

Fisheries-Pembina River IWMP

It would be advantageous for this IWMP to obtain a copy of a obtain copy of Upper Pembina River Watershed Fisheries and Riparian Area Survey 2006 and the Fisheries Enhancement Evaluation for the Pembina River 1997. Both reports were conducted from a fisheries perspective and rehabilitation projects identified in both. Both reports identified potential fisheries riparian projects within the watershed and have been used by both Fisheries and the Conservation District as such. A concentrated effort in riparian protection management in this watershed would likely have a significant impact in improving and protecting water quality. In both reports it was felt that tributary restoration projects on the "less important" streams and creeks of the Pembina River were extremely important and often overlooked.

The priority in this and most watersheds is the protection of the surface waters through protective riparian projects. Unfortunately lack of adequate funding and unreceptive landowners are the major hurdles that must be overcome. Continued and ongoing landowner education is critical in keeping this a priority. The definition of landowners also includes cottage and recreational land owners especially on the large lakes such as Killarney, Pelican, Rock and Bower Lakes.

The Pembina River Watershed ranges from the eastern slope of the Turtle Mountains eastward following the Pembina River into the United States of America. The major activity of the watershed is farming.

In this watershed Fisheries annually stocks various waterbodies with normally either walleye fry or trout fingerlings.

The waterbodies annually stocked with walleye fry are:

Boissevain Reservoir
Killarney Lake
Pelican Lake
Rock Lake
Goudney Reservoir (Pilot Mound)
Mary Jane Reservoir (Manitou)

The waterbodies annually stocked with trout fingerlings but might be just on the watershed boundary line is:

Bower Lake
William Lake

Installation of aeration systems has been used as a tool in an attempt to re-establish sport fisheries on waterbodies that are experiencing frequent winter

fish kills. In conjunction with appropriate protective riparian projects surrounding the following waterbodies, it has been successful. Unfortunately when designing such aeration systems they can only be sized for the presence. Unrestricted or increases in nutrient and sediment loading into these waterbodies will result in these aeration systems unable to cope with this added pressure. The following are waterbodies that have annual operating aeration systems:

Boissevain Reservoir
Killarney Lake
Goudney Reservoir
Mary Jane Reservoir
Bower Lake
Pelican Lake (experimental and undersized)

I hope this sheds some light from a Fisheries point of view on issues in the watershed. I would definitely stress the importance of reviewing the above two reports because there is a wealth of knowledge in those reports.