

Outdoors Briefs: Releases Close Some Facilities At Francis Case

PIERRE — Additional water being released from upstream dams and significant rain this week are raising the water level on Lake Francis Case, resulting in flooding and closure of many state, local and federal park facilities on that downstream reservoir.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers increased the amount of water released from Oahe Dam and Big Bend Dam by 10,000 cubic feet per second last weekend, but held the release steady from Lake Francis Case. Below Big Bend Dam at Fort Thompson, only the Left Tailrace boat ramp remains in service.

The Left Tailrace Campground and Right Tailrace, Spillway Dike and Old Fort Thompson boat ramps operated by the Corps of Engineers are closed. All areas above Big Bend Dam remain open and useable.

At Chamberlain, the campground, marina and both boat ramps at American Creek Recreation Area are closed. American Creek is operated by the City of Chamberlain and several private concessionaires. The marina boat ramp at Snake Creek Recreation Area west of Platte is closed; however, the south, high-water boat ramp and the campground managed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks remain open.

State Park Director Doug Hofer said the road into Buryanek Recreation Area west of Platte is expected to be flooded in the next day or two, and that park has been closed until further notice. Heavy rains overnight Monday shut down Platte Creek Recreation Area southwest of Platte, Hofer said.

"We hope to re-open the north campground once the road damage from flash flooding can be cleaned up," Hofer added. "The south campground is closed for the rest of the summer due to high water on the Missouri River." Until debris can be cleaned up, the Platte Creek Recreation Area boat ramp will also be closed, he said.

The North Point Recreation Area campground near Pickstown is also closed.

Facebook Posting Leads To Hunting Conviction Of Two Mississippi Residents

PIERRE — What started as a posting on the social media website Facebook, turned into the investigation of a South Dakota hunting trip.

The investigation focused on fraudulent purchase of resident big game hunting licenses by nonresidents and illegal possession of big game. The investigation led to the conviction of two Mississippi men for multiple hunting violations in South Dakota.

A Mississippi wildlife conservation officer provided information to conservation officers in South Dakota that suggested a group from Mississippi was planning a trip to Harding County in northwestern South Dakota and may be hunting illegally. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department Conservation Officers Jim McCormick and Keith Mutschler opened an investigation which resulted in the seizure of ten illegally taken deer.

In a cooperative effort between South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, several suspects and witnesses were interviewed in Mississippi in May of 2010.

As a result of the investigation, two individuals from Mississippi — Wilson Windham and Weston Windham — each pled guilty to five counts of unlawful possession of big game and one count each for violations of the Federal Lacey Act. The total fines, costs and restitution assessed in a combination of state and federal charges amounted to \$19,456. Each individual received 150 days jail (suspended), 360 days probation and three years hunting revocation.

The hunting revocation is valid in the 36 states that are currently members of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact including the Windham's home state of Mississippi.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Your Line Does Make A Difference

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

When I first started fishing, looking for the things that would help me to catch fish, I was making my way through the sporting goods department; I was amazed at the rows upon rows of brightly colored packages of every type of tackle imaginable.

I didn't know what I needed and like others who are just getting into fishing, it's a giant headache trying to decide what's needed in order to be a more efficient angler.

Hopefully, this column will help you to avoid one of the most common problems that many new anglers have.

To me, there's nothing worse than heading out to fish for the first time, casting your new rod and reel when your line only goes out a few feet, and stops or won't cast at all.

More than likely, the reason for this is that too heavy of a line had been put on the reel.

I like many new anglers thought that you'd go with a heavy line, thinking heavier line would be easier to get out if snagged and when they do catch that "huge" fish they've been dreaming of, their line will be heavy enough to bring them in, no matter how big they were.

The same thing is true by going with too light of line as it may break when fished in areas that have a lot of debris on the bottom or when you hook a good fish, only to have the line break as you're bringing it in.

To some it may have never happened, but to others, like myself, it happened and to some, it may have been the reason that they became disgusted and after that incident, didn't do much or gave up fishing all together.

There are so many line choices out there; it has to be confusing to fishermen as to what lines they should be using.

Hopefully the information in this column will make it a bit easier when you make your next trip to purchase line.

The two most popular types of fishing line are monofilament and the super lines.

What you're looking for is the line test or break strength that will work best for you. Line is listed by break strength such as 6 # or 10 #, which means under ideal conditions, the line will break when that amount of pressure is applied to it.

Monofilament (mono) is what most new anglers use, as it's easy to cast and to tie knots in. Mono comes in all weights and in many colors from clear to high visibility.

To me, purchasing too heavy of line is



Submitted photo: If your drag is set properly and you've tied a good knot, even young children using a short Spiderman rod & reel can land some big fish like this bass that Teddy and Presley Slaba from Wagner took while fishing at a small farm pond.

worse than having too light of a line. For most fishing conditions, a 6-10 # test monofilament line will perform very well.

The lighter line will cast much easier as it has less memory (those coils in the line) then heavier lines and it will allow your bait, no matter what type you're using to hook more natural and work much better.

For shore fishermen fishing in areas where there are a lot of snags or fishing heavy cover for Bass, I'd recommend using an 8 or 10 # test line, such as Berkley XT or something similar as it has excellent abrasion resistance and can take the beating given to the line when it bangs across rocks and snags. If you're fishing from a boat for walleyes or in an area with less snags, a 6 or 8 # XL line or something similar works well as it will cast easier, farther, get down into the fish catching zone quicker and a lighter line when fished from a boat makes it easier for you to detect a bite.

When I first got into fishing when I was

growing up in Watertown, South Dakota, I purchased the cheapest line I could find, because I didn't have a whole lot of money to spend. Why spend \$3.00 for a 150 yard spool of line, when I could get a 500 yards for \$2.50, what a deal, I couldn't go wrong!

Unfortunately, I was wrong. First of all what kid with one rod and reel needed that much line and secondly, the line came off the reel in heavy coils, making it almost impossible to cast. Go with the lightest line available for the species of fish you're after and the body of water you're fishing.

No matter what weight or brand of line you plan on using, you'll want to purchase the best quality line you can afford, one manufactured by a respected company.

The super braid line such as Fireline and Spydewire are excellent lines, giving you the heavier break strength of a heavy line with the diameter of a lighter line.

I use Berkley Fireline when trolling as its breaking strength allows me to pull free of

Recreational Trails Program Receives Funding From Gov.

PIERRE — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has awarded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding of nearly \$1 million to several communities, state parks and the Black Hills National Forest.

The federal assistance program provides up to 80 percent reimbursement for public recreational trail-related improvement projects. The following local sponsors were awarded grants for non-motorized trail construction and upgrades: Aberdeen, Brookings, Fort Pierre, Lead, Mitchell, Pierre and Grant County.

State-managed areas were awarded grants for trail improvement projects at Angostura Recreation Area, Custer State Park, George S. Mickelson Trail and the McNenny Fish Hatchery. Motorized trail project funding was awarded to the U.S. Forest Service Black Hills National Forest for off-highway vehicle trail system development and the Black Hills snowmobile trail system for purchase of trail grooming equipment.

"All of these project sponsors have shown a strong commitment to improving outdoor recreation in South Dakota," Gov. Daugaard said. "Their efforts benefit citizens all across the state."

The Recreational Trails Program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration and administered in South Dakota through the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. The funding comes from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, representing a portion of motor fuel excise taxes collected from non-highway recreational fuel used for

off-highway snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks. Examples of trail projects funded by RTP include hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road and all-terrain vehicle use.

For more information on the program, contact Randy Kittle, Grants Coordinator, at 605-773-5490 or by email at randy.kittle@state.sd.us.

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STIP Public Meetings

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2012-2016 Five-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 12, 2011	Ramada Inn	Aberdeen	7:00 PM
July 21, 2011	Ramkota Hotel	Rapid City	7:00 PM
July 26, 2011	Ramkota Hotel	Sioux Falls	7:00 PM
July 27, 2011	Highland Conference Center	Mitchell	7:00 PM
July 28, 2011	Ramkota Hotel	Pierre	7:00 PM

Individuals with disabilities or special needs call 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 (TDD).
For more information please go to www.SDDOT.com

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