

# Enemy Swim Lake



Bulrush bed, Enemy Swim Lake (photo by Dennis Skadsen)

**Located:** 1 mile east and 7 miles north of Waubay, South Dakota.

Day County, Twp 123N Rng 53 Sec 15 (Access Area)

**Access:** Public access area in Church Bay, gravel parking lot, boat ramp, pit toilet, handicap accessible boat dock, no camping allowed.

## **Description:**

Enemy Swim is one of South Dakota's cleanest lakes. Due to its excellent water quality, this lake is preferred habitat for the Common loon, Red-necked grebe, and Caspian tern in northeast South Dakota. All three species can easily find aquatic prey in Enemy Swim's clear waters.

During the summer months, look for Caspian terns flying along the shoreline of Church Bay in search of food or resting on rocky points and islands on the main lake. The Red-necked grebe commonly nests in bulrush beds in the lakes quieter bays. Adult Common loons often linger on the lake through summer. During June of 2005 and 2006, adult loons with flightless young were observed, the first confirmed breeding of the species in South Dakota.

Enemy Swim Lake has a complex basin with a variety of bottom substrates (large rocks, sand, and gravel) that support extensive beds of macrophytes and a diverse population of fish and aquatic invertebrates rarely found in other South Dakota lakes. A majority of the lakes shoreline is undeveloped and remains in its native state. Along the northeast shoreline lies a large tract of native tallgrass prairie visible from the lake.

