to support fishing at Valley City NFH. Following the development and approval of a fishing opening package, initial improvement costs will include acquisition and installation of signage as well as purchase and placement of recycling and trash containers.

Annual costs to administer the fishing program at Valley City NFH, including salary, equipment, and maintenance, totals approximately \$3,500. Expenses will consist primarily of posting and maintaining “Public Fishing Area” signs, maintenance of the trail and parking lot, law enforcement patrols, disposal of waste from trash containers, and production and dissemination of materials regarding fishing access and regulations.

Table 1. Costs to Administer a Fishing Program at Valley City NFH

Activity or Project	One-time Expense	Recurring (Annual) Expense
Signage	\$800	
Trash and recycling containers	\$1,000	
Maintenance		\$1,500
Staff		\$3,000
Total	\$1,800	\$4,500

IV. Conduct of the Fishing Program

A. Fishing Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures

No special application or registration process is required.

B. Hatchery-Specific Fishing Regulations

There are no hatchery-specific fishing regulations.

C. Relevant State Regulations

[North Dakota Game and Fish Fishing website](#)

[North Dakota Fishing Regulations](#)

D. Other Hatchery Rules and Regulations for Fishing

- Camping, overnight use, and fires are prohibited.
- Cleaning of fish on the hatchery is prohibited.
- Pets must be on leash while on the hatchery or under direct control of the owner.

V. Public Engagement

A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Fishing Program

Announcement concerning public fishing will be made on the Valley City NFH Facebook page, with information about fishing available on the Valley City NFH website: [Valley City NFH website](#).

B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Fishing Program

The Service does not anticipate any controversy as a result of opening this use on VCNFH.

C. How Anglers Will Be Informed of Relevant Rules and Regulations

General information regarding fishing and other wildlife-dependent public uses can be obtained from the North Dakota Fish and Game website:

[North Dakota Game and Fish Fishing website](#)

[North Dakota Fishing Regulations](#)

VI. Compatibility Determination

Fishing and all associated program activities proposed in this plan are determined to be compatible with the purposes of the hatchery, and not detrimental to the propagation and distribution of fish or other aquatic wildlife (50 CFR 71).