

North Dakota
State Water Commission
and
Office of the State Engineer
Strategic Plan



2009 - 2011

Table of Contents

	FTEs*	PAGE
A message from the State Engineer		1
Vision; Mission; Philosophy and Values; Agency Goals		2
Organizational Chart		3
Strategic Planning Focus Projects & Programs		4
Administration & Support Services.....	11.0	6
ARB Cooperative Observer Network.....	0.5	7
Atmospheric Research & Development Program	1.0	8
Community Water Supply Studies	2.0	9
Cost-Share Program	1.5	10
Dam Safety Program.....	2.25	11
Design and Construction.....	7.25	12
Devils Lake Flood Control	4.0	13
Drought Disaster Livestock Program.....	1.0	14
Floodplain Management	3.5	15
Investigations.....	6.5	16
Municipal, Rural & Industrial Water Supply Program.....	2.25	17
North Dakota Cloud Modification Project	2.5	18
Northwest Area Water Supply	3.25	19
Red River Valley Water Supply	1.25	20
Regulatory Program.....	6.0	21
Southwest Pipeline Project.....	2.25	22
State Water Management Plan.....	3.0	23
Water Education for Teachers.....	1.5	24
Water Resource Data Information Dissemination	3.0	25
Water Resource Monitoring	6.0	26
Water Resource-Related Economic Development	1.0	27
Water Resource Research	1.5	28
Water Rights Administration & Processing.....	4.5	29
Water Rights Evaluation & Adjudication.....	3.0	30
Watershed Planning & Coordination	2.5	31
Appendix.....		33
(Total Full-Time Employees*		84)

**Full-Time Employees (FTEs) have been provided to illustrate relative time and resources devoted to projects/programs.*



A message from the State Engineer:

I am proud to present the North Dakota State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer's 2009-2011 Strategic Plan. This new plan was completed to incorporate and adjust for new expectations that have evolved since our previous plan was published back in 2004.

As in the past, the primary purpose of our 2009-2011 Strategic Plan is to clearly document agency direction and expectations we have set for ourselves through our strategic planning timeframe. As part of the planning process, we have reevaluated our agency's goals to ensure that we are achieving standards expected by our constituents. In addition, we have laid out objectives for many of our key projects and programs, to help us more effectively meet our goals. And more specifically, we have defined tasks and actions that our divisions and management need to take to achieve desired outcomes.

In having this plan at our disposal, the agency will be better equipped to document the progress it is making in managing North Dakota's water resources. To measure our progress, we will continue to voluntarily publish agency biennial reports, which outline our activities for each biennium – providing an accurate measure of goal achievement. By publishing this plan, I believe we are once again setting a high standard for ourselves that can be monitored by all interests in the water management community.

Sincerely,

Dale L. Frink, P.E.

North Dakota State Engineer

VISION

Present and future generations of North Dakotans will enjoy an adequate supply of good quality water for people, agriculture, industry, and fish and wildlife; Missouri River water will be put to beneficial use through its distribution across the state to meet ever increasing water supply and quality needs; and successful management and development of North Dakota's water resources will ensure health, safety, and prosperity, and balance the needs of generations to come.



MISSION

To improve the quality of life and strengthen the economy of North Dakota by managing the water resources of the state for the benefit of its people.

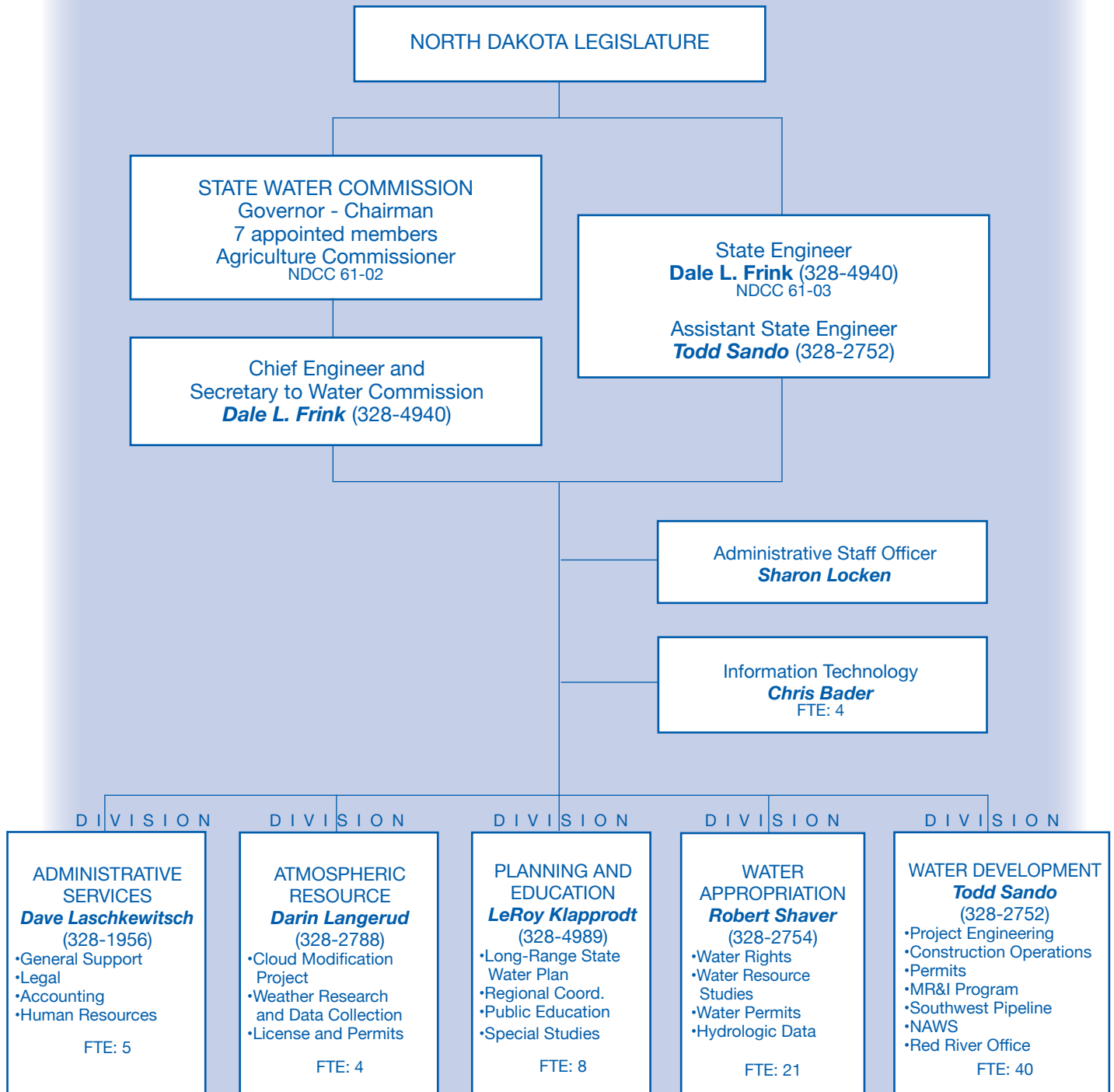
PHILOSOPHY and VALUES

In the delivery of services to the citizens of North Dakota, we the employees of the State Water Commission and the Office of the State Engineer value fairness, objectivity, accountability, responsiveness, and credibility. We pledge to use professional and scientific methods to maintain only the highest of standards in our delivery of services to our constituents.

AGENCY GOALS

- To regulate the use of water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.
- To conduct research into the processes affecting the hydrologic cycle to improve the management of North Dakota's water resources.

Organizational Chart



TOTAL FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS OF 84 PERSONNEL

Strategic Planning



While the State Water Commission (SWC) and the Office of the State Engineer (SE) are separate state agencies with different directives, many of their responsibilities are entwined and overlap at several levels. For that reason, the activities of these two agencies have been merged into one strategic plan.

Listed here are the projects and programs that were the focus of our strategic planning process. It should be noted that this is by no means a comprehensive list of all efforts pursued by the SWC and the SE, rather it is simply a collection of those efforts that were deemed appropriate to include in our strategic planning process.

Further, the projects and programs identified here have been separated by the divisions that are *primarily* responsible for their management. However, in several instances, many of our projects and programs require staff contributions from multiple divisions.

Administration

Dave Laschkewitsch, Director

Administration & Support Services

Atmospheric Resources

Darin Langerud, Director

ARB Cooperative Observer Network



Atmospheric Research & Development Program



North Dakota Cloud Modification Project

Focus Projects & Programs



Water Appropriations

Robert Shaver, Director

Community
Water Supply Studies

•
Water Resource Data
Information
Dissemination

•
Water Resource
Monitoring

•
Water Resource-Related
Economic Development

•
Water Resource Research

•
Water Rights
Administration &
Processing

•
Water Rights
Evaluation &
Adjudication

Water Development

Todd Sando, Director

Cost-Share Program

•
Dam Safety Program

•
Design and Construction

•
Devils Lake Flood Control

•
Floodplain Management

•
Investigations

•
Municipal, Rural &
Industrial Water Supply

•
Northwest Area Water
Supply

•
Red River Valley
Water Supply

•
Regulatory Program

•
Southwest Pipeline
Project

Planning & Education

Lee Klapprodt, Director

Drought Disaster
Livestock Program

•
State Water
Management Plan

•
Water Education
for Teachers

•
Watershed Plan
Coordination

Program Overview:

The Administrative Services Division provides the overall direction of agency powers and duties as described in the state's water laws. The activities include both the SE and SWC's operations, as well as accounting, information technology, human resources, records management, legal support, and support services for all agency projects and programs.

Administration & Support Services

Budget and fiscal control work is accomplished within the provisions of statutory law and principles or rules of that law. Agency accounting consists of keeping adequate financial records, preparation of financial statements and reports, project and program cost accounting,

preparation of budgets, responding to audit requests and recommendations, and proper control of various funds appropriated by the Legislature.

Human Resources works as a business partner with and for the divisions of the SWC in developing, implementing, and supporting workforce programs that seek to recruit, develop, and retain a qualified, diverse, and engaged workforce.

The division also works on contracts and agreements that are necessary to carry out investigations, planning, and cooperation with various other agencies in water resources management.

Information Technology (IT) supports general agency business operations in areas related to work-flow management and office automation. IT also supports and enhances agency data collection and management functions, and broader engineering and scientific functions.

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To conduct research into the processes affecting the hydrologic cycle to improve the management of North Dakota's water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.
- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of the North Dakota's water resources.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Prepare and submit the agency's budget to OMB	Aug. 2010
Coordinate the timing of agency bonding	As needed
Coordinate development of agency testimony for legislative appropriations hearings	Dec. 2010
Maintain accounting records, and provide information technology and records management services	Ongoing
Bill federal, state, and local entities for their share of project costs	As needed
Provide legal support, including research and contract development	As needed
Develop a Strategic Career Management Program that facilitates the growth and retention of talent	Summer 2011
Maintain an agency IT strategic plan, and coordinate agency IT efforts with external and statewide initiatives	Ongoing
Support, maintain, and evolve agency IT infrastructure	Ongoing

Program Objective:

- Provide umbrella administrative support services to the projects and programs of the agency.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Talent shortages, an aging workforce, and a new generation with changing expectations about the contemporary work environment, will challenge our ability to retain and acquire adequate talent in the future.

Program Overview:

The Atmospheric Resource Board's (ARB) Cooperative Observer Network has collected growing season rainfall and hail data from volunteer observers statewide since 1977. During those 31 years, participation has ranged between 700 and 1,000 observers annually, making it one of, if not the most dense precipitation observation networks in the U.S. In all, more than three million daily precipitation observations, and better than eleven thousand hail observations have been reported.

ARB Cooperative Observer Network

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Manage the program for daily observation of rainfall and hail, including data entry, quality control, and GIS mapping	April-Sept., annually
Conduct growing-season mapping, and manage volunteer renewal for following years	Fall, annually
Recruit new volunteers	Spring, annually
Conduct site visits for gauge placement and quality control	April-Sept., annually
Expand the online reporting program	Winter, annually
Expand snowfall measurements in critical areas	Winter, annually

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.

Program Objectives:

- Make high-resolution precipitation and hail data available to counties, states, federal agencies, private organizations, and the public.
- Provide the entire database online for data download or review.
- Increase online reporting and produce value-added products that will be useful to a larger audience.
- Begin snowfall measurements in critical areas to assist with spring flood forecasting.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Continuation and expansion of existing statewide precipitation observations will require continued funding for agency operations and equipment.

Program Overview:

North Dakota has a long history of research in weather modification. Since the mid-1980s, six field research programs have been conducted in the state, most recently through focused campaigns in 2006 and 2008. The program has previously been funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the addition of state cost-share.

Atmospheric Research & Development Program

- To conduct research into processes affecting the hydrologic cycle to improve the management of North Dakota's water resources.

Program Objectives:

- Better quantify the physical processes of rainfall and hail formation.
- Improve operational application of cloud seeding technologies.
- Better quantify effects through development and application of improved evaluation techniques.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Funding is a primary obstacle for the Atmospheric Research & Development Program. A multi-state effort is underway through the North American Interstate Weather Modification Council to secure federal funding through an authorized program.

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Work with the North American Interstate Weather Modification Council and Weather Modification Association to establish a federally-funded research program	Ongoing
Meet with Congressional and Committee staff in Washington D.C. to gain support for an authorized and funded research program	March 2010 & 2011
Continue the Polarimetric Cloud Analysis and Seeding Test (POLCAST) hygroscopic seeding research program	Summer, annually



Program Overview:

Rural water entities and municipalities in need of help with their water supply can access staff for interpretation of existing data. They can also apply for cost-share assistance from the SWC for water supply studies. Rural water entities and municipalities use the water resource studies to help with their decisions regarding water supply concerns and options.

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To conduct research into the processes affecting the hydrologic cycle to improve the management of North Dakota's water resources.

Program Objective:

- Provide interpretation of existing water resource data.
- Conduct studies of potential water resources.
- Publish reports on water resource studies.
- Provide guidance and/or recommendations with regard to water supply concerns.
- Process appropriate paperwork to establish or maintain water rights.

Community Water Supply Studies

Action Plan:

TASKS

Conduct water supply studies

TARGET DATES

As requested



Assumptions and Obstacles:

As more communities tie in to expanding regional water supply systems, the need for individual community water supply studies has declined in recent bienniums.

Program Overview:

Beginning in 1943, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly appropriated funds to the SWC for cost-share assistance on existing drain channels. Since then, the SWC Cost-Share Program has significantly evolved, and has now developed into a program that adequately meets the SWC's goals, and the needs of our constituents.

Cost-Share Program

The SWC Cost-Share Program identifies types of projects that are eligible for cost-share assistance per the agency policy. Currently, as determined by that policy, the SWC cost-shares on several types of projects, and has existing agreements to fund – flood control, water supply, recreation, snagging and clearing, studies, irrigation, bank stabilization, and technical assistance projects.

Upon determining a proposed project's eligibility and approval of funding, an agreement/contract is entered into with the project's sponsor describing the scope of work, how funds will be disbursed, and insurance and indemnification clauses. Request for payments are processed per the terms of the agreement/contract. At the discretion of the SWC, projects are reviewed and/or inspected prior to final payment.

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To conduct research into the processes affecting the hydrologic cycle to improve the management of North Dakota's water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.
- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Review approximately 45 cost-share inquiries/ applications for cost-share eligibility and assistance	June 30, annually
Present 30-40 cost-share proposals for approval and authorization by SWC	June 30, annually
Develop agreements/ contracts for 30-40 approved and authorized projects	June 30, annually
Process requests for payment, monitor agreement/ contract compliance, and review and inspect work for approximately 80 active projects	June 30, annually

Program Objective:

- To financially assist federal and state agencies and political subdivisions with eligible flood control, water supply, recreation, snagging and clearing, studies, irrigation, bank stabilization, and technical assistance projects.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

The amount of funds available for the Cost-Share Program is dependent on state appropriations and agency budgeting from the contract fund.

Program Overview:

The National Dam Safety Program was initiated in 1978 through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after the failure of Toccoa Falls Bible College Dam in Georgia. The North Dakota Dam Safety Program was initiated to continue this program of inspecting dams and assessing their safety. Dam Safety Program staff inspect 109 high and medium hazard dams on a rotational basis, so that every dam on the list is fully inspected at least once every ten years. High hazard dams are inspected at least once every four years. In addition, each spring, 128 dams are given a partial inspection to check on the status of the dams after the spring runoff season. Other dams in North Dakota are inspected on an “as needed” basis, such as when a dam is built, rehabilitated, or when the public has a concern about a dam.

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To regulate the use of water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota’s water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota’s water resources.

Program Objectives:

- On a rotational basis, conduct full periodic inspections of all non-federally owned high hazard dams and all non-federally owned medium hazard dams greater than 10 feet high.
- Conduct annual partial inspections of all non-federally owned high and medium hazard dams, and selected low hazard dams.
- Report inspection findings to the respective dam owners so they can address problems and improve the safety of their dams.
- Update and maintain an inventory of all dams in North Dakota.
- Assist dam owners with the preparation of emergency action plans (EAPs) for their dams.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

- Federal funding through the National Dam Safety Program is used to improve the SWC's dam safety program by providing annual funding for training, equipment, and one part-time position.
- Updating the North Dakota Dam Design Handbook will require substantial input and time from several staff members, as well as from outside agencies.

Dam Safety Program

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Conduct partial inspections of 128 dams each spring	June 30, annually
Conduct full inspections of 21 dams per year, and report findings to owners	Dec. 31, annually
Update the North Dakota Dam Design Handbook	June 30, 2011
Maintain and update North Dakota's dam inventory	Ongoing
Submit data to the National Inventory of Dams	As requested
Manage a cost-share program to assist dam owners with developing EAPs using federal grants	Ongoing

Program Overview:

The Design and Construction Sections are involved with assisting dam owners throughout the state in designing repairs and modifications to existing water facilities. As an example, the section works with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department) to maintain outlet structures and install low-level drawdowns used by the Department to manage fisheries. The section is also involved in directing emergency actions during major dam incidents.

Design and Construction

Agency

Goals

Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.

Program Objectives:

- Maintain water resource facilities within the state to ensure public safety, and enhance quality of life by meeting multiple uses such as flood control, water supply, and recreation.
- Work with the United States Geological Survey to maintain the network of stream gauges throughout the state, thereby ensuring reliable data necessary for managing North Dakota's water resources within the state.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Weather is the primary obstacle for timely completion of annual construction and repair efforts.

Action Plan:

TASKS

TARGET DATES

Assist dam owners with design and repairs of existing water facilities

Ongoing

Repair and maintain North Dakota's stream gauge network through cooperative efforts with the U.S. Geological Survey

Summer, annually

Conduct general construction projects

Summer, annually



Project Overview:

Since 1993, Devils Lake has risen about 25 feet and quadrupled in volume. And, though the elevation of the lake has receded slightly in recent years, the lake still covers about 138,000 acres, and flooding has caused damages in excess of \$400 million. The state's approach to solving the flooding problems in the Devils Lake region has included a three-pronged approach, which includes upper-basin water management, infrastructure protection, and an emergency outlet to the Sheyenne River.

Landowner payments for floodwater retention, which involves the upper-basin water management element of the three-pronged approach, has been ongoing for more than a decade. More recently, the state completed an emergency outlet to the Sheyenne River in 2005 that is sized for a maximum discharge of 100 cubic feet per second (cfs). Since it was completed, the outlet was operated in 2005, 2007, and 2008. It was not operated in 2006 as a result of permit constraints related to water quality in the Sheyenne River.

Regarding the infrastructure portion of the three-pronged approach, the City of Devils Lake continues to face a threat from the swelling lake. It is estimated that there is a 24 percent chance that by 2040, the city's levee system may be compromised by rising lake levels. In response, the city is working with the U.S. Army Corps, the SWC, and other state and federal agencies to identify solutions that may involve relocations, levee raises and extensions, or a combination of the aforementioned. Since 1996, the city's levee system has been raised and/or extended three other times in response to rising lake levels.

Devils Lake Flood Control

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Project Objective:

- Reduce the risk of flooding around Devils Lake by implementing a three-pronged approach, which includes, upper-basin water management, infrastructure protection, and operation of an emergency outlet.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

The state's permit to discharge water into the Sheyenne River via the outlet is in place to protect water quality on the Sheyenne River downstream of the outlet. Due to these requirements, operation of the outlet has been fairly limited, and it is possible a similar trend will continue in years to come. With the costs of a future levee raise and extension for the City of Devils Lake estimated as high as \$200 million, funding will be a major obstacle for the city.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Maintain and operate the Devils Lake Outlet	Ongoing
Develop discharge monitoring reports for outlet operation	As needed
Provide technical assistance toward the completion of the Devils Lake Flood Risk Management Project	Ongoing

For a map of North Dakota's Devils Lake emergency outlet project, see the Appendix.

Program Overview:

The Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program (Program) was established by the North Dakota Legislature in 1991. Its primary purpose is to provide cost-share assistance to livestock producers with water supply shortages caused by drought. The Program is available to producers living in and adjacent to those counties identified by the Governor as “drought emergency” areas. Any livestock producers with water supply problems caused by drought are eligible.

Drought Disaster Livestock Program

Eligible items under the Program include: new water wells, rural water system connections, pipeline extensions, pasture taps, pumps, generators,

electrical and solar hook-ups, stock water tanks; and labor, materials, and equipment rentals for work completed by the producer.

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Program Objectives:

- Provide educational materials to the general public regarding aspects of the Program and eligibility requirements.
- Review applications submitted for assistance under the Program and determine eligibility.
- Monitor available funding and advise applicants on funding availability.
- Manage reimbursements to producers determined as eligible for cost-share assistance.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

The Program is activated in times of drought by SWC action. Thus, the Program will only remain active as long as severe drought occurs in areas of the state, and/or as long as funding is made available through SWC action.

Action Plan:

TASKS

Process 100 percent of applications submitted

Provide status reports on Program activities to the SWC

TARGET DATES

Ongoing, through 2011

As needed



ND TOURISM/GENE KELLOGG

Floodplain Management

Program Overview:

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) works on a partnership formed of federal, state, and local governments. Local governments use state laws concerning planning, zoning and development as a basis to practice floodplain management. The NFIP provides flood insurance for structures in return for participating communities promising to guide development in identified flood hazard areas. The North Dakota Floodplain Management Act of 1981 adopts the NFIP by reference in Chapter 61-16.2 of the North Dakota Century Code. This chapter was amended in 1999 and again in 2003 by the State Legislature, which broadened and refined the duties of the SE.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides funding to states for their role in the Community Assistance Program (CAP) and the Map Modernization Initiative (Map Mod).

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Monitor community floodplain management compliance under CAP and provide technical assistance regarding the NFIP	Sept. 30 annually
Conduct floodplain management training workshops under CAP	Sept. 30 annually
Promote the availability of mapping products produced as part of Map Mod	Sept. 30 annually
Conduct floodplain determinations for the Bank of North Dakota	Quarterly

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources.



- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.

Program Objectives:

- Manage the state's floodplains to reduce flood damages throughout the state.
- Collect and distribute information relating to flooding and floodplain management.
- Coordinate local, state, and federal floodplain management activities.
- Assist communities in their floodplain management activities.
- Fulfill all existing responsibilities under FEMA's CAP.
- Support the digital flood map conversion process as part of FEMA's Map Mod and its successor program Risk Map.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Successful management of the state's floodplain areas will continue to require active participation and involvement of local communities.

Program Overview:

The Investigations Section is responsible for the preliminary engineering of surface water projects throughout the state. These projects include flood control, irrigation development, recreation dams, and bank stabilizations. The Investigations Section also conducts and reviews hydrologic and hydraulic models for floodplain management and dam design and repair. This includes reviewing proposed modifications to existing regulatory floodways that require SE approval. In addition, the Investigations Section provides technical expertise in dealing with the management of the Missouri River, flood response, and other water issues, as well as providing government survey information to the public.

Investigations

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Develop Pembina County Flood Protection Plan components	June 2011
Provide technical reviews of Missouri River management issues	As needed
Manage government survey information	Ongoing
Conduct other water resource investigations and land surveys	As needed
Cooperate in the development of the Red River unsteady flow model	May 2011
Review proposals for modifications of regulatory floodways	As needed

Program Objectives:

- Conduct land surveys, preliminary engineering, hydrologic and hydraulic studies, and review studies done by others.
- Provide engineering services for surface water projects throughout the state.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Severe flooding problems in the Red River and Devils Lake basins and concerns over changes to management of the Missouri River system have consumed much of the Investigations Section's time over the course of the last decade. With those issues expected to be in the forefront in the coming years, that trend will likely continue.

Program Overview:

The Municipal, Rural, and Industrial (MR&I) water supply program is one source of federal funding used for public water systems. Funding used for the MR&I program is provided through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR). North Dakota's MR&I program was originally established by the 1986 Garrison Diversion Reformation Act. At that time, Congress authorized \$200 million in the form of a maximum grant of 75 percent. The state has since received the original \$200 million from the 1986 Act. Later, the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000 added an additional \$200 million for the MR&I program, which is indexed. So far, the state has received \$33 million of those funds. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District signed a cooperative agreement with the USBOR to receive the federal funding. Further, the SWC and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District signed a joint powers agreement to administer the program based on a memorandum of understanding.

Because of North Dakota's MR&I program, regional and rural water systems have continued to expand

throughout the state. As a result of this added assistance, there are now thirty regional water systems in North Dakota, providing quality drinking water to over 165,000 people in 312 cities, 50 various water systems, and over 90,000 rural residents. Currently, all or part of 47 of North Dakota's 53 counties, are served by regional water systems, and most have plans to expand.

Municipal, Rural & Industrial Water Supply Program

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Implement a five-year plan for MR&I project funding requests	Ongoing
Participate in meetings with communities and rural water districts to provide technical and planning assistance	Ongoing
Provide MR&I budget estimates for project development	Ongoing
Coordinate meetings with various funding entities to discuss projects	Ongoing
Work with North Dakota's Congressional Delegation to increase federal MR&I annual appropriations	Ongoing
Coordinate with the Garrison Conservancy District in the prioritization and allocation of MR&I funds to projects	Ongoing

- Provide planning and technical assistance to water supply systems to promote wise use of water resources throughout the state.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Adequate federal funding must be received in a manner that does not impede progress.

For a map of North Dakota's Rural Water Systems, see the Appendix.

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Program Objectives:

- Coordinate alternative funding solutions for water supply and water treatment projects to help water users in cities and rural water areas obtain an adequate supply of quality water for municipal, rural, and industrial purposes.



Project Overview:

The North Dakota Cloud Modification Project (NDCMP) is a long-running, operational cloud seeding program with the dual purposes of hail suppression and rainfall enhancement. The target area covers nearly 10,500 square miles in six western North Dakota counties during the months of

North Dakota Cloud Modification Project

June, July, and August. Counties partner with the state through the ARB to employ contractors who provide the aircraft, pilots, seeding equipment, and radar maintenance services. The ARB owns and operates two radar systems and employs the meteorologists to coordinate seeding operations. In addition, the program

offers two intern programs; one for students studying meteorology, and another for pilots studying at the University of North Dakota’s J.D. Odegaard School for Aerospace Sciences. Evaluations of the NDCMP indicate that the program reduces hail damage to crops by 45 percent, increases wheat yields by 5.9 percent, increases rainfall on the order of about 10 percent, and boasts a benefit to cost ratio of approximately 40 to 1.

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Project Objectives:

- Reduction of hail damages in NDCMP target area.
- Enhancement of summer rainfall from thunderstorms in NDCMP target area.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

The project assumes continued participation by western North Dakota counties and cost-sharing of one-third of project costs by the state.

For a map of the North Dakota Cloud Modification Project, see the Appendix.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Conduct a bidding process and award an aircraft service contract	April 2010
Hire NDCMP field personnel	May, annually
Conduct pre-project ground school	May, annually
Conduct NDCMP operations	June-Aug., annually
Conduct data analysis and final reporting to participating counties	Winter, annually
Report cloud seeding activities to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Spring, Fall, annually
Respond to inquiries from prospective partner counties	Ongoing
Provide real-time data from Bowman and Stanley Doppler weather radars	May-Sept., annually

Project Overview:

North Dakota Century Code (NDCC), Section 61-24.6 declares necessary the pursuit of a project "...that would supply and distribute water to the people of northwestern North Dakota through a pipeline transmission and delivery system..."

The SWC has been working to develop the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project ever since. NDCC 61-24.6 authorizes the SWC to construct, operate, and manage a project to deliver water throughout northwestern North Dakota.

In April 2002, the SWC began construction of the pre-treated water pipeline from the Missouri River to Minot. The 45 miles of pipeline between Minot and Lake Sakakawea has been completed, and NAWS is now providing water service to Berthold, Minot's South Hill Region, and North Prairie Rural Water District from an interim supply from Minot's water treatment plant.

In 2002, a lawsuit was filed by the Province of Manitoba; primarily arguing that NAWS could increase the risk of transferring non-native biota between the Missouri River and Hudson Bay drainage basins. Various elements of project construction have been allowed to proceed by court order, despite the pending lawsuit.

When completed, the project is designed to provide up to 26 million gallons of Missouri River water per day to at least 63,000 citizens in northwest North Dakota. With additional rural development, NAWS could serve as many as 81,000.



Northwest Area Water Supply

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Project Objective:

- Finish construction of the pretreated water delivery system to Minot.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

- Adequate federal funding must be received in a manner that does not impede progress.
- Completion of the EIS in the spring of 2009, and decisions on the level of

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Resolve the 2002 lawsuit following release of the Record of Decision	Summer 2009
Initiate design work on a biota treatment plant and intake, and remaining contracts to move water from Lake Sakakawea to Minot	Fall 2009
Complete the High Service Pump Station	Dec. 2009
Complete the Kenmare-Upper Souris pipeline	Dec. 2009
Complete the Mohall-All Seasons pipeline	Aug. 2010

treatment greatly affect funding needs, and design and construction schedules.

For a map of North Dakota's Northwest Area Water Supply project, see the Appendix.

Project Overview:

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project was authorized by the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, which required that a Needs and Options Report and EIS be completed with joint leadership between the federal government and the State of North Dakota. The purpose of the

Red River Valley Water Supply Project

EIS, which was completed in December 2007, is to evaluate alternatives to meet the long-term water needs of the Red River Valley in North Dakota, and the cities of East Grand Forks, Moorhead, and Breckenridge in Minnesota.

As part of the Final EIS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the State of North Dakota identified the Garrison Diversion Unit Import to the Sheyenne River Alternative as the preferred alternative.

Since that process began a few years ago, SWC staff members from all divisions have been involved with the Needs and Options Report and EIS as technical advisors, serving on multiple committees. As the State of North Dakota and the federal government continue to pursue the development of the preferred alternative, the SWC will continue to provide technical and financial assistance toward project completion.

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Action Plan:

TASKS

TARGET DATES

Provide technical and financial assistance toward the completion of the Red River Valley Water Supply project preferred alternative

Ongoing

Program Objective:

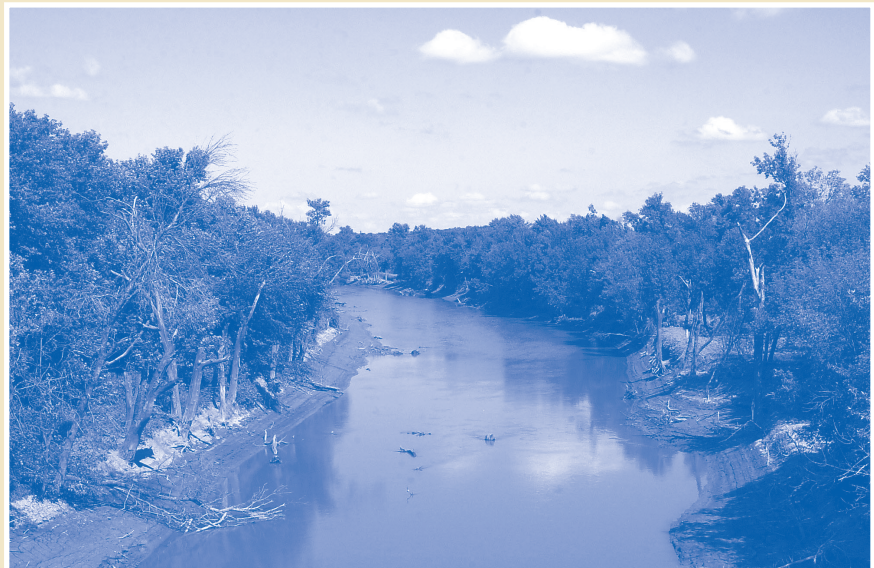
- Provide technical expertise and financial assistance toward the completion of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

The SWC will be one of the funding agencies involved in financing the preferred alternative, and staff will continue to participate in a technical advisory capacity. However, project management will be

under the oversight of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District. Thus, overall progress and target dates for project completion will not be controlled by the SWC.

For a map of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project preferred alternative, see the Appendix.



Program Overview:

As authorized by NDCC 61-03, 61-04, and 61-16.1, the SE has been responsible for regulating the construction of dams, dikes, and other water control facilities since the 1930s. Since 1957, NDCC 61-32 and NDCC 61-15 have authorized the SE to regulate drainage. And, the SE has been responsible for managing sovereign lands since 1989, as authorized by NDCC 61-33. The SE coordinates these regulatory activities with the county water resource districts (WRDs) across the state.

In addition to these permitting processes, the Regulatory Program provides technical assistance to local water resource districts, makes flow determinations in accordance with NDCC 24-03-08, provides appeal review of WRD decisions, serves as a source of information to the public, handles easement releases for abandoned structures, participates in training workshops, represents the SE on various interagency committees, and provides agency review of Public Service Commission mining permits and U.S. Army Corps' Section 404 permits.

Regulatory Program

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Process 100 percent of all incoming construction, drainage, and sovereign land permit applications	June 30, 2011
Provide technical assistance to WRDs as requested	Ongoing
Address 100 percent of all incoming WRD decision appeals	June 30, 2011
Digitally map 100 percent of all permitted assessment drains and dams that are currently in the agency's database	June 30, 2011
Provide 100 percent of flow determinations requested per NDCC 24-03-08	June 30, 2011
Participate in WRD training workshops	April 2010 & 2011
Review 100 percent of incoming Public Service Commission and U.S. Army Corps' Section 404 permits	June 30, 2011
Implement Sovereign Land Management Plan recommendations	Ongoing

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To regulate the use of water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.

Program Objectives:

- Regulate, where appropriate, the construction of dams, dikes, water control facilities, drainage works, and projects on sovereign lands, to ensure proper management of North Dakota's land and water resources and public safety.
- Interact with the public, continue involvement on interagency committees, and participate in training workshops, to facilitate education and information dissemination to other water resource managers – especially at the local level.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Enforcement of various sovereign land-related regulations will require the development of a memorandum of understanding with the Game and Fish Department.

Southwest Pipeline Project

Project Overview:

The Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) is a regional water supply system that draws water from Lake Sakakawea and serves 35,000 people in southwest North Dakota, including 28 communities, and 3,100 rural hookups – with plans to expand.

NDCC, Section 61-24.3 declares necessary that the SWPP, "...be established and constructed, to provide for the supplementation of the water resources of a portion of the area of North Dakota south and west of the Missouri River with water supplies from the Missouri River for multiple purposes, including domestic, rural, and municipal uses." The SWC has been working to develop the SWPP ever since – with construction beginning in 1986. NDCC 61-24.6 authorizes the SWC to construct, operate, and maintain the project.

Private contractors are constructing the project according to designs developed by the SWC's engineering contractor. The SWC oversees the design and construction of the project.



Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Program Objective:

- Begin construction on the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn regional service area.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Adequate state and federal funding must be received in a manner that does not impede progress.

Action Plan:

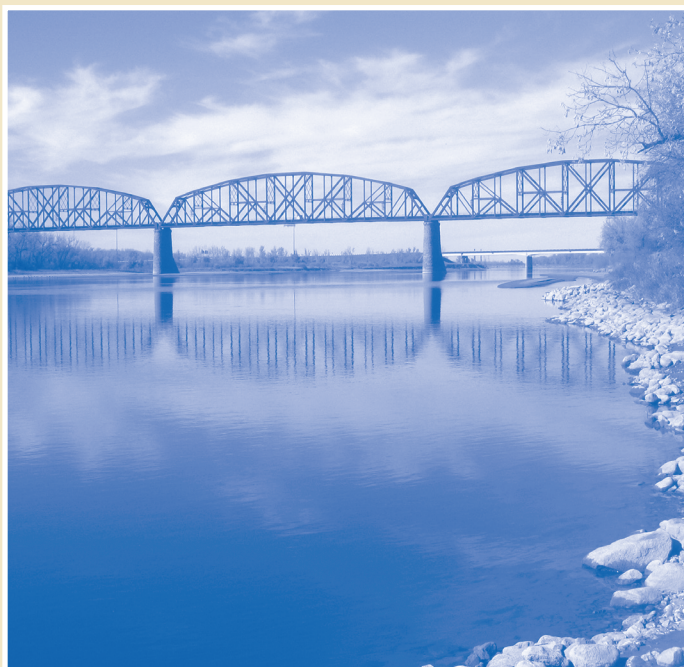
TASKS	TARGET DATES
Complete the main transmission line from Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn WTP to Hazen and Stanton	July 2010
Complete the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn WTP	June 2011
Complete the rural water distribution system in the Zap service area	June 2011

For a map of North Dakota's Southwest Pipeline Project, see the Appendix.

Program Overview:

By virtue of North Dakota Century Code, Section 61-02-14, Powers and Duties of the Commission; and Section 61-02-26, Duties of State Agencies Concerned with Intrastate Use or Disposition of Waters, the Commission is required to develop and maintain a comprehensive State Water Management Plan (SWMP) for the sound management of North Dakota's water resources. The most recent comprehensive SWMP was completed in 2009. Following major water plan revisions, water development reports (WDRs) are published on a biennial basis to assist with agency budgeting efforts, and to provide updated project and funding information during Legislative Assemblies.

State Water Management Plan



Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To develop comprehensive plans to meet North Dakota's water resource needs.
- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources, and water development efforts.

Program Objectives:

- Coordinate implementation of the 2009 SWMP.
- Develop a 2011-2013 Water Development Report to serve as a biennial update to the 2009 SWMP.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Coordinate recommendations included in the 2009 SWMP	Ongoing
Contact local water managers to request undated water project/program information, including funding timeframes for the 2011-2013 WDR	Jan. 2010
Review and update the water resource project/program inventory	May 2010
Develop the final 2011-2013 WDR	Dec. 2010
Present the 2011-2013 WDR to the Legislative Assembly—outlining funding needs	Jan. 2011

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Active participation and accurate input from local water managers and project sponsors regarding project funding needs will be critical to successful future statewide water planning efforts.

Project Overview:

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a balanced, supplemental and interdisciplinary water science and water education program for formal and non-formal K-12 educators and students. Project WET facilitates and promotes the learning, awareness, appreciation, knowledge, exploration, and stewardship of North Dakota's water resources. Project WET programs are designed to help youth learn how to think, and not just what to think, while

providing means for teachers and students to grasp fundamental concepts related to water resources, watersheds, and the environment. Through Project WET programs, educators, and students obtain skills for acquiring and applying knowledge, and to evaluate the results of their actions toward North Dakota's water resources.

Water Education For Teachers

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources, and water development efforts.

Project Objectives:

Develop, promote, deliver, and provide to K-12 formal and non-formal educators and students:

- Indoor and outdoor water science and water education programs;
- Balanced water resource information and education tools, services, programs, and resource materials;
- Institutes, workshops, in-service and pre-service educational opportunities; and
- Classroom events, youth camps, youth water festivals, community water or environmental awareness, and youth service events.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Continued funding through EPA's Section 319 Grant is critical to the success and continuation of the WET program.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Maintain Project WET classroom-ready teaching aids and service contracts in support of educational efforts	As needed
Provide in-service and pre-service credit and non-credit educational programs for K-12 educators	Ongoing
Provide varying educational programs for K-12 students	Ongoing
Complete facilitator leadership training	Feb. 2011
Provide funds for the Keep North Dakota Clean water education poster contest	March 2010 & 2011
Maintain the Project WET facilitator network	Ongoing
Complete two Project WET watershed institutes	July 2009 & 2010



Water Resource Data Information Dissemination

Program Overview:

Significant volumes of data are contained in the SWC's Water Resources Information Management Systems (WRIMS). Private individuals and private enterprise, as well as local, county, state, federal, and international entities routinely make use of various portions of these data sets. Staff can facilitate the ability of interested parties to access data of interest to them. A web-based interactive interface is available to allow for direct access to the data on the part of the interested parties. Additionally, numerous interpretive reports are available for various water resources in the state.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Anticipate uses for which the data would be needed	Ongoing
Educate staff on the uses of WRIMS as improvements are implemented	As needed
Communicate with interested parties to determine their informational needs	As requested
Write unique programs to meet needs of requests of an unanticipated nature	As requested
Image and store well drilling completion reports	Ongoing

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.



Program Objectives

- Maintain quality water resource data.
- Develop and maintain databases for retrieval of data.
- Maintain trained staff to interpret data.
- Develop and maintain web-based integration for the broadest possible access to data.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

The continuation of the in-house and online retrieval system will depend on the ability of the SWC to maintain the 4-D Database.

Program Overview:

Water resource data pertaining to water levels, water quality, and well information is collected on a continuing basis. This data is stored in an Internet-accessible database. The database currently contains about 2.8 million water-level measurements, 31,000 site locations, 58,000 water quality analyses, and 24,000 sites with lithologic descriptions. Additional data acquisition sites are implemented as needed through time. Aquifer parameters and properties are evaluated through an aquifer-testing program.

Water Resource Monitoring



Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To educate the public regarding the nature and occurrence of North Dakota's water resources.
- To collect, manage, and distribute information to facilitate improved management of North Dakota's water resources.
- To conduct research into the processes affecting the hydrologic cycle to improve the management of North Dakota's water resources.

Program Objectives:

- Collect water resource data.
- Organize and store water resource data.
- Evaluate water resource data and future data needs.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Budget constraints have reduced the number of stream gauges in the USGS Cooperative Program.

Action Plan:

TASKS

TARGET DATES

Install test holes and plug obsolete observation wells	April-Dec., annually
Install 125 to 175 monitoring wells	April-Dec., annually
Install 20 to 30 staff gauges, monitor water levels and flows	April-May, annually
Measure 25,000 to 30,000 water levels in wells and surface water bodies	April-Dec., annually
Collect data from 60 to 70 continuous water level recorders	Jan.-Dec., annually
Collect 1,500 to 2,000 samples from wells and surface water bodies	April-Dec., annually
Analyze samples for various chemical constituents	April-Jan., annually
Repair and maintain 900 to 1,100 measurement and sampling locations	April-Dec., annually
Enter data into the database	Ongoing
Coordinate the USGS cooperative water resource monitoring program	March-Dec., annually
Conduct aquifer tests	As requested / needed

Water Resource-Related Economic Development

Program Overview:

Water utilization is a key ingredient to many potential opportunities for economic development. Numerous studies and reports have documented potential water supplies for economic development.

Additionally, existing reports and/or water resource data are interpreted by staff in the form of short reports to aid industries in determining the viability of various water resources with respect to their water needs in their consideration of locating in North Dakota.

The SWC also provides cost-share support for several activities designed to strengthen the state's economy. The SWC, in conjunction with the Bank of North Dakota, provides cost-share for new irrigation under the auspices of the AgPACE program. The SWC also provides support to the North Dakota Irrigation Association (NDIA).

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To develop water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Program Objectives:

- Identify and evaluate potential water supplies for economic development.
- Support programs to encourage water-using industries.
- Support programs to encourage irrigation.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Produce "synopsis" reports on water supplies for interested entities	As requested
Produce or provide water resource interpretive reports	Ongoing/ As requested
Administer the AgPACE program	Ongoing
Support NDIA's efforts to expand irrigation development	July 2009

Assumptions and Obstacles:

There is a limited amount of ground water of a quality suitable for irrigation and industry. The one significantly under-utilized water resource in the state, the Missouri River, is not located where most potential water users wish to locate their enterprises.



Program Overview:

The SWC's water resource research involvement falls into three categories. The first is where the SWC provides monetary support for water resource related studies. Generally this research is done by the USGS or universities. The second category is where the SWC enters into a cooperative study, again generally with university researchers or the USGS. The third category is when the entire study is conducted by SWC staff.

Water Resource Research

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To conduct research into the processes affecting the hydrologic cycle to improve the management of North Dakota's water resources.

Program Objectives:

- Support research into water resources of the state.
- Conduct studies of the nature and occurrence of water to optimize its conservation and development throughout the state.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Continuing or reformulated research could result from the interpretations that result from these studies.



Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Complete the Water Quality Assessment of National Guard Camp Grafton South Unit	Spring 2011
Complete an annual review and make decisions on graduate Water Resource Investigations (ND Water Resource Institute)	Annually
Cooperate with the USGS to develop a "Stream Stats" website in ND	2011
Cooperate with the USGS to develop a report entitled, "Evaluation of water quality sampling programs and sulfate standards for stream classes and designated uses, ND"	Winter 2009
Conduct an evaluation of nitrate contamination and remediation in the Karlsruhe aquifer	Annually through 2011
Assist with a study of irrigation through tile drains in Richland County	Spring 2011
Assist with a study of denitrification and tile drainage at Oakes, ND	Spring 2011
Prepare a final report on the Forest River Colony artificial recharge project	Spring 2011
Report on water quality and water levels in the Tolna Coulee (Devils Lake Joint Board)	Annually

Program Overview:

NDCC 61-04-02 requires all water uses except for domestic, livestock, fish, wildlife, and other recreational uses (unless the aforementioned are greater

than 12.5 acre-feet per year) to apply for a water permit before putting water to beneficial use. Set procedures are mandated by NDCC and regulations. Staff guide applicants through this process. In addition, records, documents, and a relational database are meticulously maintained. Upon completion of a water use development, inspections are conducted to verify the



Water Rights Administration & Processing

ability of the applicant to put the water to beneficial use. Based upon the inspection report, a conditional permit is perfected and filed with the county Register of Deeds as a water right associated with the land. Annual, self-reported water use forms are recorded to document that water is being put to beneficial use and the water right is being maintained.

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To regulate the use of water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Program Objectives:

- Process water permit applications.
- Maintain meticulous water right records.
- Perfect conditional water rights once developed.
- Document permitted water use.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Guide applicants through the water permit application process	Ongoing
Maintain records in each water permit application file	Ongoing
Key appropriate data into the water permit database	Ongoing
Conduct 65-85 inspections of 'completed' conditional permits	Annually
Perfect 50-70 inspected, completed conditional permits	Annually
Send out requests for annual use reports to permit holders	Nov./Jan., annually
Complete the annual water use data collection process	May, annually
Develop a summary report on annual water use in ND	Sept., annually
Measure pumping rates to help establish water rights	Ongoing
Maintain water use records to quantify water rights	Ongoing

Assumptions and Obstacles:

- Water use records are dependent upon encouraged self-reporting of annual water use.
- Some conditional water permits take long periods of time to resolve water and legal complications.

Program Overview:

The allocation of water resources for beneficial use can result in competition for those resources. This competition can cross political boundaries. Efforts are continually underway to

protect prior rights while maximizing benefits. These efforts are expended externally in other states and provinces, as well as internally with respect to other state agencies having separate regulatory authorities. In the assessment of the degree to which

Water Rights Evaluation & Adjudication

the state's water resources can be utilized beneficially, the rights of prior appropriators need to be assessed and protected. Staff prepares recommendations for the SE on the basis of encouraging beneficial use while protecting prior rights.

Agency Goals Satisfied:

- To regulate the use of water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.
- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Gather data on shared resources	As needed
Discuss possible actions regarding water resources	As needed
Negotiate water management decisions	Ongoing
Conduct water resource investigations	As needed
Prepare recommendations for the SE	Ongoing

Program Objectives:

- Pursue cooperative efforts with neighboring states and provinces to plan for beneficial water management of shared water resources.
- Cooperate with agencies that have regulatory authority over North Dakota's water to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of North Dakota's water resources.
- Evaluate water permit applications and recommend decisions to the SE.

Assumptions and Obstacles:

Different organizations and neighboring states and provinces have unique perspectives and laws pertaining to water resources management. In the evaluation of ground water permit applications, the state's ground water resources are becoming more fully appropriated. Thus, the process of allocating additional water while protecting prior water rights is becoming more complex, and thus, more difficult and time-consuming.



Program Overview:

In addition to water management planning efforts at the state level, the SWC believes that it is also beneficial for stakeholders that live and work within key watersheds of the state to guide the management of water resources in their region through the development of regional water plans. In order for regional planning efforts and studies to proceed and evolve in a productive manner, it is often required that local, state, and federal government officials participate in those planning processes as technical advisors.

In recent years, the SWC has provided technical assistance to the Devils Lake, Upper-Sheyenne, Red, and Missouri River joint water boards toward the development of water management plans and other watershed planning efforts. In addition, in the Red River basin, which is the focus of many projects and planning efforts, the SWC has an office with a full-time engineer in West Fargo.

Beyond participating in regional planning and coordination efforts within the state, SWC staff members are also involved with international and national organizations involved with interjurisdictional water management. Examples include the International Joint Commission, the Red River Basin Commission, the International Red River Board, the International Souris River Board, and the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes.

Watershed Planning & Coordination

Action Plan:

TASKS	TARGET DATES
Provide technical assistance toward the implementation of the Red River Basin Commission's Natural Resource Framework Plan	Ongoing
Provide technical assistance toward the implementation of the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board's 2009 Water Management Plan	Ongoing
Provide technical expertise to the Upper-Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board in their development of a new regional water management plan	Summer 2011
Provide technical expertise to the Red River Joint Water Resource District in their development of an updated water management strategy	Dec. 2010
Continue to participate as board members and technical advisors for international and national watershed planning and coordination efforts	Ongoing

Agency Goal Satisfied:

- To manage water resources for the future welfare and prosperity of the people of North Dakota.

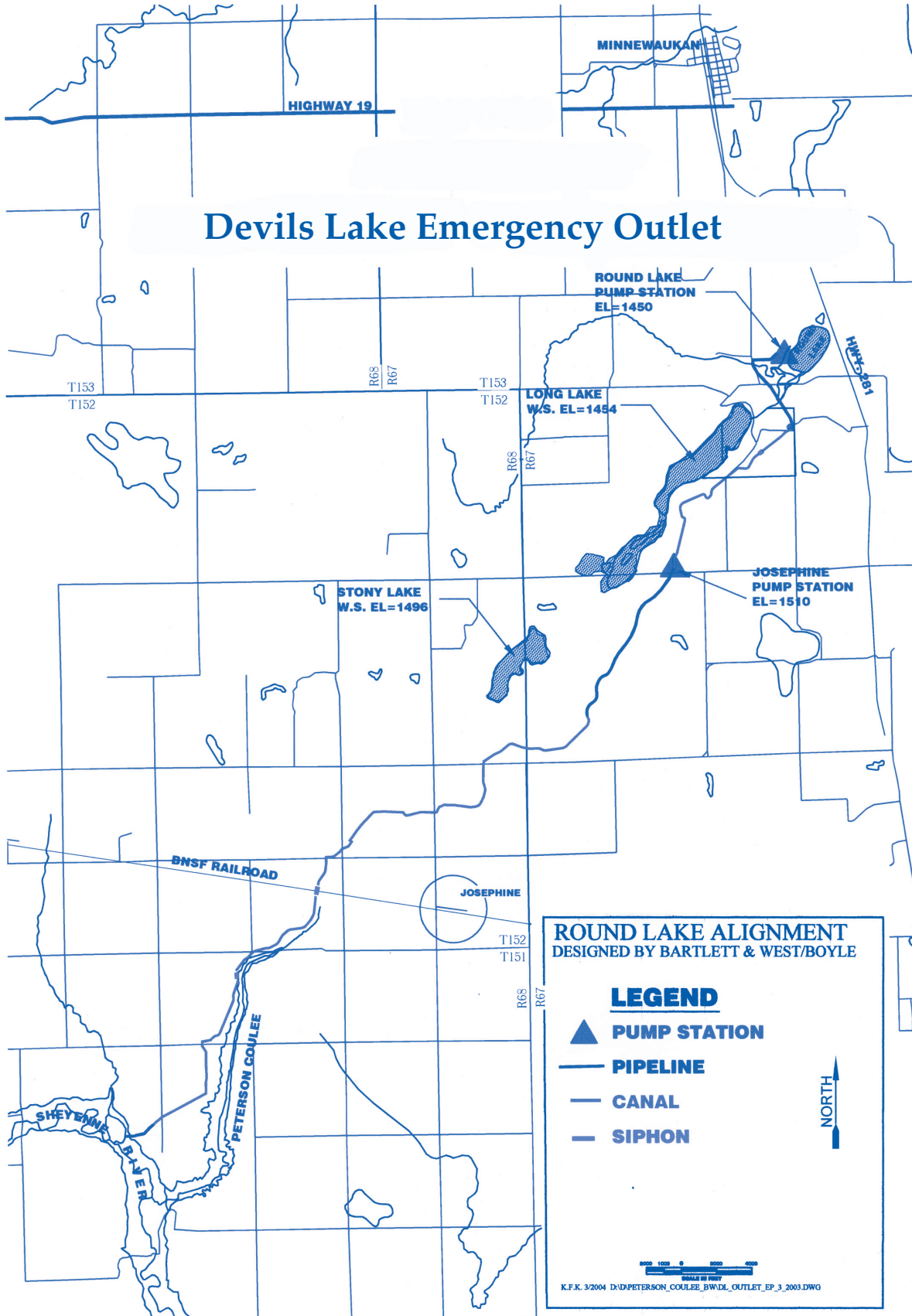
Program Objective:

- Provide technical expertise and assistance toward the development of regional watershed management and planning efforts, and studies.

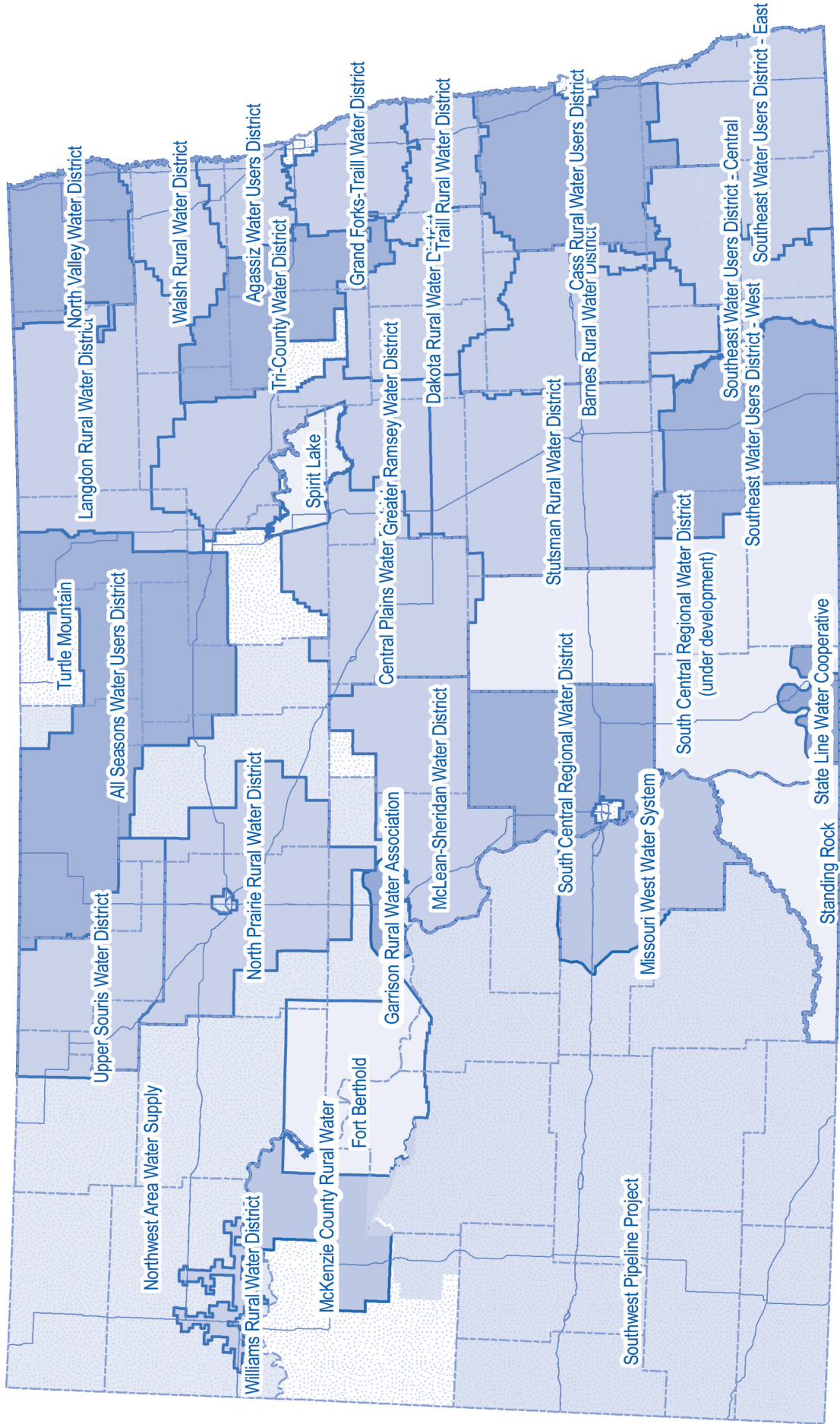
Assumptions and Obstacles:

In order for all of the above organizations and planning/coordination efforts to succeed in the future, they will require continued commitment and dedication from all stakeholders involved in those processes.

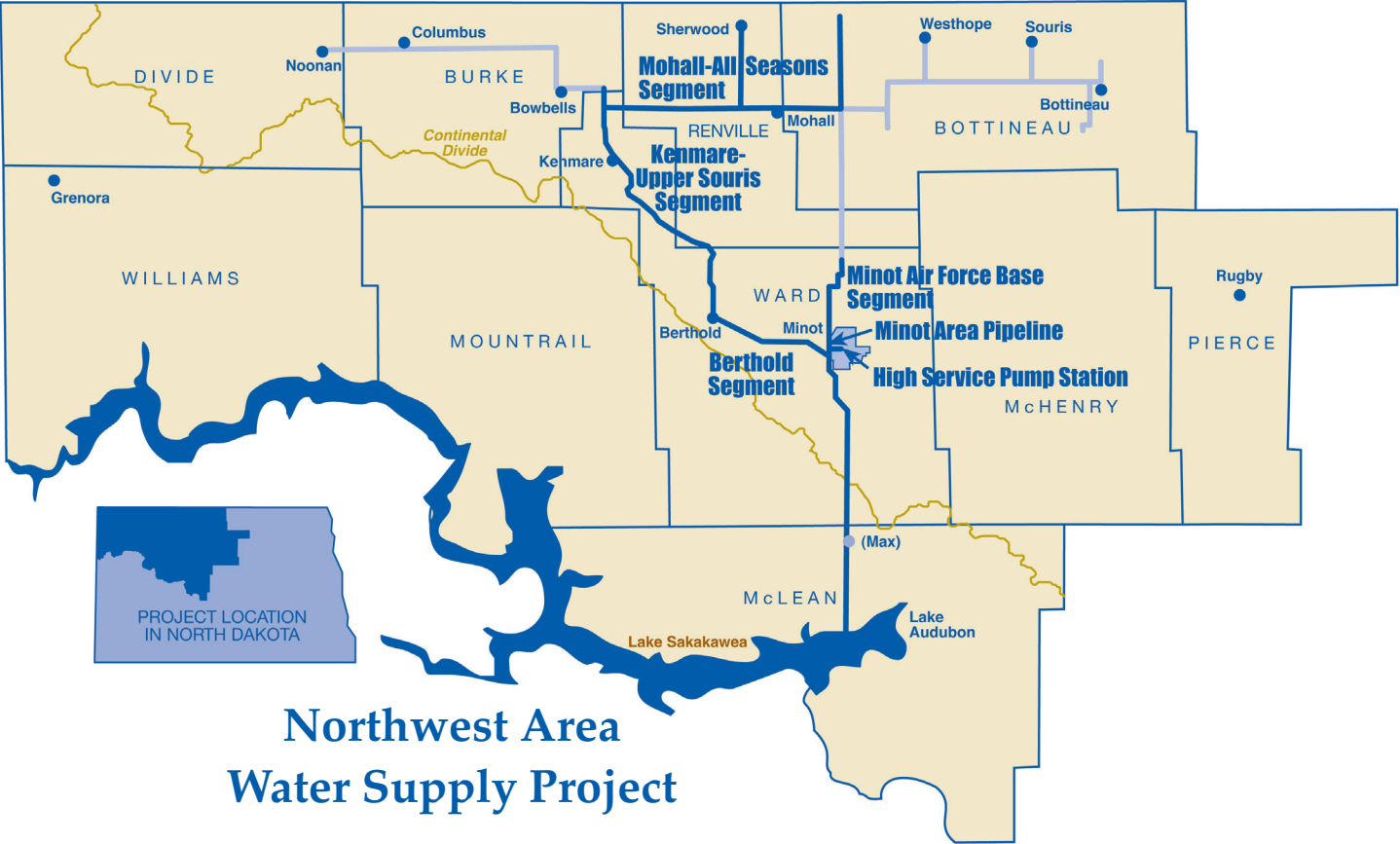
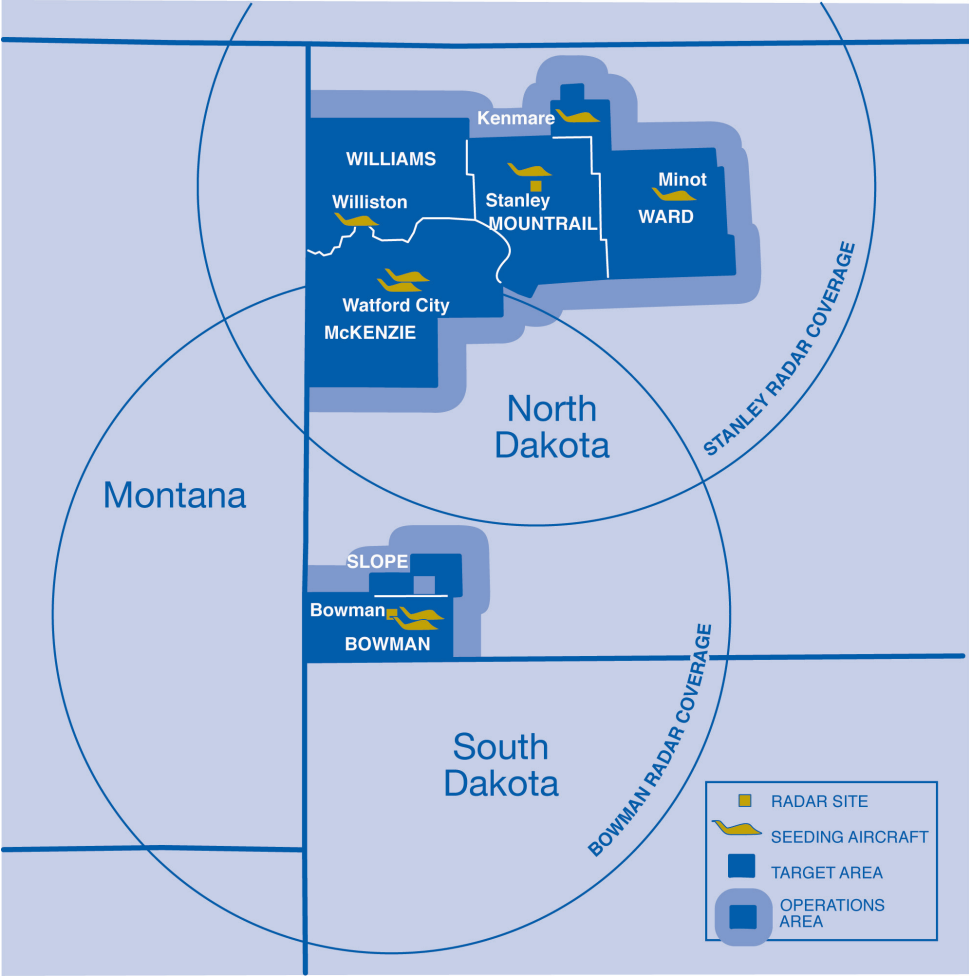
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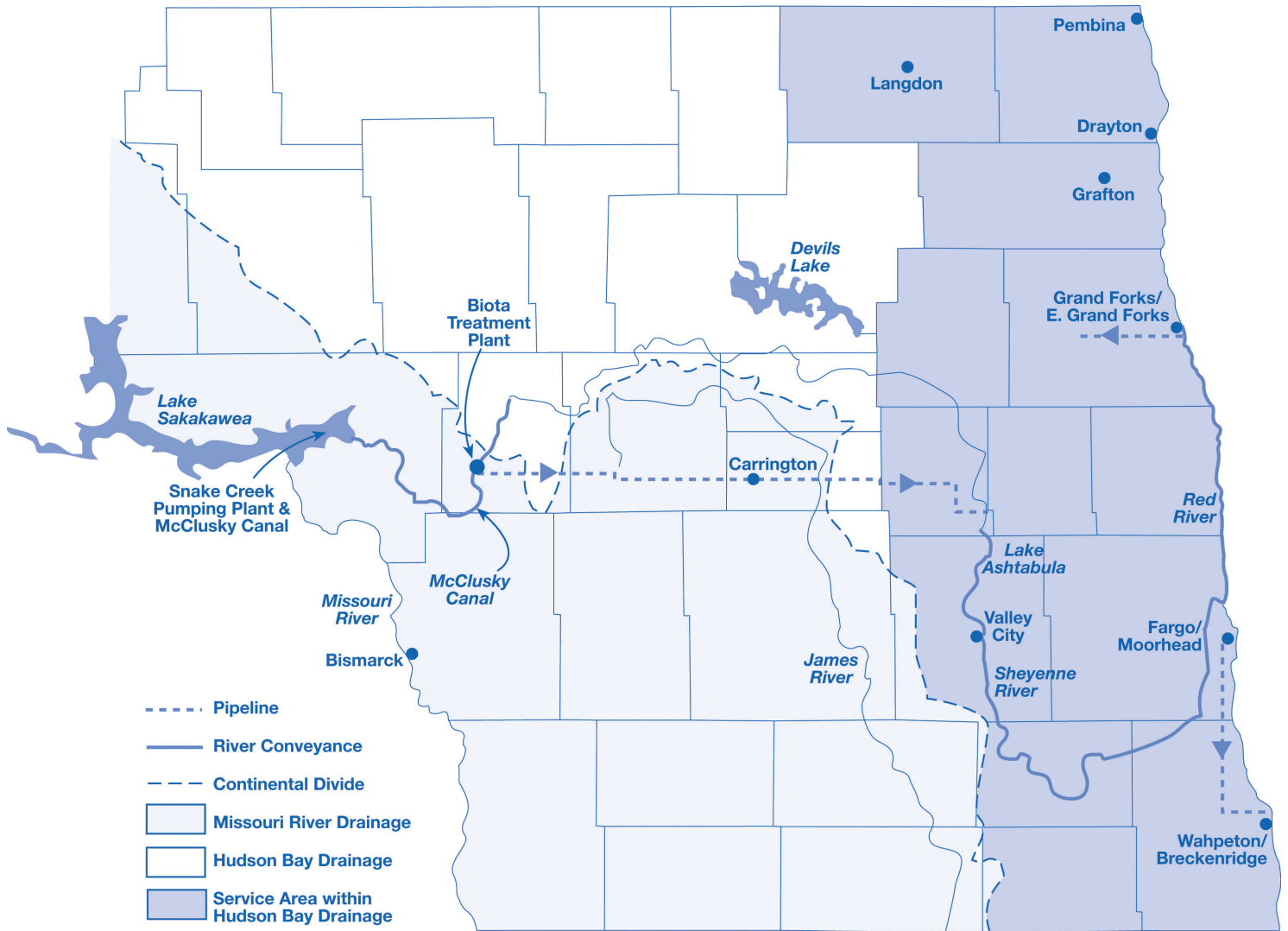


North Dakota Regional Water Systems



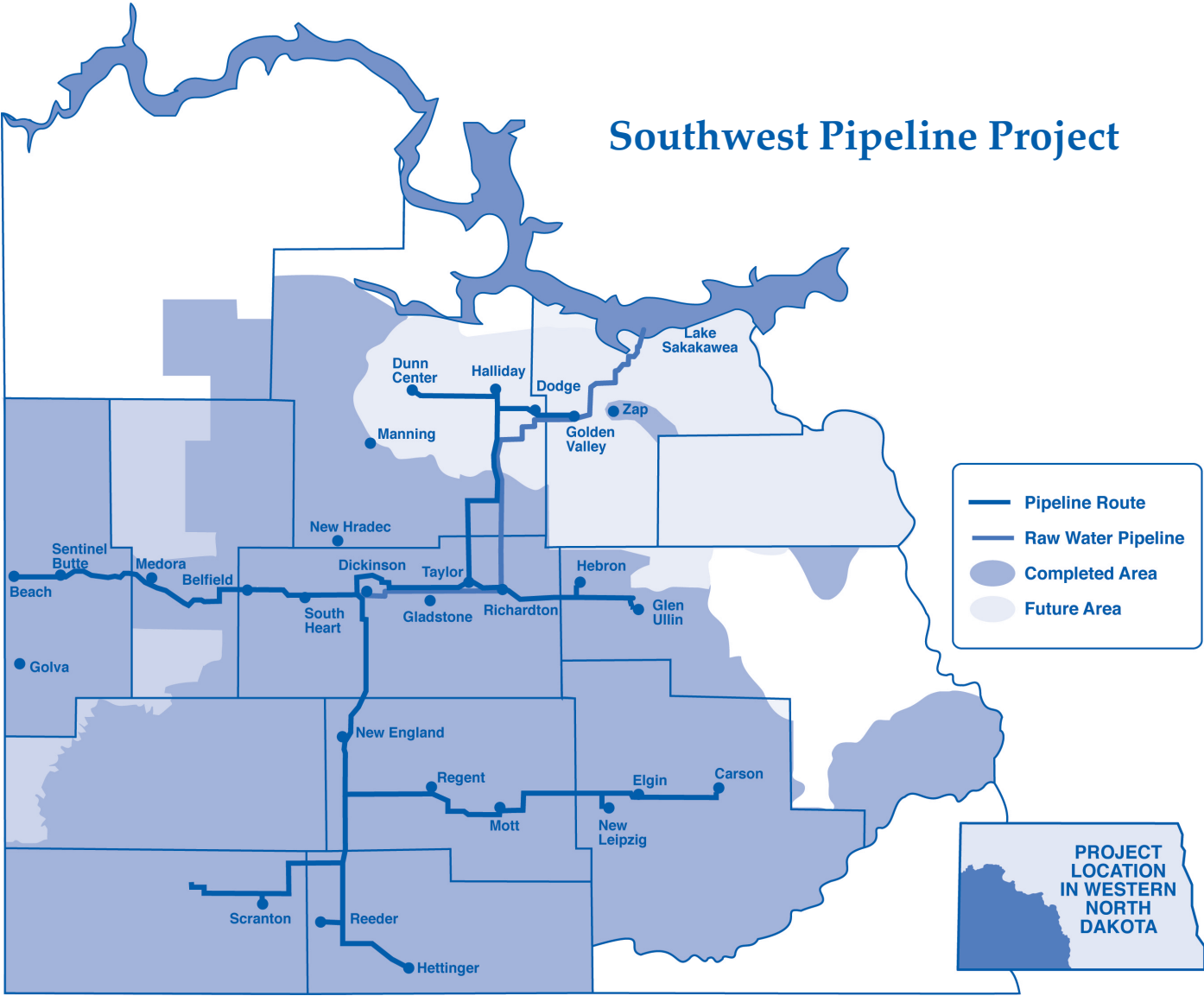
North Dakota Cloud Modification Project





Red River Valley Water Supply Project Preferred Alternative

Southwest Pipeline Project





North Dakota State Water Commission
900 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 770
Bismarck, ND 58505-0850