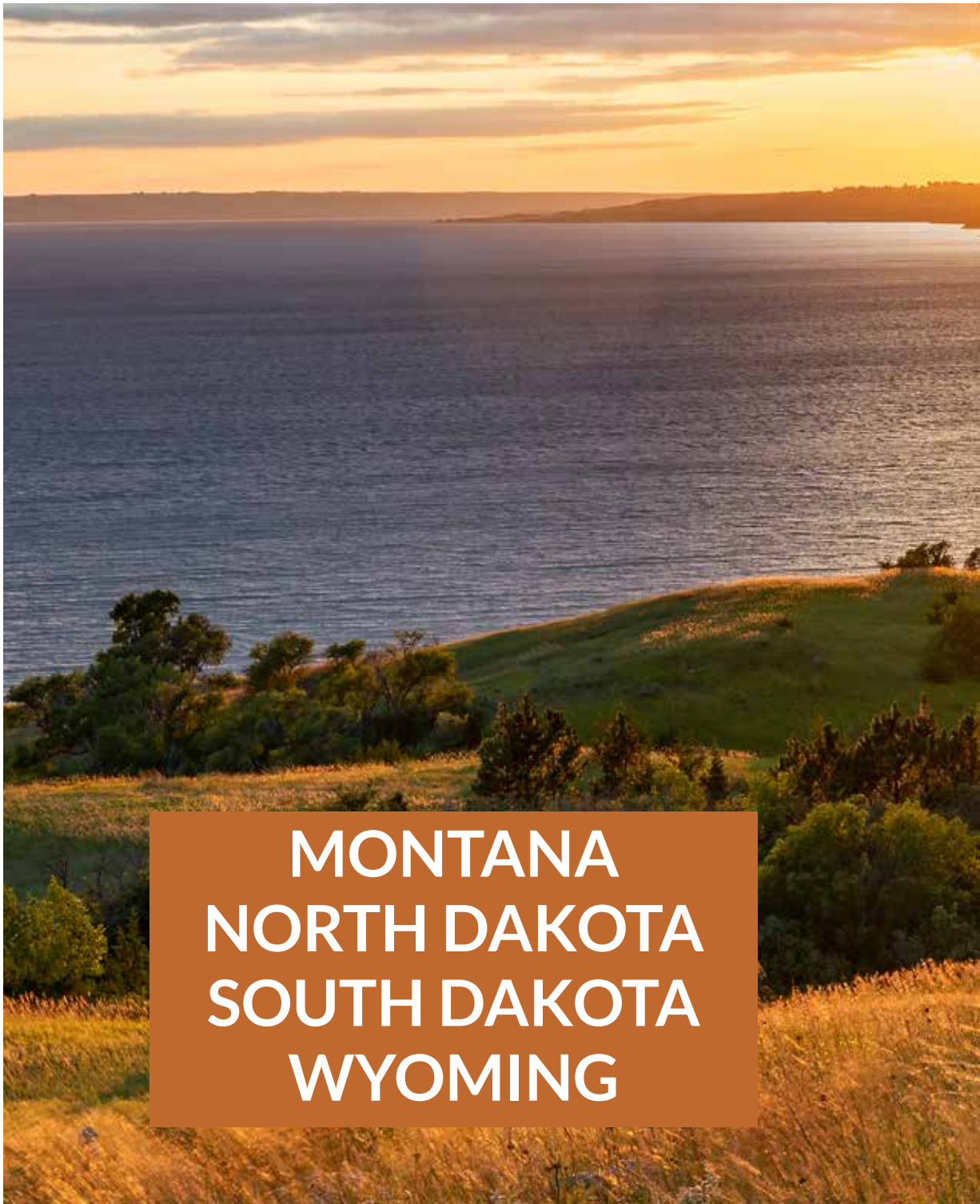
Upper Missouri Water Association

2026-2027 PROJECTS



MONTANA
NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
WYOMING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Upper Missouri Water Association

Upper Missouri Water Association ... 3
UMWA Board of Directors ... 4

North Dakota

Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project ... 5
Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) ... 6
Mouse River Flood Protection Project ... 8
Sheyenne River Flood Protection ... 8
Devils Lake Outlet Operations ... 10
Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) ... 10
Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) ... 11
Western Area Water Supply Project (WAWSP) ... 11
Dickinson ... 12
Heart Butte ... 12
General Water Management ... 12
Irrigation ... 12
Rural Water Supply ... 13
Municipal Water Supply ... 13
Our Missouri River ... Educate, Advocate and Engage ... 13

South Dakota

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) ... 15
Western Dakota Regional Water System ... 16
Water Investment In Northern South Dakota (WINS) ... 16
Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System ... 18

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mni Wiconi RWS ... 21
Lewis & Clark RWS ... 21

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Southern Black Hills Water System ... 22
Bear Butte Valley Water, Inc. ... 23
Perkins County RWS, Inc. ... 23
Mni Waste´ RWS ... 24

OTHER TOPICS ... 24

Montana

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Canyon Ferry ... 27
East Bench ... 27
Helena Valley ... 27
Huntley Project ... 27
Lower Marias ... 28
Lower Yellowstone ... 28
Milk River ... 28
Sun River ... 29
Yellowtail ... 29
Rural Water Project ... 29

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Fort Peck ... 31
Ackley Dam ... 31
Bair Dam ... 31
Cooney Dam ... 31
Cottonwood Dam ... 32
Deadman's Basin Dam ... 32
Frenchman Dam ... 32
Glacier Lake Dam ... 32
Martinsdale Dam(s) ... 33
Middle Creek Dam ... 33
North Fork Smith River Dam ... 33
Nilan Dam ... 34
Ruby Dam ... 34
Tongue River Dam ... 34
Toston Dam ... 34
Willow Creek Dam ... 35
Yellow Water Dam ... 35

PONDERA COUNTY CANAL AND RESERVOIR COMPANY ... 35

Wyoming

Planning (Municipal and Agricultural) ... 37
Construction (Municipal and Agricultural) ... 37
Dams and Reservoirs ... 37
Other Water Development Projects ... 38
Platte River Basin Projects ... 39

Front Cover: Lake Oahe. Photo by Travel South Dakota.
Back Cover: Pierre. Photo by Travel South Dakota.

UPPER MISSOURI WATER ASSOCIATION

Purpose

The Upper Missouri Water Association (UMWA) is a regional water organization comprised of the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The mission of the UMWA is to protect, develop, and manage Upper Missouri water. By working together through the UMWA, water interests can become stronger and more effective. Instead of four separate states, each with a congressman and two senators, we are a region with five congressmen and eight senators. Through unity, we can accomplish our goals.

Goals

The UMWA has six priority goals.

- Communication and education of projects, issues, and programs in Upper Basin states.
- Coordination and consensus among water, power, tribal, and related resource interests of the Upper Missouri.
- Complete water development projects in Upper Basin states.
- Support Missouri River management and ecosystem recovery.
- Preserve and support state water associations.
- Work toward solving potential conflicts involving mutual river basins.

Members

Members of the UMWA include all types of large and small businesses, individuals, farmers, ranchers, irrigators, engineers, contractors, companies, rural electric and other cooperatives, irrigation districts, rural water systems, cities, and other organizations who are concerned about Upper Missouri water.

Communication

UMWA sends out a monthly briefing on federal legislation, regulatory actions, and other issues concerning water. Other alerts are provided periodically on the latest federal issues impacting the Upper Missouri Basin and western states.

Board of Directors

The UMWA is governed by a board of directors representing a cross section of water interests in the four states. This broad cross-section of water officials ensures that decisions have the consensus and support of the four member states. Board members include:

- Four representatives from each state elected by the state water association of each state.
- The state water agency director, or designee, from each state, as ex-officio members.
- Representatives of federal agencies as ex-officio members.

UPPER MISSOURI WATER ASSOCIATION

2026 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President

Darrell Raschke, Huron, South Dakota

Vice President

Jeff Cowley, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Past President

Jeff Cowley, Cheyenne, Wyoming

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Montana

Cole Peebles, Choteau, Montana
Ann Kulczyk, Glasgow, Montana
James Brower, Sidney, Montana
Mark LaRowe, Helena, Montana

North Dakota

Duane DeKrey, Carrington, North Dakota
Mary Massad, Dickinson, North Dakota
Dennis Reep, Bismarck, North Dakota
Ken Royse, Bismarck, North Dakota

South Dakota

John Heisler, Newell, SouthDakota
Troy Larson, Tea, South Dakota
Shane Phillips, Aberdeen, SouthDakota
Darrell Raschke, Huron, South Dakota

Wyoming

Jeff Cowley, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Susie Graves, Cheyenne, Wyoming

EX-OFFICIO

Federal Representative

Tanya Guerechit, Billings, Montana

State Water Agencies

Reice Haase
Director, Bismarck, North Dakota

Mark Mayer
Director/Acting Chief Engineer, Pierre, South Dakota

Amanda Kaster
Director, Helena, Montana

Brandon Gebhart
State Engineer, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Bureau of Reclamation

Scott Hettinger
Area Manager, Bismarck, North Dakota

Ryan Newman
Area Manager, Billings, Montana

Lyle Myler
Area Manager, Mills, Wyoming

Staff

Dani Quissell
Executive Director
dquissell@ndwater.net

Annika Plummer
Communications & Government Affairs
aplummer@ndwater.net

Julie Ellingson
Events Director
jellingson@ndwater.net

NORTH DAKOTA

FARGO-MOORHEAD AREA DIVERSION PROJECT

The Fargo-Moorhead (F-M) Area Diversion Project will provide permanent, reliable flood protection to the cities and townships that make up the metropolitan area of Fargo-Moorhead. The project will provide flood risk reduction from the Red River and its North Dakota tributaries, including the Wild Rice, Sheyenne, Maple, Rush, and Lower Rush Rivers.

The Congressionally authorized project is being delivered through split-delivery and is the first public-private partnership done in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. By using a public-private partnership, the F-M Area Diversion project will be completed 10 years sooner and for hundreds of millions of dollars less than with traditional design-bid-build projects.

The project has four major elements, which include:

The ***Stormwater Diversion Channel and Associated Infrastructure***, which is being delivered by the Red River Valley Alliance (RRVA) through a public-private partnership. This work includes excavating roughly 45 million cubic yards of material to build a 30-mile channel that will route floodwater around the community. RRVA's design and construction arm, ASN Constructors, is also working on building aqueducts on the Maple and Sheyenne Rivers, the diversion outlet, 19 channel crossings, and 14 drainage inlets.

The ***Southern Embankment and Associated Infrastructure***, which is being delivered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, involves constructing three gated control structures and a 22-mile earthen embankment as well as raising a 4-mile stretch of I-29 out of the 500-year floodplain.

Local Flood Protection and Associated Infrastructure encompasses the work being done by the cities of Fargo and Moorhead as well as Cass County in North Dakota and Clay County in Minnesota. This includes work on levees, floodwalls, stormwater lift stations and road improvements, all of which are necessary to ensure proper diversion operations.

Mitigation Features and Associated Infrastructure include the many mitigation features throughout the project, from restoring wetlands to replacing the Drayton Dam with a rock rapids fishway.

OVERSIGHT & LEADERSHIP

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA) are overseeing the project's completion alongside their partners, including the City of Fargo, Cass County and Cass County Joint Water Resource District in North Dakota and the City of Moorhead, Clay County, and Moorhead-Clay County Joint Powers Authority in Minnesota.

2025 PROGRESS

Construction began or continued on numerous components, and many neared completion and began to shift to the operations and maintenance phase. Here's a look at the progress made by component area:

Stormwater Diversion Channel and Associated Infrastructure

- ***Stormwater Diversion Channel***: ASN Constructors broke ground in August 2022 and started excavation that fall. As 2025 came to an end, they had excavated 38.1 million cubic yards of the necessary 45 million.
- ***Maple River Aqueduct***: Construction began in 2023 and continued in 2025 with crews excavating, driving H-piles and placing concrete.
- ***Diversion Outlet***: ASN Constructors is nearing completion of construction work on the diversion outlet where the stormwater diversion channel empties back into the Red River of the North.
- ***Channel Crossings***: Fourteen of the 19 road and railroad crossings over the stormwater diversion channel have opened to traffic. The remaining will open in 2026.
- ***Channel Inlets***: Work continued on the 14 drainage inlets into the stormwater diversion channel in 2025, and construction will wrap up in 2026.

NORTH DAKOTA

Southern Embankment and Associated Infrastructure

- ***Southern Embankment***: The 22-mile earthen embankment is being built in several reaches. Reach SE-1A is completed, SE-1B is 65% complete, SE-2A is 76% complete, SE-2B is 87% complete, SE-3 is 40% complete, SE-4 is 27% complete, and SE-5 is 37% complete. The entire embankment will be completed in 2026.
- ***Diversion Inlet Structure***: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will turn the Diversion Inlet Structure over to the MFDA for operations and maintenance once a final element is completed in early 2026.
- ***Wild Rice River Structure***: The Wild Rice River was rerouted through the control structure in 2023 and work neared completion in December. It will be turned over to the MFDA for operations and maintenance in 2026.
- ***Red River Structure***: In 2025, the Red River was rerouted to flow through the Red River Structure, the largest of three control structures. It reached 93% completion in 2025 and will be completed in 2026.

Local Flood Protection and Associated Infrastructure

- ***City of Fargo/Cass County***: Fargo has completed 85% and Cass County has completed 5% of their flood-related infrastructure projects, which involve 18 stormwater lift stations, 259 property acquisitions, 4.4 miles of county road improvements and grade raises and 26.2 miles of levees and floodwalls.
- ***City of Moorhead/Clay County***: Moorhead has completed 89% and Clay County work isn't scheduled yet. Upon completion, there will be 19 storm structure modifications, 276 property acquisitions, four miles of road improvements/grade raises, and 12.7 miles of levees and floodwalls.

Mitigation Features and Associated Infrastructure

- ***Drayton Dam***: About 120 miles north of the Fargo-Moorhead metro area, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers removed an old, unsafe dam and replaced it with a rock rapids fishway. Work concluded in 2023.
- ***Drain 27 Wetland Mitigation***: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restored 320 acres of wetland and planted 485 acres of native grasses, wrapping up work in 2023.
- ***Oxbow Wetland Mitigation***: The MFDA restored 10.6 acres of wetlands, built 8.2 acres of upland buffers, and planted 63.1 acres of seedlings.
- ***Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Levee:*** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a ring levee around these three communities in 2025.

RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (RRVWSP)

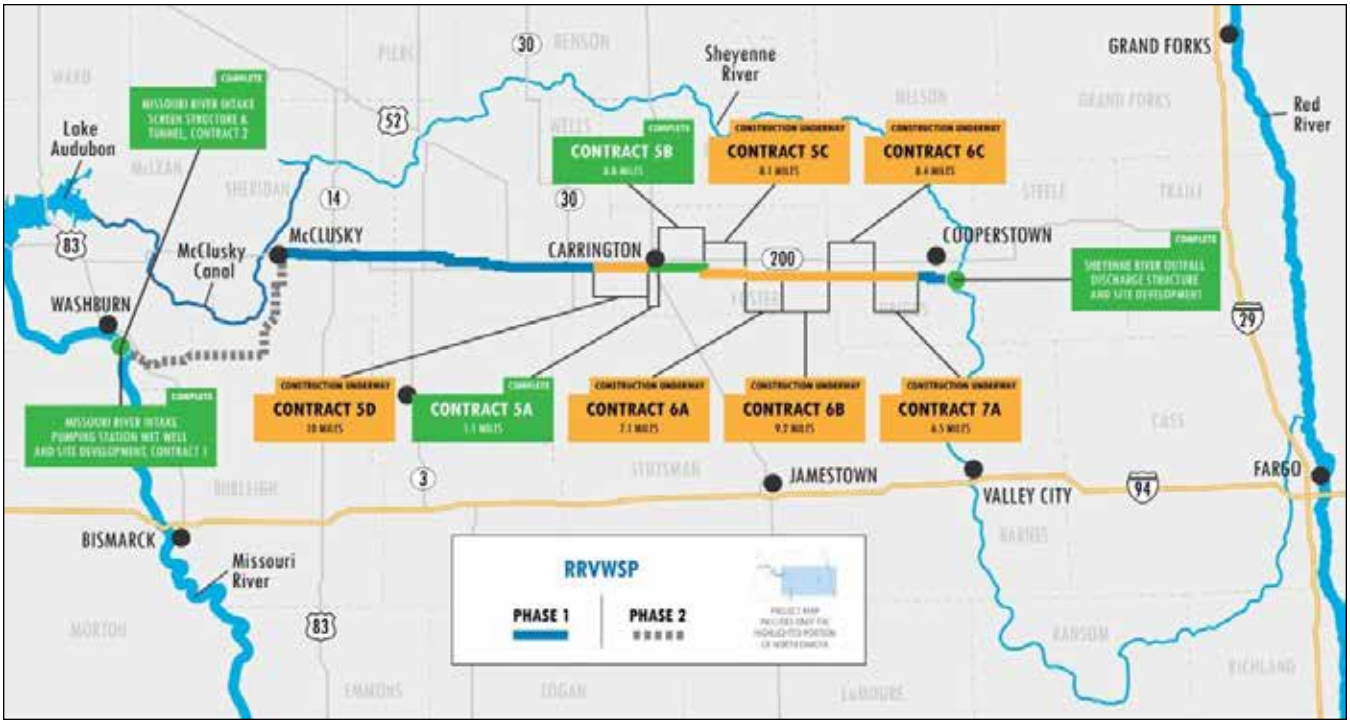
The Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) is a drought resiliency project and economic development initiative to deliver Missouri River water to central and eastern North Dakota through a buried pipeline.

An emergency water supply will be delivered to communities and rural water systems during moderate to severe droughts. Additionally, the water will provide opportunities for industrial development, as a current lack of industrial water supply has driven industries to obtain water through less desirable means and/or relocate out of North Dakota.

The RRVWSP will bring Missouri River water from the McClusky Canal in central North Dakota to the Sheyenne River, closely running along the Highway 200 corridor in central North Dakota. Upon completion, the RRVWSP will benefit about half of North Dakota's population.

The RRVWSP has made significant advancements in recent years, and construction of the drought mitigation project is underway.

NORTH DAKOTA



RRVWSP Construction Contracts - 1-23-26.

TRANSMISSION PIPELINE

The 72-inch pipe will have the capacity to convey water at 165 cubic feet per second (cfs) during peak demands. Multiple construction contracts will be awarded to complete the 125-mile pipeline.

- ***Contract 5A***: Construction of 1.25 miles of 72-inch pipeline about one mile south of Carrington, trenchless crossing of U.S. Highway 52/281, and a trenchless crossing of the Red River Valley and Western Railroad. The contract was awarded to Garney Construction and completed in 2022.
- ***Contract 5B***: Construction of nine miles of 72-inch pipeline and a trenchless crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway southeast of Carrington in Foster County. The contract was awarded to Garney Construction and completed in 2025.
- ***Contract 5C***: Construction of eight miles of 72-inch pipeline and three major trenchless crossings east of Carrington. The trenchless crossings will be located at the James River, Kelly Creek and an interstate gas pipeline. The contract was awarded to Oscar Renda Contracting. Construction is expected to wrap up in the summer of 2026.
- ***Contract 5D***: Construction of 10 miles of 72-inch pipeline and a trenchless crossing of Pipestem Creek in eastern Wells County and western Foster County. The contract was awarded to Carstensen Contracting. Construction began in 2024, with an anticipated completion of spring 2026.
- ***Contract 6A***: Construction of 7.1 miles of 72-inch pipeline and three trenchless crossings in Foster County east of Carrington. The contract was awarded to Carstensen Contracting, with estimated completion in the spring of 2027.
- ***Contract 6B/6C***: Construction of 17.6 miles of 72-inch pipeline and three trenchless crossings. The contract was awarded to Carstensen Contracting. Construction will begin in 2026 and is expected to be completed in summer 2028.
- ***Contract 7A***: Construction of 6.5 miles of 72-inch pipeline and three trenchless crossings. The contract was awarded to Carstensen Contracting. Construction will begin in 2026 and is expected to be completed in summer 2028.

NORTH DAKOTA

SHEYENNE RIVER DISCHARGE

The Sheyenne River Discharge structure is located approximately six miles south of Cooperstown, ND, near the Sheyenne River. The site includes a 3,330 square-foot concrete energy dissipation structure and flow apron, 100 feet of 54-inch pipe, site grading and access roads. The construction contract was awarded to Industrial Builders, Inc., and work was completed between May 2021 and July 2022.

In the future, this location will be the terminus of the RRVWSP transmission pipeline, and the site will include a control valve structure building.

MISSOURI RIVER INTAKE

The Missouri River intake and wet well site is located four miles south of Washburn and adjacent to the Missouri River. ICS Inc. and Michels Corp. completed two separate contracts between December 2020 and October 2023. The site will serve as a backup water supply intake for the RRVWSP, and studies are underway to determine additional potential users.

MOVING THE PROJECT FORWARD

The RRVWSP 2025-2027 biennium budget totals $237.33 million and consists of $205 million from the state of North Dakota and $68.33 million from the local users. An additional $50 million was secured from the federal municipal, rural and industrial (MR&I) program.

In addition to the aforementioned pipe installation, 2025-2027 biennium priorities include:

- Install 25 miles of pipeline
- Complete final design for facility projects including the McClusky Canal intake, McClusky Canal pumping station, Biota Water Treatment Plant, and ground storage reservoirs
- Secure remaining easements
- Provide financial planning support
- Provide support and/or studies for RRVWSP end users

Overall, the project has a 10-year construction plan.

MOUSE RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

The Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection plan is a project spanning four counties in north-central North Dakota – Renville, Ward, McHenry, and Bottineau. The preliminary plan calls for protection measures in urban areas from Mouse River Park in Renville County to Velva in McHenry County, including the city of Minot. The project consists of levees, floodwalls, river diversions, road closure structures, pump stations, bridge replacements and a number of acquisitions within the project footprint. Levees make up nearly 90 percent of the alignment, totaling approximately 22 miles. Approximately three miles of floodwalls are also included in the plan.

Rural flood risk management activities include efforts to acquire property, relocate structures out of the floodplain, construct ring dikes, and implement improvements to increase conveyance capacity along rural reaches of the Mouse River.

The project is designed to pass a flood similar to what was experienced in 2011, with flows of approximately 27,000 cubic feet per second in the Mouse River. The estimated total cost of the project is $1.6 billion.

SHEYENNE RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION

Valley City sits along the Sheyenne River and is the first community downstream from Baldhill Dam. During the spring of each year, the Sheyenne River swells from snowmelt with water levels peaking in March and April. During the spring of 2009, the community encountered a record flood, only to repeat it with a near record flood in the spring of 2011.

In the fall of 2011, Valley City began developing investment strategies for permanent flood protection. This flood protection consists of a combination of clay levees, floodwalls, and property acquisitions. The permanent flood protection plan is outlined in multiple phases. Valley City has completed Phases 1-3 with funding being secured in the 2013-2015, 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 Legislative Biennia, respectively.

NORTH DAKOTA

Sheyenne River Flood Protection.

Phase 1, completed in 2016, was centered on the area near Valley City State University and adjacent residential neighborhoods. Phase 2 of permanent flood protection concentrated on a portion of the downtown area. This included the section of Main Street located along the Sheyenne River in addition to protecting the area behind one of the city's distribution power substations – critical infrastructure for the community. Construction started in the fall of 2017 and was completed in the summer of 2020. Phase 3 protects the city's sanitary master lift station. The master lift station was constructed on the bank of the Sheyenne River and serves the entire city. Work began in the fall of 2019 and was completed in the summer of 2020.

Funding for Phases 4 - 6 was approved in previous legislative biennia. These phases of the flood protection project are in the planning phase as the city recently received an approved Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) for the entire permanent flood protection system. This was received in the fall of 2023, and the city is currently working on the final plan development and permitting for Phase 4 to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027. As discussed before, only Phase 2 covers a portion of the downtown area, leaving a number of critical infrastructure components unprotected. Phase 4 focuses on building flood protection to protect critical city infrastructure, including City Hall, the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, Mercy Hospital and two medical clinics.

Planning for Phases 5 and 6 are beginning in early 2026 with bidding to take place in 2027. Phase 5 focuses on connecting the Phase 2 project that protects the downtown area with Phase 3 that protects the master lift station. Phase 5 will protect numerous residential dwellings, a public school and other critical infrastructure. Phase 6 will continue efforts to protect the downtown area, moving construction north to protect Mercy Hospital as well as other critical infrastructure within this area. Construction of future phases is scheduled to start in 2026.

Preliminary and design engineering work is ongoing for future phases of permanent flood protection in Valley City. These projects will be shovel-ready when funds become available and cost-share requests are made to the State Water Commission. Valley City is currently looking

at an approximate 10-year timeline for project completion for the remaining phases, depending on the availability of state funding resources.

DEVILS LAKE OUTLET OPERATIONS

Devils Lake in northeast North Dakota continues to be an important aspect of water management in the state. Record high lake levels over the past quarter century have impacted the region, and future lake-rise continues to be a concerning possibility. Two pumped outlets lower the risk of flooding by gradually transferring water from Devils Lake to the Sheyenne River. The East End Outlet was designed to operate down to 1,446.0 feet and the West End Outlet to 1,445.0 feet. The outlets have a maximum combined discharge capacity of 600 cubic feet per second (cfs) and their operation is managed according to downstream water quality and quantity limitations. As of December 2025, the outlets have removed more than 1.6 million acre-feet of water. More information regarding the Devils Lake Outlets is available through the ND State Water Commission website at https://www.dwr.nd.gov.

The peak lake elevations in 2024 and 2025 were 1,450.2 feet and 1,449.7 feet, respectively, which were lower than the peak elevations in 2022 and 2023. The Devils Lake outlets were started in May of 2024 and 2025 with the maximum allowable discharge, which is limited by channel capacity and water quality standards within the Sheyenne River. The discharge volumes from the outlets increased greatly for 2024 when compared with 2022. In 2024, the West End Outlet operated between 250 cfs and 125 cfs, and the East End Outlet operated between 200 cfs and 50 cfs. The total combined discharge from both outlets was approximately 180,000 acre-feet in 2024 and 2025. Devils Lake's elevation was 1,448.8 feet on December 27, 2025. Devils Lake Outlet operations are funded from the operating expenses of the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR) agency. DWR has contracted with Bartlett & West/AECOM to complete a comprehensive capital improvement plan for the West End Outlet, which is under development. All elevations in this section are in NGVD29 Datum.

SOUTHWEST PIPELINE PROJECT

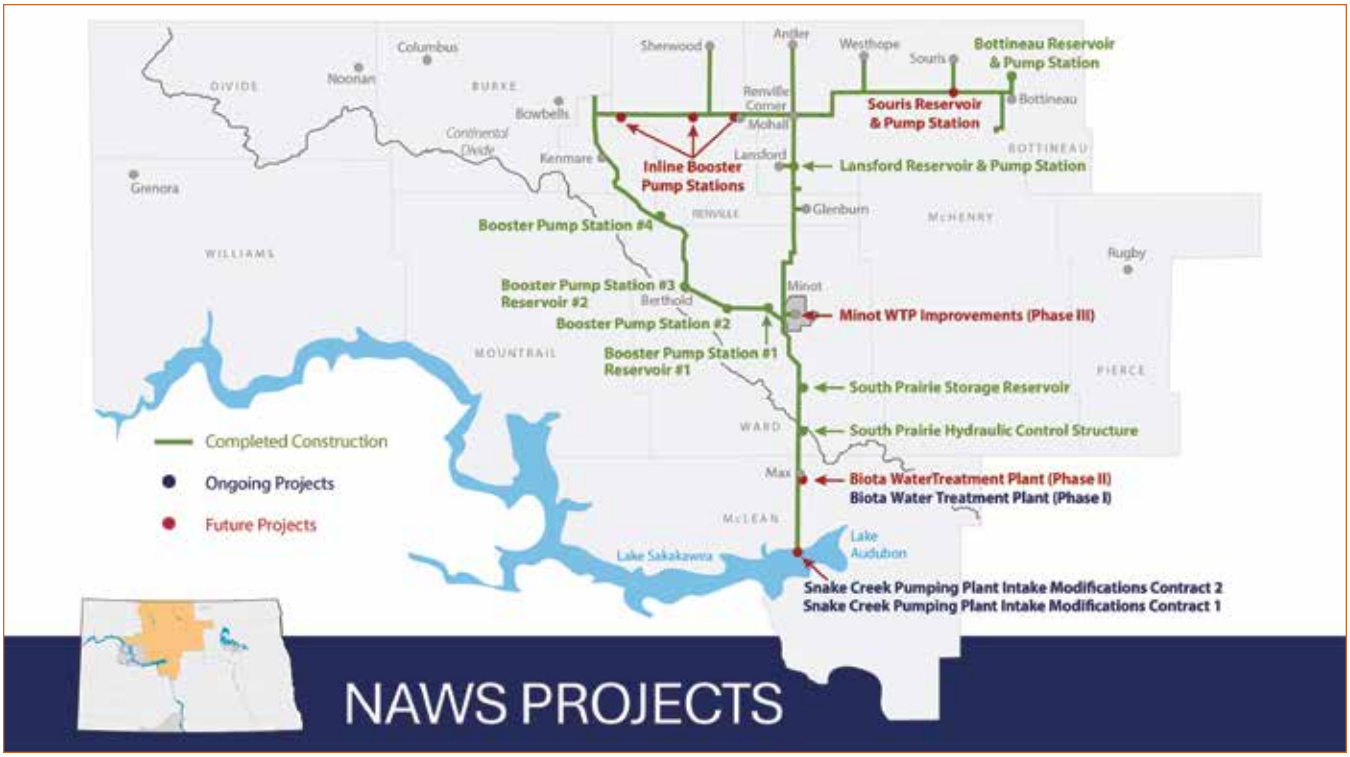
Encompassing more than twenty percent of the state, the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) is the foundation of economic development, quality of life, quality of place and the future growth of southwest North Dakota. Managed by the Southwest Water Authority (SWA), the SWPP delivers award-winning, quality water to nearly 60,000 residents through 5,300 miles of pipeline to 7,600 rural locations and 33 communities. Raw and potable water from the SWPP is being utilized by 25 raw water customers and 25 contract customers, including Red Trail Energy, Missouri West Water System and South Dakota's Perkins County Rural Water System. The SWPP currently serves an area of more than 15,000 square miles.

With high-quality water, local economies are strengthened, and the state is steadily repaid for its significant investment in water infrastructure in the SWPP. By the end of 2025, SWA customers reached $110 million in repayment to the state's Resources Trust Fund.

SWA was specifically authorized as an agent for the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) to manage, operate and maintain the SWPP. This relationship with the SWC, and now the North Dakota Department of Water Resources, has proven to work well for those SWA serves throughout southwest North Dakota. For nearly four decades, the state of North Dakota has been empowering the kind of economic development, quality of life, and future growth that can only be sustained by quality water. SWA remains dedicated to the mission: Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota and focused on the vision: People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water.

Ongoing construction includes expansion of the Southwest Water Treatment Plant to 18 million gallons per day, design for main transmission expansion to the west zone, strategic hydraulic improvements systemwide, rural expansion to serve those on the waiting list, and to meet the growing water needs in the region.

NORTH DAKOTA



NAWS Projects - 1/2/2026.

NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY

The Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project, located in north-central North Dakota, currently serves 11 public water systems, including the City of Minot. The project will transition to using Missouri River water once intake modifications at the Snake Creek Pumping Plant (SCPP) and the Biota Water Treatment Plant (WTP) are complete.

Phase I (9 million gallons per day [MGD] capacity) of the Biota WTP is under construction and is expected to be operational in 2026. Planned build-out for the Biota WTP is 24.5 MGD. The facility is designed to prevent aquatic nuisance species transfer between the Missouri River and Hudson River basins. Intake modifications at SCPP are nearly complete and expected to be operational in 2026. The second phase of improvements to the Minot WTP is complete. Design for the final phase, which will expand the Minot WTP's capacity from 18 MGD to 27 MGD, will begin soon. All pipeline segments construction in the distribution system is complete. Recently completed projects on the distribution system include reservoirs and pump stations near Lansford and Bottineau. A pump station and reservoir near Souris, three inline booster stations between Kenmare and Mohall, and ultimate Biota WTP capacity expansion remains to be completed on the project.

WESTERN AREA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Western Area Water Supply Project (WAWSP) is a domestic water project that utilizes Missouri River water treated at the Williston Regional Water Treatment Plant and supplemented by groundwater through the R&T Water Treatment Plant in Ray to meet the municipal, rural and industrial water needs for all or parts of five northwestern North Dakota counties. The service area includes the cities of Williston, Watford City, Ray, Tioga, Stanley, Wildrose, Crosby, Fortuna, Noonan, Columbus, and Ross. In addition to expanding the existing Williston Water Treatment Plant, the Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWSA) has constructed more than 2,300 miles of transmission lines and rural water distribution

networks, as well as pump stations, reservoirs, and other critical infrastructure, in order to serve an estimated 70,000 people in the service area.

The WAWSP business plan is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership in North Dakota. In order to repay its loans, WAWSA is selling the system's unused water capacity to the oil industry during the population growth period to pay for a significant portion of the project's estimated $722 million cost.

DICKINSON

Dickinson Dam and Reservoir (Edward Arthur Patterson Lake) stores water for irrigating valley lands downstream from the dam. Some 400 acres of irrigable lands, in isolated tracts, are served by privately constructed pumping plants located along the Heart River near Dickinson. Fish, wildlife and recreation benefits also are realized.

HEART BUTTE

The Heart Butte unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program lies in scattered tracts along the Heart River from Heart Butte Dam to the Missouri River. There are about 13,000 acres of irrigable land available. The Western Heart River Irrigation District currently contains 7,766.3 acres of irrigated land which is served by individual project pumping plants. Releases from Heart Butte Dam are coordinated during the irrigation season to enable the district to pump directly from the Heart River.

GENERAL WATER MANAGEMENT

In addition to the many large-scale water projects being developed across the state, there are also dozens of smaller local water management projects that benefit individuals and local communities. The State Water Commission provides support for these water management projects by cost-sharing with local entities, primarily water resource districts. Joint water boards also play a key role in these local water management projects. Examples of general water management projects that typically receive cost-share assistance from the state include rural flood control, snagging and clearing, channel improvements, recreation projects, dam certification and repairs, planning efforts, special studies, and other water management projects.

IRRIGATION

North Dakota has approximately 300,000 acres of irrigation used in the production of a variety of crops including corn, soybeans, cereal grain, livestock forage, and high value crops such as potatoes, sugar beets, and onions. Especially in dry years, irrigation is vital to supporting agriculture and value-added processing in the state. The current irrigated acres are small in comparison with the number of acres statewide that are considered irrigable. By far, the greatest potential for irrigation development is in areas where Missouri River water can be used. As such, North Dakota has spent time focusing on those opportunities and barriers to development using Missouri River water.

In 2025, North Dakota State University (NDSU) studied the feasibility of irrigating in North Dakota and found that more than two million more acres of irrigation could be developed based on water availability, soil type and land use. In addition to the study, NDSU developed an interactive dashboard that displays county level data for each county in North Dakota. The dashboard provides a visual representation of the data found in the feasibility study. Both the final study and interactive dashboard can be found on the North Dakota Irrigation Association's website: https://ndwater.org/organizations/irrigation/.

The McClusky Canal was developed as part of the Flood Control Act of 1944 to deliver Missouri River water eastward across North Dakota largely for irrigation purposes. Although the Canal has not been fully developed due to legal issues, irrigation is established along the Canal, and there continues to be potential for increasing irrigation along it. Approximately 7,900 acres were irrigated from the McClusky Canal during 2024.

This development is enhanced by a robust cost-share program with the state and a reduced power pumping rate authorized by the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000. The Act authorizes the irrigation of 23,700 acres in the Turtle Lake

and McClusky Canal service areas. In addition, it authorizes project use power rates for irrigation of an additional 28,000 acres in other areas of the Missouri River Basin. Stakeholders in North Dakota are working with the North Dakota congressional delegation to clarify language in the Dakota Water Resources Act to allow access to project pumping power in these 28,000 undesignated acres within the Missouri River Basin.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Regional and rural water systems play a vital role in providing safe, reliable, high-quality, and affordable water to North Dakota's residents, farms, industries, subdivisions, and small communities. To meet the state's growing water needs, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, the State Water Commission, the four Tribal Nations, and the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association continue to work collaboratively to address both water quality and water quantity challenges.

For the 2025–2027 biennium, planned projects include—though are not limited to—system expansions and improvements for Agassiz Water Users District, All Seasons Water Users District, Barnes Rural Water District, Cass Rural Water Users District, East Central Regional Water District, Fort Berthold Rural Water, McLean Sheridan Water District, Northeast Regional Water District, South Central Regional Water District, Southeast Water Users District, Stutsman Rural Water District, Turtle Mountain Public Utilities, and Upper Souris Water District.

Without financial assistance, many systems would struggle to deliver water to residents who urgently need it, and others would face significant difficulties complying with increasingly complex water quality regulations and mandates.

MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY

Municipal water projects sustain water infrastructure requirements of water demand and quality through one-time capital investments with an affordable local and state funding partnership. Municipalities support a strong, growing state economy by providing critical water infrastructure projects.

During 2025, the State Water Commission approved more than $35 million in municipal water supply projects across the state to be constructed over 2026 and 2027. The municipal water supply "bucket" was appropriated $40 million by the legislature for the 25-27 biennium. This is far short of the projected $368.3 million in needs as outlined in the North Dakota Department of Water Resources 2025-2027 Water Development Plan. However, this is a significant investment in municipal water supply development projects to help city residents access clean drinking water. The Resources Trust Fund is a vital asset to the 355 communities across North Dakota in assisting the development of water infrastructure.

Educate ~ Advocate ~ Engage

Understanding and Pursuing Missouri River Benefits for North Dakota

Missouri River Joint Water Board
Missouri River Advisory Council

OUR MISSOURI RIVER .... EDUCATE, ADVOCATE AND ENGAGE

The Missouri River Joint Water Board (Joint Board) has embarked on a program tagged the EAE Program – Educate, Advocate, and Engage – for the Missouri River System in North Dakota.

The program supports the Joint Board mission statement which seeks to provide "....a coordinated effort ... (for) ... management, conservation, protection, development, and control of the water resources in the Missouri River Basin...."

NORTH DAKOTA

The Joint Board believes an important component in achieving that mission statement lies in an aggressive and comprehensive program:

- ***To Educate*** – the general public and policy makers of the concerns of the users of our state with that river system.
- ***To Advocate*** – those concerns in clear and concise communications to state and federal leaders and regulatory agencies.
- ***To Engage*** – with all the interests in our state, all those users and those who rely on or enjoy the benefits of the river system, so that their inputs and voices are heard in how the system is managed.

Management of the program will be by the Joint Board with guidance from a selected advisory board for input and assistance. That advisory board will include a cross section of water managers and water leaders who have demonstrated leadership on Missouri River System issues in North Dakota.

Administration and management assistance for the program will be provided by contract with the North Dakota Water Users Association and the North Dakota Water Education Foundation.

Funding for the program is collected by local funds from the member counties of the Joint Board with matching funds from the ND Department of Water Resources and from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District.

In the past year, the EAE program was presented at a variety of water conferences and other related events, including those sponsored by the ND Water Users Association, ND League of Cities, ND Association of Counties, Upper Missouri Water Association, ND Rural Water Users Association, SD Association of Rural Water Systems, SD Water and Wastewater Association, SD American Water Works Association, and the National Water Resources Association.

The story of the Missouri River Basin in North Dakota has also been shared with a number of radio interviews and with ongoing and monthly articles published in the *North Dakota Water* magazine. The Joint Board intends to offer the EAE message to all the water users and organizations of the basin states, specifically the upper basin states, but also to include the lower basin states.

The EAE program is a start. A start to more fully understand why North Dakota, and all the upper basin states, were asked to make such a large land and resource sacrifice for the implementation of the Pick Sloan Act with benefits to the entire basin. A start to realize the benefits that the upper basin states were promised for such sacrifices, that are yet to be delivered. And a start in forming an understanding of how important the Missouri River System is to all the states of the basin and how, individually and collectively, measures can be taken to protect our ability to gain benefits from that system.

For more information on the EAE program and to follow Missouri River issues, please contact the Missouri River Joint Water Board at 701-751-1632 or visit mrjwb.weebly.com.

SOUTH DAKOTA

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The Impact of the American Rescue Plan Act on South Dakota's Water Infrastructure

Introduction

In 2022, the U.S. Federal Government enacted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a significant legislative move aimed at providing financial support to various sectors affected by the global crisis. South Dakota, a state known for its rich natural resources and agricultural heritage, received approximately $1.3 billion from this federal ARPA legislation.

Allocation of ARPA Funds in South Dakota

The distribution of ARPA funds in South Dakota was a multifaceted process. A substantial portion was allocated to counties, municipalities, and Indian tribes. The state government was entrusted with more than $900 million, earmarked for specific expenses, including critical infrastructure projects. In a landmark decision during the 2022 South Dakota legislative session, it was agreed upon to allocate two-thirds of the ARPA funds, amounting to $600 million, exclusively for water and wastewater projects.

Legislative Journey and Public Support

The bill proposing this allocation navigated through the legislative session with remarkable support from various quarters. The governor's administration, legislators, and a wide spectrum of the general public backed this initiative. This collaborative effort resulted in the largest single appropriation ever considered and made by the South Dakota Legislature, highlighting the state's commitment to addressing its water infrastructure needs.

Administration and Project Vetting by DANR

Following the governor's endorsement, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) undertook the responsibility of vetting projects and appropriating the funds. The response was overwhelming, with nearly $2 billion worth of water and wastewater projects applying for a share of the ARPA funds. DANR set a cap on grants from these funds to a maximum of 30% of the total project cost. This strategic move ensured a broader distribution of funds, enabling numerous projects to benefit.

The 2024 Final Allocation

By early 2024, approximately $110 million in ARPA funds remained unspent across various state programs. Recognizing the continued unmet need for infrastructure, the water community successfully advocated for these remaining funds to be channeled toward additional water projects.

During the 2024 legislative session, this advocacy resulted in the passage of **Senate Bill 53**. This legislation officially appropriated:

- **$89,384,221** for immediate water and wastewater project grants.
- An additional **$28,000,000** in contingent funding to be used if other ARPA-funded state projects went unobligated by federal deadlines.

Looking Ahead

There is a strong sentiment that further investments in water projects are not just beneficial but necessary for the state's overall well-being. The community is preparing to engage in what is anticipated to be another vigorous and successful legislative period, continuing their efforts to enhance South Dakota's water infrastructure.

Conclusion

The allocation and utilization of ARPA funds in South Dakota, particularly in the water sector, reflect a significant stride towards sustainable environmental management and infrastructure development. It exemplifies effective collaboration between government entities, legislators, and the public. As South Dakota looks forward, there is a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to ensure that water, the most vital of all resources, is managed and preserved for the benefit of all its residents.

SOUTH DAKOTA

WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

The Western Dakota Regional Water System is a nonprofit corporation advancing a regional strategy to secure long term water supply reliability in western South Dakota. The initiative began with the West Dakota Water Development District, holder of Missouri River Future Use Water Permit 1443-2. As the district prepared for permit renewal in 2020, it commissioned the South Dakota School of Mines to evaluate supply conditions in western Pennington County. The 2019 assessment was clear. The region faces a significant need for new sources of water, and local entities should coordinate and act proactively to secure future supplies. The WDRWS was formed in direct response to those findings.

Regional demand pressures underscore the urgency. Population growth and recurring drought have already strained existing systems, and the demand curve will rise further with the B-21 Raider Bomber mission at Ellsworth Air Force Base. The mission is expected to bring approximately 3,500 military personnel and 4,200 dependents to Pennington and Meade counties. Without a supplemental source, current supplies will be inadequate to support both growth and drought resiliency expectations.

To meet this challenge, the WDRWS has spent five years developing a regional solution and is now in the final stage of securing congressional authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation to begin a full Feasibility Study to evaluate delivery of Missouri River water to western South Dakota. Concurrent planning work includes defining present and future regional demand and analyzing potential source and conveyance options. The WDRWS has secured $8 million from state ARPA funds and $2 million from the state Water and Environment Fund to advance planning. Local systems and partners have contributed more than $500,000 in matching funds. Engineering leadership is provided by AE2S, Black and Veatch, and KLJ.

When fully developed, the WDRWS will address long standing supply constraints and create a durable platform for collaboration among federal agencies, Tribes, local governments, water development districts, and both large and small public water systems. Membership includes public water systems, associate organizational partners, and individuals committed to regional water security.

The board of directors includes President Jake Fitzgerald, Manager, West River Lyman Jones Rural Water Systems; Vice President Todd Williamson, Operator, Butte Meade Sanitary Water District; Secretary and Treasurer Jim Martin, Manager, Colonial Pine Hills Sanitary District; and directors Teresa Hall, city of New Underwood; Adam McMahon, city of Spearfish; Bruce Martin, city of Box Elder; and Stacy Titus, city of Rapid City.

WATER INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN SOUTH DAKOTA

Project collaboration of WEB Water Development Association, the city of Aberdeen, and BDM Rural Water System to provide a reliable water source for rural water providers and communities in northcentral and northeast South Dakota.

Due to the increasing water demands seen within northcentral and northeast South Dakota, the WEB Water Development Association (WEB), BDM Rural Water System (BDM) and the city of Aberdeen formed the Water Investment in Northern South Dakota (WINS) collaborative project to provide a long-term solution for reliable drinking water and to address capacity and treatment issues within the region. This project collaboration can provide reliable drinking water that will improve public health and safety while providing drought mitigation and economic development for approximately 110,000 people or approximately 12.4% of the state's population. It is projected that the total water demand for northcentral and northeast South Dakota will be 53.3 million gallons of water per day (MGD) in 2056. With WEB in the process of expanding its current system to 17 MGD, the additional treatment capacity required for the WINS project is 36.3 MGD.

SOUTH DAKOTA

WEB, the city of Aberdeen, and BDM are located in northcentral and northeast South Dakota which serve rural areas and communities within all or portions of 15 counties in South Dakota and three counties in North Dakota, including: Beadle, Brown, Campbell, Clark, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hyde, Marshall, McPherson, Potter, Roberts, Spink, and Walworth counties in South Dakota and Dickey, Emmons, and McIntosh counties in North Dakota. WEB authorized Banner Associates, Inc. (Banner) to complete an engineering study to summarize system deficiencies, evaluate alternatives, and recommend improvements for a projected regional water demand of 53.3 MGD.

The WEB water treatment plant can currently produce approximately 11 MGD, and improvements are in process to increase capacity to approximately 17 MGD. Water demands within the WEB system have been steadily increasing since its inception; however, significant increases have been seen in recent years. These increases are due to new customers, higher water usage by existing customers, and severe drought conditions. As a result of these increases, WEB has issued moratoriums on new services in several areas and a system wide moratorium on new bulk users.

In the previously completed long range planning report for WEB, a future demand projection was calculated using an annual growth percentage for both rural and bulk users. The overall projected demand was based on the average growth percentages for rural users and a 4% bulk growth percentage. The WEB system projected water demand reaches 26.2 MGD in 2056. By comparing the previous projection to the most recent theoretical peak day demand, Banner assumes that the previous projection is still reasonable. After the completion of the current treatment plant expansion, WEB will require approximately 9.2 MGD of additional treated water capacity to meet demands.

The city of Aberdeen water treatment plant currently has a capacity of 12 MGD and the current peak day demand is 10 MGD. Aberdeen has also seen a steady increase in water demand over the years and therefore has been proactive in securing water use and future use permits. As a result, the city currently holds water permits for 5.5 MGD of groundwater and 19.2 MGD of surface water from the Elm River. Although the city has adequate permitted water for the increased demand, the treatment issues and drought susceptibility of the Elm River have plagued Aberdeen for a century. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, the city was forced to purchase water from nearby private sources due to the Elm River having insufficient flow. Due to these concerns and the increasing water demand, the city has been pursuing viable long-term options to meet the growing water demand and improve the city's drought resiliency.

In 2021, Aberdeen procured Bartlett and West, Inc. to prepare an engineering report for transmitting raw water from Lake Oahe near Mobridge, SD, to the city of Aberdeen's water treatment plant. This report highlights the city's increasing water demand, unreliable water source, and desire to work with other entities to secure a long-term reliable water source for the city. Based upon this report, Aberdeen is requesting a total of 24 MGD capacity for the city, with 16 MGD based on population projections and the city's historical usage, while maintaining 8 MGD for economic development partners, based on bulk water requests from private entities. The BDM water treatment plant has a design capacity of approximately 1.97 MGD from its well field. Since originally constructed, BDM has experienced a growing demand not only within its service area but also the surrounding area. This resulted in BDM going through several expansions from the late 1990s through the 2000s to include communities, Hutterite colonies, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate housing sites, and rural customers within Brown, Day, Marshall, and Roberts counties. In the summer of 2021, due to severe drought, BDM experienced a peak day demand of 2.19 MGD.

Due to exceeding design capacity and additional water requests, BDM procured AE2S in 2021 to provide a preliminary engineering report for facility upgrades, treatment expansions, and pipeline improvements to its existing system. BDM also reached out to WEB to explore a long-term solution

to improve drought resiliency and to provide redundancy to its system. Although BDM is in the process of building an additional water treatment plant to increase its immediate capacity, it has requested 3.1 MGD from the WINS project as a supplement to improve drought resiliency and to provide redundancy to its system.

Planning for an additional treated water source must begin now to ensure that all three systems will be able to adequately serve their current customers as well as provide capacity for future growth and drought mitigation. The proposed WINS project improvements consist of a raw water intake, 36.3 MGD water treatment plant, two ground storage reservoirs, one pressure reducing station, one control station, one elevated storage reservoir, two metering and control facilities, one pump station, and approximately 161 miles of water distribution pipeline. These improvements will increase WEB's treated water capacity and allow water to be supplied to Aberdeen and BDM to meet the future demands of the northcentral and northeast South Dakota region.

The construction of these improvements is not anticipated to have any long-term impacts on the environment. It is proposed that this project will be completed in phases as critical funding becomes available. An estimated probable cost for the recommended improvements was $793,730,700 (in 2026 dollars).

The WINS project will be an opportunity for South Dakota to gain some of the promises that were given under the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program. Today, rural water systems are only utilizing a small portion of the water promised to South Dakota.

DAKOTA MAINSTEM

THE DAKOTA MAINSTEM REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM: PLANNING FOR LONG-TERM WATER RELIABILITY

Large regional water systems do not emerge from urgency alone. They arise when experience, foresight, and shared responsibility converge. The Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System (DMRWS) reflects that convergence, an effort shaped by decades of South Dakota water development experience and a clear-eyed recognition that the next generation of water challenges will require planning on a broader scale than ever before.

From Reflection to Realization: The Genesis of DMRWS

If there was a single inflection point in the formation of DMRWS, it occurred during a South Dakota Rural Water Managers meeting. As the group reflected on the state's notable water development accomplishments, projects such as WEB Water Development, Mni Wiconi, Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, and Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, a simple but consequential question was posed: Are we done?

The answer was an unmistakable no.

That moment shifted the conversation from celebrating past successes to confronting future realities. Water managers acknowledged that while past projects had addressed many immediate and mid-term needs, groundwater supplies across the region were experiencing declines in both quality and quantity. In some areas, aquifers are stressed by overuse; in others, naturally occurring contaminants or regulatory pressures limit future viability. The question then became not whether another project was needed, but how to begin responsibly planning for what comes next.

SOUTH DAKOTA

From that discussion grew the idea of a new, long-range regional system, one focused less on near-term construction and more on deliberate, multi-decade planning.

The Meaning Behind the Name

The name Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System was chosen intentionally. It is a nod to the Missouri River system, authorized and developed under the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and the term appears repeatedly in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Master Manual for Missouri River management. The term "mainstem" appears throughout those foundational documents and is commonly used to describe the primary federal river system infrastructure.

Four of the large Missouri River dams constructed under Pick-Sloan are located in South Dakota, and the historical, economic, and water supply implications of that system are deeply embedded in the region. While the project does not use the term to describe river facilities or operations, the name reflects continuity with that long history of regional water planning and development.

Organizing for the Long Term

To move from concept to coordinated action, participating systems formed the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System as a nonprofit corporation. Articles of incorporation and bylaws were adopted to establish a transparent and durable governance framework capable of supporting decades of planning activity.

Membership includes rural water systems, municipalities, and other eligible public water entities across South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Tribal representation is also recognized as a vital component. DMRWS made a deliberate effort to keep Tribal Nations informed about the project and to provide opportunities for participation at their discretion, respecting sovereignty and differing community priorities.

Governance Structure

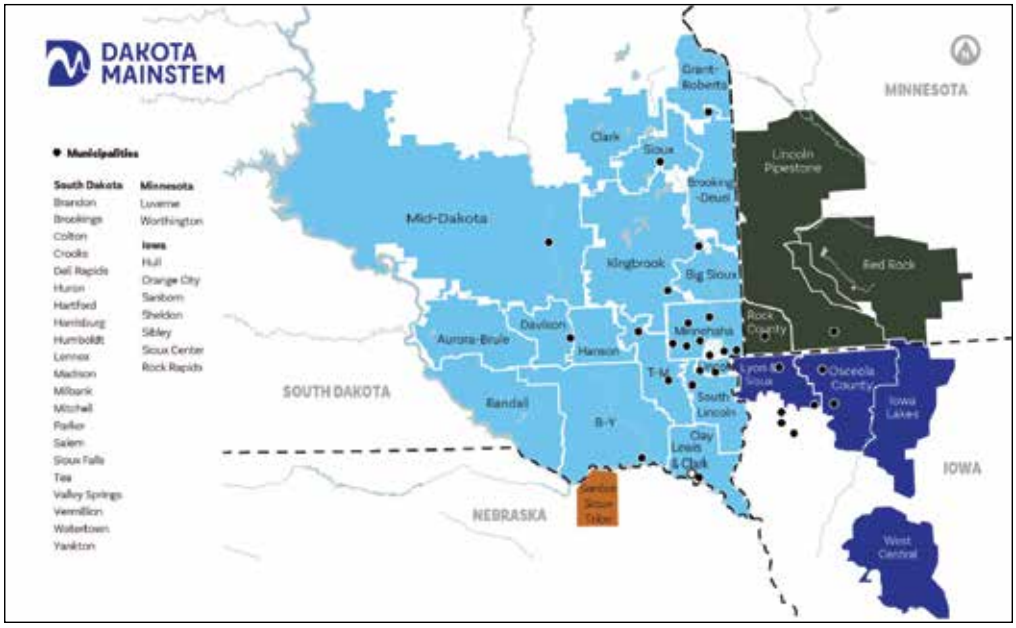
Governance is built around member representation. Each member appoints a representative to the DMRWS Board of Directors, ensuring that decisions reflect the collective interests of the region rather than any single entity.

Day-to-day oversight is provided by a seven-member executive committee. This committee consists of the officers of the corporation, along with one representative from regional water systems, one from municipalities, and one from an "other" category, which includes tribal governments.

This structure allows DMRWS to remain inclusive while still operating efficiently, an essential feature for a project operating at a regional, multi-state scale.

Engineering Leadership and Technical Partners

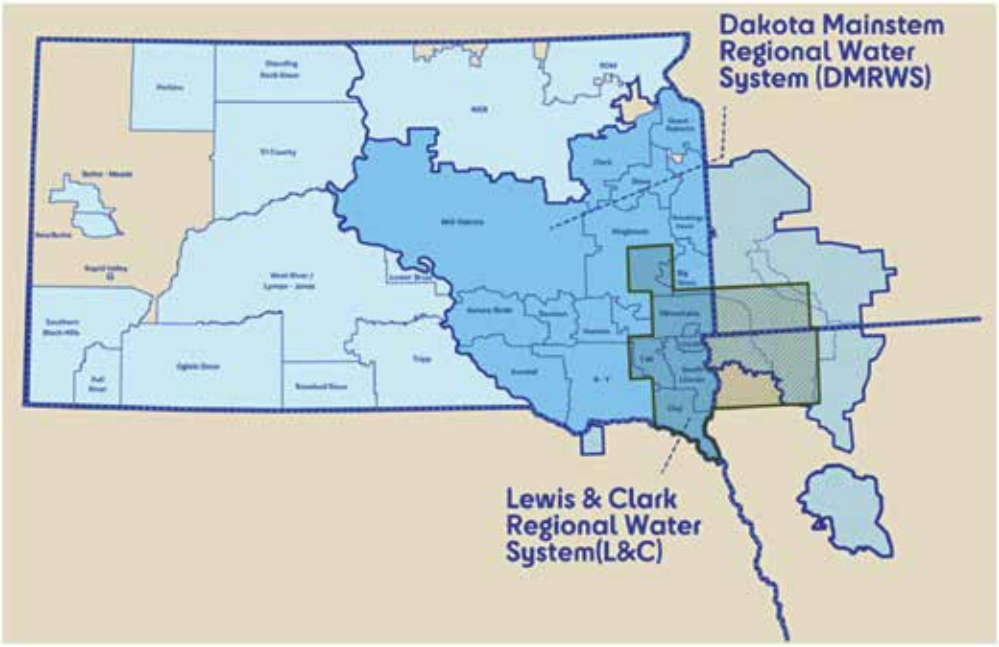
Given the scope and complexity of the project, DMRWS conducted a qualifications-based selection process to identify an engineering firm



SOUTH DAKOTA

with experience in large-scale water supply planning, federal study processes, and regional coordination. HDR Engineering Inc. was selected as the lead engineering consultant.

HDR is supported by a team of partners that includes Banner & Associates, Bartlett & West, and DGR Engineering, along with firms specializing in finance, regulatory processes, and governmental advocacy. This multidisciplinary team allows DMRWS to address technical, financial, and institutional considerations in an integrated manner.



The Appraisal Study: Establishing Direction, Not Decisions

The appraisal study represents the first major technical milestone for DMRWS and was completed in December 2025. Its purpose is not to finalize designs or commit to construction, but to determine whether sufficient justification exists to proceed to a more detailed feasibility study. The DMRWS Board of Directors reviewed the findings and formally approved the appraisal study on January 7, 2026.

The study includes a comprehensive needs assessment evaluating both groundwater and surface water supplies. Existing and projected demands were examined across three planning horizons: approximately seven million gallons per day (MGD) by 2030, 35 MGD by 2050, and 195 MGD by 2070. These tiers reflect incremental growth rather than a single build-out scenario, allowing DMRWS to explore whether near-term solutions might address early needs while preserving long-term flexibility.

A wide range of alternatives was evaluated, including continued reliance on local sources, expanded interconnections, and regional surface and groundwater supplies. Through this analysis, the Missouri River emerged as the most reliable long-term source capable of meeting projected regional demand at scale.

The appraisal study also provides an initial cost range, on the order of $8 to $11 billion. It is critical to caution against placing too much weight on these figures at this stage. These are order-of-magnitude estimates intended to frame discussion, not predict final costs. A 30 percent contingency is included not as a forecast, but as a placeholder acknowledging the many unknowns inherent in early-stage planning.

Beyond infrastructure, the study considers regional impacts, including economic development, workforce stability, water quality improvements, and long-term supply reliability for both rural and urban communities, along with Tribal Nations.

The Feasibility Study: Refinement and Focus

The next step is a full feasibility study, which will refine alternatives, develop preliminary engineering concepts, and tighten cost estimates. This phase will also address environmental considerations (NEPA), water rights, and implementation strategies in greater detail.

The feasibility study is expected to take approximately two years and cost between $3 and $6 million, with a planned start in the spring of 2026.

Federal Authorization and the Path Forward

To conduct the feasibility study, federal authorization is required to allow and direct the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to participate both technically and financially. This authorization applies only to the study phase and does not authorize construction.

DMRWS is actively working with the South Dakota Congressional Delegation to secure this authorization, with the goal of achieving it in 2026. While earlier approval is always preferred, the legislative process makes later timing, summer, fall, or winter, a realistic possibility.

A Multi-Generational Perspective

If the feasibility study supports continued advancement, the project would move to a final engineering report and eventually seek federal authorization for construction. Beyond that point, timelines for appropriations and construction sequencing remain uncertain.

It is reasonable and responsible to acknowledge that the DMRWS is likely a multi-decade endeavor. Projects of this scale succeed only when leaders are willing to plan beyond their own terms, careers, and even lifetimes.

The Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System embodies that long view. It is an effort grounded in experience, informed by science, and driven by the belief that reliable water supplies are foundational to the region's future prosperity. Planning now ensures that future generations inherit not just infrastructure, but opportunity.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION – SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE

MNI WICONI RWS

The Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project (Project) is significant in that it is providing, and will provide, a quality water supply for a very large area in west central South Dakota. The Project's service area is 12,500 sq. miles with a service population of 52,000 which continues to grow. The Project is creating jobs and improving the quality of life in eight counties and on the Pine Ridge, Lower Brule, and Rosebud Indian Reservations. Funding shortfalls have delayed the completion of this much-needed project and have increased the overall cost. The beneficiaries will complete all drinking water facilities but will sacrifice livestock features to overcome the cost increases due to funding shortfalls. The Project has received all funding within the statutory construction ceiling. Statutory operation, maintenance and replacement funding (OM&R) from the Bureau of Reclamation has not kept pace with completion of construction and increased water use over the last five years. Inadequate budgeting threatens the integrity and reliability of the system on and off the Reservations. The Project sponsors are seeking corrective action through administrative and legislative channels in an effort to receive adequate annual OM&R appropriations. The Tribal Project sponsors are also seeking funds for community system upgrades on the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Lower Brule Reservations. For the Project to be deemed complete, these community systems must be upgraded and transferred to the respective tribal rural water system as intended by the Mni Wiconi Project Act.

LEWIS & CLARK RWS

Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (L&C) is a wholesale provider of treated water to its 20 member cities and rural water systems in southeast South Dakota, northwest Iowa and southeast Minnesota. The source of water is a series of wells that tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion, SD. L&C was incorporated in 1990 and authorized by Congress in 2000. After getting the environmental clearances to move forward, a groundbreaking was held in 2004. Eighty

percent of the construction funding comes from the federal government through the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR), 10% from the three states and 10% from the 20 members. The final federal funding to complete the 44.19 million gallons per day (MGD) "Base System" was received in FY25.

The first 12 members began receiving water in July 2012 and the 20th and final member was connected in October 2024. Although all 20 members are connected, the base system will not be completed until construction on the third and final phase of the treatment plant is finished in 2028.

The total cost of the base system is currently estimated at $825 million. When completed, the project will benefit an estimated 350,000 people in a 5,000 square mile service area, which is roughly the size of Connecticut.

Due to growth and demand that has exceeded all projections, as well as the ongoing drought, construction started in 2022 to expand the system to 60 MGD. The members are covering 100% of the cost to expand the system. All three states have provided funding to help offset a portion of the expansion cost (e.g. ARPA funds), but the members' cost share is still estimated at roughly $100 million. Construction on the first expansion is expected to be completed in 2030.

Even when L&C is expanded to 60 MGD, it will not be enough capacity to address the long-term needs of the members. Discussions began in 2019 on a possible second expansion of L&C beyond 60 MGD, potentially doubling in size. This second expansion would not involve bringing in new members, but rather providing additional capacity to L&C's 20 members. L&C's engineers recently completed an "appraisal level study" for a second expansion. A full feasibility study that is expected to take two years to complete is the next step. L&C is currently working its tri-state delegation to secure congressional authorization for BoR to cover up to half the cost of the feasibility study. It is anticipated December 2026 is the latest that congressional authorization will be approved, but L&C officials are hoping it will happen sooner.

With regard to a possible second expansion, L&C is working closely with the proposed Dakota Mainstream Regional Water System (DMS) to determine if there are certain project components where it may make sense to partner, such as potentially a shared treatment plant and intake.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SOUTHERN BLACK HILLS WATER SYSTEM

The Southern Black Hills Water System (SBH) is an ongoing effort for a water development project in portions of Fall River, Custer, and Pennington counties of southwestern South Dakota. The project began planning in 2004 and has been successful in identifying the critical water needs of the area and potential solutions to such needs. The SBH system is governed by a volunteer board and includes representation from throughout the project area. As with most beginning water systems, the SBH board serves without payment for services and meets on an aggressive and regular monthly basis. SBH will be applying for funding with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and USDA Rural Development. SBH is a member of the Western Dakota Regional Water System.

The SBH is an approximate $120 million effort (2009 dollars) and has a conceptual design which allows a phasing of the facilities over an extended period of time. When completed, the system will provide a regional water supply and water distribution for ranches, rural residents, communities, and special water needs for the three-county area as identified. The special water needs may include water for the Crazy Horse Foundation, Mount Rushmore National Monument, Custer State Park, and numerous state and federal campgrounds and other recreational sites.

Phase 1 is completed and serves 100 customers. SBH has finalized a USDA Forest Service special use permit to cross the land with a pipeline. This permit will allow access and provide service to approximately 350 users located north of Hot Springs and will also provide infrastructure for future project expansion into the Custer area including water service to the community of

Custer. Work is also being pursued for additional phases of facilities which will provide water to users south of Hot Springs and in the Hermosa/Keystone areas of the system. SBH is also currently serving water in the Hermosa area. Paramount Point has 20 customers, and Spring Creek Acres has 68 customers; both of these systems are north of the town of Hermosa. SBH will be tying these two systems together and picking up an additional 70 customers between the two systems. The project is about five miles between the two systems. SBH has also delivered water to the Rushmore Ranch water system west of Hermosa which has 56 customers. SBH is now looking at obtaining potential customers along Highway 40 between Rushmore Ranch and the town of Hermosa.

BEAR BUTTE VALLEY WATER, INC.

Like all rural water systems, Bear Butte Valley Water (BBVW) began as an idea among several rural citizens looking for a dependable, high-quality source of water for their homes. Several residents of western Meade County, South Dakota, gathered to see if anyone else was interested. It began by neighbors talking to neighbors, and with the declaration from then president, Neal Rowett, "We don't want to leave anyone out. If anyone wants to participate in this system, we'll try to find a way to bring good, clean water."

The BBVW system is located north and east of Sturgis and includes the area east on Highway 34 to the Belle Fourche River and north on Highway 79 to the Butte-Meade Sanitary Water District service area. The initial construction project included 252 services and 146 miles of pipe at a cost of $11.4 million. The project was funded in part with a $3.1 million WEP loan and $4.5 million grant. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) provided a $2 million grant under the Water Facilities Construction Program. A 25-mile line of pipe in the Alkali Road project, which is funded by Rural Development, was added in 2022-2023. Additionally, 28 livestock producers in the area joined together with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to secure Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for using rural water service to improve the environmental quality of their livestock operation. The available funding to the water system through the EQIP program is approximately $1.1 million. The remaining funding came from local sources and the customers of BBVW. The well was completed in 2014, the tanks and pump stations in early 2016 and the pipeline was complete at the end of 2016. BBVW is now providing rural water service to more than 400 members with more expansion coming in 2026. A twenty-mile expansion began in 2024 and finished in 2025. Funding for these improvements came from a DANR grant with COVID funds and a South Dakota revolving loan fund of $1.5 million. A second well was drilled to a depth of 3,700 feet and a 158,000-gallon storage tank was added in December of 2024. The system has also grown to more than 200 miles of pipe in the ground.

Since the original construction in 2015-2017, the BBVW has grown from 209 customers to more than 400, and there continues to be a lot of interest from new customers within the service area.

PERKINS COUNTY RWS, INC.

Using all its allocated funding, the Perkins County Rural Water System (PCRWS) completed the last planned phase of its water distribution system at the end of 2012. PCRWS is still in need of supplemental water sources due to the exponential increase in water users from the initial feasibility study. Originally, two suppliers of water were going to be available to PCRWS; however, PCRWS is working with Tri-County/Mni Waste' Water Company but will not be able to connect to this supplier for an extended period of time. An additional source of water for PCRWS is Shadehill Reservoir, which would help provide additional water for current and future needs as well as lessen the demand on the current sole supplier. A valued engineering study has been completed, and a water treatment plant would have to be constructed in order to utilize water from the Shadehill Reservoir. Unfortunately, after the most recent study, Shadehill Reservoir is not a viable option due to poor water quality and treatment methods that are extremely costly at this time. PCRWS is continuing

to look for additional sources of water to fill the current and future demand for water for its users.

MNI WASTE' RWS

The Mni Waste' Rural Water System (Mni Waste') continues to work toward line upgrades and transmission line extensions primarily through USDA Rural Development (USDA RD). The system was awarded funding through the USDA RD Water and Waste Disposal Program to upgrade main lines north to Timber Lake and will continue working to fund west to Faith, tying into Perkins County Rural Water. The surrounding areas west and north requested water service in early 2000 and have been patiently waiting since, so this would be a significant added service to the region. Mni Waste' continues to seek supplemental construction funds within various federal and state agencies (Indian Health Services and South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources) to offset rate increases for current and future users.

Construction of a new water treatment plant, raw water line and 24" treated water transmission line up to the central hub of the system, Eagle Butte, are complete and have been operational since 2017. This was a huge influx to the once outdated facilities, as the plant went from maximum capacity production of 1.2 million gallons per day (MGD) to a possible 4.4 MGD and projected build out of 8.8 MGD. A 2-million-gallon water tower and extended loop line stabilizing the hospital were constructed under the same 2010 USDA RD funding package.

Prior to these upgrades, the system had been at maximum capacity since 1997, 20 years from project completion. Water restrictions have been slowly lifted according to branch line upgrades. Now that transmission lines are becoming more secure, moratoriums are changing, allowing for economic expansion to the area. Pressure reductions that have squeezed the system since early 2000 are being adjusted in order to meet the demands of current customers.

Construction of the new 37 mile service line and 1 million gallon tower along north Highway 63 began in April 2025, which will serve the town of Timber Lake. Work continues with the South Dakota congressional delegation and federal agencies to obtain an estimated $350 million in funding for the overall buildout of distribution system serving both on and off reservation users.

OTHER TOPICS

WATER-RELATED STUDIES AND INITIATIVES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota is actively engaging in a series of comprehensive studies and initiatives to enhance water resource management and policy. These efforts are pivotal in shaping the state's approach to water-related issues, focusing on economic development, valuation of water resources, and legislative re-evaluation of water rights.

Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) and ISG Engineering Study

Infrastructure First is the GOED's comprehensive look at South Dakota's infrastructure strengths and challenges across water, wastewater, electric, broadband, natural gas, roads, and rail—with strategies and goals to help guide future decisions. *https://sdgoed.com/partners/infrastructure-first-project/*

South Dakota Rural Water Center (SDRWC) and HDR Engineering Initiative

"Ripples of Change," which explores opportunities for enhancing water development in South Dakota. *https://www.sdarws.com/uploads/1/4/2/2/142285215/ripples_of_change_white_paper_2024_06_20.pdf*

Dakota Institute's Economic Valuation of Water

Building upon the insights from the GOED/ISG and SDRWC/HDR studies, the Dakota Institute is working to assign a monetary value to specific volumes of water. This valuation considers the impact of water on aspects like human health, food production, economic development, and its potential resale to areas in need. This approach aims to inform policy decisions and investments in water management.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Legislative Research Council (LRC) Issue Paper

Commissioned by the South Dakota Legislature, this issue paper focuses on the ownership and control of water and water rights in the Missouri River. It revisits the terms and obligations under the 1944 Pick-Sloan Act, assessing what benefits and rights are still due to South Dakota.

These studies and initiatives represent a significant stride toward redefining water management and policy in South Dakota. By addressing economic, administrative, and legal aspects of water management, these efforts are charting a new course for water development in the state. The goal is to establish a sustainable, economically viable water management strategy that aligns with South Dakota's developmental goals and environmental responsibilities. This comprehensive approach is expected to impact the region's water policy and resource management. *https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/IssueMemo/255032.pdf?Year=2023*

Chamberlain Bridge and Lewis and Clark Memorial Bridge in South Dakota.

MONTANA

Headwaters State Park, Three Forks, MT. PC: Mark LaRowe.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION – MONTANA AREA OFFICE

The Bureau of Reclamation's Montana Area Office (MTAO) remains steadfast in its responsibility to manage and oversee a diverse portfolio of projects critical to the region's water and energy needs. Currently, MTAO administers 11 congressionally authorized projects, three rural water initiatives, and two Indian water rights settlements while also engaging in extensive planning and coordination efforts with federal, state, tribal, and local partners.

Our core mission—delivering reliable water management, ensuring efficient water delivery, and supporting hydropower generation—guides every aspect of our work. We are committed to executing these responsibilities with diligence, transparency, and efficiency, ensuring that our efforts produce meaningful and measurable results for the communities we serve.

In addition, our projects and initiatives align closely with key administration priorities, including Unleashing American Energy (Executive Order 14154) and Declaring a National Energy Emergency (Executive Order 14156). These directives underscore the importance of sustainable resource management and energy security, values that are central to our operations.

Collaboration remains at the heart of our approach. We work hand-in-hand with stakeholders across the Upper Missouri Basin to strengthen partnerships, foster innovation, and deliver solutions that address both present and future challenges. As proud partners of the Upper Missouri Water Association (UMWA), MTAO looks forward to continuing these cooperative efforts and advancing shared goals that benefit the region and its people.

MONTANA

CANYON FERRY

The Canyon Ferry unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program is a multiple-purpose project which makes an important contribution to power supply, flood control, and irrigation in the upper Missouri Basin. Storage in Canyon Ferry Reservoir makes possible the irrigation of 155,600 acres of new land and supplemental irrigation of 82,000 acres now inadequately irrigated in the upper Missouri area. Principal structures are Canyon Ferry Dam and power plant, about 17 miles northeast of Helena, Montana.

Noteworthy 2025/2026 undertakings include:

- A comprehensive powerplant rehabilitation project was completed at the Canyon Ferry Powerplant, extending its service life while also improving efficiency and reliability.
- A comprehensive planning study is currently being conducted for the Silos Recreation Area to assess current and future needs and to identify a development and management framework to meet the recreational needs of the public going forward.
- A system operations model is currently in its final stages to identify firm yield water availability for future use through long-term contracts at Canyon Ferry Reservoir. This model will serve as an important planning and decision-making tool for the Bureau of Reclamation as it manages this critical water resource.
- With the support of the Tennessee Valley Authority, rehabilitation of the stoplogs for the facility was completed and returned to the site for use.
- Planning efforts are underway to rehabilitate the Canyon Ferry Spillway Bridge in response to numerous maintenance recommendations. Reclamation is collaborating with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to scope and estimate the project for future execution.

EAST BENCH

The East Bench unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program is in southwestern Montana along the Beaverhead River. The unit provides full irrigation service to 21,800 acres and supplemental irrigation service to 28,000 acres. Principal features include Clark Canyon Dam and Reservoir, Barretts Diversion Dam, East Bench Canal, and a system of laterals and drains.

Noteworthy 2025/2026 undertakings include:

- The East Bench Irrigation District (EBID) has requested funding through the Aging Infrastructure Account to repair damage to the outlet works stilling basins and gate frames. This is a substantial undertaking; should the funding request be successful, Reclamation will work with the EBID to plan and execute this project.

HELENA VALLEY

The Helena Valley unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program is in central Montana, adjoining the city of Helena, and 3.5 miles west of Canyon Ferry Dam on the Missouri River. The principal purposes of the unit are irrigation and municipal water for the city of Helena. Features of the development are a tunnel, dam and regulating reservoir, canal, pumping plant, and other facilities to furnish water to about 17,000 acres of land and for municipal use.

Noteworthy 2025/2026 undertakings include:

- The Helena Valley Irrigation District has successfully secured funding for three projects through Reclamation's Aging Infrastructure Account, which will be used to rehabilitate the pumping plant, regulating reservoir, and canals and laterals.

HUNTLEY PROJECT

The Huntley Project is in south-central Montana. Project works include a rockfill and concrete diversion dam, 32 miles of main canal, 22 miles of carriage canals, 202 miles of laterals, 186.5 miles of drains, a hydraulic turbine-driven pumping plant and an auxiliary electric pumping plant, both in the main canal, and in an off-stream storage reservoir. The project can furnish water to irrigate approximately 30,000 acres.

MONTANA

LOWER MARIAS

The Lower Marias unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program is in north-central Montana along the Marias River. The unit has an adequate supply of irrigation water to irrigate 127,000 acres of land and will also control floods to make possible the multiple purpose use of Fort Peck Reservoir. Tiber Dam and Dike and Lake Elwell have been constructed. The irrigation features were not included because the irrigation district did not negotiate a repayment contract with the United States, and those features are no longer part of the Lower Marias unit.

Noteworthy 2025/2026 undertakings include:

- A comprehensive planning effort is currently being conducted on the Tiber Marina and recreation area. This important tool will aid the Bureau of Reclamation in managing this significant site and ensure that the needs of the recreating public are met.

LOWER YELLOWSTONE

The Lower Yellowstone project in east-central Montana and western North Dakota includes the Lower Yellowstone Diversion Dam, Thomas Point Pumping Plant, the Main Canal, 225 miles of laterals, and 118 miles of drains. The purpose of the project is to furnish a dependable supply of irrigation water for approximately 54,000 acres of fertile land along the west bank of the Yellowstone River. About one-third of the project land is in North Dakota and two-thirds in Montana.

Noteworthy 2025/2026 undertakings include:

- Reclamation finalized repairs, including design modifications, to the fish bypass channel, thus allowing the Endangered Species Act-listed Pallid Sturgeon to migrate upstream beyond the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District diversion dam. Adaptive management efforts will continue through 2028.

MILK RIVER

The Milk River project in north-central Montana furnishes water for the irrigation of about 121,000 acres of land. Project features are Lake Sherburne Dam, Nelson Dikes, and Fresno Dam; Dodson, Vandalia, St. Mary, and Paradise Diversion Dams; Dodson Pumping Plant; 200 miles of canals; 219 miles of laterals; and 295 miles of drains. A water supply is furnished to project lands which are divided into the Chinook, Malta, and Glasgow Divisions and the Dodson Pumping Unit. The lands extend about 165 miles along the river from near Havre to a point six miles below Nashua, Montana.

Noteworthy 2025/2026 undertakings include:

- Following catastrophic siphon failure in June 2024, efforts to replace the St. Mary River and Halls Coulee Siphons have proceeded expeditiously. St. Mary River Siphon was completed in 2025, and crews are currently working on replacing the Hall's Coulee siphon, the second siphon on the St. Mary Canal. Work on this critical feature is anticipated to be completed by May 2026. Current total costs are estimated at $100 million.
- Planning activities are currently underway to replace additional critical infrastructure on the St. Mary Canal. These upgrades ensure reliable water delivery for farms and municipalities that depend on the Milk River.
- A $77 million Safety of Dams initiative at Fresno Dam advanced significantly this year. Structural improvements and concrete replacements are reinforcing the dam's integrity and aligning it with modern safety standards. While the project required temporary road closures, water deliveries continued uninterrupted—a testament to careful planning and execution.
- The St. Mary Diversion Dam replacement, funded under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, is a $91 million effort to modernize headworks and incorporate fish-friendly features. New fish screens, bypass systems, and auxiliary control structures will enhance environmental stewardship while securing water supply for generations to come.

MONTANA

SUN RIVER

The Sun River project is composed of the Greenfields and Fort Shaw divisions in central Montana, west of the city of Great Falls. Principal features are Gibson Dam and Reservoir, Willow Creek Dam and Reservoir, Pishkun Dikes and Reservoir, Sun River Diversion Dam, Fort Shaw Diversion Dam, and associated distribution systems.

Noteworthy 2025/2026 undertakings include:

- Reclamation and Greenfields Irrigation District (GID) are working on a series of critical infrastructure replacement projects as well as multiple hydropower development projects, with the overall goal of improving system reliability and developing a revenue stream to support future operation, maintenance, and facility replacement/ rehabilitation needs.
- Reclamation and Fort Shaw Irrigation District (FSID) are working to design/replace the Simm's Creek Siphon, a critical feature on the FSID system. Construction is anticipated to begin sometime in late 2026. Work is funded through Reclamations Aging Infrastructure Account and will be repaid.
- The Sun River Bridge, a feature of the Sun River Project, is currently being replaced by FHWA, with anticipated completion in the Fall of 2026. The project includes multiple federal, state, and local agencies collaborating together in supporting the project.

YELLOWTAIL

The Yellowtail unit in south-central Montana is a multipurpose development providing power generation, irrigation, flood control, silt control, recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement. Facilities consist of Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn Lake on the Bighorn River, Yellowtail Power Plant at the toe of the dam, Yellowtail Afterbay Dam a short distance downstream, and related structures. The Crow Indian Reservation, spreading over about 3,500 square miles, encompasses the dam site and a portion of the reservoir area.

Noteworthy 2025/2026 undertakings include:

- Improvements in government housing and buildings, including window replacement, roof replacement for several homes damaged in a windstorm; maintenance shop and visitor center total roof replacements, and an administrative building refurbishment project (NPS-led).
- Powerplant activities included a transformer drain reroute project, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) replacement project, and foundation and formed drain cleaning.
- Reclamation has also worked closely with the Crow Tribe in planning and coordination on their Afterbay Hydropower Development Project.

RURAL WATER PROJECTS

FORT PECK-DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER PROJECT

The Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000 (P. L. 106-382) authorized construction of the project. The project provides potable water from the Missouri River to the Fort Peck Reservation and local communities and rural customers, serving an estimated population of 27,500 (population projection at year 2030) upon completion. Operation, maintenance, and replacement costs (OM&R) for the non-tribal portion of the system will be funded by Dry Prairie without federal assistance. OM&R for the tribal portion of the system will be funded through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Construction of remaining project facilities is slated to take place in 2026, with project completion expected by early 2027.

MUSSELSHELL-JUDITH RURAL WATER PROJECT

The Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System will consist of approximately 230 miles of core transmission line through central Montana, covering an area roughly the size of Connecticut, and will serve an estimated population of up to 8,700 in Judith Basin, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, and portions of Yellowstone and

MONTANA

Fergus counties. Once complete, the OM&R costs will be funded by Central Montana Regional Water Authority (CMRWA) without federal assistance. Significant work has been completed to date, including the notable milestone of providing water to the community of Roundup in 2025.

ROCKY BOY'S-NORTH CENTRAL RURAL WATER PROJECT

The Rocky Boy's-North Central Montana Reginal Water System was authorized by Title IX of the Indian Financing Amendments Act of 2002 (P. L. 107-331). The Project will provide water from Reclamation's Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell) to the Rocky Boy's (Tribe) Reservation, local communities, and rural water districts in North Central Montana. As designed, the project will serve an estimated population of 43,000 (population projection at year 2050) upon completion. With the anticipated startup of the water treatment plant in 2028, water service will be made to more than half the members (eastern side of project) of the North Central Montana Reginal Water Authority, as well as provide water service to the Reservation. Current efforts are focusing on completing the core line and evaluating alternate water supplies for the western portion of the project.

DRY-REDWATER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Reclamation worked collaboratively with the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority (DRWA) to complete a feasibility study to determine whether construction of the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System (DRRWAS) is feasible in compliance with the reclamation feasibility study standards. Significant work on the feasibility study was completed, including a comprehensive evaluation of the technical, environmental, financial, and economic feasibility of the locally preferred alternative for the DRRWAS. Reclamation understands the strong need for a safe, reliable regional water supply across eastern Montana and issued a Concluding Report acknowledging Reclamation's concurrence with the identified problems and needs in the project area.

Middle Fork Flathead River in Montana.

MONTANA

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

FORT PECK

Fort Peck Reservoir is located near the town of Glasgow in northeast Montana. With a capacity of 20-million acre-feet of water, the reservoir is the fifth-largest artificial lake in the United States. The Fort Peck Dam is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and exists for the purposes of hydroelectric power generation, flood control, and water quality management. The Fort Peck Indian Reservation Compact between the state of Montana, the United States, and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation allows for the Reservation's diversion of water from the Missouri River and its tributaries. This 134-mile-long reservoir has more than 1,500 miles of shoreline, a storage capacity of 18,463,000 acre-feet, and covers 245,000 surface acres. The Compact quantifies the surface water reserved for the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation as 475,000 acre-feet per year. Principal structures include two powerhouses that produce an average of 1.1 billion kilowatt hours annually, 16 vertical lift gates, each measuring 40-feet wide by 25-feet high, and a concrete-lined spillway west of the earthen embankment.

The following projects are owned by the state of Montana and are maintained and managed by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's (DNRC) State Water Projects Bureau. Water from state-owned facilities is mostly marketed to local water users associations primarily for irrigation purposes. Water users associations are responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of these projects under DNRC oversight.

ACKLEY DAM

Ackley Lake is an off-stream reservoir located five miles southwest of Hobson in Judith Basin County. Since its construction in 1938, the Ackley Dam has been operated by the Ackley Lake Water Users Association, which currently has 53 contracts for 4,766 acre-feet of water that is primarily used for irrigation purposes. The full-pool storage capacity of this reservoir is 6,722 acre-feet and covers 250 surface acres. Principal features include a 51-foot high earthen embankment dam, an unregulated trapezoidal earthen section spillway, and a 48-inch diameter manually operated slide gate. Dam rehabilitation in 2009 included the installation of a toe berm and drain system, lining of the existing corrugated metal pipe outlet with a plastic pipe, and a new principal spillway crest and auxiliary spillway.

BAIR DAM

Bair Reservoir is located on the north fork of the Musselshell River approximately 0.25 miles upstream of the community of Checkerboard in Meagher County. Bair Dam was built in 1939 and is operated by the Upper Musselshell Water Users Association (UMWUA). The dam is one of three dams and two reservoirs that provides 21,478 acre-feet for the UMWUA; the Bair Dam project provides irrigation water for 4,100 acres with the Northfork Diversion Canal and the Two Dot Canal. The reservoir has a normal storage capacity of 7,300 acre-feet and covers 280 surface acres. Principal features include a 106-foot-high earth-fill dam with a concrete spillway and a 54-inch diameter reinforced concrete outlet conduit with two 48-inch diameter manually operated gates. The concrete spillway, outlet terminal structure, and gate house were all replaced during dam rehabilitation (2001-2003).

COONEY DAM

Cooney Dam is an impoundment on Red Lodge Creek that also impounds water from Willow Creek; it is located approximately 20 miles north of Red Lodge in Carbon County. Cooney Reservoir is one of two reservoirs that collectively provide 21,495 acre-feet of water for the irrigation of 20,000 acres to the Rock Creek Water Users Association, which

has operated the dam since 1937. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 28,230 acre-feet at the guard dike crest and covers 1,078 surface acres. Principal features of this project include a 103.5-foot-high earth-fill dam, a fuse plug auxiliary spillway, a 6-foot horseshoe-shaped 630-foot long concrete outlet with two 60-inch diameter gates, and a downstream weir that was replaced in 2015. Rehabilitation of the dam in 1982 resulted in a 5-foot raised dam embankment to raise storage capacity by 4,200 acre-feet, replacement of the upper portion of the principal spillway, replacement of a wooden bridge over the principal spillway with a concrete bridge, and the installation of additional drains.

COTTONWOOD DAM

Cottonwood Reservoir impounds Cottonwood Creek approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the town of Wilsall in Park County. The Shields Canal Company has operated the Cottonwood Dam since its construction in 1953 and receives 1,379 acre-feet of contract water for irrigation purposes. Reservoir capacity at the spillway crest is 1,905 acre-feet and covers 235 surface acres. Principal features include a 39-foot-high earthen embankment dam, an earth-fill dike, an ogee crest spillway, and a 36-inch diameter corrugated steel pipe outlet with a 36-inch vertical slide gate. Dam rehabilitation activities in 1986 resulted in increased spillway capacity and the construction of a guard dike and baffled apron chute. The outlet conduit of the dam will require replacement as it is deteriorating and at the end of its design life. Additionally, the spillway complies with the current minimum dam safety standards with zero freeboard. The spillway will need to either be replaced or the freeboard increased to meet current industry recommendations. While there is no specific timeline for this, it is expected to be done within the next 5-10 years.

DEADMAN'S BASIN DAM

Deadman's Basin Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir that includes a supply canal from the Musselshell River and is located 10 miles east of Harlowton in Wheatland County. Deadman's Basin Dam was built in 1941, raised 10 feet in 1958, and has been operated by the Deadman's Basin Water Users Association since 1959. The reservoir has a full-pool capacity of 72,218 acre-feet covering 2,120 surface acres. This project provides 40,254 acre-feet of water for 139 contracts that are used for irrigation, as well as municipal purposes by the towns of Melstone, Ryegate, and Roundup. Principal features include a 60-foot high earthen embankment dam, an earthen embankment dike, a 300-foot long horseshoe-shaped reinforced concrete outlet tunnel with a 102-foot-long 8-foot concrete box culvert extension, two 60 x 60-inch cast iron slide gates, and an 11.5-mile supply canal that delivers a flow rate of up to 600 cubic feet per second (CFS) through two delivery canals. The dam was rehabilitated from 2009-2013 and involved outlet extension, the installation of a filtration and drainage system to allow for safe seepage discharge, toe berm construction, and replacement of the original gatehouse.

FRENCHMAN DAM

Frenchman Reservoir impounds Frenchman Creek approximately 22 miles north of the town of Saco in Phillips County. Construction of Frenchman Dam was completed in 1951; the dam failed during a flood in 1952 before being subsequently rebuilt. The dam has been operated by the Frenchman Water Users Association since 1952 and provides 7,000 acre-feet of water for 40 contracts that are used primarily for irrigation as well as the regulation of streamflow. A 2013 feasibility study found that sedimentation has reduced the original storage capacity of the reservoir from 7,010 acre-feet at the spillway crest covering an estimated 800-1,000 surface acres to 2,777 acre-feet. Principal features include a 44-foot-high earthen embankment dam, a reinforced concrete spillway, and a 60-inch reinforced concrete outlet with two 60-inch slide gates (one operating, one guard) that was installed in 2022.

GLACIER LAKE DAM

Glacier Lake Dam is located on Rock Creek in the Custer National Forest, approximately 19

miles southwest of Red Lodge in Carbon County. The dam was built in 1937 and provides 21,495 acre-feet of water for the Rock Creek Water Users Association, which has operated the dam since its construction. The normal storage capacity of this reservoir is 4,200 acre-feet covering 151 surface acres. This project is used to supplement Rock Creek streamflow during late season irrigation and for municipal purposes by the town of Red Lodge. Principal features include two rockfill dams with concrete upstream faces (the 57-foot-high North Dam, and 20-foot-high South Dam), an uncontrolled rock channel spillway discharging over a concrete weir, and a low-level rock tunnel outlet beneath the North Dam that is controlled by one 48-inch rectangular slide gate. Various maintenance activities for this dam are ongoing.

MARTINSDALE DAM(S)

Martinsdale Reservoir provides off-stream storage 2.5 miles southeast of the town of Martinsdale in Meagher County. The reservoir is impounded by the Martinsdale Dams which consist of two zoned earth-fill dams built in 1939 that have been operated by the Upper Musselshell Water Users Association since their construction. The full-pool storage capacity of this reservoir is 23,348 acre-feet covering 985 acres. Along with Bair Reservoir, Martinsdale Reservoir provides 21,478 acre-feet of primarily irrigation water to the Upper Musselshell Water Users Association. Principal features include a 92-foot-high North Dam, and 49-foot-high East Dam, a 60-inch 120-foot long reinforced concrete outlet conduit beneath the North Dam, a concrete chute spillway at the East Dam, and an earthen auxiliary spillway. Drain system modifications and the installation of automated reservoir level instrumentation for continuous monitoring purposes were completed in 2011. Seepage monitoring at the North Dam is ongoing and modifications are made as needed.

MIDDLE CREEK DAM

Hyalite Reservoir is located in the Bridger Mountain range approximately 15 miles south of Bozeman in Gallatin County. Hyalite Reservoir is impounded by Middle Creek Dam which has been operated by the Middle Creek Water Users association since its construction in 1951. This project provides water for 105 contracts for farms and ranching operations in the Gallatin River valley along with roughly 1/3 of the drinking water supply for the city of Bozeman. This reservoir has a normal full-pool capacity of 10,184 acre-feet and covers 490 surface acres. Principal features include an earthen dam with a 125-foot high mechanically stabilized earth crest, a 5-foot diameter cast-in-place steel lined concrete conduit, a 54-inch diameter butterfly operating gate and 54-inch slide guard gate, a principal spillway, and an earthen auxiliary spillway. The dam embankment was raised by eight feet in 1991-1992 as part of a major rehabilitation effort that included a new spillway and seepage control measures, as well as an increase in storage by 1,917 acre-feet of water. An automated instrumentation system was installed in 2008 to improve seepage, drain flow, and reservoir monitoring, and an early warning system was installed in 2010.

NORTH FORK SMITH RIVER DAM

Lake Sutherlin is located 10 miles east of the town of White Sulphur Springs in Meagher County. This lake is impounded by North Fork Smith River Dam, which has been operated by the north fork of the Smith River Water Users Association since it was built in 1936. The reservoir has a normal storage capacity of 11,528 acre-feet and covers 335 surface acres. This project provides 11,000 acre-feet of water for 44 contracts with irrigation as their primary use. Water from the lake is delivered by the 13.2-mile-long Southside Canal. Primary features include an 84-foot-high earthen embankment dam, a two-cycle labyrinth weir spillway and a 5-foot modified horseshoe-shaped concrete conduit with a 54-inch butterfly operating gate. Rehabilitation of this dam in 2006 resulted in the construction of the new spillway, raising and leveling of the dam crest, enlargement of the rock spillway channel, a new stability berm at the dam toe, and the installation of new drains for seepage control.

MONTANA

NILAN DAM

Nilan Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir located seven miles west of the town of Augusta in Lewis & Clark County. The Nilan Dams were built in 1951 and have been operated by the Nilan Water Users Association since 1952. The North Dam and East Dam are 54-feet high and 51-feet high, respectively. The normal storage capacity of this reservoir is 10,092 acre-feet of water with a surface area of 525 surface acres. The Nilan Water Users Association has 54 contracts for 8,500 acre-feet of water for irrigation of 10,000 acres. Water from the reservoir is delivered via the 12.7-mile-long North Canal and the 5.8-mile-long East Canal. Principal features include an earthen spillway for the East Dam, a gated 4-foot diameter cast-in-place reinforced concrete tunnel in each dam, and one gate control tower with a 48-inch diameter slide operating gate at each dam. Sinkhole repairs along the upstream toe of the East Dam were completed in 1999, and a new outlet terminal structure and drain system was installed at the North Dam in 2008.

RUBY DAM

Ruby Reservoir is located seven miles south of the town of Alder in Madison County. Ruby Dam has been operated by the Ruby Water Users Association since it was constructed in 1938. The reservoir has a full-pool storage capacity of 37,642 acre-feet covering 970 acres and provides water for 198 contracts totaling 38,845 acre-feet that are delivered through the 12-mile-long West Bench canal and the 26-mile-long Vigilante Canal. Water stored by this project is primarily used for irrigation purposes and for the regulation of streamflow in the Ruby River. Principal features include a 112.5-foot-high earthen embankment dam, a reinforced concrete chute spillway, 60-inch and 18-inch jet flow operating gates and a 72-inch knife guard gate, a 90-inch reinforced concrete outlet conduit upstream of the gates, and a 72-inch steel conduit downstream of the gates. Major rehabilitation of the dam, beginning in 2010, included spillway replacement and construction of a new outlet works conduit, operating gates, gate operating system, and gate house. The spillway has undergone additional repairs since initial rehabilitation began.

TONGUE RIVER DAM

Tongue River Reservoir is located five miles north of Decker in Big Horn County. The Tongue River Dam has been operated by the Tongue River Water Users Association since it was built in 1940. The reservoir stores 79,071 acre-feet at normal full pool and covers 3,700 surface acres. This project provides 40,000 acre-feet of water for 172 contracts – including a portion of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe's federally reserved water right – for irrigation, industrial, and fishery purposes. Principal features include a 93-feet high zoned earth-fill dam, an uncontrolled 150-foot-wide labyrinth weir principal spillway, a 650-foot-wide roller compacted concrete auxiliary spillway, a 9-foot horseshoe shaped concrete primary outlet with a 4.5-foot by 7.5-foot bonneted slide operating gate, and a 16-foot horseshoe shaped concrete auxiliary outlet. Major rehabilitation of this dam between 1996 and 1999 included raising the spillway crest and increasing storage capacity by 14,000 acre-feet, construction of a new primary outlet tunnel and auxiliary spillway, replacement of the principal spillway, and drain system improvements.

TOSTON DAM

Toston Dam is located on the Missouri River approximately four miles upstream of the town of Toston in Broadwater County. This run-of-the-river dam was built in 1940 and has a hydropower facility that was completed in 1989. Hydropower from this facility is purchased by NorthWestern Energy, and after operating expenses, revenue from this plant is used for rehabilitation and repairs of other DNRC-owned projects. This project impounds 2,400 acre-feet at normal full-pool covering 275 surface acres and provides 42,000 acre-feet of contract irrigation water that is delivered to water users via the Broadwater-Missouri Canal System. Principal structures include a 51.5-foot-high concrete gravity dam, seven bays with inflatable rubber gates to control pool levels, a 9.66 megawatt hydroelectric

generator, a 3-mile long electric transmission line, and an automated trash rake to clean the powerhouse intake grates. The spillway bridge was replaced in 2005, and two major components of the turbine shaft's mechanical seal were replaced in 2009. All seven bladders were replaced in 2014, and the generator brushes and holders were replaced in 2024.

WILLOW CREEK DAM

Willow Creek Dam is located 3.5 miles east of Harrison in Madison County and impounds Willow, Dry Hollow, and Norwegian Creeks. This dam was built in 1938 and has been operated by the Willow Creek Water Users Association since its construction. Willow Creek Reservoir has a full-pool capacity of 18,000 acre-feet covering 885 surface acres and provides 11,885 acre-feet of water for 149 contracts. Water is primarily used for irrigation purposes. Principal features include a 105-foot-high zoned earth and rock fill dam, a concrete chute spillway, a 60-inch horseshoe shaped concrete outlet conduit, a 54-inch main butterfly operating gate and a 54-inch guard gate. Various maintenance activities for this project are ongoing.

YELLOW WATER DAM

Yellow Water Dam impounds Yellow Water Creek approximately 12 miles southwest of Winnett in Petroleum County. The dam was constructed in 1938 and has been operated by the Yellow Water Water Users Association since its construction. Yellow Water Reservoir has a full-pool storage capacity of 3,842 acre-feet covering 490 surface acres and provides 2,000 acre-feet of water for four contracts. The west and south shores of the reservoir are part of the War Horse National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The reservoir serves as an important nesting area for waterfowl. Principal features include a 37-foot-high earth-fill dam and 11-foot-high dike, a trapezoidal earth and rock spillway, a 42-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe outlet, and a manually operated 42-inch slide gate. The dam underwent a two-phase rehabilitation in 1985 which included replacement of the outlet conduit, inlet structures, and outlet structures.

PONDERA COUNTY CANAL AND RESERVOIR COMPANY

Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company (PCCRC) is a private irrigation company located in Valier, MT. Established in 1909 as a Carey Land Act company, the company provides irrigation water for approximately 70,000 irrigated acres and municipal water for 2,500 residents within the towns of Conrad and Brady.

PCCRC owns and operates two separate high hazard dams and approximately 500 miles of canals. Lake Frances has a total capacity of 130,000 acre-feet of storage and acts as the main supply reservoir for 50,000 acres. Swift Dam on Birch Creek, with a capacity of 35,000 acre-feet, is a high elevation dam that supplies the majority of the water for the project that is passed into Lake Frances. The water supply on Birch Creek is shared with the Blackfeet Tribe, and PCCRC works closely with them to ensure water delivery within the project and on the Blackfeet Reservation.

PCCRC, like many irrigation districts, is faced with modernizing 100-year-old infrastructure. With an eye towards the future as it maintains and replaces aging infrastructure, PCCRC has been working with consultants across Montana in implementing remote control monitoring, controls, and automation at many remote sites to rebuild and modernize.

WYOMING

Photo credit: Sarah Bargsten, WWDO staff

The state of Wyoming oversees development and beneficial use of water entitlements across the state, which is approximately six million acre-feet per year; nearly half of that is from the Wind River and Big Horn River Basins. There are currently several paths for developing Wyoming's water resources that include new development, rehabilitation, storage, planning, and small projects. A stable economy hinges on water availability, and Wyoming understands the importance of good stewardship of water resources.

The state of Wyoming recognizes that partnerships are necessary for good stewardship of water resources. As such, the State Engineers Office, Water Development Office (WWDO), Game and Fish, Office of State Lands and Investments, and Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ) regularly collaborate on projects that involve water rights, water resources planning, construction of infrastructure, fish habitat, funding packages, and safe drinking water. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have participated in various aspects of planning, construction, and management of water storage facilities in Wyoming. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation operates 19 water storage facilities within the Upper Missouri Region in Wyoming. The WWDO also participates in stakeholder groups that manage interstate resources, as with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

WYOMING

PLANNING (Municipal and Agricultural)

Ongoing water development projects between 2024 and 2025:

- Big Horn Canal Irrigation District Master Plan
- Chugwater Water Master Plan
- Cody Area Evaluation
- Douglas Water Master Plan
- Elk Canal Master Plan
- Glendo Water Master Plan
- Horse Creek Conservation District Master Plan
- Hudson Water Master Plan
- Hulett Water Master Plan
- Midvale Irrigation District Master Plan
- Pioneer Canal Lake Hattie Irrigation District Master Plan
- Powder River Irrigation District Master Plan
- Riverton Regional Water Master Plan
- Shoshone Municipal Pipeline Regional Water Master Plan
- Sinclair Water Master Plan
- Wardwell Water Master Plan
- Wheatland Irrigation District Master Plan

CONSTRUCTION (Municipal and Agricultural)

New water development projects added in 2024 and 2025:

- Big Horn Regional JPB Lucerne Tank and Pump Station 2024
- Big Horn Regional JPB South Transmission Project 2025
- CAID Lateral 256 Check Structure Rehabilitation 2025
- Casper Tank Replacement 2025
- Dayton Water System Rehabilitation 2024
- Deaver ID Laterals 2024
- GID 62.2 Check Structure Project 2025
- Hanover ID Bighorn River Flume Replacement 2024
- Kirby Creek Spillway Replacement 2025
- Kirby Ditch ID Pipeline Phase II 2024
- LaPrele Dam Rehabilitation 2024
- Laramie Dowlin Diversion Rehabilitation 2024
- Lovell Bench Lateral 2024
- Meeteetse Trails Estates 2025
- Ranchester Transmission Line 2024
- Rawlins Sage Creek Pipeline 2025
- SAWS JPB Upper Road Transmission Main Phase I 2025
- Sidon ID Canal Crossing 2025
- Upper Bluff Pump Plant No. 1 Pipeline 2025
- Wheatland Tank Replacement 2024
- Willwood ID Willwood Chute 2025

DAMS & RESERVOIRS

- Alkali Creek Reservoir – (to be located just west of Hyattville, WY). Effort to resolve late-season irrigation shortages in the Nowood River Watershed, in particular Medicine Lodge Creek, Paintrock Creek and lower Nowood River. Proposed reservoir to be approximately 312 surface acres and 8,965 acre-feet (ac-ft) in volume. The volume is comprised of approximately 6,070 ac-ft of active storage for irrigation, 895 ac-ft of active storage for mitigation of potential streamflow impacts, and a 2,000 ac-ft conservation pool for fisheries and recreation. Permits received from BLM, USACE and WYDEQ. Designs and specifications currently on hold at 50% as final landowner easements are negotiated and acquired. Partial construction funding has been appropriated.
- Big Wind River Storage – ongoing feasibility study for the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes to determine best alternative in addressing late-season irrigation shortages in the watershed.
- Clear Creek Storage – feasibility study to determine best alternative in addressing late-season irrigation shortages in the Clear Creek Watershed. Preferred site (Bull Creek Reservoir) is located approximately five miles south of Buffalo, WY, and could have a storage capacity of 14,500 ac-ft.
- Little Wind River Storage – ongoing feasibility study for the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes to determine best alternative in addressing late-season irrigation shortages in the watershed.

WYOMING

Leavitt Reservoir Construction July 2025. *Photo credit: Bill Brewer, WWDO staff*

- Meadowlark Lake Enlargement – another potential storage alternative to address late-season irrigation shortages in the Nowood River Watershed, in particular the Tensleep Creek drainage and below.
- Leavitt Reservoir Expansion (located north of Shell, WY) – Effort to lessen irrigation shortages and reduce drought vulnerability. Leavitt Reservoir was an off-channel reservoir that was 45 acres in size and held 643 ac-ft. The reservoir is being enlarged to approximately 203 acres and storage of 6,600 ac-ft. An additional 4,461 ac-ft of active storage for irrigation on top of the original 643 ac-ft, with a 1,500 ac-ft conservation pool for fisheries and recreation. Permits received from BLM, USACE and WYDEQ. Construction includes recreational facilities, including a boat ramp, picnic facilities, restroom/trash facilities, parking area, and access roads. Construction started in late 2023 and is anticipated to be complete sometime in 2026.
- Middle Popo Agie River Storage Study – feasibility study near Lander, WY, to focus on late-season irrigation shortages, understanding water management opportunities, long-term regional drinking water supply and providing drought resiliency.

OTHER WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Groundwater Exploration Projects

- Central Wyoming Regional Water System Well Field Study
- Douglas Test Well Study
- Ethete Water Supply
- Hot Springs County Supply Evaluation
- LaGrange Groundwater Supply & Improvements
- Pavillion Groundwater Supply

Cloud Seeding Operations

Cloud seeding operations in the Wind River Range aimed at augmenting snowpack through the use of ground-based generators for the winter of 2025-26 began on November 15. Additional snowpack produced and subsequent runoff would benefit the Green and Wind/Bighorn River Basins. Program costs are shared between the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the Colorado River Board of California, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Green River-Rock Springs-Sweetwater County JPWB, and the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities. Operations are scheduled to conclude on April 15, 2026, unless early suspension is deemed necessary. Total contract cost is $857,143.

WYOMING

Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure

The state completed a study in late 2024 that compiled information on critical aging irrigation infrastructure. This resulted in a state-wide infrastructure database and estimated funding needs to address the most critical irrigation infrastructure in the state.

PLATTE RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

Photo credit: WWDO project files.

LaPrele Dam

The Ambursen-style dam was constructed between 1907-1909, with a cut-off wall added in 1910. The dam was rehabilitated in the fall of 1977 and spring of 1978, updating the concrete slab and fortifying the buttresses. In 2019, structural issues were noted and storage restrictions were placed on the dam by the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. Further monitoring and evaluation led to a breach order from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office in late 2024. The dam was demolished in early 2025 prior to spring runoff. The replacement project is progressing to 90% design on a new roller compacted concrete (RCC) dam located just downstream of the original dam. Construction will begin in 2026, with early work packages starting in March. Construction will continue through 2029 with a partial fill of the reservoir anticipated in 2028 and substantial completion scheduled for 2029.

Fort Laramie Canal Tunnel 1 and 2 Rehabilitation

Tunnels 1 and 2 on the Fort Laramie Canal were constructed in 1917 as part of the North Platte Project and serve approximately 107,000 acres of irrigated land in the Goshen Irrigation District in Wyoming and the Gering Fort Laramie Irrigation District in Nebraska. On July 17, 2019, Tunnel 2 collapsed, interrupting canal flow for 44 days while temporary repairs were made. In the fall of 2024, the temporary shoring in Tunnel 2 started showing signs of significant degradation. It was determined that full rehabilitation of both tunnels was necessary to ensure uninterrupted canal operation in the future.

The 90% designs to rehabilitate Tunnels 1 and 2 have been approved by the Bureau of Reclamation, and construction of the Tunnel 2 inlet and outlet began in the fall of 2025 with a scheduled completion in the spring of 2026. The Tunnel 1 inlet and outlet are under contract to be replaced in the fall and winter of 2027. Tunnel 2 construction is scheduled for the fall of 2026 through spring of 2027. Tunnel 1 construction is scheduled to start in the fall of 2027 and end in the spring of 2028.

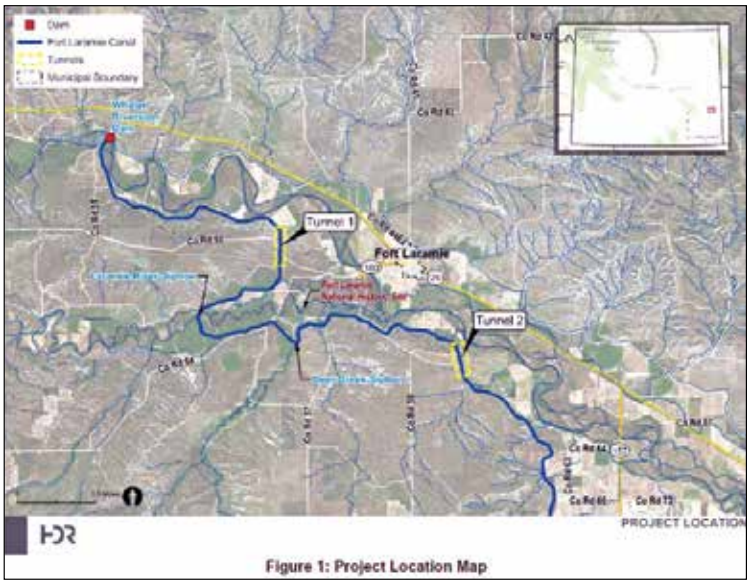


Figure credit: HDR report; WWDO project file.

UPPER MISSOURI WATER ASSOCIATION

PO Box 2599
Bismarck, ND 58502

701-223-4232

ndwater.org/organizations/upper-missouri-water-association