



Statewide Dam Repair

Office of School and Public Lands and the Department of Game, Fish & Parks

Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$11,645,804 in one-time general funds and \$10,649,800 in one-time federal fund expenditure authority to complete repairs on three key dams across the state.

Richmond Lake Dam

Richmond Lake Dam is a state-owned dam in Brown County and is classified as a high-hazard dam that would cause significant damage and potential loss of life if it were to fail. A 2008 breach study and a 2020 dam inspection showed a breach would cause millions of dollars in damage. Richmond Dam is also a major recreation area with a Game, Fish & Parks campground, recreation area, and permanent housing on the lake.

The Governor is recommending \$9,650,200 in general funds to complete these repairs. In addition to this funding, the Office of School and Public Lands is applying for a High Hazard Potential Dam grant from FEMA to cover \$10,649,800 in remaining cost.

Lake Alvin and Newell Lake Dams

Lake Alvin and Newell Lake Dams were significantly damaged by flooding in 2019. Lake Alvin Dam is in Lincoln County and is surrounded by state recreation and game production areas. Newell Lake Dam is in Butte County and is a popular recreational destination that provides ample opportunities for outdoor recreationists in western South Dakota. Lake Alvin Dam is owned by South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, while Newell Lake Dam is the responsibility of the department through permanent easements.

The Governor's recommended budget includes \$1,995,604 in one-time general funds to complete these repairs. In addition to these general funds, the department is anticipating \$1,200,000 in FEMA funding to cover the remaining costs. The Governor recommended, and the Legislature approved, a one-time appropriation of \$5.6 million in general funds to repair these dams during the 2022 session. The additional funds are needed to cover cost overruns and successfully complete these projects.