

## **Ripple Effect #96**

### **“Flood Stage”**

With all the talk about flooding in the Red River Basin, you may have heard the term “flood stage.” The US Army Corps of Engineers helps us understand what this means.

The National Weather Service, based on the desires of the local community, establishes the “flood stage” gauge height for any given community. The flood stage gauge height is often the stage where damages begin to occur.

Flood stage gauge height is used by many communities as an early warning alert, prior to the onset of significant damages. Significant damages may not occur until river levels are several feet above flood stage. Additionally, conditions along some rivers may have changed since the gauge and flood stages were established and reaching the flood stage may or may not result in actual damages. Again, stages are site specific, so feet above flood stage at one location can't be compared to another.

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