

Charbonneau Creek Salt Water Spill

Five years later

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In January of 2006 a ruptured pipeline was found to have spilled more than 1,000,000 gallons of saltwater into a drainage leading to Charbonneau Creek in northwestern North Dakota. It was the largest salt water spill from oil production that North Dakota has ever experienced, and many feared the area could not be returned to its original condition. Since the summer of 2006, recovery wells have been installed, soil has been excavated and replaced in some areas, and soil improving treatments have been applied to help remove the salt. This fall some additional soil was replaced in one area and another recovery well was installed. To date the operator has spent in excess of \$3,000,000 to correct the problems and the chloride in the ground water has been reduced 32 to 68 percent. As these paired photos demonstrate, after five years, the Charbonneau Creek spill is well on its way to returning to its natural state.



July 2006



October 2011



May 2006



October 2011



August 2006



October 2011



June 2006



October 2011



June 2006



October 2011