

**Bill Haase**

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Hello, my name is Bill Haase and I am the Fisheries Development Project Manager located in Bismarck. I grew up in Colorado and lived there until I was 16 years old when my parents decided it would be a good idea to move to Wisconsin. I did not share the same opinion as they did since we lived near a lake and our closest neighbor was 5 miles away. As a child I spent all my time fishing, hunting or working for my dad who was a contractor.

I went to college at the University of Wisconsin- Fond du lac and eventually transferred to the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point and graduated with a B.S. in Wildlife Management. During my college years I worked seasonally for the Wisconsin DNR as a fisheries technician. Much of our work consisted of the construction side of fisheries which involved aquatic habitat improvement. I continued working for the DNR after graduation as an equipment operator on the DNR's main habitat crew. I then worked for the University of Minnesota-Crookston as the Natural Resource technician for almost two years.

My employment with the ND Game and Fish Department began in 2003. My responsibility is to coordinate and supervise statewide fisheries development field operations for our fisheries development program. Our development program is involved with boat ramps, docks, fishing piers, vault toilets, signing and any other fishing access project. We only have one crew for the entire state which consists of me, Wesley Erdle (Development technician) and a seasonal employee. I enjoy being able to travel the entire state and see the contrasting habitats that North Dakota has to offer. It is pretty amazing how we can be extending boat ramps on Lake Sakakawea which is about 45 feet below full pool and then go 150 miles to the east where Devils Lake has risen over 20 feet.

As you can imagine with our statewide responsibilities, our development crew tends to be very busy with many days away from home. We began constructing new docks through a cooperative effort with the ND State College of Science where they weld the frames in their welding class and we assemble and deliver the docks to each site. We are trying to complete around a dozen new docks a year. We also construct a number of new ramps each season. These projects are in addition to our usual duties of maintenance of ramps, docks, parking areas and all signing needs.

I really enjoy working for the department and look forward to many more years of improving our states fisheries development facilities.