

# PROJECT REFINEMENTS LIMITING IMPACTS



## THE DIVERSION PROJECT CONTINUES TO BE REFINED TO LIMIT IMPACTS AND IN CONSIDERATION OF UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM COMMUNITIES AND THEIR FLOOD PROTECTION

1. Supported State and Federal funding for flood protection efforts in Grand Forks / East Grand Forks and Wahpeton / Breckenridge before funding local efforts in Cass County and Fargo.
2. Requested change to Project location in Minnesota. Took a position that Project and impacts should be located where the majority of benefits were realized, in North Dakota.
3. Virtually eliminated downstream impacts through the addition of a staging area to the Project. Requested Corps of Engineers to allow a ring levee for Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke.
  - Prevented community-wide buyout of 196 homes
  - Provided 500-year flood protection for Oxbow/Hickson/Bakke
4. Preserved the tax base of the Kindred School District through accelerated construction of the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke ring levee.
5. Moved southern alignment of the Diversion north by one mile.
  - Lessened residential structure impacts
  - Shifted the majority of impacts into Cass and Clay Counties, which receive the majority of benefit, and out of Richland and Wilkin counties
6. Added gates to the Diversion Inlet to allow more flow through town and to better control and minimize upstream impacts.
  - Diminished potential for summer flooding upstream and damaging standing crops
7. Increased levee heights within Fargo-Moorhead.
  - Lowered the frequency of Diversion use to only operate in flood events greater than a 10-year flood (35 feet at Fargo gage)
  - Diminished potential for summer flooding upstream and damaging standing crops
  - Reduced size and duration of the Staging Area
8. Working with the City of Comstock on the design of a ring levee to provide for enhanced flood protection.
9. Initiated an early hardship acquisition program to alleviate real estate concerns during the development of the Project.
10. Implemented a comprehensive agricultural mitigation program.
  - Created an Agricultural Subcommittee, whose membership includes upstream farmers impacted by the Project
  - Provided flowage easements to compensate landowners for retaining water during large flood events
  - In the process of establishing a supplemental crop insurance program that provides equivalent insurance coverage to what growers have today
11. Designated \$25 million for retention projects, which will also provide local flood protection benefits to the region.
  - Funded a \$500k Red River Basin Commission study to assist in prioritizing and allocating retention projects