



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Red River of the North Basin: Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan



*The Red River of the North is an international watershed.*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

The Red River of the North basin is an international, multi-jurisdictional watershed of 45,000 square miles, with 80 percent of the basin lying in the United States and 20 percent in Canada. Eighteen Minnesota counties and 22 North Dakota counties lie wholly or partially in the basin. The river flows to the north, bringing water and nutrients to Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba.

Flooding, loss of native habitat and excess nutrient loading are significant issues in the Red River basin. The economic impact of the basin, from both urban-generated activity and a vibrant agricultural economy, is significant. This basin is home to more than half a million people and serves as a jobs, education and medical hub in addition to a world-renowned agricultural producer.

### Status

The comprehensive watershed management plan (CWMP) effort began in June 2013. The effort entails working cooperatively with the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) in their initiative to update their 2009 natural resources framework plan.

The CWMP will address basin-wide goals and objectives for (1) flood risk management and hydrology; (2) aquatic and riparian ecosystem health; (3) water quality; (4) water supply and drought management; (5) recreation; and (6) soil health. The CWMP will identify problems and opportunities within the basin, and as well as strategies, actions and recommendations that address these problems. The CWMP is intended to be used both as a local planning document (adopted as the new natural resources framework plan), and as a vehicle for further federal support of local projects.

Working groups were formed for each of the six subject areas in early 2014. The working groups provided input to a draft document in November 2015, and the draft CWMP was reviewed and discussed at an April 2016 2-day workshop. The working groups will provide revised input to the CWMP in November 2016, and a final document will be available in early 2017. The CWMP will be submitted for adoption by the RRBC as the new natural resources framework plan. Any implementable federal recommendations will be forwarded for Congressional action.

### Authority

The study is authorized by a resolution of the Senate Committee on Public Works, September 30, 1974.

### Fiscal

Development of a comprehensive watershed management plan is being performed as a task under the specifically authorized Red River basin-wide feasibility study. Study sponsors are the Minnesota Red River Watershed Management Board and the North Dakota Red River Joint Water Resource District. Costs are shared 50-50 between the Federal government and sponsors, with the sponsors providing their share as work-in-kind.