

Red River of the North Bioassessment

International Red River Board
Aquatic Ecosystem Committee

Reference Condition Workshop Summary Report (March 2004):

- Agency responsibility
- Current biological monitoring efforts in the RRB
- Ecosystem assessment methods
- Reference condition
- Stressors
- Classification and stratification
- Reference reach screening process
- Recommendations

Recommendation

1. Create a Red River Basin Bioassessment Framework that moves from the Current Conceptual Design to Details of Monitoring and Assessment.
 - a. A Common Reference Condition Definition
 - b. Establish Reference Sites
 - c. A Classification Scheme for Partitioning Natural Variability
 - d. Develop Standardized Screening Tools
 - e. Develop a Core set of Standardized Biological Indicator Communities
 - f. Develop Comparable Sampling Methods/Protocols
 - g. Establish Standardized Indicator Development Methods and Study Designs
 - h. Establish Archival, and Dissemination Protocols
 - i. Develop Standardized IRRB Reporting Protocols

Ultimately...Report on the “Health” of the Red River with Known Statistical Confidence

- ❑ Establish Consistent Guidelines for Developing, Identifying, and Validating Reference Condition
- ❑ Establish a Standard Process to Document Site Selection
- ❑ Develop and Establish a Reference Reach Monitoring Network (Document Natural Variability)
- ❑ Establish a Probabilistic “Test Reach” Network to Assess Current Ecosystem Health
- ❑ Collect and Analyze Data