

Ripple Effect #26

Call to Action Guide

Managing land and water resources in the Red River Basin is a big job. Agreeing on how to do it is an even bigger job. To help with this task, the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) completed a lengthy process of developing a guiding document for the basin stakeholders; this document is called the Natural Resources Framework Plan.

This Plan will help provide decision-makers, managers and the public with a clear process to encourage and support the RRBC's vision of "*A Red River Basin where residents, organizations and governments work together to achieve basin-wide commitment to comprehensive integrated watershed stewardship and management.*"

Thirteen Inventory Teams were established to research various issues of concern in the Basin. The teams were comprised of agency personnel, volunteers from non-governmental organizations and citizens from Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The teams developed a comprehensive inventory of subjects including: flood damage reduction; drainage; water quality; water supply; conservation; fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation; hydrology; water institutions and water law. The inventory teams developed the comprehensive collection of information to be used to develop the Natural Resources Framework Plan. The culmination of these inventories helped the RRBC develop the thirteen goals and associated objectives found within the Plan.

The Plan provides background information on the history, demographics and economics of the Red River Basin. It also provides a background to the complexity and geographical uniqueness of the Basin. The Plan describes the uniqueness of having an international boundary within the Basin which provides opportunities to expand comprehensive management of a watershed between two countries. Described within the Plan is how to integrate its use in developing soil and water protection programs and local planning strategies; to further the idea of managing your land to protect and promote your neighbor's land, whether that is next door, or a hundred miles away. The Plan also provides the basin stakeholder with an understanding of how the RRBC works and ways to become involved in natural resource management.

The Natural Resources Framework Plan was created for the citizens of the Red River Basin. It is a guide to be used by all entities in their decision making processes. It is a guide to use when making choices for activities on the land, and in making decisions that have an impact on our water. It is a guide to move the Basin forward with a unified purpose and a unified voice.

Do your part in guiding how the Basin's natural resources are managed. Visit the Red River Basin Commission website, or call the RRBC office to request a copy of the Natural Resources Framework Plan. Working cooperatively will ensure that the Red River Basin's natural resources will be enjoyed by future generations.

Until the next Ripple Effect,

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)