



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

Information Paper

Minnesota Flood Control Sites – Lake Traverse, Orwell Lake, Highway 75-Bigstone, Lac qui Parle

Contact

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Location/ Project Components

Lake Traverse is on the Minnesota-South Dakota border between Browns Valley, Minnesota, and Wahpeton, North Dakota/Breckenridge, Minnesota. It consists of two dams, two reservoirs, and the Browns Valley Dike.

Orwell Lake on the Otter Tail River is approximately 6 miles southwest of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. It consists of an earthen embankment, outlying dikes, and a gated service spillway.

Highway 75 Dam is on the Upper Minnesota River near Odessa, Minnesota. It impounds the Big Stone NWR.

Lac qui Parle is on the Minnesota River near Montevideo, Minnesota. It consists of three dams, a diversion channel and several embankments and levees.

Red Lake Dam is located at the outlet of Lower Red Lake in the northeastern part of Clearwater County, MN. It consists of an earthen embankment, a concrete weir with 3 lift gates and 2 stoplog bays.

All include flood risk management, recreation and environmental stewardship business functions. Each has public use facilities for shore fishing, picnicking, bird watching and other activities. The land is actively managed for habitat enhancement.

Operation

Flood risk management, recreation and environmental stewardship activities are completed by site staff at Lake Traverse, Orwell and Lac qui Parle. These sites support readiness (emergency) response activities in the Minnesota and Red River basins. Water control activities have a direct impact on flood responses in the downstream communities. Low flows are managed for power generation and water supply for communities on the Red River.

Since their construction, the reservoirs have prevented flood damages as shown below:

Lake Traverse	\$4,357,598,234
Orwell Lake	\$ 706,009,424
Big Stone	\$ 3,147,299
Lac qui Parle	\$ 34,553,705
Red Lake	\$ 19,307,146

Fiscal

Site	09 Alloc	10 Alloc	11 Alloc	12 Alloc	13 Pres Budget
Lake Traverse	414k	562k	648k	537k	583k
Orwell Lake	250k	501k	456k	397k	500k
Big Stone	175k	259k	248k	228k	272k
Lac qui Parle	392k	590k	669k	883k	760k
Red Lake	76k	141k	230k	157k	152k

Status

Funding in the 2013 President’s budget funding will support baseline operations and maintenance to complete water management, operations of public use areas, dam safety inspections, and all programs to support those operations. Critical Dam Safety work including inspections of all scheduled structures would also be funded.

Supplemental funding received in fiscal year 2012 (\$290,000) will support repairs to the Chippewa Diversion structure approach channel expected to be completed in the first quarter of fiscal year 2013.



Chippewa River Diversion Channels Lac qui Parle Project