



**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 six 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 National Wildlife Refuge.

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, Minnesota. It consists of an earthen embankment, a concrete weir with three lift gates and two stoplog bays.

All include flood risk management, recreation and environmental stewardship business line 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 Lake and Lac qui Parle. These sites also 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 fish and wildlife purposes and water supply for communities on the Red River of the North.

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

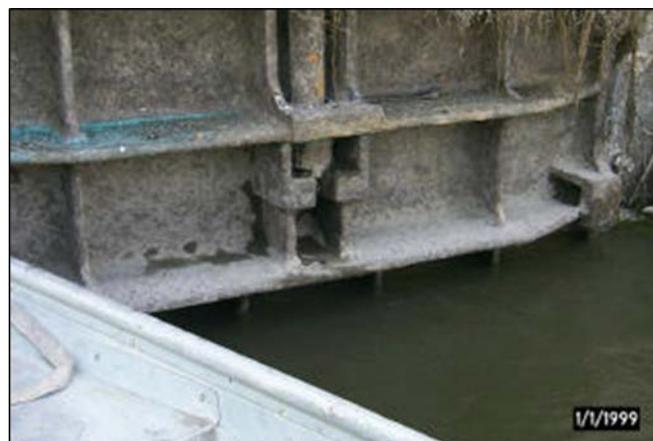
Lake Traverse	\$ 4,460,000,000
Orwell Lake	\$ 706,000,000
Big Stone/Whetstone	\$ 3,500,000
Lac qui Parle	\$ 39,000,000
Red Lake	\$ 20,000,000

### Fiscal

Site	13 Alloc	14 Alloc	15 Alloc	16 Alloc	17 Pres Budget
Lake Traverse	531k	554k	610k	594k	579k
Orwell Lake	453k	441k	555k	468k	475k
Big Stone	245k	242k	278k	257k	257k
Lac qui Parle	688k	622k	659k	1805k	891k
Red Lake	138k	149k	176k	184k	165k

### Status

Funding in FY17 supports baseline operations and maintenance and critical dam safety work. Funding in FY16 was used to design and initiate the replacement of the sluice gate and operating equipment at Lac qui Parle Dam. Additional funding is needed in FY17 to complete replacement of the gate and operating equipment in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter in FY17.



*Lac qui Parle dam machinery with broken stem guide in middle of photo.*