



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Plain Management: Souris River Hydrology and Hydraulics Study



Photo shows levee repairs in Minot, North Dakota, following record flooding in 2011

Contact

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Location/Description

The Souris (Mouse) River is located in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Canada, and North Dakota. The headwaters of the basin are several rivers in Saskatchewan that meet near the international border and flow into North Dakota. The Des Lacs River joins the Souris upstream of Minot near Burlington, North Dakota. The Souris River then flows through Sawyer and Velva, North Dakota, before turning back to the north and flowing into Manitoba.

The unprecedented flooding that occurred in summer 2011 revealed a number of very significant knowledge gaps in the hydrology and hydraulics of the Souris River basin. These gaps led to difficulty in dealing with the rising floodwaters as well as planning for wise use of the floodplain in the recovery process. The goals of the study are to provide increased knowledge of the hydrology and hydraulics of the Souris River basin, updated system-wide reservoir operation plans, computer models that can be used as planning tools, and a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

Status

Start-up funding of \$100,000 was provided in fiscal year 2012 under the Operation Watershed/Flood Season Preparation (Public Law 84-99) effort for hydraulic and reservoir modeling in the Canadian portion of the basin, and this was completed on March 31, 2012. An additional \$100,000 was provided under the Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS) Program for additional work to be completed by the end of the fiscal year 2012. This work will consist of a hydrologic basin model of the Des Lacs River. The Corps has estimated that the complete study will cost \$945,000 and will be done in phases, depending on availability of funds. The Corps tasks and estimate identified will be reviewed and validated by the pending Joint Souris River Basin Task Force. A technical coordination meeting was held on July 16 and 17, 2012, among local, State, Federal, and international partners, including their consultants.

Authority

The authority for the initial phase of the study was provided under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) provisions in Public Law 84-99. The next portion of the study is authorized by Section 206 of the 1960 Flood Control Act (Public Law 86-645), as amended.

Fiscal

The following is a summary of the funds received for the Souris River basin study:

Total estimated project cost:	\$945,000
Total Federal funds through Sep 2012:	\$200,000
Federal funds required to complete:	\$745,000