

Ripple Effect #21

One Red River Basin

Three states and a province. Two countries. One Red River Basin. It is no wonder that water management in the Red River Basin can sometimes be very difficult!

The Red River Basin (RRB) is an international, multi-jurisdictional area, approximately 45,000 square miles (28 million acres of land and water) in size, and includes the Devil's Lake Basin (3,180 square miles). The Assiniboine River joins the Red River in downtown Winnipeg.

Nearly 40,000 square miles of the RRB (103,600 square kilometers) are in North Dakota and Minnesota in the United States; the remaining 5,000 square miles (13,000 square kilometers) are in Manitoba, Canada. Only 1 percent of the RRB is located in the extreme northeast corner of South Dakota.

The RRB is a complex hydrologic system with extremes being normal. Spring and summer floods are common, as well as times when the Red River and its tributaries have little or no flow. Understanding all of the natural and human forces that impact the shared resources can make water management very challenging!

Decisions on how best to manage the shared Red River are made by numerous individuals, boards, agencies and commissions. Using what we need with as little impact as possible will make us all good neighbors. Finding balances between multiple interest groups and promoting cooperation across boundaries and between groups is necessary in order to make decisions that will have the greatest benefit for those who live here.

Your opinion on how we manage our shared resources is important. Take the time to attend public water meetings and hearings when they are scheduled in your area. Attend a local water board meeting. The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) welcomes public participation at their meetings. For more information on meeting dates and times, go to the RRBC website at www.redriverbasincommission.org. Take an active role in making the RRB a great place to live!

Until the next Ripple Effect,

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)

The RRBC is a grassroots organization that is a chartered not-for-profit corporation under the provisions of Manitoba, North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota law. Our offices in Moorhead, MN and Winnipeg, MB can be reached at 218-291-0422 and 204-982-7254, or you can check out our website at www.redriverbasincommission.org.