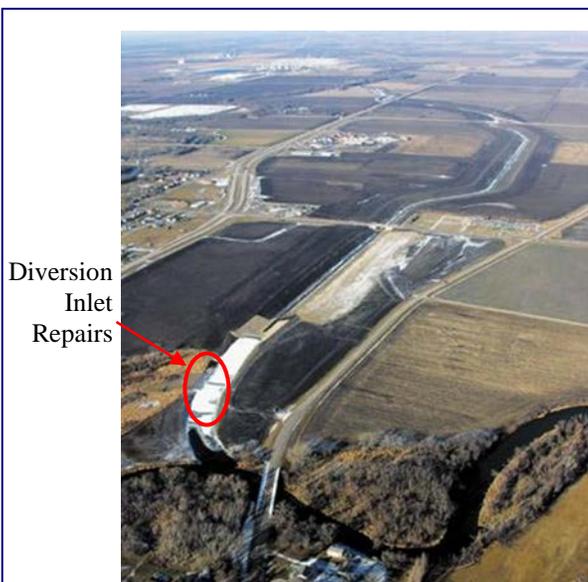




US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Flood Risk Management: Red River of the North, Breckenridge, Minnesota



Diversion  
Inlet  
Repairs

Stage 1 diversion channel – inlet near city of Breckenridge, 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge over the Otter Tail River, looking north.

### Contact

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### Location/Description

Breckenridge is the seat of Wilkin County in western Minnesota, approximately 200 miles northwest of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and 55 miles south of Fargo, North Dakota. The Red River of the North and the Bois de Sioux River border the city on the west. The Otter Tail River flows from the east, bisecting the city. Wahpeton, North Dakota, is located to the west across the Red River of the North from Breckenridge.

The devastating flood of 1997 in the Red River of the North basin generated a strong response at all levels of government to implement permanent flood risk management projects for urban communities along the Red River of the North.

### Background

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended, authorizes construction of small projects for flood risk management with Federal costs limited to \$7 million.

The project at Breckenridge was initiated under this authority; however, the Federal portion of the estimated cost exceeded the limit. The project became a specifically authorized project in 2001.

A 2001 Corps feasibility study recommended a high-flow diversion channel north of the Otter Tail River to the Red River of the North and two separable permanent levee reaches that would reduce risk to Breckenridge. Congress authorized the project in 2001. The project cooperation agreement was executed in August 2002.

### Status

The project includes a diversion channel and levee work. The diversion channel was completed in June 2005. It is operational and was used for the first time in summer 2005. Construction of the levees is complete. Due to minor damage to the project additional work was necessary and is complete. Together, the Breckenridge and Wahpeton projects have prevented \$164 million in combined damages through 2016.

Physical transition of the project to the sponsor for operations and maintenance responsibility will occur on August 31, 2016. The Corps continues to coordinate with FEMA regarding levee certification efforts. Additional hydrologic modeling requested by FEMA will be completed by the end of FY16.

### Authority

The Water Resource Development Act of 2000, as amended.

### Fiscal

Project costs are shared with the non-Federal sponsor.

Estimated Federal cost	\$29.22 million
Estimated non-Federal cost	\$15.80 million
Total estimated cost	\$45.02 million
Total Federal funding to date	\$29.22 million