



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

# Information Paper

## Flood Risk Management: Section 905(b), Fort Ransom, North Dakota



*Location map - Fort Ransom, North Dakota*



*Terrain - Fort Ransom, North Dakota*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

Fort Ransom is located in east-central North Dakota, approximately 70 miles west-southwest of Fargo, North Dakota. Fort Ransom is downstream of Baldhill Dam and Lake Ashtabula and downstream of the potential overflow area from Devils Lake through Tolna Coulee. The Sheyenne River, a major tributary of the Red River of the North, flows through the city, and much of the city is located within the 100-year floodplain.

### Background

The water resource-related problems in Fort Ransom are high levels of flood damages from the Sheyenne River and flood related risks to public health and safety. Recent major floods occurred in 1996, 1997, 2009 and 2011. The record floods are the 2009 and the 2011 flood events.

In a letter dated February 14, 2012, Fort Ransom asked the Corps to conduct a Section 905(b) reconnaissance study to explore flood risk management measures for the city. In particular, Fort Ransom requested that the Corps investigate a levee system and diversion channel.

The Section 905(b) study will determine if there is a Federal interest in pursuing a cost shared flood risk management feasibility study. With a population of only 77, the city faces challenges with affordable, permanent flood protection. In addition to those measures suggested, other measures, such as flood proofing and relocations will also be evaluated.

### Status

The Section 905(b) study began in March 2012. The current hydrologic model does not include the 2009 and 2011 flood events. That hydrologic analysis is being updated as part of a separate, ongoing study for Valley City, North Dakota. The Determination of Federal Interest evaluation for Fort Ransom will be performed after the basin hydrology has been updated.

### Authority

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

### Fiscal

Reconnaissance studies are 100 percent federally-funded up to \$100,000 to support the development of the 905(b) report, the Project Management Plan, and the Federal Cost Share Agreement. To date, \$50,000 has been provided to support this study, of which \$5,000 has been expended.