



[Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.](#)

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

THE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SYSTEM FOR MINNESOTA LAKES AND STREAMS

The identification number system was devised by the writer in 1937 in order to simplify the description necessary to definitely describe the location of a lake, which was either un-named or had a common name such as Fish, Mud, Long or Round, for example.

In 1937 the Division of Game and Fish of the Department of Conservation established Game Warden Districts, dividing the State into eighteen districts for the purpose of law enforcement. This division in most cases followed county lines, but in a few instances, due to peculiar enforcement problems, county lines were disregarded. The districts were adopted by the Division of Drainage and Waters for purposes of control and called "Control Districts".

The attached map shows the present district boundaries, which have been modified to conform to county lines with the exception of the line between District 10 and 14 by which the southern part of Cass County is included in District 10 and the balance in District 14. The division is between Township 138N and Township 139N. Another exception is St. Louis County, where a division occurs between District 17 and 16 on the line between Township 56N and 57N. Otherwise all boundaries follow county lines. As will be seen from the map, the State has been divided into eighteen districts.

The identification numbering system embodies the use of the district number followed by a dash which in turn is followed by the number of the particular lake in the district. The numbers are assigned to the lakes within the district in an arbitrary order usually in the order in which that particular lake comes to the notice of the Division. Thus the identification number of Otter Tail Lake is 9-19, for example.

Where a lake lies in more than one Control District, the identification number is determined by the location of the outlet of the lake. Thus even though a lake was situated almost entirely in one district, but its outlet was in another, the identification number assigned will be governed by the location of the outlet.

The object of the identification number is to identify bodies of water or pools created by dams in rivers. Identification numbers are to be assigned to the various rivers, creeks, brooks and runs, and will apply to the stream as a whole, thus a river might have any number of pools or lakes along its course identified by various identification numbers, and yet have one number which would apply to the stream generally or as a whole. This general identification number is to be determined by the district in which the mouth of the stream in question is located or by the district in which the stream leaves the

State; thus the Mississippi River carries the identification number 1-35, and the Red River of the North carries an identification number under District 11. The Boix De Sioux River, for example carries the same number as the Red River of the North of which it is a part. The Otter Tail River is numbered 9-165 etc.

Boundary waters will be identified by the District number and lake number within the district adjacent to the mouth in the case of a stream, or the outlet in the case of a lake.

The identification number is used by the Division of Drainage and Waters as a file number also, for correspondence as well as drawings in connection with plans for dams and control structures. Thus, from the time a project is conceived until it ceases to exist there is but one number which needs to be remembered in connection with it. All correspondence and drawings pertaining to a project thus carry this identification number. Should there be, in connection with the construction work, auxiliary structures which require files separate from the project as a whole, these could be assigned the same identification number with an alphabetical suffix; Thus for example on the Lac Qui Parle Flood Control Project the main control structure on the Minnesota River has the identification number 6-37; the part of the work which has to do with the emergency spillway was originally Job 11, but is now designated as 6-37A.

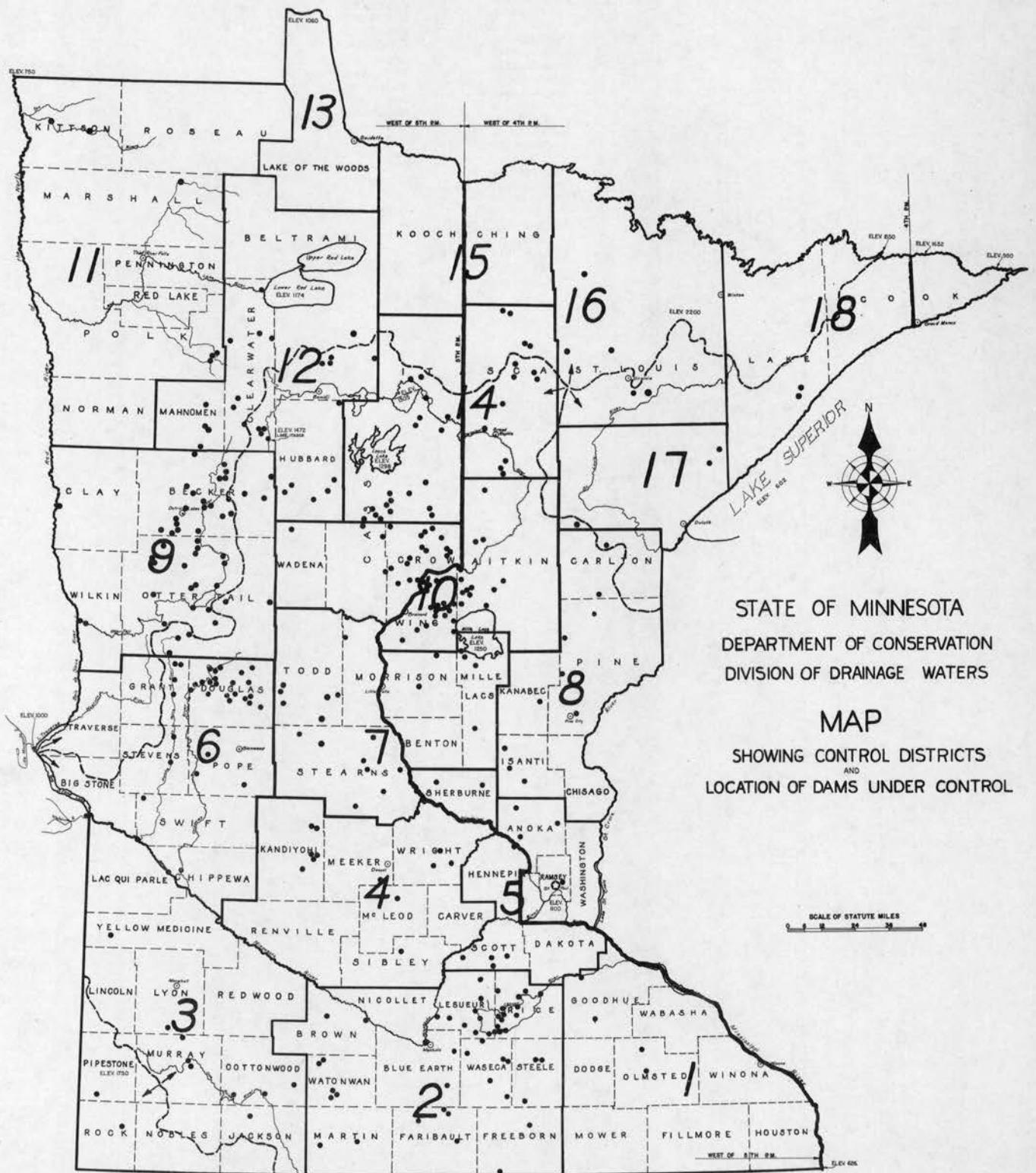
In connection with Game and Fish work, where investigations are made on a large lake, for example, Leech Lake, with many bays, each bay may be given the same identification number as the lake, but with an alphabetical suffix to designate the particular location.

To repeat, in all cases, the identification number of a body of water is governed by the location of its outlet in the case of lake, or by the location of its mouth or the point where the particular stream leaves the State, in the case of rivers, creeks or brooks.



S. A. Frelksen, Hydrologist
Division of Drainage and Waters

January 2, 1941



STATE OF MINNESOTA
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 DIVISION OF DRAINAGE WATERS
 MAP
 SHOWING CONTROL DISTRICTS
 AND
 LOCATION OF DAMS UNDER CONTROL

State of Minnesota
Conservation Department
DIVISION OF DRAINAGE AND WATERS

SUMMARY OF DRAINAGE AREAS OF MINNESOTA
1922 REPORT - Corrected as of December 1940

I Drainage area more than 10,000 square miles:

1.	Mississippi	49,000
2.	Red	17,800
3.	Minnesota	17,200
4.	Rainy	10,700

II Drainage area of 5,000 to 10,000 square miles:

1.	St.Croix	7,600
2.	Red Lake	5,850

III Drainage area of 2,500 to 5,000 square miles:

1.	Blue Earth	3,855
2.	Crow Wing	3,820
3.	St.Louis	3,610
4.	Crow	2,850

IV Drainage area of 1,000 to 2,500 square miles:

1.	Chippewa	2,130
2.	Big Fork	2,100
3.	Ottertail	1,880
4.	Little Fork	1,820
5.	Root	1,670
6.	Wild Rice	1,590
7.	Rum	1,560
8.	Des Moines	1,535
9.	Cannon	1,465
10.	Clearwater	1,435
11.	Zumbro	1,425
12.	Crow (So. Br.)	1,395
13.	Kawishiwi	1,350
14.	Leech Lake River	1,340
15.	Crow (No. Br.)	1,335
16.	Cottonwood	1,263
17.	Buffalo	1,200
18.	Roseau	1,105
19.	LeSueur	1,100
20.	Thief	1,100
21.	Kettle	1,050
22.	Lac Qui Parle	1,050
23.	Two River	1,010
24.	Snake (Red River)	1,000

25.	Pomme de Terre	1,000
26.	Snake (St.Croix)	1,000

V. Drainage area of 500 to 1,000 square miles:

1.	Cedar	971
2.	Rock	965
3.	Long Prairie	940
4.	Vermillion	920
5.	Sauk	915
6.	Rapid	890
7.	Mustinka	890
8.	Watonwan	870
9.	Zumbro (So. Br.)	850
10.	Leaf	840
11.	Cloquet	815
12.	Redwood	785
13.	Pine	775
14.	Bowstring	725
15.	Shell	660
16.	Elk	650
17.	Lost	645
18.	Turtle	640
19.	Pigeon	635
20.	Whiteface	605
21.	Yellow Medicine	600
22.	Buffalo (So. Br.)	560
23.	Buffalo Creek	560
24.	Big Sioux	530
25.	Prairie	530
26.	Willow	520
27.	Pelican	520
28.	Sturgeon (Little Fork River)	510
29.	Yellow Bank	505

VI. Drainage area of 400 to 500 square miles:

1.	Straight	485
2.	Heron Lake Outlet	480
3.	Sand Hill	440
4.	Zumbro (M. Br.)	425
5.	Sandy	420
6.	Chippewa (E. Br.)	410
7.	Isabella	406
8.	Shakopee Creek	403
9.	Tamarac	400

VII. Drainage area of 300 to 400 square miles:

1.	Rush	380
2.	Black	370
3.	Boy	360
4.	Sunrise	360
5.	Wild Rice (So. Br.)	340
6.	Rice	335

7.	Sturgeon (Big Fork River)	325
8.	Shell Rock	323
9.	Middle	315
10.	Third	315
11.	Swan	313
12.	Blackduck	310
13.	Marsh	308

SUMMARY

Number of rivers	244
Number of creeks	144
Number of brooks	37
Number of runs	3
Number of streams	1
Total	<u>429</u>

Drainage Area Sq. Miles

Largest river (Mississippi River)	49,000
Smallest river (Little Cannon)	16
Largest creek (Buffalo)	560
Smallest creek (Little Swamp)	11
Largest Brook (Daggett)	166
Smallest brook (O'Neal)	12
Largest run	142
Smallest run	41
Stream	46

K.W.P.
S.A.F.
12-17-40



STATE OF MINNESOTA
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 DIVISION OF DRAINAGE WATERS
 MAP
 SHOWING CONTROL DISTRICTS
 AND
 LOCATION OF DAMS UNDER CONTROL

