

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge
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Cayuga, ND 58013
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tewaukon/>

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Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge Addresses Drainage in Lake Tewaukon Caused by Recent Flood Damage

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Cayuga, ND – Due to recent spring flooding at the [Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge](#), Lake Tewaukon is currently draining because of damage to the lake's dam (known as Dam 1 or the North Bay Dam). This issue was first identified by refuge staff on May 1, 2019. Refuge staff are actively working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regional engineering experts to assess and address this situation as quickly as possible. The lake's dam recently broke loose and cannot be repaired at this time due to the high velocity of the water, which would present a safety hazard to maintenance and repair staff.

While the damage is currently beyond the operational capacity at the refuge for staff to safely repair at this time, this situation does not endanger critical infrastructure or human safety at this time. The North Bay Dam is the largest of four on the refuge, and it controls the Wild Rice River as it leaves Lake Tewaukon. Spring 2019 flooding recently caused the greatest damage to this dam since it was improved in 1989.

Lake Tewaukon is one of two lakes open to fishing on the refuge. We anticipate water levels in Lake Tewaukon will likely continue to drop in the near future, which may temporarily impact fishing opportunities at this popular lake. There are many factors that may impact how quickly, and to what extent, Lake Tewaukon drains, including: the flow of Wild Rice River (which feeds into Lake Tewaukon), precipitation, and groundwater levels. It's possible that Lake Tewaukon may temporarily drain to a mudflat habitat for a period of time that may not support game fish.

Fish stocking at Lake Tewaukon may be delayed due to the lake's current drainage issue. We will continue actively communicating with our state and local conservation partners, including the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and surrounding communities, to address this matter.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen in the West, visit [our website](#), connect with us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), watch our [YouTube channel](#), and download public domain photos from [Flickr](#).

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