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# Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Feasibility Study

## Project Location and Description

Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, are on the west and east banks, respectively, of the Red River of the North approximately 150 miles south of the Canada/United States border. In addition to the Red River, the Wild Rice, Sheyenne, Maple and Rush Rivers in North Dakota and the Buffalo River in Minnesota also cross the study area.

## Background Information

The Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area is a major health, educational, cultural, and commercial center serving southeastern North Dakota and west-central Minnesota. The area is prone to flooding; the Red River has exceeded flood stage in 50 of the past 106 years and every year from 1993 through 2009. A 500-year event would flood nearly the entire city of Fargo and a large portion of the city of Moorhead, as well as several smaller communities in the area. Flooding occurs not only from the rivers, but also from large rainfall events that overwhelm storm drainage systems. Average annual flood damages are estimated at over \$65 million.

Emergency flood fights have been very successful in Fargo and Moorhead, but the record-setting flood of 1997 was smaller than a 100-year event. The area is significantly vulnerable to flooding, despite the history of successful responses to the relatively small flood events that have occurred.



## Feasibility Study Status

The Corps and the cities of Fargo and Moorhead are jointly conducting this study. The study assesses the feasibility of measures to reduce flood risk in the entire metropolitan and surrounding area of Fargo and Moorhead. The study started out considering an array of potential alternatives and is now focused on a diversion channel with tie back levees. The study is still analyzing two alignment options and six flow capacities for the diversion channel. The two alignment options are a 36 mile diversion channel through North Dakota and a 25 mile diversion channel through Minnesota.

The study was not intended to replace other projects already in place or being developed. Rather, it evaluates additional measures that would further reduce flood risks in the entire study area. The outcome of the study will determine whether Federal participation can be recommended to implement a diversion channel around Fargo and Moorhead.

## Authority

This specifically authorized study originates from a resolution of the Senate Committee on Public Works, September 30, 1974.

## Project Costs

Federal cost	\$4,120,000
Non-Federal cost	\$3,880,000
<b>Total estimated cost</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>

Fiscal year 2010 Federal funds:	\$2,500,000
<b>Total Federal funds through 2010:</b>	<b>\$3,970,000</b>

Non-federal funding is being provided by the cities of Fargo and Moorhead with support from the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District in Minnesota and Cass County in North Dakota.



## FARGO-Moorhead Metro Feasibility study link

[http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/fl\\_damage\\_reduct/default.asp?pageid=1455](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/fl_damage_reduct/default.asp?pageid=1455)