



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Dakotas Area Office  
304 East Broadway Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Reclamation will implement administrative rules at Duer Lake Wetland Mitigation Area (Duer Lake) in November 2024. Reclamation will designate a Special Use Area for Duer Lake to restrict firearm use and camping at Duer Lake.

Restricting legal weapons to archery and shotgun only reduces the public health and safety risk as farmhouses are located nearby and Duer Lake is located along Hwy 212. In addition, based on the concerns from adjacent landowners to not allow rifle hunting or shooting, Reclamation will restrict the use of all rifles on Duer Lake property.

Restricting camping at Duer Lake is warranted since no camping or sanitation facilities exist and the property is located immediately off of Hwy 212. In addition, Duer Lake will be managed as a Wildlife Management Area. No camping is allowed on Wildlife Management Areas in South Dakota.

Duer Lake consists of 3 tracts of land where Reclamation holds an easement from the underlying landowners to manage the area and allow public hunting access. All 3 of these tracts are connected and will be managed as one unit for a total of 58.32 acres. Duer Lake is located approximately 2 miles west of Nisland, SD along Hwy 212. Duer Lake is part of the Belle Fourche Project.

Reclamation will manage Duer Lake until management can be transferred to South Dakota Game Fish and Parks. Public access will be allowed. Reclamation will post a rule sign at the entrance to the Duer Lake property until a managing partner is secured.

Public interest has increased substantially at Duer Lake since the inception of online hunting map applications. Duer Lake offers waterfowl habitat and public hunting opportunities. Reclamation has made improvements to the area, including parking lot construction and access improvements. Walk in access only is allowed on the Duer Lake property. Boundary signs and a rule sign has been installed to aid the public.

Belle Fourche Project is in western South Dakota northeast of the Black Hills. Principal structures include a diversion dam, a storage dam, and a system of canals, laterals, and drains to irrigate 57,068 acres in the general area of Newell, Vale, and Nisland, South Dakota, along the valley of the Belle Fourche River. The project is a single-purpose development; however, flood control, fish and wildlife conservation, and recreation benefits are inherently provided.

For more information, please contact Jay Leasure at (605) 519-5504 or [jleasure@usbr.gov](mailto:jleasure@usbr.gov).

A map of the proposed management actions is available here: [Dakotas Area Office \(usbr.gov\)](#)