

Informational Sheet

Plan B Permit Facts

100-year Protection for 235,000+ people

The FM Area Diversion Project will protect and improve the lives of residents in the Fargo and Moorhead metro area, including West Fargo, Harwood, and Horace. The Project:

- Provides protection to 95,000 households and an estimated 140,000 jobs
- Makes fighting a 500-year flood event possible
- Provides an opportunity to remove flood insurance requirements that involve costly premiums leaving the community
- Prevents \$10+ Billion in flood damages

Project Components

There are three main components to project construction.

- In-town Flood Protection
- Diversion Channel
- Southern Embankment including control structures and the temporary staging of floodwaters upstream

What is New?

- The Project will provide benefits every year and create impacts only 1 in 20 years, on average
- Plan B preserves more than 7,000 acres of floodplain that would have been removed due to the previous plan
- Plan B shifts the Project impacts to be comparable with the benefits by state

	North Dakota	Minnesota
Benefits % of protected acres	81%	19%
Impacts % of impact acres	84%	16%



FM Area Diversion Project

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NEXT STEPS

In March 2018, a new permit application was submitted to the Minnesota DNR for a new, refashioned project. The Diversion Authority will work with MDNR through the permit review process.

PROJECT COMPONENTS	2016 Permit Application	Plan B Permit Application	
Protect against a 100-year flood event The current FEMA flood map uses data from 1890 to 1971 resulting in a 29,300 cfs level as a 100-year-event.	34,700 cfs Determined by USACE using data from 1942 to 2009	33,000 cfs Agreed to by the Governors' Task Force using data from 1890 to 2009	
Maintains federal authorization	Authorized in 2014 by WRRDA	Likely but needs review by USACE for final decision	
Height of the Red River at the Fargo gauge during project operation	35 ft. This level was increased from 30 feet by USACE to reduce the frequency of upstream staging of flood waters.	37 ft. Agreed to by the Task Force. This further reduces the frequency of project operation from, on average, once every 10 years to, on average, once every 20 years, but requires additional mitigation through Fargo and Moorhead.	
Southern embankment and resulting upstream mitigation area	The Southern Embankment contains impacts and controls the release of flood waters through the metro.	Changes the alignment to better balance the project impacts between North Dakota and Minnesota, and reduce rural impacts upstream in Richland and Wilkin Counties.	

	2016 Permit Application		Plan B Permit Application	
Total Impacted Acres in Upstream Mitigation Area	20,700 acres (58%) North Dakota	14,800 acres (42%) Minnesota	22,600 acres (81%) North Dakota	5,400 acres (19%) Minnesota
Total Impacted Acres in Construction Footprint	7,550 acres (95%) North Dakota	430 acres (5%) Minnesota	7,900 acres (95%) North Dakota	420 acres (5%) Minnesota
Total Impacted Acres (Footprint and Upstream Mitigation Area)	28,250 acres (65%) North Dakota	15,230 acres (35%) Minnesota	30,500 acres (84%) North Dakota	5,820 acres (16%) Minnesota
Total Impacted Upstream Mitigation Residential Structures by State	44 structures (64%) North Dakota	25 structures (36%) Minnesota	60 structures (85%) North Dakota	11 structures (15%) Minnesota
Cemeteries Impacted	11		7	
Organic Farms Impacted	~2,900 acres		~300 acres	
Comstock Ring Levee	Required		Not Required	
Impacts to Highway 75	Impacts and Grade Raises Required		No Impacts	
Impacts to BNSF Railroad in Comstock	Impacts and Grade Raises Required		No Impacts	
Protected Area	47,100 acres (81%) North Dakota	11,000 acres (19%) Minnesota	41,100 acres (81%) North Dakota	9,400 acres (19%) Minnesota