**“The Otter Tail River Gets Its Name from Early French Explorers Who Called It ‘Lac de la Queue de la Outer’ OR ‘Lake of the Tail of the Cat’.”**

**RIVER POWER AND DAMS**

Dams have played an important role in the history of the Otter Tail. There are currently about 50 controlled structures along the river. A few of them are still used for power generation, but dams were originally constructed on the Otter Tail to facilitate the movement of logs and provide protection to the land. The last remaining one on the river is the Pigeon River Dam (river mile 5). Dammed by the National Register of Historic Places in 1875. It is no longer producing power, but it is a popular destination for canoeists.

While most logs were processed in the Frazee area before the river, damming was used to preserve wood for use well into the 19th century. Damming saw the river flow east instead of north, which is why the town of Frazee sits on the north side of the river.

**RESORTS AND RECREATION**

The lakes in the Otter Tail region are some of the finest fishing locations in the state. For the last 100 years, a thriving resort and recreational culture has flourished, offering fun and relaxation for all. It is well worth your while to enjoy fishing, swimming, golf courses, boating, hiking, and other activities.

Some of the resorts in the Otter Tail region are hosting activities such as fishing derbies or trips to nearby parks and attractions. Ask First! For more information on local activities, please visit the DNR Information Center or check out their website.

**FLORA AND FAUNA**

The Otter Tail River region is a unique location for birdwatchers. The river flows through a variety of habitats, from marshy areas to forests, providing habitat for many species. The river is home to many fish species, including smallmouth bass, walleye, and northern pike.

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The Otter Tail River State Water Trail begins at River Mile 157.2 in Minnesota. Text in red indicates warning statements. The next reach contains a series of rapids and remnants of old dams, requiring a higher degree of paddling skills. Popular photography site.

During low flow, passage is difficult. During flood, paddling is dangerous. Use caution.

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