



## Final Environmental Impact Statement for the RRVWSP Released

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and the State of North Dakota, represented by Garrison Diversion, released the Red River Valley Water Supply Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on December 21, 2007.

The Bureau of Reclamation and Garrison Diversion had previously released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Supplemental Draft EIS to evaluate alternatives to meet the long-term water supply needs of the Red River Valley. The recently released FEIS includes responses to public comments received on the previously released EIS documents as well as new analysis.

The new information includes a final biological assessment in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and analysis of forecasted Missouri River depletions and sedimentation along the mainstem reservoir system. A review of current climate change literature was also included in the document.

The proposed project would supply water to meet the comprehensive water needs of residents and industry in the Red River Valley through the year 2050. The analysis in the FEIS focuses on water shortages that would occur during a drought similar in severity to the 1930s.

A copy of the document and accompanying CD-ROMs can be obtained by contacting Ms. Signe Snortland with the Bureau of Reclamation at 701-221-1278. The documentation can also be downloaded from the project's website at [www.rrvwsp.com](http://www.rrvwsp.com).

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### LAWA Board of Directors

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### Upcoming Meetings

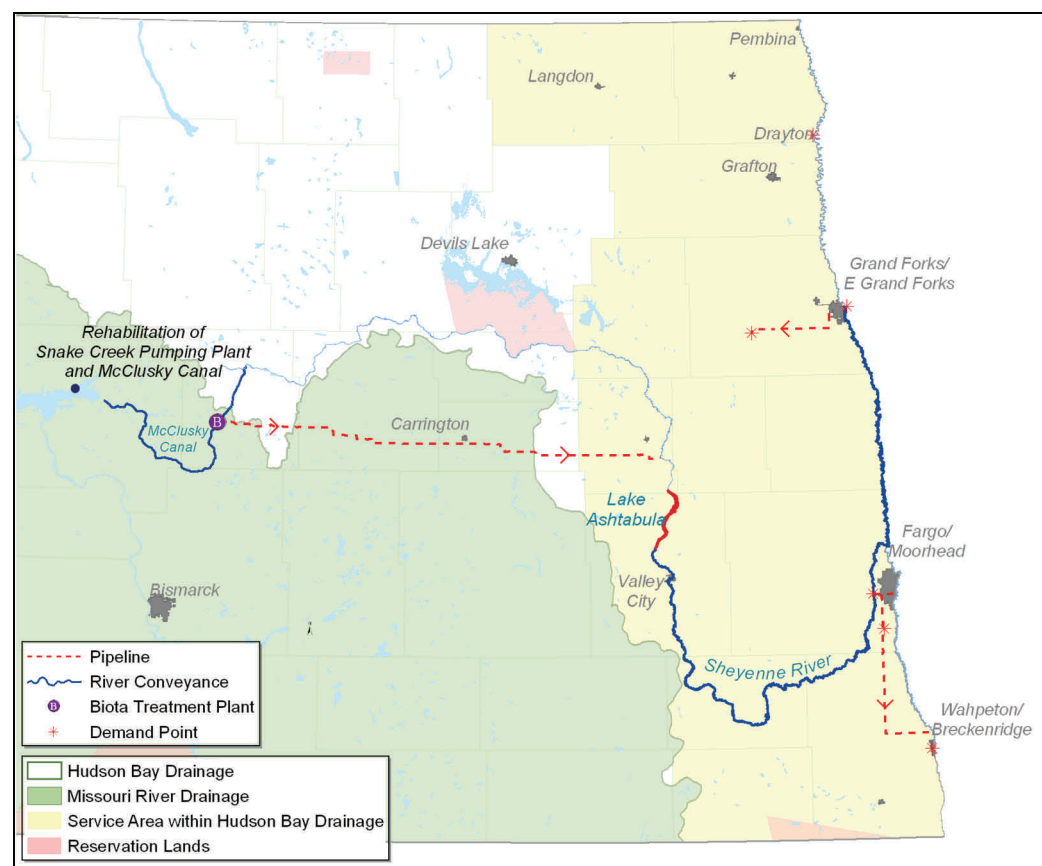
**Lake Agassiz Water Authority Board of Directors Meeting**  
 January 8, 2008 10:00 AM  
 Doublewood Inn - Birch Room, Fargo

## What's Next for the RRVWSP?

Following the release of the FEIS, the Department of the Interior will be producing two documents related to the RRVWSP. After a minimum 30-day comment period, the Secretary of the Interior will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) as to the preferred method to provide a supplemental water supply to the Red River Valley. The ROD will state the alternative selected for implementation and discuss the factors leading to the decision.

The State of North Dakota and Bureau of Reclamation have each identified the Garrison Diversion Unit Import to the Sheyenne River Alternative as the preferred alternative in the FEIS.

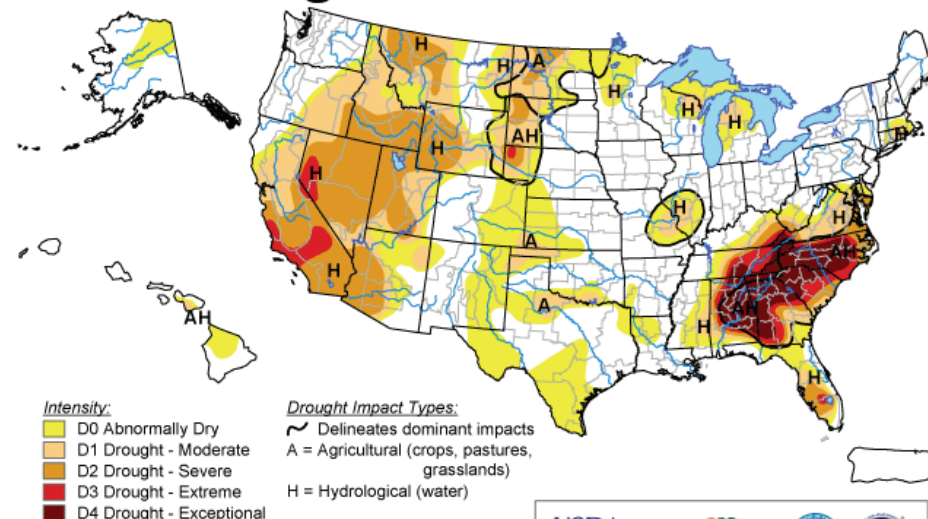
In accordance with the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, if a Missouri River import alternative is selected for implementation, a comprehensive report must be sent to Congress within 90 days of the release of the FEIS. The report will identify the proposed alternative, environmental issues, effects on Minnesota and Missouri River states and compliance with the Boundary Waters Treaty. Congressional authorization is necessary before a Missouri River import alternative may be implemented.



Preferred Alternative for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project

## Regional Drought Conditions

**U.S. Drought Monitor** December 11, 2007  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity:**  
 D0 Abnormally Dry  
 D1 Drought - Moderate  
 D2 Drought - Severe  
 D3 Drought - Extreme  
 D4 Drought - Exceptional

**Drought Impact Types:**  
 ~ Delineates dominant impacts  
 A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)  
 H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, December 13, 2007

Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

Areas in North Dakota classified as abnormally dry or in a moderate to severe drought continued to expand over the past two months.

Only the southeastern corner of the state is not being impacted by a lack of precipitation, as recent snowfall in the southern Red River Valley helped to alleviate some developing dry conditions. Moderate and severe drought

conditions now cover the north central area and the entire western half of the state.

In the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's winter forecast, they expect a slightly better than average chance for warmer than normal temperatures during the winter months of December, January and February in eastern North Dakota. The precipitation forecast shows an equal chance of above-, near-, or below-average precipitation.

## Lake Agassiz Water Authority Update

- On November 5, the city of Wahpeton met with the Richland County Commissioners to discuss the RRVWSP. The county committed to taking the lead on studying the project in partnership with the city to determine what their participation level will be.
- At the November LAWA Board Meeting, they continued discussion on the proposed 2008 work plan and the potential system investments needed to pay for the plan.