

Two Rivers Watershed District In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties



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TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT – UPDATE OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Executive Summary: The Two Rivers Watershed District (TRWD), located in extreme northwest Minnesota in parts of Kittson, Roseau & Marshall Counties, is revising its 10-year watershed management plan and we are currently seeking comments and input from the public until November 15, 2026. The plan, which is required by law, discusses the existing water & water-related problems within the watershed district, potential solutions to the problems, and the general objectives of the TRWD. It also describes hydrological data, specific projects & programs, and implementation of the *Rules of the TRWD*.

Since 1957 when the TRWD was established, it has worked on conservation of natural resources focusing on the broad areas of flood control, drainage, and water quality. During the 2004 revision of its overall plan, additional issues regarding drought, habitat, recreation, maintenance of projects and watercourses, and other items were identified and brought into the planning process. Goals, objectives and solution alternatives were categorized into either “Flood Damage Reduction” or “Natural Resources Enhancement”. This current plan update expands on these topics and reports on progress to date.

TRWD Planning Goals

FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION

- Coordinate delivery of flow to Red River
- Provide flood protection to ag land for a 10-year runoff event
- Reduce the duration, peaks and frequency of overland flooding
- Reduce damages to residential areas for the 100-year event
- Minimize the effects of drought
- Enhance & protect ground water

NATURAL RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT

- Improve & sustain surface water quality
- Reduce erosion & sedimentation
- Participate in efforts to enhance, provide and protect habitat
- Support the expansion of water-based recreation
- Provide educational and outreach opportunities

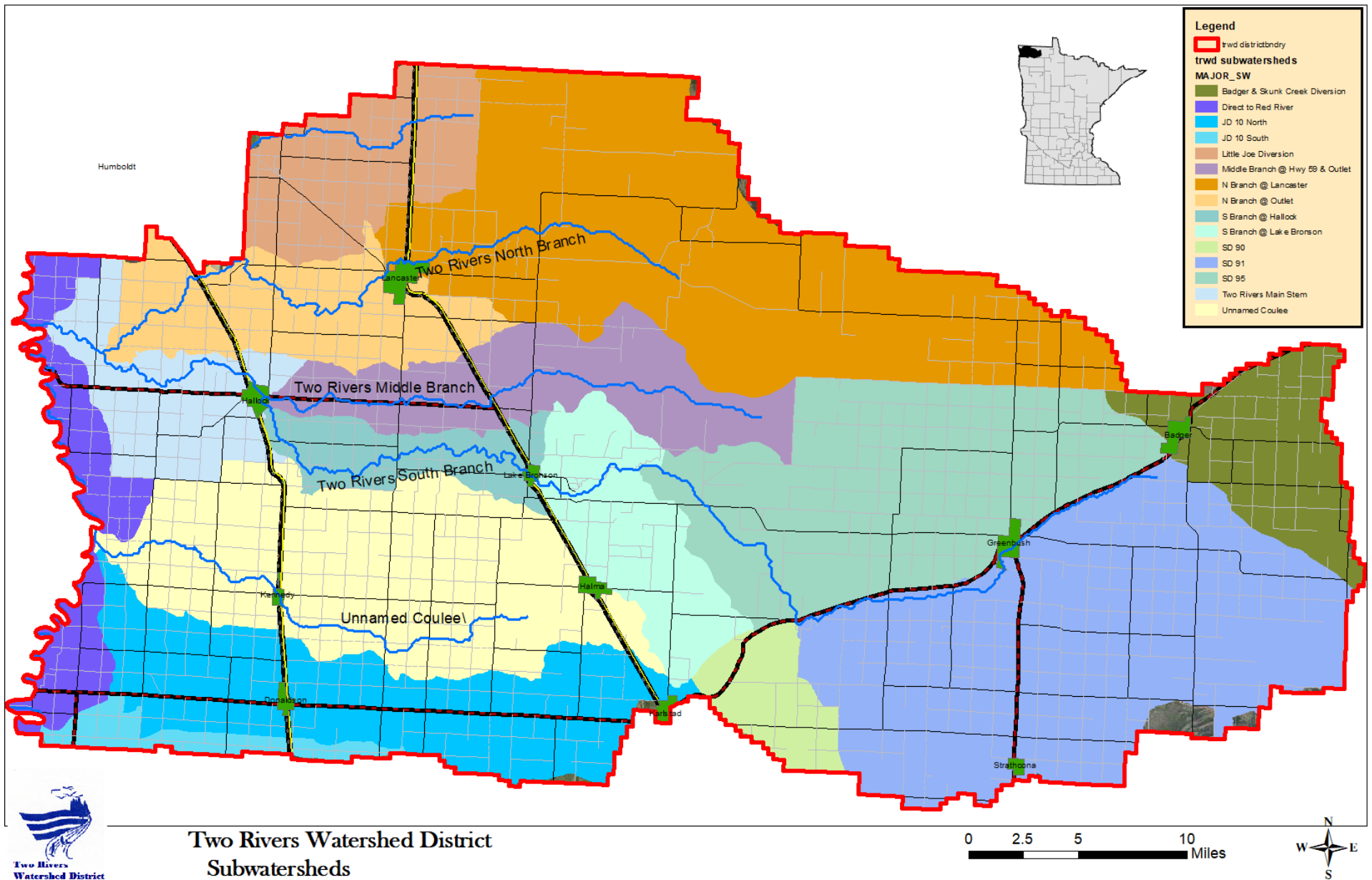
The TRWD has constructed three multi-purpose impoundments to reduce flooding and enhance natural resources. Twenty-four farmstead ring dikes have been constructed, and other dikes and diversions have been built to aid flooding in the cities of Halma, Hallock and Kennedy. However, there is still work to be done. Flooding of public infrastructure (roads) and agricultural land remains a very large problem.

Many public drainage systems have been constructed, repaired, improved or otherwise maintained to aid in both agricultural drainage and flood control. However, with more intensified rainfalls occurring over the past 30 years, these systems need the capacity to adequately carry the water from spring runoff and summer storms.

Water quality within the Two Rivers and its tributaries has been studied to varying degrees for over 35 years. Recent watershed restoration and protection plans have classified existing water quality and identified sources of sediment and nutrient loading. In order to adequately ensure a stable fish population in the rivers and at Lake Bronson, and to ensure recreational opportunities, there is a need to address erosion and water quality impairments.

The full 79-page revised Watershed Management Plan of the Two Rivers Watershed District can be found at the following website. Click on the “Resources” tab and choose “Overall Plan”.

<https://tworiverswd.com/>



This map shows the area of the Two Rivers Watershed District and the smaller sub watershed planning areas. The revised Watershed Management Plan gives descriptions, identifies issues, and lists proposed actions for each area. The proposed actions are planned to achieve the outcomes listed below.

Outcomes – Flood Damage Reduction

- **Lower the peak and duration of flooding** by providing temporary storage of floodwaters to work toward the regional Long Term Flood Solutions goal of reducing peak flooding on the Red River by 20%. For TRWD, the target storage amount is an additional 27,000 acre feet. Construction of the proposed 'Klondike Clean Water Retention Project' would achieve this goal.



- **Evaluate ditch systems and if feasible/practicable ensure they provide capacity to carry the 10-year runoff event. Reduce erosion and sedimentation.** TRWD plans to utilize the MN Drainage Law, MN Watershed Law, hydrologic modelling studies and other resources to operate and maintain legal drainage systems and projects to the as-constructed condition by removing blockages and repairing erosion. The TRWD also will work toward reducing unnatural 'flashiness' of stream flows by utilizing projects, best management practices, and other structural and non-structural measures in designated sub watersheds.
- **Reduce flood damages to residential areas, public infrastructure and private property. Discourage building within the 100-year floodplain.**
- **Identify best management practices to minimize effects of drought.**
- **Delineate critical groundwater recharge areas and then use best management practices and land use controls to protect drinking water.**



Outcomes – Natural Resources Enhancement

- **Provide resources to install best management practices** to reduce erosion and sedimentation
- **Reduce need for ditch maintenance**
- **Promote habitat** that provides wildlife corridors
- **Achieve compliance for water quality standards** on impaired watercourses
- **Provide, protect and enforce riparian buffer programs and laws**
- **Improve sustainability of natural waterways**
- **Create healthier and more diverse fish populations**
- **Increase public awareness and provide educational opportunities** regarding the various resource issues and opportunities

