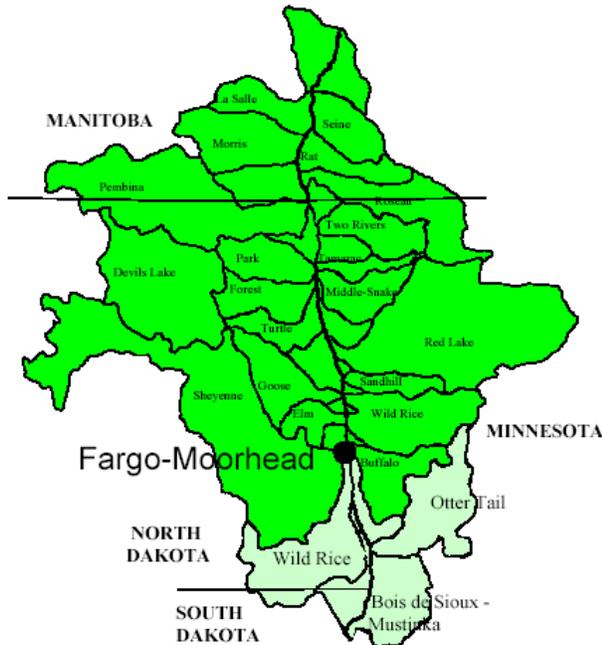




**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Feasibility Study: Fargo-Moorhead and Upstream, Red River of the North, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota



Map of the Red River basin with emphasis on the study area, the watersheds upstream of Fargo-Moorhead

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Location/Description

The Fargo-Moorhead and Upstream study area is the entire headwaters of the Red River of the North upstream (south) of Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota. The major tributaries are the Mustinka, Bois de Sioux, and Otter Tail Rivers in Minnesota and the Wild Rice River in North Dakota.

The multiple-purpose study will evaluate alternatives to restore wetland habitat and reduce flood damages in the study area; the planning objective is to accomplish both ecosystem restoration and flood risk reduction.

Phase 1a of the study evaluated the potential for upstream storage to provide significant economic and hydrologic effects downstream. Phase 1b is developing

more detailed hydrologic and hydraulic models of the Wild Rice River to analyze several potential water storage sites. If the study proceeds, Phase 2 will look at a system of specific potential sites and evaluate the potential for environmental benefits.

Status

The feasibility cost share agreement was executed on August 20, 2004. Phase 1b hydrologic modeling and scoping for Phase 2 are on hold. Study results to date indicate that flood storage would not provide sufficient economic benefit to be the primary objective of the project. The sponsors are determining whether they want to proceed with the study. If the study proceeds, Phase 2 will assess environmental and economic benefits of potential multipurpose project sites.

The North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) and the city of Moorhead are joint sponsors. Additional cost-sharing partners include the Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Richland County Water Resource District; Red River Joint Water Resource District; city of Fargo; Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; Bois de Sioux Watershed District; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks; and Red River Basin Commission.

A letter requesting documentation of work-in-kind accomplished, and cost, was sent to the joint sponsors on June 14, 2012. The NDSWC has responded and is gathering the requested information.

Authority

The study is authorized by a September 30, 1974, resolution of the Senate Committee on Public Works.

Fiscal

Federal cost	\$1,875,000
Non-Federal cost	\$1,875,000
Total estimated cost	\$3,750,000
Fiscal year 2011 Federal funds:	\$ 0
Total Federal funds through 2011:	\$ 488,000