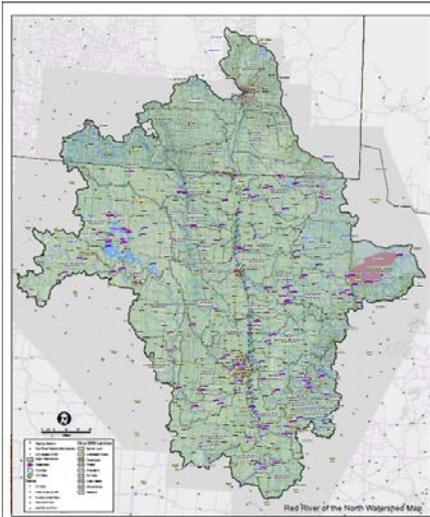




US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Red River of the North Basin: Reconnaissance Study, Minnesota/North Dakota/South Dakota



*Red River Basin*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

The Red River of the North basin includes parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Manitoba. Tributary watersheds cover 48,490 square miles, including the Devils Lake sub-basin (at present hydrologically isolated). The Red River basin's tributaries typically have relatively steep upper reaches that spill into the very flat main stem valley floor located in the lakebed of former glacial Lake Agassiz.

Land use in the basin is primarily agricultural. Extensive drainage systems built since the late 1800s have converted native prairie and wetlands into prime farmland. Several urban areas are located adjacent to the Red River and its tributaries. The basin is subject to frequent floods that affect urban and rural infrastructure and agricultural production.

Conversion of native prairie to farmland has resulted in significant loss of habitat for many wildlife species, especially migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

### Status

The initial Red River basin-wide reconnaissance report was approved in 2002. Several supplemental reconnaissance studies have been completed since then. These studies have led to feasibility studies for the Wild Rice River, Minnesota; the Fargo-Moorhead and Upstream Area, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota; the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan area, Minnesota and North Dakota; Roseau, Minnesota; the Red River basin-wide watershed study; and Valley City, North Dakota.

The Red River of the North reconnaissance study continues to be a vehicle for developing feasibility studies in the basin. The following is a list of current studies:

- Pembina River basin, North Dakota: The reconnaissance study is on hold pending identification of a non-Federal sponsor for the feasibility study.
- Fort Ransom, North Dakota: a reconnaissance study was begun in March 2012.

Additional study efforts will be considered as stakeholders express interest in them.

### Authority

These studies are authorized by a resolution of the Senate Committee on Public Works, September 30, 1974.

### Fiscal

Reconnaissance studies are 100 percent federally-funded and are limited in cost to \$100,000 each. Therefore, they must make use of available, existing information. During the reconnaissance phase, the Corps must identify a federally-supportable alternative with a benefit-cost ratio greater than 1.0 and must identify a non-Federal sponsor willing to cost share 50 percent of the feasibility study phase costs.