



Corps of Engineers Reassess Fargo-Moorhead Flood Plan

ST. PAUL, MN (September 17, 2010)- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) announced it will delay completion of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study to allow for additional analysis of alternatives and impacts. The supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is expected to be released by Spring 2011.

In the last two decades, floods have become more frequent and more severe in the Red River Valley due to global warming and the drainage of thousands of wetlands throughout the Red River Basin. The Corps of Engineers, in its efforts to identify and implement a solution to flooding of Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN, has proposed a 36-mile, \$1.4-billion diversion canal, but is now extending study of the diversion to take closer look at impacts on downstream communities and other flood control options.

The National Wildlife Federation supports the Corps' expanding the planning process to assess negative impacts of the diversion and to consider other flood-control alternatives. As a result, cheaper, safer and more environmentally-friendly approaches to flood control should be fully analyzed. As an added benefit, the National Wildlife Federation recommends that this expanded analysis incorporate a basin-wide watershed analysis that would provide more viable options for flood control.

“The National Wildlife Federation has for years sought greener flood control solutions for the Red River valley,” said David Conrad, National Wildlife Federation Senior Water Resource Specialist. “National Wildlife Federation fully appreciates the need for effective flood control in the Fargo-Moorhead area, but a 36-mile, \$1.4-billion diversion channel is neither economically nor environmentally-feasible. The good news is that there are other options to provide flood control without jeopardizing public safety or the environment. The Corps now has an opportunity to be a leader in innovative flood control techniques that provide protection, are economically feasible, and restore lost wildlife habitat.”

In August, the National Wildlife Federation's Northern Rockies and Prairie Regional Center and local affiliates the South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the Minnesota Conservation Federation commented on the draft EIS. The Corps also acknowledged receiving more than 200 comments in opposition to the proposed plan, urging that downstream impacts would be far too great, while also advocating that upstream storage and wetland restoration must be a component of the plan.

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The [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org) is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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