

Ripple Effect Water Minute #20 - Flooding

Red River Basin flooding is caused by several factors – some are natural, some are man-made. Understanding flood damage reduction strategies in the Basin is a complex thing.

Regardless of the cause, efforts to mitigate adverse flood effects have been attempted since early settlement. Methods include structural solutions such as major storage reservoirs and levees, and nonstructural solutions such as land-use planning and early warning systems. While each of these measures may be appropriate somewhere in the basin, none is a universal remedy.

A more comprehensive strategy needs to be adopted; one that understands that flood mitigation efforts will have predictable impacts in other areas. Those impacts may be positive or negative, depending on what measures are chosen and where they are applied. This needs to be clearly understood and taken into account when water flow management decisions are made. Working together, we can find ways to reduce flood damages in the basin.

To learn more about basin flood reduction strategies, go to www.rrrwmb.org and click on to the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.