# NRCS Watershed Operations Program Preliminary Investigation Findings Report (PIFR)

# **10 Mile Lake Water Management Project**



**Prepared for:** 

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## Abbreviations

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations (https://www.ecfr.gov/)

NECH – National Environmental Compliance Handbook

NWPH – National Watershed Program Handbook

NWPM – National Watershed Program Manual

USC – United States Code (<u>US Code on House.gov</u>)

#### References

- NRCS National Environmental Compliance Handbook, Title 190, Part 610, May 2016
- NRCS National Watershed Program Manual, April 2014
- NRCS National Watershed Program Manual, Circular
- NRCS National Watershed Program Handbook, April 2014
- DM 9500-013 Guidance For Conducting Analyses Under the Principles, Requirements, And Guidelines For Water And Land Related Resources Implementation Studies And Federal Water Resource Investments, January 2017
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- ND Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), NDDEQ Source Water Protection Areas, arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=293a6576bfca4b33bda08ab274e84202&extent=-104.1495,45.9117, -96.8545,49.0763

\*See additional references noted in Appendix 4.

## Summary

Barnes Water Resources District (WRD) approached NRCS with a project that had previously been planned and preliminary engineering completed, but for which adequate construction funding could not be secured to implement. The purpose of the 10 Mile Lake drainage project would be to alleviate road damage, restore reliable and efficient access for emergency services to rural residents, reduce groundwater flooding damages to homes and other structures, and increase agricultural production by constructing a water control structure to lower the lake elevation by 4 feet and building an outlet channel to Baldhill Creek, a tributary to the Sheyenne River. These purposes meet the PL-566 authorized purposes of Flood Prevention (flood damage reduction) and Agricultural Water Management. Installation of subsurface tile on cropland brought back into production around the lake would be necessary to avoid long term salinity issues, which would involve tiling the adjacent crop fields as well. Construction of the outlet channel would also provide opportunity for tiling cropland to both sides of the channel. Both the control structure at the lake and subsurface tile would be regulated to not allow releases of water downstream during flood conditions. Extensive wetland mitigation would be required for deep water and lacustrine wetland losses generated by lowering the lake level, as well as depressional wetland losses due to tiling crop fields and lands brought into production.

The project boundary encompasses 32,890 acres and is located in Barnes County North Dakota. 10 Mile Lake has expanded in size from zero acres of surface water in the North Dakota State Water Commission imagery dated 1957-1962, to 3,000 inundated acres in the 2022 imagery. In the 1957-1962 image, it appears there were approximately 680 acres in crop and/or hay, with the balance in pasture that is currently under water. The area has been labeled as a temporary and/or seasonal wetland for decades. A 30-year wet period in addition to changes in farming practices (increased field drainage, significant increase in soybean production and associated compaction due to land rolling) have led to the area's current condition. As a result, cropland and pasture acres which were at one time productive, are now under water. Furthermore, approximately 26 farmsteads, and 55 residences, and 16 other private and/or commercial structures in the community of Dazey are experiencing problems with septic systems and/or water in basements due to the raised water table. Approximately 2.5 miles of township roads have also been adversely affected by the high-water level. (See Exhibit 1)

The purpose of this Preliminary Investigation of Feasibility Report (PIFR) was to determine if insurmountable obstacles existed that would preclude feasibility of a PL-566 Watershed Plan. The potential benefit-cost ratio of the project (which is required to be at least 1:1) and the environmental impacts to wetlands and wildlife habitat were the two issues of concern with feasibility. During a previous state planning process completed ~20 years ago, it is reported that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ND Game and Fish Department (NDGF) were in concurrence with the project and identified wetland benefits on the Tolstad and Key Waterfowl Production Areas that would result from lowering the water depth in 10 Mile Lake. At that time, NRCS Wetland Compliance staff provided Barnes WRD with written agreement that the 4-foot proposed lowering of the lake correlated to 1985 average lake levels per off-site analysis. Therefore, no mitigation under the Swampbuster provisions of the Farm Bill would be required around the lake. The ND Department of Water Resources (ND DWR) both supported the project and approved state grant funding for construction at that time. No records of consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding permitting under the Clean Water Act are available, but local/state funded legal drain projects in ND often move through without USACE involvement. The project was not constructed at that time because the vote for the local tax assessment did not pass.

NRCS conducted an interagency meeting as a part of the PIFR planning process on February 15, 2024, including staff from USACE, USFWS, and ND DWR. The agencies identified several potentially serious environmental concerns with the proposed project, including the feasibility of finding the quantity of wetland mitigation that

would be required under Executive Order 11990 (E.O.11990), Bald Eagle impacts, aquatic nuisance transport from the Sheyenne River due to the outlet channel construction, downstream flooding and water quality concerns, and significant aquatic die off within and beyond 10 Mile Lake drained deepwater and wetland boundaries. The agencies came to an agreement with NRCS for methods to complete the preliminary categorization of deep water, lacustrine, and depressional wetland mitigation required for the project that were utilized in development of this PIFR (see Appendix 4).

Based on preliminary economic analysis (Appendix 4), the project was found to have a maximum potential benefit to cost ratio of 0.18:1. This is largely due to the extensive wetland mitigation required for the project, which federally funded projects are required to follow under E.O. 11990. Whether or not wetlands would be determined to be regulated by USACE under the Clean Water Act is irrelevant, given requirements of E.O. 11990 for federally funded projects. As a result, the project was found to be infeasible and will not proceed to a PL-566 Watershed Plan. In addition, even if the project had an adequate benefit to cost ratio, an adequate number of feasible sites for wetland mitigation could not be identified and significant environmental concerns are present.

## Applicable Agency Authority and Authorized Purposes

The table below provides summary documentation for the project and indicates that it would meet statutory requirements of the Watershed Operations Program.

Describe the potential project watershed area; how does the area meet the requirements outlined in NRCS's National Watershed Program Manual (See 506.50 NWPM Glossary - TTT. Watershed).

Response: The 10 Mile Lake Water Management Project has the potential to improve agricultural water management on approximately 12,749 acres of existing cropland, bring 580 acres of cropland currently too wet to farm back into production, and benefit to 26 rural homes and septic systems, 238 rural structures, 55 homes and 58 other structures within the town of Dazey, and 2.5 miles of roads through reduced groundwater flooding. The project would entail construction of a control structure and an 8.4-mile outlet channel to lower the elevation of 10 Mile Lake by 4 feet. Subsurface tile drainage, with drainage water management infrastructure, would be installed on 13,329 acres of cropland to increase yields and address salinity, some of which would be cropland restored from lowering the lake. The project would require extensive wetland mitigation sites; in total 1,254 acres of deep-water habitat, 539 acres of lacustrine fringe wetlands, and 1,612 acres of depressional wetlands would be required to be restored/created and protected by deed restrictions elsewhere in the Red River Basin.

Will the project area exceed 250,000 acres in size? <sup>1,2</sup>			■NO
If over 250,000 acres will it be divided into sub-watersheds in one plan?		□YES	□NO
Potential Project Area Size: 32,890 acres			
Will any single structure provide more than 12,500 acre-feet of floodwater detention capacity, or have a 25,000 acre-feet of total capacity?			NO
How many recreational developments will be included in the project area	a? O		
One development in a project area less than 75,000 acres			□NO
Two developments in a project area between 75,000 and 150,000 acres			□NO
Three developments in a project area greater than 150,000 acres			□NO
Which authorized purposes will the project address? (Indicate only one purpose as primary):			
Primary			ner
• Flood prevention			
Watershed Protection			]
Public Recreation			]

Public Fish and Wildlife			]
Agricultural Water Management			]
Municipal or Industrial Water Supply			]
Water Quality Management	Water Quality Management		
Will the project produce substantial benefits to the general public, to communities, and to groups of landowners?			$\Box NO^3$
Can the project be installed by individual or collective landowners under alternative cost- sharing assistance?			NO
Will the project have strong local citizen and sponsor support through agreements to obtain land rights, permits, contribute the local cost of construction, and carry out Operation and maintenance.			□NO <sup>3</sup>
Will the project take place in a Special Designated Area? (if yes, check applicable area below.)			
Appalachia     Delaware River Basin     Susquehanna River Basin	Tennessee Valley		NO

1- For specific appropriations, the 250,000 acres is waived except for watershed projects with the flood prevention purpose.

2- Watersheds exceeding 250,000 acres can be broken up into smaller sub-watersheds.

3- The project will not meet the statutory requirements.

## Potential for 20% Agricultural (Rural) Benefits

The 10 Mile Lake Water Management Project would have the authorized PL-566 purposes of Agricultural Water Management and Flood Prevention. 100% of the project benefits would be considered rural.

Project Overview	
Proposed Project Name	Ten Mile Lake Water Management Project
State	North Dakota
County/Parish	Barnes County
Congressional District	ND – 1 (statewide)
USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) and Watershed Name	Portions of the following 12-digit HUCs are included in the project area: Orren Slough 090202040103, Tomahawk Lake 090202040104, Silver Creek 090202030703, and Baldhill Creek 090202030808. (See Exhibit 2)
General Coordinates of the Watershed	47.133036N -98.390515W

Project Setting	<ul> <li>Barnes County has a total area of 1,513.41 square miles and is located in east central North Dakota. Barnes county is bordered by Cass County to the east, Stutsman County to the west, Ransom and LaMoure to the South, and Griggs and Steele Counties to the north. (See Exhibit 3)</li> <li>Eastern North Dakota's climate consists of cold winters and hot summers. Average daily high temperatures range from 19°F in January, to 81°F in July. Average daily low temperatures range from -2°F in January and 56 °F in July. The growing season in this part of the state is approximately 130 days. Barnes county averages 20.6 inches of annual precipitation.</li> <li>The majority of the total land area (92.9%) in Barnes County is undeveloped land. There are 645,244 acres of prime and prime if drained cropland, 84,118 acres of pasture, and approximately 14,080 acres is water. Geologically, the area is characterized as a glacial till plain. The till plain was formed with the recession of the most recent ice age approximately 10,000 years ago.</li> </ul>	
	The community of Dazey was founded in 1883. It encompasses 0.38 square miles of land. According to the 2020 census, Dazey has 78 residents living in 55 households. There are two churches, a fire station, and a bar and grill. At the present time, there are no public schools and the U.S. Post Office is permanently closed.	
Potential Project Area - Size	32,890 acres	
Resource Information		
Soils	The watershed is located in the Central Black Glaciated Plains Major Land Resource Area (55B). Soils are deep, ranging from deep to moderately well drained to very poorly drained drainage regimes and varying textures from clayey to sandy.	
	The project area includes 23,749 acres of prime, or prime if drained farmland which constitutes 72% of the project area. Approximately half of those acres may be eligible for drainage and will likely benefit from the installation of this project. (See Exhibit 4)	
	Hydric soils are those that are saturated, flooded, or ponded for a significant portion of the growing season and develop anerobic conditions that support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation (US Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Laboratory 1987). Soil surveys and individual components are consolidated as map units based on these unique properties and displayed in the range of 0 to 100 indicating nonhydric to hydric. (See Exhibit 5)	

	The Crop Productivity Index (CPI) is a measure of the physical and chemical properties of a soil. The values range from low inherit productivity to moderately high inherent productivity in the watershed. CPI is independent from land management such as drainage and irrigation. See (Exhibit 6)
Water	The Area of Interest lies within the Sheyenne River Basin. The Sheyenne River confluences with the Red River at the eastern boundary of North Dakota. The Sheyenne River and several named tributaries run through Barnes County. (See Exhibit 2)
	Bald Hill Creek is a major tributary to the Sheyenne River. Both the Bald Hill Creek and the Sheyenne River are listed as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water bodies.
	The outlet channel to be constructed for this project will empty directly into the Bald Hill Creek which flows into the Sheyenne River above the Bald Hill Dam (Lake Ashtabula).
	The Area of Interest is underlined by the Spiritwood-Griggs aquifer. There are no public Wellhead Protection Areas within the project area. Project area lies within the Barnes Rural Water District service area. (See Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 12)
Air	The potential project area surrounds the community of Dazey and along some rural residences. Dust from any construction could negatively impact the public. The air quality of the watershed is consistent with other rural areas in the eastern part of North Dakota. There are no factories or industries within the watershed that would contribute point source of air pollutants. Potential air pollutants in the watershed are limited to agriculturally related non-point sources from crop and livestock operations.
Plants	There are no threatened, endangered, or candidate plant species listed in the project area (United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 2020). This information is preliminary and was obtained using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online mapper for informational purposes only.
Animals	A primary migration route for waterfowl and other migratory bird species passes through the proposed project area.
Energy	Cass County Electric services Barnes County, the power sources for which are 57% lignite coal, 34% wind, 7% hydro, and 2% other. The pumps that service existing privately owned subsurface drainage systems for cropland are typically electric.

Human	Demographics: The watershed is located within 1 census block group which is predominantly rural. The total population is 718 people within 242.6 square miles. The population is 96% white, 3% two or more races, and 1% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Metrics for this group are below the state and national average for Low Income. They are above the state average, but below the national average for Unemployment Rate, and Less than a high school education. (See Exhibit 13)
	Transportation: One East-West railroad (Canadian Pacific) runs along a portion of the southern border of the watershed. This Railroad is a freight line hauling primarily fuels, grains, and other agricultural products. North Dakota state highway 1 runs North-South through about a ¼ mile east of Dazey. North Dakota state highway 26 runs East-West in the eastern ¼ of the watershed. North Dakota state highway 9 runs East-West along portions of the southern border of the watershed. Barnes County highway 4 runs East-West bisecting the watershed, and Barnes County Road 7 runs North-South along portions of the western boundary. (See Exhibit 7)
	Recreation: The North Country Trail runs along the Sheyenne River through Barnes County. As does the Sheyenne River water trail. There are no described fisheries located within the watershed. Hunting for upland birds, waterfowl, white tailed deer, and fur bearers such as coyotes are the primary outdoor recreational activities in the area. The Ray Holland Marsh Wildlife Management Area and the Tolstad Waterfowl Production Area are publicly owned and open to hunting. Both are located within the AOI. There are several ND Game & Fish Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) tracts spread throughout the AOI that are also open to hunting. (See Exhibit 8)

Resources of Special Concern	
Clean Water Act	Silver Creek along with a tributary that begins within the watershed are listed as an impaired waters. Silver Creek is a tributary to Baldhill Creek which the proposed drainage channel empties into. Baldhill Creek is also listed as an impaired water. Additionally, Baldhill Creek empties into Lake Ashtabula (A reservoir on the Sheyenne River) which is listed as an impaired water. (See Exhibit 2)
	See wetlands section for additional Clean Water Act wetland information.
Clean Air Act	The air quality of the watershed is consistent with other rural areas in the eastern part of North Dakota. There are no factories or industries within the AOI that would contribute point source of air pollutants. Potential air pollutants in the watershed are limited to agriculturally related non-point sources from crop and livestock operations.

Coastal Zone Management	Not applicable in North Dakota
Coral Reefs	Not applicable in North Dakota
Cultural Resources	A review of the state Cultural Resource Information System identified 3 previous cultural resource surveys and 15 recorded archeological sites and structures within the proposed project area.
Endangered & Threatened Species	A USFWS IPac evaluation was completed for the 10 Mile Lake project area. There is potential for occurrence of three listed species. The Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ) is an endangered species listed. The Dakota Skipper ( <i>Hesperia dacotae</i> ) is a threatened species that is listed. The Monarch Butterfly ( <i>Danaus Plexippus</i> ) is a candidate species that is listed. There are no critical habitats exist for any endangered, threatened, or candidate species.
Environmental Justice and Equity	One census block group encompasses the area (https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen). No populations were disproportionately represented within this group compared with the state, county or other nearby block groups. The project is located entirely within Barnes County. It is estimated that 15% of the project benefits will be experienced by individuals who are categorized as low income and 4% of whom are people of color. (See Exhibit 13)
Essential Fish Habitat	Not Applicable in North Dakota
Floodplain Management	FEMA has not completed any mapping in the watershed, and the ND Department of Water Resources Flood Risk Assessment mapping (NDRAM) indicates variable risk areas for surface water generated flooding within the watershed. Flood risk areas include pothole wetlands, lacustrine fringes, and riverine floodplains.
Invasive Species	Zebra Mussels and Curly Leaf Pondweed have been documented in Lake Ashtabula, making their presence in the Baldhill Creek likely. Several noxious weeds are commonly present in this region including Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle, Leafy Spurge and Absinthe Wormwood.
Migratory Birds/Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act	Bald eagle nests are possible but have not been identified in the area. The lack of tall trees makes their presence unlikely. Other migratory birds listed as species of concern that may be found in the watershed throughout the year are Black Tern, Franklin's Gull, Lesser Yellow Legs, Northern Harrier, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Willet.

Natural Areas	The landscape within and surrounding the 10 Mile Lake project area is dotted with numerous natural areas. There are 7 US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Waterfowl Production Areas – Key, Tolstad, Ohnstad, Wogsland, Walum, Mosher, and Ernie; 1 FWS Easement Refuge, Tomahawk; and 1 ND Game & Fish Dept. Wildlife Management Area – Ray Holland Marsh WMA located within 5 miles of 10 Mile Lake. (See Exhibit 8)
Prime and Unique Farmlands	72 percent of the farmland in the proposed project area (23,749 acres) is designated as prime farmland or prime if drained. (See Exhibit 4)
Riparian Area	The Baldhill Creek is located at the far eastern edge of the watershed; Baldhill Creek empties into the Sheyenne River downstream of the project area. Both are bordered by a mix of native herbaceous vegetation, crop and hay/pastureland There are numerous fresh water emergent wetlands within the project area intersected by large and small drains. The larger wetlands in the watershed are lined with native and introduced herbaceous vegetation. Smaller wetlands within the cropland are typically unbuffered. See Exhibits 2
Scenic Beauty	Except for Lake Ashtabula, the landscape is under intensive agricultural management.
Wetlands	According to US Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data, wetlands comprise 22.8% (7,488.6 acres) of the total geographical area of the project area. The wetlands are broken down to 3,237.6 acres of Lacustrine wetlands, 4,025.9 acres of palustrine wetlands, and 225.6 acres of riverine wetlands. Of that, 1,368 basins totaling 1,611 acres (does not include 10 Mile Lake) are not protected by conservation easements, or in public fee-title ownership. This makes those wetlands potentially eligible for conversion to crop production through the installation of surface and subsurface drainage systems. If the project were to proceed to a full plan, field wetland delineation utilizing the USACE regional methodology would need to occur on an extensive area to get a realistic figure given that NWI is very approximate. (See Exhibit
	9)

## Proposed Project Purpose and Need Statement

The purposes of the proposed project are agricultural water management and flood prevention. Due to a 30year wet period, in addition to changes in farming practices, 10 Mile Lake has expanded in size from zero acres in 1957-62 to 3,000 acres currently, negatively impacting agricultural production. Groundwater flooding impacts approximately 26 farmsteads and 55 homes in the community of Dazey, including damages to septic systems and/or water in basements due to the raised water table. High ground and surface water levels generates the need for continual raising township roads, as well as re-surfacing and armoring road fills adjacent to new open water areas. Alternate routes taken because unsafe, or impassible roads have caused response times by emergency services to increase.

#### **Resource Concerns**

This section describes the resource concerns that may potentially be impacted by implementation of the proposed project. Positive effects of the proposed project can include opportunities for improvement or protection of existing resources. For the preliminary investigation findings report; resources are identified within, and adjacent to, the proposed project area. The summary also includes any regional or national impacts that may occur as a result of the projects implementation.

#### Potential Effects of Proposed Alternatives on SWAPA + E + H Resources and Resources of Special Concern

Use:	+ - Positive Impact	– – Negative Impact	0 - No Impact
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	Alternative 1 – Control Structure, Channel, Maximize Cropland Benefits	Alternative 2 – Control Structure, Channel, Cropland Benefits Adjacent to Lake
Soil	+	+
Water	+/-	+/-
Air	-	-
Plants	+/-	+/-
Animals	-	-
Energy	-	-
Human	+	+
Clean Air Act	0	0
Clean Water		
Act/Waters of the U.S.	-	-
Coastal Zone	0	0
Management	0	0
Coral Reefs	0	0
Cultural		
Resources/Historic	-	-
Properties		
Endangered &	_	_
Threatened Species		
Environmental Justice	0	0
Essential Fish Habitat	0	0
Floodplain	0	0
Management		
Invasive Species	-	-
Migratory Birds/Bald		
and Golden Eagle	-	-
Protection Act		
Natural Areas	-	-

## Opportunities

Subsurface tile is present in the watershed already, discharging to road ditches and natural channels. Most producers are not implementing Drainage Water Management (DWM) currently. DWM is the process of managing timing and amount of water discharges from agricultural drainage systems and would be installed on the new cropland tile systems constructed through PL-566. DWM has been found effective in reducing nitrogen delivery to downstream water bodies and it allows adequate soil moisture to retained in the soil profile for crop needs during drought periods, while removing excess subsurface water when necessary for field operations/crop growth. Through this project, DWM would be incorporated into design of the PL-566 funded tiling systems, which could encourage operators of private systems to do the same. DWM helps producers achieve both production and water quality goals. Drainage water management may be implemented in conjunction with other conservation practices that improve nutrient management, soil health, etc. through various USDA-NRCS or Conservation District programs such as EQIP, CSP, etc. which could be implemented in a targeted effort with a PL-566 project in the watershed.

## State, Tribal, Federal Stakeholder Engagement

As outlined in the summary section, state and federal agencies have been involved in planning for a drainage project on 10-Mile Lake prior to the involvement of NRCS. NRCS conducted an interagency meeting as a part of the PIFR planning process on February 15, 2024, including staff from USACE, USFWS, and ND DWR to discuss the potential project and hone in on a reasonable approach for estimating the mitigation needs for the project. Given that the results of the PIFR indicate that the project is not feasible to move forward, NRCS did not initiate consultation with Tribes for the State Historical Preservation Office. Copies of the final PIFR were sent to USACE, USFWS, and ND DWR for their information.

#### Alternatives

A previous design had been developed for the Barnes WRD on planning and design of the previous state funded project, it provided preliminary drawings for the proposed control structure and drain channel. NRCS reviewed and determined that the drain channel location did not meet E.O. 11990 requirements to minimize impacts to wetlands, therefore NRCS/Houston Engineering staff laid out an alternative route that would have less impact on wetlands. See Appendix 4 for further details. If the project were to move forward to a full watershed planning process, it is likely that many other route alternatives would be considered as well. During the previous state planning process, local landowners were highly involved in discussion/selection of route alternatives for the channel.

The intention of Barnes WRD with the project was to simply construct the control structure and outlet channel, with the expectation that private landowners would be responsible for their own tiling projects on cropland. NRCS did not feel that would be appropriate in the lands adjacent to 10 Mile Lake given the soils, therefore would require tile to be installed in at least those areas to prevent future salinity issues. Recognizing that the benefits from this minimal crop field tiling alternative (Alternative 2, Exhibit 11) were limited, NRCS then developed Alternative 1 (Exhibit 10) to evaluate an alternative that would maximize economic benefits from the project to assess which would have a higher benefit-cost ratio.

Alternatives	Possible Positive	Possible Adverse
Alternatives	Impacts and Effects	Impacts and Effects
Alternative 1 – Control Structure, Outlet Channel, and Maximize Cropland Drainage Water control structure would be placed at the lake outlet. An 8.35- mile outlet channel would be constructed to lower the level of 10 Mile Lake 4 feet. Tile drainage, with drainage water management systems, would be installed in cropland brought back into production around the lake to avoid salinity development and along the outlet channel to maximize project benefits. Mitigation requirements for the project would be 1,254 acres of deepwater habitat, 539 acres of lacustrine fringe wetland, and 1,612 acres of depressional wetlands. Estimated construction costs: \$ 18,595,860 Estimated mitigation costs: \$ 18,595,860 Estimated mitigation costs: \$ 110,374,462 Average annual cost: \$ 4,133,855 Average annual benefits: \$ 757,703 Benefit-to-Cost ratio: 0.18:1	<ul> <li>Increased production on 13,329 acres of cropland that would be tile drained with the project</li> <li>580 acres of cropland back into production that was formerly lake bottom or non- cropped uplands (included I the 13,329 acres of tile drainage noted above to avoid salinity build up)</li> <li>Township roads would no longer be impacted by high water levels during wet periods. Significantly reducing avg. O&amp;M costs.</li> <li>Rural residences would no longer have chronic issues with water in basements, and damage to other farmstead infrastructure due to saturated soils during wet periods.</li> <li>O&amp;M of sewage system, roads, and other infrastructure reduced due to lower water table.</li> <li>Soil compaction reduced due to viability of no-till practices under dryer soil condition</li> <li>Soil salinity reduced due to lower water table and consistently lower lake level.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increased flows of chemicals and nutrients into the outlet channel would lead to decreased water quality in the Sheyenne River system.</li> <li>Immediate and increased flows from drainage systems could strain floodwater storage in Lake Ashtabula, however timing of releases would be managed to ensure overland flooding would not occur from the channel.</li> <li>The outlet channel would be a direct conduit to 10 Mile Lake for invasive species currently in the Baldhill Creel and Lake Ashtabula.</li> <li>Loss of 1,243 acres of deepwater habitat, 539 acres of lacustrine fringe wetlands, and 1,612 acres of depressional wetlands would be mitigated for within the Red River Basin mitigation zone, however they would not be within this watershed Mitigation sites may take decades to establish the same functions and values as existing wetlands.</li> <li>An extensive quantity of high quality wildlife habitat would eliminated and not replaced within the 10 Mile watershed.</li> <li>Most drainage systems would require electric pumps to discharge into the outlet channel. This will increase energy demands.</li> <li>Critical habitat for migratory birds would be eliminated due to conversion of wetlands in the watershed.</li> </ul>

#### Alternative 2 – Control Structure, Outlet Channel, Limited Subsurface Drainage

Water control structure would be placed at the lake outlet. An 8.35mile outlet channel would be constructed to lower the level of 10 Mile Lake 4 feet. Tile drainage, with drainage water management systems, would be in cropland brought back into production around the lake to avoid salinity development. Adjacent crop fields would also be tiled.

Mitigation requirements for the project would be 1,254 acres of deepwater habitat, 539 acres of lacustrine fringe wetland, and 156 acres of depressional wetlands.

Estimated construction costs: \$ 5,832,420

Estimated mitigation costs: \$ 59,873,282

Total implementation costs: \$ 67,810,862

Average annual cost: \$ 2,524,750

Average annual benefits: \$ 260,778

Benefit-to-Cost ratio: 0.10:1

- 340 acres of cropland back into production that was formerly lake bottom or noncropped uplands (would be tiled to avoid salinity build up)
- Township roads would no longer be impacted by high water levels during wet periods. Significantly reducing avg. O&M costs.
- Rural residences within the watershed would no longer have chronic issues with water in basements, and damage to other farmstead infrastructure due to saturated soils during wet periods.
- O&M of sewage system, roads, and other infrastructure reduced significantly due to lower water table.
- Soil compaction reduced due to viability of no-till practices under dryer soil condition
- Soil salinity reduced due to lower water table and consistently lower lake level. Increased plant productivity due to lower lake level and lower water table.

- Increased flows of chemicals and nutrients into the outlet channel would lead to decreased water quality in the Sheyenne River system.
- Immediate and increased flows from drainage systems would strain floodwater storage in Lake Ashtabula, however timing of releases would be managed to ensure overland flooding would not occur from the channel.
- The outlet channel would be a direct conduit to 10 Mile Lake for invasive species currently in the Baldhill Creek and Lake Ashtabula.
- Loss of 1,243 acres of deepwater habitat, 539 acres of lacustrine fringe wetlands, and 156 acres of depressional wetlands would be mitigated for within the Red River Basin mitigation zone, however they would not be within this watershed. Mitigation sites may take decades to establish the same functions and values as existing wetlands.
- An extensive quantity of high-quality wildlife habitat would eliminated and not replaced within the 10 Mile watershed.
- Most drainage systems would require electric pumps to discharge into the outlet channel. This will increase energy demands.
- Critical habitat for migratory birds would be eliminated due to conversion of wetlands in the watershed.

## Potential Economic Benefits

Economic benefits of the project were estimated for crop production and reduced costs from groundwater flooding for roads, residences, and the community of Dazey for both alternatives. Exhibits 10 and 11 illustrate

the measures to be installed and the benefit areas for each alternative. Appendix 4 provides further details of the economic benefits analysis, the results of which are summarized below.

Benefit Category	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Quantity	Annual	Quantity	Annual
		Benefits		Benefits
Production on newly created cropland	580 acres	\$ 98,016	340 acres	\$ 57,458
(all would be tiled)				
Increased production on existing	13,329 acres	\$988,326	2,133 acres	\$ 158,159
cropland due to tiling				
Reduced Road Maintenance Costs	2.5 mi	\$ 61,243	2.5 mi	\$ 61,243
Reduced Residential Costs	81 homes	\$ 20,000	81 homes	\$ 20,000
Reduced Municipal Costs	City of Dazey	\$ 20,000	City of Dazey	\$ 20,000
Total Annual Benefits		\$ 1,187,585		\$ 316,860

## Potential Implementation Costs

An estimate of construction, mitigation, operation and maintenance, and other implementation costs were completed for both alternatives, as detailed in Appendix 4 and summarized below.

Cost Category	Total Cost	NRCS Share	Local Share
Drainage Project Construction	\$18,595,860	\$13,946,895	\$4,648,965
Drainage Project Land Rights	\$1,125,000	\$0	\$1,125,000
Utility Relocations	\$215,000	\$0	\$215,000
Wetland Mitigation Construction/Land Rights	\$88,993,282	\$44,496,641	\$44,496,641
Engineering Design	\$816,192	\$816,192	\$0
Construction Engineering	\$544,128	\$544,128	\$0
Sponsor Legal/Contract Admin	\$85,000	\$0	\$85,000
Total	\$110,374,462	\$59,803,856	\$50,570,606

Alternative 1 Implementation Cost Summary

Alternative 2 Implementation Cost Summary

Cost Category	Total Cost	NRCS Share	Local Share
Drainage Project Construction	\$5,832,420	\$4,374,315	\$1,458,105
Drainage Project Land Rights	\$1,125,000	\$0	\$1,125,000
Utility Relocations	\$215,000	\$0	\$215,000
Wetland Mitigation Construction/Land Rights	\$59,873,282	\$29,936,641	\$29,936,641
Engineering Design	\$408,096	\$408,096	\$0
Construction Engineering	\$272,064	\$272,064	\$0
Sponsor Legal/Contract Admin	\$85,000	\$0	\$85,000
Total	\$67,810,862	\$34,991,116	\$32,819,746

The PL-566 Watershed Plan for this project would require congressional approval, given that costs would exceed \$25 million.

## **Facilitating Factors**

The Barnes County WRD, Barnes County, and local landowners are in strong support of the project. Grant funding for a portion of the non-federal costs of the project would be available from ND DWR.

## **Obstructing Factors**

Executive Order 11990 which requires federal agencies to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wetlands, in that order, could be a significant obstruction to development of a watershed plan. Although there are no other alternatives to meet the project purposes in this watershed, ND NRCS is unsure if simply minimizing and mitigating for wetland impacts while still maximizing economic benefits from cropland drainage, which is the primary purpose of the PL-566 project, would meet the policy. The PFIR assumes the "best case" scenario from an economic standpoint: 1) that the project could implement deep water and lacustrine fringe wetland mitigation through construction of a dam without impounding water on depressional or riparian wetlands, which would then require further mitigation and 2) restoration of deep water, lacustrine, and depressional wetlands would not take cropland out of production elsewhere in the region. Both of those assumptions are highly unlikely to be present, therefore in reality the benefit to cost ratio of this project would be even lower than that reported. Finding landowners within the Red River Basin willing to sell land rights for dam construction and wetland restoration on their property, to the degree required to implement this project, would likely be an insurmountable challenge. Currently developers struggle to find credit to purchase for even small (<2 acre) wetland mitigation needs. Given that the preliminary economic analysis indicated the project is not feasible, even in a "best case" economic scenario, no further work to explore these issues was warranted.

#### Sponsor

The project sponsor for this project has been identified as listed below:

Spansor Will:	Assist in	Land Rights /	Local Cost	O/M	Permits	Land	In-Kind
Sporisor will:	Planning	Eminent Doman	Share	Funds		Treatment	MOU
Barnes County Water	Voc	Voc	Voc	Voc	Voc	NI/A	NI / A
Resource District	res	res	res	res	res	N/A	N/A

Sponsor(s) will:

- Assist in the locally led planning effort.
- Obtain needed land rights including the use of power of eminent domain, if necessary.
- Provide local cost-share funds and/or in-kind services to provide the required portion of total project costs.
- Provide funds for continuing operation and maintenance actions.
- Obtain required permits and approvals at sponsor cost:
- Provide leadership to help ensure adequate conservation land treatment measures are maintained on at least 50% of the watershed area above retention reservoirs.
- Before being credited with the value of any in-kind contribution for any in-kind services and/or acquisition of land rights, sponsor will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NRCS.

## Notifications

If a preliminary investigation findings report is undertaken, the STC must notify in writing the Governors concerned, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and all other Federal agencies concerned with a decision to

initiate any survey or field investigation involving water resources development work and furnish them with appropriate information regarding the scope, nature, status, and results of such survey or investigation (Executive Order 10584 Section 3).

	Method and Date Notified	
	ND DWR represents the Governor of ND on water	
Governor	resource projects in the state. ND DWR participated	
	in an interagency meeting on 2/15/24 and were	
	mailed the final PIFR 9/2024.	
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	Not applicable in North Dakota	
National Marine Fisheries Service		
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS participated in an interagency meeting on	
	2/15/24 and were mailed the final PIFR 9/2024.	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	USACE was invited to the interagency meeting on	
	2/15/24 and were mailed the final PIFR 9/2024.	

## Estimated Project Implementation Timeline

The project was found to be infeasible to proceed to implementation.

## Recommendation

This preliminary investigation findings report has been completed and submitted for approval to Dan Hovland, ND STC, by the State Conservation Engineer and State Resource Conservationist.

It has been determined that this potential PL-566 watershed operations project:

Doe	es	Does Not	
			meet the statutory acreage, volume/capacity of structure and recreational limit requirements;
			meet the requirements of one or more Watershed Operations authorized purposes;
			have the potential for a minimum of 20% agricultural, or rural, benefits;
			have one or more viable alternatives;
			have potential project sponsor(s) that meet and agree to all terms of responsibilities;
			have apparent insurmountable obstacles.

State Conservation Engineer/ Watershed Program Manager CHRISTI FISHER Digitally signed by CHRISTI FISHER Date: 2024.09.09 15:25:35 -05'00' RICHARD WEBB Date: 2024.09.09 15:32:03 -05'00'

State Resource Conservationist

Х	X Not recommended for planning funding	
	Accepted and recommended for Planning Funding	

State Conservationist

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Glossary

Rural – All territories of a State that are not within the outer boundary of any city or town that has a population of 50,000 or more according to the latest decennial census of the United States (2010 Census Urban and Rural Classification and Urban Area Criteria). [Source Title 390 – NWPM Part 506.50 Glossary, MMM]

## Appendices

- Appendix 1: Exhibits
  - Exhibit 1: Watershed Project Area
  - Exhibit 2: Water Resources
  - Exhibit 3: 10 Miles Lake Project Setting
  - Exhibit 4: Farmland Classification of Soils
  - Exhibit 5: Hydric Soils
  - Exhibit 6: Cropland Productivity Index
  - Exhibit 7: Transportation Infrastructure
  - Exhibit 8: Recreational Lands
  - Exhibit 9: National Wetland Inventory
  - Exhibit 10: Alternative 1
  - Exhibit 11: Alternative 2
  - Exhibit 12: HEI 10 Mile Lake Watershed
  - Exhibit 13: EJScreen Community Report
- Appendix 2:
  - o Sponsor Letter of Request
  - Sponsor Declaration Forms
- Appendix 3: Preliminary Environmental Evaluation (CPA 52)
- Appendix 4: Technical Analysis

# **Appendix 1: Exhibits**

Exhibit 1: Watershed Project Area Exhibit 2: Water Resources Exhibit 3: 10 Miles Lake Project Setting Exhibit 4: Farmland Classification of Soils Exhibit 5: Hydric Soils Exhibit 6: Cropland Productivity Index Exhibit 7: Transportation Infrastructure Exhibit 8: Recreational Lands Exhibit 9: National Wetland Inventory Exhibit 10: Alternative 1 Exhibit 11: Alternative 2 Exhibit 12: HEI 10 Mile Lake Watershed Exhibit 13: EJScreen Community Report





## Clean Water Act 303d



Waterbody: Impaired

Project Area

State of North Dakota, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

## Clean Water Act 303d



## Clean Water Act 303d



Waterbody: Impaired

🔪 Project Area

State of North Dakota, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS





















# **EJScreen Community Report**

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

## **Barnes County, ND**



#### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	99%
German or other West Germanic	1%
Total Non-English	1%

#### Blockgroup: 380039680001 Population: 718 Area in square miles: 242.58

#### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**€PA**



11011176031101	0 /0
From Ages 1 to 18	<b>20</b> %
From Ages 18 and up	80%
From Ages 65 and up	18%

#### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN

Speak Spanish	0%
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	0%
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	0%
Speak Other Languages	0%

Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.
## **Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes**

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the EJScreen website.

#### EJ INDEXES



#### The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.



#### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION

These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for Blockgroup: 380039680001

 $\equiv$ 

# **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

SELECTED VARIABLES		STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	5.22	5.41	46	8.08	4
Ozone (ppb)	56.4	57.3	31	61.6	15
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.0641	0.157	36	0.261	6
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	10	16	0	25	1
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.1	0.16	0	0.31	1
Toxic Releases to Air	8.2	460	42	4,600	8
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	0.26	85	6	210	1
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.49	0.29	79	0.3	73
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.0046	0.0049	60	0.13	0
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.3	0.64	83	0.43	91
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.025	0.37	32	1.9	3
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	0.0088	2.1	25	3.9	22
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	1.4E-08	8.9	0	22	1
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	9%	21%	18	35%	8
Supplemental Demographic Index	9%	11%	31	14%	25
People of Color	4%	16%	22	39%	10
Low Income	15%	26%	24	31%	27
Unemployment Rate	5%	3%	80	6%	60
Limited English Speaking Households	0%	1%	0	5%	0
Less Than High School Education		7%	63	12%	48
Under Age 5	5%	7%	39	6%	50
Over Age 64	18%	17%	58	17%	60
Low Life Expectancy	15%	18%	22	20%	12

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update">https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update</a>.

#### Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	0
Water Dischargers	11
Air Pollution	1
Brownfields	0
Toxic Release Inventory	0

#### Other community features within defined area:

Schools	2
Hospitals	0
Places of Worship	2

#### Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	No
Impaired Waters	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	No
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	No

Report for Blockgroup: 380039680001

# **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

HEALTH INDICATORS							
INDICATOR VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE							
Low Life Expectancy	15%	18%	22	20%	12		
Heart Disease	6.9	6.4	58	6.1	67		
Asthma	8.8	9.3	19	10	20		
Cancer	7.5	6.8	62	6.1	81		
Persons with Disabilities	10%	11.8%	34	13.4%	32		

CLIMATE INDICATORS						
INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE	
Flood Risk	13%	9%	83	12%	75	
Wildfire Risk	0%	19%	51	14%	0	

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS							
INDICATOR VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE							
Broadband Internet	9%	17%	27	14%	43		
Lack of Health Insurance	6%	8%	44	9%	42		
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		

Report for Blockgroup: 380039680001

www.epa.gov/ejscreen

# **Appendix 2: Sponsor Forms**

Sponsor Letter of Request Sponsor Declaration Form

#### Barnes County Water Resource District PO Box 306 Valley City ND 58072 701-845-8508

March 14, 2023

Nathan Jones Acting State Conservationist Natural Resources Conservation Service 220 E. Rosser Ave, PO Box 1458 Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

**Board Members** 

Chairman Jerry Hieb 4041 117<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Valley City, ND 58072 701-845-0683

Vice Chairman Bruce Anderson 11232 35<sup>th</sup> St. SE Valley City, ND 58072 701-840-1450

<u>Manager</u> Daniel Buttke 12023 46<sup>th</sup> St. SE Fingal, ND 58031 701-640-0624

Manager Bret Fehr 1215 97<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Wimbledon, ND 58492 701-435-2816

<u>Manager</u> Scott Legge 10083 27<sup>th</sup> St. SE Sanborn, ND 58480 701-646-6681 Dear Mr. Jones:

We request NRCS Watershed Program planning assistance for a potential Public Law (PL) 566 project with the Barnes County Water Resource District for a project involving 10 Mile Lake in the Sheyenne River watershed [HUC 10 #0902020401 City of Valley City-Sheyenne River]. The project would address agricultural water management on cropland as well as providing benefit to homes, public roads, structures, and septic systems. The project would entail construction of a control structure and drainage features to lower the elevation of 10 Mile Lake by 4 feet.

We are a political subdivision of a State with a legal interest in or responsibility for the watershed project proposed. We understand, as sponsors of a PL-566 planning effort, that our responsibilities will include:

- Assisting in the locally led planning effort, and making timely decisions to guide the work of NRCS technical staff as planning proceeds,
- Contributing a share of the project costs, as determined by NRCS, by providing funds or eligible services necessary to undertake the activity,
- Before being credited with the value of any in-kind contributions for in-kind services and/or acquisition of land rights, Sponsor will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NRCS,
- Obtaining any necessary real property rights, by eminent domain, if necessary,
- Obtaining any needed water rights, and regulatory permits at the Sponsor's cost,
- Agreeing to provide for any required operation and maintenance of the completed measures.

We look forward to working with NRCS staff to complete a Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR) to provide reasonable assurance that a potential watershed project can be developed that addresses a PL-566 purpose and that there are no apparent insurmountable obstacles to the completion of that project. Economic feasibility, wetland impacts, and availability of suitable wetland mitigation sites are the concerns identified as needing special attention during development of the PIFR. NRCS and our engineering consultant have worked together to develop a plan to conduct feasibility level preliminary economics and evaluation of wetland impacts/potential mitigation sites. Due to the cost of even doing this very preliminary level work, Barnes WRD will fund approximately \$40,000 of work by our consultant to partner with NRCS staff in completing remote sensing based wetland delineations, random field sampling, and mitigation site feasibility reviews during the summer/fall of 2023.

#### Barnes County Water Resource District PO Box 306 Valley City ND 58072 701-845-8508

It is our understanding that ND NRCS staff will complete the remainder of the analysis work and complete development of the PIFR by the end of December of 2023. At that point, if the PIFR indicates the pursuing a full watershed plan is feasible, we will work with NRCS to develop a Plan of Work for an in-depth planning effort.

The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the administrative and technical contact persons

#### Board Members

<u>Chairman</u> Jerry Hieb 4041 117<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Valley City, ND 58072 701-845-0683

Vice Chairman Bruce Anderson 11232 35<sup>th</sup> St. SE Valley City, ND 58072 701-840-1450

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Manager Bret Fehr 1215 97<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Wimbledon, ND 58492 701-435-2816

<u>Manager</u> Scott Legge 10083 27<sup>th</sup> St. SE Sanborn, ND 58480 701-646-6681 Heather Manson Secretary-Treasurer Barnes County Water Resource District PO Box 306 Valley City, ND 58072 (701) 845-8508 hmanson@barnescounty.us

in our organization are as follows:

Mike Opat, PE Barnes County Water Resource District Engineer Houston Engineering 1401 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue North Fargo, ND 58102 (701) 499-9473 mopat@houstoneng.com

Please contact them for any additional information that you might need in assessing our request.

Sincerely, BARNES COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Harther Manson

Heather Manson Secretary-Treasurer

Cc: Christi Fisher, ND State Conservation Engineer

#### Preliminary Investigation – Feasibility Report Sponsor Authority and Role Declaration Checklist

State: ND	County:	Barnes	Watershed:	Sheyenne River	
-----------	---------	--------	------------	----------------	--

Project Name: 10 Mile Lake Agricultural Water Management Project

Sponsor's Name	Barnes Co	Barnes County Water Resource District				
Sponsor's Mailin	PO Box 306,	PO Box 306, Valley City, ND 58072				
Contact Name:	Heather Mar	Heather Manson			701-845-8508	
Title:	Secretary-Tr	Secretary-Treasurer Email:			barnescounty.us	
Sponsor Website:						

# Description of the existing condition in the watershed that would be addressed through a Watershed Flood Prevention Operations program project.

10 Mile Lake, located in the Sheyenne River watershed in northern Barnes County, North Dakota, is a closed-basin that has caused significant flooding issues related to excess water in the lake. High water levels in the lake have caused adverse impacts to thousands of acres of cropland, with hundreds of acres often underwater for extended periods of time and hundreds of acres too saturated to seed in the spring or harvest in the fall. High water levels also cause significant impacts to public roadways, and many private homes, out buildings and sewage treatment systems are also negatively impacted.

#### Potential benefits of a Watershed Flood Prevention Operations program project.

Constructing an outlet to allow for water levels in 10 Mile Lake to be lowered approximately four feet and managed at that level will the District and local stakeholders to mitigate the effects of the recurring high water conditions. The project will also provide opportunities for improved agricultural drainage, particularly improved subsurface drainage opportunities for gravity outlet systems that will be possible with lower water levels in the lake. While lower water levels in the lake will return many regularly inundated acres back to agriculture production, the project will provide significant benefits to agricultural acres that regularly seasonally saturated to the point that they cannot be seeded in the spring or harvested in the fall. The project will also provide much needed relief to local road authorities that have been dealing with expensive impacts to their roadways, as well as to local landowners that have been dealing with flooding around their homes, outbuildings, and sewage treatment systems. Additionally, there may be benefits to existing wildlife management areas in the area that have seen degraded habitat conditions due to the high water levels.

#### Preliminary Investigation – Feasibility Report Sponsor Authority and Role Declaration Checklist

State:	ND	County:	Barnes		Watershed:	Sheyenne River	
Project	Name:	10 Mile I	Lake Agricultur	al Water Mana	gement Project		
SPONS	SOR WIL	L:					
	Assist ir	n the loca	lly led plannin	g effort:		YES <u>X</u>	NO
۰	Obtain eminen	needed la It domain	and rights incl , if necessary:	uding the use	of power of	YES <u>X</u>	NO
٠	Provide provide	e local cos e the requ	t-share funds ired portion o	and/or in-kind f total project	d services to t costs:	YES <u>X</u>	NO
0	Provide actions	e Funds fo :	r continuing (	Operation and	Maintenance	YES <u>X</u>	NO
٠	Obtain	required	permits and a	pprovals at Sp	oonsor cost:	YES <u>X</u>	NO
٠	Provide adequa measur of the v reservo	e leadersh ite conser res are ma vatersheo virs:	ip to help ens vation land tr aintained on a l area above r	ure eatment t least 50% etention	N/A	YES <u>X</u>	NO
•	Before contrib land rig Unders	being cre ution for hts, Spon tanding (I	dited with the any in-kind se sor will sign a MOU) with NF	value of any rvices and/or Memorandur CS:	in-kind acquisition of n of	YES <u>X</u>	NO

#### **Preliminary Investigation – Feasibility Report Sponsor Authority and Role Declaration Checklist**

State:	ND	County:	Barnes	Watershed:	Sheyenne River
Projec	t Name:	10 Mile I			

#### Authorized Representative of Sponsor

Name (printed): Jerry Hieb

Title: <u>Chairman</u> <u>Aug Hieb</u> Date: <u>3/13/23</u> Signature:

# Appendix 3: Preliminary Environmental Evaluation (CPA-52)

USDA Department of Agriculture	rtment of Agriculture NRCS esources Conservation Service	-CPA-52 04/2023	A. Client Name: Barnes Cour	nty Wa	ter Resources District	
ENVIRONMENTAL E	VALUATION WORKSHE	ET	B. Conservation Plan ID # (as Program Authority (op	applica tional):	able): PL-566	
D. Client's Objective(s) (pur Lower the elevation of 10 Mile Lak excess surface and ground water. by bringing land back into crop pro drainage in existing crop fields.	r <b>pose):</b> .e by 4 feet to alleviate damages caus Increase crop production in the wate oduction and installation of subsurface	ed by ershed	C. Identification # (farm, tract, Portions of the following 12-digit HU0 090202040103, Tomahawk Lake 09 Baldhill Creek 090202030808. Barne	field # Cs are ir 020204 es Coun	<sup>t</sup> , etc. as required) <b>:</b> ncluded in the project area: Orren Sk 0104, Silver Creek 090202030703, a nty, ND	ough nd
E. Need for Action:	H. Alternatives					
Excessive wet conditions have	<i>No Action</i> √ if RMS	;	Alternative 1 √ if RMS	S 🔄	Alternative 2 √ if RMS	3
lead to damage to roads, residences and crop fields. Response times for emergency services have slowed significantly due to the effects high water levels have had on area infrastructure. The project would bring some former agricultural land back into production, and would implrove water management for other existing ag. land.	Conditions would remain the same. <i>A</i> production would continue as it has b farming more acreage during dry peri and less during wet periods. Prolong periods would result in salinity and compaction issues creeping higher o landscape, and productivity would go During dry periods, ag. production we follow the water line down the landsc: possible. During dryer periods, road would be typical of other roads in the During excessively wet periods, dam. roads would increase, potentially bec a chronic issue.	Ag been, iods ged wet n the o down. buld ape as O&M area. age to coming	Practices to be installed: Open Char (582), Structure for Water Control (5 Subsurface Drain (606), Drainage W Management (554), Critical Area Pla (342), Wetland Restoration (657). W control structure would be placed at lake outlet. An 8.35 mile outlet chan would be constructed to lower the le 10 Mile Lake 4 feet. Tile drainage, w drainage water management system would be installed on 13,329 acres of cropland (including lake perimeter) for increased production and salinity management. Mitigation requireme the project would be 1,254 acres of deepwater habitat, 539 acres of lacu fringe wetlands, and 1,612 acres of depressional wetlands.	nnel 87), /ater inting /ater the nel vel of <i>r</i> ith ns of or nts for istrine	Practices to be installed: Open Char (582), Structure for Water Control (5 Subsurface Drain (606), Drainage W Management (554), Critical Area Pla (342), Wetland Restoration (657).Wi control structure would be placed at lake outlet. An 8.35 mile outlet chan would be constructed to lower the le 10 Mile Lake 4 feet. Tile drainage, w drainage water management system would be more limited compared wit however still applied around the lake salinity management. Mitigation requirements for the project would b acres of deepwater habitat, 539 acre lacustrine fringe wteland, and 156 ac depressional wetlands.	inel 87), $/aterantingatertheinelvel ofvithns,h Alt 1,\Rightarrow forine 1,254es ofcres of$
In Section "F" below, analyze, re List and Planning Criteria for gu	R ecord, and address concerns identi idance).	fied thr	ough the Resources Inventory proc	cess (se	ee FOTG Section 3 - Resource Cor	ncerns
F. Resource Concerns and	I. Effects of Alternatives					
Existing/ Benchmark	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
<b>Conditions</b> (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	√if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	√if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	√ if does NOT meet PC
SOIL				-		
Wind erosion Topsoil is vulnerable to wind erosion due to tillage practices used to dry and warm the soil for earlier spring planting. Planner average estimated erosion is 8 T/ac/yr	No Change	NOT meet PC	The resultant lowered lake level and water table will likely result in more no till/reduced till practice adoption as the soils will have improved drainage, however these practices are not required or included in the Plan/EA. Estimated erosion rates may be reduced if tillage practices are voluntarily adopted. It's also possible erosion would increase if some operators continued with conventional tillage.	NOT meet PC	The resultant lowered lake level and water table will likely result in more no till/reduced till practice adoption as the soils will have improved drainage, however these practices are not required or included in the Plan/EA. Estimated erosion rates may be reduced if tillage practices are voluntarily adopted. It's also possible erosion would increase if some operators continued with conventional tillage. Compared with alt 1, the total erosion is expected to be greater.	NOT meet PC
Compaction Planner observed compaction issues occur due to perceived need for tillage to dry soils out. Also through the use of land rollers on wet soils, especially adjacent to wetlands	No Change	✓ NOT meet PC	The resultant lowered lake level and water table will lead to dryer soil conditions which will be be less vulnerable to compaction from land rolling. Also, less, or no tillage will be needed to complete field work in the affected fields.	√ NOT meet PC	The resultant lowered lake level and water table will lead to dryer soil conditions which will be be less vulnerable to compaction from land rolling. Also, less, or no tillage will be needed to complete field work in the affected fields. This effect is less acres when compared with Alt 1.	√ NOT meet PC
Concentration of salts or other	No change		Soils ringing the lowered lake and		Soils ringing the lowered lake are	
Salinity is observed around wetlands or drained wetlands.		NOT meet PC	other wet cropland are expected to be affected by saline discharge. Subsurfce Drains and DWM will improve the soil condition.	NOT meet PC	expected to be affected by saline discharge. Subsurfce Drains and DWM will improve the soil condition. This effect is less acres when compared with Alt 1.	NOT meet PC
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

WATER						
Ponding and flooding A long term wet cycle has increased lake and wetland volumes and increased their surface areas, reducing cropable acres and impacting roads.	Surface water levels of Ten Mile Lake will continue fluctuate widely. Issues with road damage, residential basement flooding, and emergency services access to rural residents will continue during wet periods.	NOT meet PC	Surface water level of Ten Mile Lake would no longer expand to the point of causing damages currently being experienced. 580 acres of former lake bottom and non-cropland wouuld be brought into production and tiled to prevent future salinity issues. 13,329 acres of cropland adjacent to the constructed outlet channel would be tile drained, with drainage water management structures installed. Management plan for the outlet structure would ensure releases of water from the lake would not cause downstream flooding.	NOT meet PC	Surface water level of Ten Mile Lake would no longer expand to the point of causing damages currently being experienced. 340.4 acres of former lake bottom and non-cropland wouuld be brought into production. 2, 132.7 acres of cropland adjacent to the outlet channel would be tiled, with drainage water management structures installed. Management plan for the outlet structure would ensure releases of water from the lake would not cause downstream flooding.	NOT meet PC
Seasonal high water table A long term wet cycle has increased the frequency of negative impacts from high water tables, including reducing the cropable acres and reduced yields.	Seasonal high water table would continue to negatively affect residences and farmsteads. Farming would remain difficult in wet years. Poor production would continue.	√ NOT meet PC	Water table would be lower on a much more consistant basis. Alleviating negative impacts caused by the high water table under the no action alternative. 13,329 acres of cropland adjacent to the lake and the outlet channel would be tiled, enabling the controll of the seasonally high water table. Production would improve in yield and consistency. 580 additional acres would be brought into production.	NOT meet PC	Water table would be lower on a much more consistant basis. Alleviating negative impacts caused by the high water table under the no action alternative. 2,132.7 acres of cropland adjacent to the project could have drainage water management practices installed, enabling the controll of the seasonally high water table. Production would improve in yield and consistency. 340.4 additional acres would be brought into production.	NOT meet PC
Salts transported to surface water	No change.	NOT meet PC	Installation of subsurface tile drainage systems on 13,329 acres of adjacent cropland could impact downstream water quality by leaching excess nutrients, herbicides, and salts into surface water	✓ NOT meet PC	Installation of subsurface tile drainge systems on 2,132.7 acres of cropland adjacent to the lake could impact downstream water quality by leaching excess nutrients, herbicides, and salts into surace water	✓ NOT meet PC
F. Resource Concerns and	I. Effects of Alternatives (con	tinued	1)			
Existing/ Benchmark	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
Conditions (Analyze and record the	Amount, Status, Description	√if does	Amount, Status, Description	√if does	Amount, Status, Description	√if does
existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC
existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC
existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern) AIR Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Air quality is periodically degraded by tillage practices and traffic on gravel roads.	(Document both short and long term impacts) No Change. The AOI is consistent with other rural areas in the eastern part of North Dakota.	NOT PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC
existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern) AIR Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Air quality is periodically degraded by tillage practices and traffic on gravel roads.	(Document both short and long term impacts) No Change. The AOI is consistent with other rural areas in the eastern part of North Dakota.	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC
existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern) AIR Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Air quality is periodically degraded by tillage practices and traffic on gravel roads.	(Document both short and long term impacts) No Change. The AOI is consistent with other rural areas in the eastern part of North Dakota.	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC
existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern) AIR Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Air quality is periodically degraded by tillage practices and traffic on gravel roads. PLANTS Plant productivity and health High water table and flooding have reduced crop yeilds.	(Document both short and long term impacts) No Change. The AOI is consistent with other rural areas in the eastern part of North Dakota. No change. High water table and flooding will continue to hinder crop production in the AOI.	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts) Increased crop production will slighly increase annual truck/tractor emissions and fugitive dust. Construction will temporarily increase emissions and fugitive dust potentially impacting residents in Dazey and rural residents adjacent to construction.	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC NOT meet PC	(Document both short and long term impacts)  Increased crop production will slighly increase annual truck/tractor emissions and fugitive dust, this impact will be slighly less compared with alt 1. Construction will temporarily increase emissions and fugitive dust potentially impacting residents in Dazey and rural residents adjacent to construction.  Consistent water levels and lowered water table would result in improved crop production. Crop production would be made possible in some of the former lake bottom non-cropland.	NOT meet PC NOT meet PC NOT meet PC

		NOT		NOT		NOT
		meet		meet		meet
		PC		PC		PC
ANIMALS						
Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and	No Change		Conversion of wetlands will destroy		Conversion of wetlands will destroy	
invertebrates		Ľ	most if not all the habitat for		most if not all the habitat for	
areas of non-cropland provide			terrestrial animals and invertabrates		terrestrial animals and invertabrates	
habitat for a variety of terrestrial		NOT	in the affected fields. Mitigation	NOT	in the affected fields. Mitigation	NOT
wildlife and invertabrates		meet	though in a different location	meet	though in a different location	meet
		PC	anough in a different location.	PC	anough in a different location.	PC
Aquatic habitat for fish and other	No Change	$\checkmark$	Conversion of wetlands will destroy		Conversion of wetlands will destroy	
Ten Mile Lake and other		_	most if not all the nabitat for aquatic	_	most if not all the habitat for aquatic	_
wetlands in the AOI provide			affected fields Reduced depth of		affected fields. Reduced depth of	
habitat for numerous species of			Ten Mile Lake may adversely affect		Ten Mile Lake may adversely affect	
amphibians, fish, and		NOT	fish species that may currently be	NOT	fish species that may currently be	NOT
invertabrates.		meet	present in the lake. Mitigation	meet	present in the lake. Mitigation	meet
		PC	efforts will replace the lost habitat,	PC	efforts will replace the lost habitat,	PC
			though in a different location.		though in a different location.	
	1	NOT		NOT		NOT
		meet		meet		meet
		PC		PC		PC
ENERGY	•					
Energy efficiency of farming/ranching	No Change. Fuel efficiency is poor		Land with properly installed		Land with properly installed	
practices and field operations	when having to operate in wet,	$\checkmark$	drainage should be easier to get	$\checkmark$	drainage should be easier to get	$\checkmark$
	heavy soils. Additional passes are		equipment across fields. Field		equipment across fields. Field	
	often required to prepare fields for		operations should take fewer		operations should take fewer	
	planting.	NOT	passes to accomplish goals.	NOT	passes to accomplish goals.	NOT
		PC		PC	those areas immedeately adjacent	PC
		10		10	to Ten Mile Lake where DWM	10
					practices will be installed.	
Energy efficiency of equipment and	No Change	$\checkmark$	Increased energy used to pump	$\checkmark$	Increased energy used to pump	
lacinties			water out of subsurface tile lines,		water out of subsurface tile lines,	
		NOT	where gravity outlets are not	NOT	where gravity outlets are not	NOT
		PC	drainage	PC	drainage	PC
Human Economic and Socia	al Considerations	10		10		10
Public Health and Safety	Increased response times by emerge	encv	Roads will consistently be in good re	pair.	Roads will consistently be in good re	pair.
Roads have periods of closure	services to reach residences within the	ne AOI.	therefore, reducing response times b	y,	therefore, reducing response times b	,, ру
during spring runoff and homes	Basements will continue to experience	e	emergency services. Residential an	d	emergency services. Residential an	d
experience basement flooding	flooding issues.		Commercial basements should have	much	Commercial basements should have	e much
issues.			fewer issues with flooding.		fewer issues with flooding.	
Capital	O&M on township roads will continue	to be	Federal funding through PL-566 wou	ld be	Federal funding through PL-566 wou	Ild be
A long term we cycle has	high. Leading to higher property taxe	es.	approximately 54% of total costs, if the	ne	approximately 54% of total costs, if the	he
increase road operation and	Plant productivity will continue to be		proejct had been feasible, leaving an	large	proejct had been feasible, leaving ar	n large
agricultural income	noducers		sources			
Land Use	No change in land use will occur		This alternative will make 580.4 acre	s	This alternative will make 340.4 acre	S
Land use is primarily intensive			previously under water or wildlife land	duse	previously under water or widlife land	duse
cropping with some haying mixed			available for cropping. Although the		available for cropping. Although the	
in. Acres previously in cropped			converted acres will be mitigated, it v	vill be	converted acres will be mitigated, it v	vill be
land use have increased hayland			in a different location		in a different location	
and wildlife landuse acres.						

#### Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, Policies, etc.

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "•" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for practices not involved in consultation.

G Special Environmental I I Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns						
Concerns	No Action	menta	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
(Document existing/	No Action	√if	Alternative I	√if	Anternative 2	√if
benchmark conditions)	Document all impacts	does	Document all impacts	needs	Document all impacts	needs
,	(Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	NOT	(Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	further	(Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	further
Clean Air Act	No Effect	meet	May Affect	action	May Affect	action
Guide Sheet			Temporary impacts expected		Temporary impacts expected	
North Dkota has no identified non-			during construction will be		during construction will be	
attainment areas.			minimized with BMP's and		minimized with BMP's and	
			construction specifications.		construction specifications	
Clean Water Act / Waters of the	No Effect		May Affect		May Affect	
U.S.			USACE would need to make a CWA	$\checkmark$	USACE would need to make a CWA	$\checkmark$
Guide Sheet			determination for wetlands, if the project were to proceed to a full PL -566 plan		determination for wetlands, if the project were to proceed to a full PL -566 plan	
Sliver Creek along with a tributary			Up to 1,254 acres of deepwater habitat		Up to 1,254 acres of deepwater habitat	
as an impaired water Silver			and 539 acres of lacustrine fringe		and 539 acres of lacustrine fringe	
Creek is a tributary to the Baldhill			wetlands (or more/less based on field		wetlands (or more/less based on field	
Creek. The eastern boundary of			need to be mitigated under CWA due to		need to be mitigated under CWA due to	
the AOI is adjacent to the Baldhill			lowering of the lake level by 4 feet. Up to		lowering of the lake level by 4 feet. Up to	
Creek which is labeled as an			1,611.9 acres of palustrine wetlands (or		155.6 acres of palustrine wetlands (or	
"Impaired Water" according to			delineation) would potentially need to be		delineation) would potentially need to be	
CWA 3030. Baldhill Creek			mtiigated under CWA due to tile drainage		mtiigated under CWA due to tile drainage	
Ashtabula/Shevenne River which			installed in crop fields. Note that E.O.		installed in crop fields. Note that E.O.	
is also labeled as an impaired			11990 would require mitigation for these		11990 would require this mitigation for	
water under 303d of the CWA.			determined the wetlands were not		determined the wetlands were not	
The AOI contains many			regulated under CWA.		regulated under CWA.	
lacustrine, palustrine and riverine						
wetlands.						
- Constal Zana Managamant						
Coastal Zone Management     Guide Sheet						
n/a						
Coral Reefs						
Guide Sheet						
n/a						
Cultural Resources / Historic	No Effect		May Affect		May Affect	
Properties			This alternative would require		This alternative would require	$\checkmark$
Guide Sheet			initiating Section 106 consultation		initiating Section 106 consultation	
A review of the state Cultural			with tribes and NDSHPO and the		with tribes and NDSHPO and the	
Resource Information System			completion of a Class III Cultural		completion of a Class III Cultural	
has identified 3 previous cultural			Resource Survey.		Resource Survey.	
recorded archeological sites and						
structures within the proposed						
project area. The State Historic						
Preservation Office and						
surrounding tribes would be						
consulted during the planning						
process.						
•Endangered and Threatened	No Effect		May Affect		May Affect	
Species			Habitat for the NLFB - large trees -		Habitat for the NLFB - large trees -	
Guide Sheet			are very limited within the project	Ľ	are very limited within the project	Ľ
A USFWS Ipac evaluation was			area, and are not likely to removed.		area, and are not likely to be	
completed for the Ten Mile Lake			Although wetlands and associated		removed. Although wetlands and	
project area and no ciritical			habitat will be mitigated to another		associated habitat will be mitigated	
habitats exist for any			location, removal of vegative		to another location, removal of	
endangered, inreatened, or			buffers around wetlands may have		vegative buffers around wetlands	
species were listed as notentially			hegalive impacts to monarch butterflies and/or dakota skinnners		may have negative impacts to monarch butterflies and/or dakota	
present Northern Long-Eared Bat			that may be present in the project		skipppers that may be present in	
(endangered), Dakota Skipper			area.		the project area.	
(threatened) and Monarch						
Butterfly (candidate)						

Environmental Justice Guide Sheet One Census block group is present in the AOI. No populations were disproportionately represented within this group, compared with the state, county or other nearby block groups.	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	
•Essential Fish Habitat <i>Guide Sheet</i> n/a				
Floodplain Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> Not present, ndram.sc.gov	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Zebra Mussels and Curly Leaf Pondweed have been documented in Lake Ashtabula, making their presence in the Baldhill Creek likely. Several noxious weeds are commonly present in the region including Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle, Leafy Spurge, and Absinthe Wormwood.	No Effect	May Affect Aquatic invasive species present in Lake Ashtabula and the Baldhill Creek will have direct access to Ten Mile Lake via the drainage channel proposed by this project. Terrestrial invasive species presence may be increased in disturbed areas after construction of the structure and channel are complete. Mitigation measures to prevent the spread of zebra mussels may be costly.	May Affect Aquatic invasive species present in Lake Ashtabula and the Baldhill Creek will have direct access to Ten Mile Lake via the drainage channel proposed by this project. Terrestrial invasive species presence may be increased in disturbed areas after construction of the structure and channel are complete.Mitigation measures to prevent the spread of zebra mussels may be costly.	

•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <i>Guide Sheet</i> The lack of tall trees makes the presence of eagle nests unlikely. Other migratory birds listed as species of concern that may be found in the AOI throughout the year are Black Tern, Franklin's Gull, Leasser Yellow Legs, Northern Harrier, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Willet	No Effect	May Affect Construction would take place outside of the primary nesting season, therefore no actions from this project should result in the "take" of any migratory bird species. Migratory birds may be displaced with the removal of existing shoreland habitat; the timing and placement of mitigation sites may impact migratory birds.		May Affect Construction would take place outside of the primary nesting season, therefore no actions from this project should result in the "take" of any migratory bird species. Migratory birds may be displaced with the removal of existing shoreland habitat; the timing and placement of mitigation sites may impact migratory birds.	
Natural Areas <i>Guide Sheet</i> There are 7 US FFWS Waterfowl Production areas, 1 Easement Refuge, 1 ND Game & Fish Wildlife Management Areas within 5 miles of Ten Mile Lake.	No Effect	May Affect The project may affect the natural aesthetics of 10 mile lake.		No Effect The project may affect the natural aesthetics of 10 mile lake.	
Prime and Unique Farmlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> 72% of the farmland in the proposed project area is designated as prime farmland, or prime if drained.	No Effect	No Effect No farmland will be converted to non-ag. use through this project.		No Effect No farmland will be converted to non-ag. use through this project.	
Riparian Area <i>Guide Sheet</i> The Baldhill Creek is located at the far eastern edge of the AOI; Baldhill Creek empties into the Sheyenne River downstream of the AOI. Both are bordered by a mix of native herbaceous vegetation, crop and hay/pastureland. There are numerous fresh water emergent wetlands within the AOI intersected by large and small drains. The larger wetlands in the AOI are lined with native and introducred herbaceous vegetation. Smaller wetlands within the cropland are typically unbuffered.	No Effect	May Affect Both large and small wetlands within the AOI may be affected by surface and/or subsurface drainage due to this project.		May Affect Both large and small wetlands located in fields adjacent to Ten Mile Lake may be affected by surface and/or subsurface drainage due to this project.	
Scenic Beauty <i>Guide Sheet</i> Except for Lake Ashtabula, the landscape is under intensive agricultural management.	No Effect	May Affect The scenic beauty of the 10-mile lake may be adversely impacted by the lake drawdown.		May Affect The scenic beauty of the 10-mile lake may be adversely impacted by the lake drawdown.	
•Wetlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> According to USFWS NWI data, there are 7,488.6 acres of wetlands within the project AOI. 3,237.5 ac. are lacustrine, 4,025.9 ac. are palustrine, and 225.6 ac. are riverine. Of that, 1,611 acres (not includeing Ten Mile Lake) are not protected by a conservation easement or fee- title ownership.	No Effect	May Affect The project would result in loss of an estimated of 1,254 acres of deepwater habitat, 539 acres of lacustrine fringe wetlands, and 1,611,9 acres of palustrine wetlands. These would be mitigated for elsewhere within the Red River Basin under NDIRT requirements.	$\checkmark$	May Affect The project would result in loss of an estimated of 1,254 acres of deepwater habitat, 539 acres of lacustrine fringe wetlands, and 1,611,9 acres of palustrine wetlands. These would be mitigated for elsewhere within the Red River Basin under NDIRT requirements.	$\checkmark$
•Wild and Scenic Rivers <i>Guide Sheet</i> n/a					

K. Other Agen Broad Public C	cies and concerns	No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Easements, Perm Review, or Permit Agencies Consult	issions, Public s Required and ed.	No permits or easements necessary	A US ACOE 404 permit will be required. Mitigation easements will be necessary. Land purchase will be needed. ND DWR permit will be needed. Public vote may be needed. Formal measures may be required for preventing the spread of ANS.	404 permit will be necessary. Mitigation easements will be necessary. Land purchase will be needed. ND DWR permit will be needed. Public vote may be needed.Formal measures may be required for preventing the spread of ANS.
Cumulative Effect (Describe the cum considered, incluc present and know regardless of who actions)	s Narrative nulative impacts ling past, n future actions performed the	No effect. Damage to public and private infrastructure will continue during wet periods.	Cropland productivity will improve due to controlled water table. O&M of public and private infrastructure will stabilize and be more consistent. Wildlife habitat quality and quantity will continue to decrease as the drainage effects make more land farmable.	Cropland productivity will improve across the AOI due to controlled water table. O&M of public and private infrastructure will stabilize and be more consistent. Wildlife habitat quality and quantity will continue to decrease as the drainage effects make more land farmable.
L. Mitigation (Record actions to minimize, and cor	o avoid, npensate)	No mitigation required	2,881.9 wetland acres requred. Deep Water Habitat: 1,254 ac. Lacustrine Fringe: 539 ac. Palustrine (pothole) wetlands: 1083.6 ac. Riverine: 5.3 ac.	1,948.6 wetland acres required. Deep Water Habitat: 1,254 ac. Lacustrine Fringe: 539 ac. Palustrine (pothole) wetlands: 155.6 ac. Riverine: 0.0 ac.
	√ preferred alternative	$\checkmark$		
M. Preferred Alternative	Supporting reason	Alternatives 1 and 2 were found to be infeasible for PL-566 due to a benefit to c ratio < 1, therefore the No Action alternaiv is the preferred alternative	ost /e	
N. Context (Re	ecord context	of alternatives analysis)	-Town or	city
such as society as	an action musi a whole (huma	n, national), the affected region, the	-Sub-watershed (ex. 12-d	igit HUC, or smaller)
affected interests,	and the locality.		-Count	ty
In the case whe second block to	re a non-NRC verify the info	S person (e.g. a TSP) assists with pl ormation's accuracy.	anning they are to sign the first signature	block and then NRCS is to sign the
	Signature	(TSP if applicable)	Title	Date
RITA	SVEE	Digitally signed by RITA SVEEN Date: 2024.09.09 15:04:48 -05'00'	Watershed Planner	9/9/2024
	Signa	ature (NRCS)	Title	Date
If preferred a	The follov	ot a federal action where NRCS ha other than the client, then ving sections are to be com	indicate to whom this is being provided provided by the Responsible Fede	cS-CPA-52 is shared with someone d. eral Official (RFO)
NRCS is the approved by N what the clie	RFO if the act IRCS). These nt ultimately d	ion is subject to NRCS control and re actions do not include situations in w oes with that assistance and situation wetland determinations) n	esponsibility (e.g., actions financed, funde hich NRCS is only providing technical ass ns where NRCS is making a technical dete not associated with the planning process.	d, assisted, conducted, regulated, or istance because NRCS cannot control ermination (such as Farm Bill HEL or
<ul> <li>P. Determination</li> <li>To answer the adverse. A since a si</li></ul>	on of Signific e questions be gnificant effec a ANY of the be and significa	cance or Extraordinary Circumstan low, consider the severity (intensity) t may exist even if the Federal agend voided by terming an action tempora low questions "yes" then contact ance issues to consider and a site	Ices of impacts in the contexts identified above by believes that on balance the effect will b ry or by breaking it down into small compo the State Environmental Liaison as the specific NEPA analysis may be require	e. Impacts may be both beneficial and be beneficial. Significance cannot be onent parts. re may be extraordinary d.
Yes No				
<ul> <li>Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?</li> <li>Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?</li> <li>Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?</li> <li>Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>Does th principle</li> </ul>	e preferred alternative establish a pr e about a future consideration?	ecedent for future actions with significant i	impacts or represent a decision in
	<ul> <li>Is the p the hum</li> </ul>	referred alternative known or reasonation and environment either individually or	ably expected to have potentially significar cumulatively over time?	nt environment impacts to the quality of
	<ul> <li>the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?</li> <li>Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.</li> <li>Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the any interment.</li> </ul>			

liance Findi ernative:	ng (check one)		Action required
cinative.			
)is <b>not a fe</b>	<b>deral action</b> where the agency has c	ontrol or responsibility.	No additional analysis is required
)is a federa nalysis <b>ANE</b>	al action ALL of which is categorically there are no extraordinary circums	<pre>v excluded from further environmental stances as identified in Section "P".</pre>	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
) is a federa gional, or na nvironmenta	al action that has been <b>sufficiently an</b> ational NEPA document <b>and</b> there are al effects or extraordinary circumstance	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.	
) is a federal ocument (EA een formall inding of No nother agen	Contact the State Environmental Compliance Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required		
) is a federa ignificant ad n EA or EIS	al action that has <b>NOT</b> been sufficientl verse environmental effects or extraor	y analyzed or may involve predicted dinary circumstances and may require	Contact the State Environmental Compliance Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required. Explain in Notes Section.
porting the	Finding		
ntation	If a PL-566 Watershed Plan were to procee wildlife habitat, as well as concerns regardi project was found infeasible for PL-566. TI	ed on this project, an EIS would be necessary g ng water quality and invasive species. Given the nerefore, No Action is the preferred federal alte	given the extent of impacts to wetlands and ne economic analysis results, however, the rnative.
orical y apply)			
npliance 650.6 ns states that a ategorically agraph (d) of			
osed action pard criteria.			
d the effects xtraordinar	s of the alternatives on the Resourc y Circumstances as defined by Age	e Concerns, Economic and Social Con ncy regulation and policy and based o	nsiderations, Special Environmental on that made the finding indicated
Poenoneible	Endoral Official:		
responsible			
D WEB	B Digitally signed by RICHARD WEBB Date: 2024.09.09 15:16:54 -05'00'	State Resource Con.	9/9/2024
S	ignature	Title	Date
	Add	litional Notes	
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## **10 Mile Lake Water Management Project**

# **Appendix D-4: PIFR Technical Analysis**



Prepared for:

Barnes County Water Resource District PO Box 306 Valley City, ND 58072

**Prepared by:** 



Natural Resources Conservation Service North Dakota State Office 220 E Rosser Ave, Box 1458 Bismarck, ND 58502-1458



United States Department of Agriculture

August 22, 2024





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This technical appendix report is provided to document the field work, wetland mitigation analysis, preliminary design, and preliminary economic analysis work completed to assess feasibility of improvements a water management project on 10 Mile Lake as required for the Preliminary Investigation of Feasibility.

#### **1- Estimation of Wetland Extents and Types**

The project area for the 10 Mile Preliminary Investigation Findings Report (PIFR) was chosen based on proximity of land to 10 Mile Lake and the proposed outlet channel. The fields immediately surrounding the lake were chosen because the newly exposed cropland (former lake bottom) would likely need to have subsurface drainage installed to help control inevitable salinity issues. The potential profitible installation of subsurface drainage in the rest of those fields surrounding the lake was positive. A buffer of approximately two miles was used along the proposed outlet channel was used as the remainder of the project area. The topography in this area is conducive to tile drainage into the proposed channel. Not all wetlands within the project area are eligible for drainage. Many of the wetlands in the area are protected from drainage either through easements or fee title ownership by government agencies. The wetlands that could potentially eligible for drainage under each alternative are listed in the tables below and were assumed to all be drained under Alternative 1 for increased crop production in the watershed.

Wetlands play an important role in in the water cycle, reducing flooding, providing filtration and recharge for aquafers, in addition to many other benefits. Because of the important role wetlands play in the nation's ecosystems, the U.S. government has put restrictions on the use of federal funds for activities that would negatively impact wetlands. Executive Order 11990 states: Each agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agency's responsibilities for (2) providing Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and (3) conducting Federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulating, and licensing activities (E.O. 11990, Sec.1(a)). Which basically says the federal government can not fund projects that will adversely affect wetlands. The work around for this situation is through mitigation. Table 1 and Table 2 below show the wetland acreages and types of wetlands eligible for drainage, and therefore mitigation. Wetlands are defined as those areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances does or would support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds. The question then arises regarding the need to mitigate the portion of 10 Mile Lake classified as deepwater habitat, because it does not meet the vegetative requirements of the wetland definition. The deepwater habitat needs to be mitigated for because a large portion of 10 Mile Lake is classified as lacustrine fringe habitat, which does meet the definition of a wetland. Without deepwater habitat, lacustrine fringe habitat cannot exist. Typically, a hydrogeomorphic model (HGM) would be used to determine the mitigation extent necessary to offset the conversion activity, however, no HGM for deepwater habitat or lacustrine fringe habitat exists for the northern great plains. Instead, during an interagency meeting, it was decided that using a 2:1 ratio



approved by NDIRT, and used often during the construction of mitigation banks, would be used to calculate mitigation needs for this PIFR.

Wetland Code	Wetland Type	Acres	Count
L2AB, G, d, x	Lake	1523.5	14
PABF, x	Freshwater Pond	24.5	34
PEM1A, x	Freshwater Emergent	255.6	278
PEM1C, d, x	Freshwater Emergent	608.3	140
PEM1F	Freshwater Emergent	0.9	2
Pf	Other (farmed)	337.4	897
PF01A	Freshwater Forested	1.8	2
PSS1A	Freshwater Shrub	0.1	1
R4SBA, x	Riverine	1.5	3
R4SBC, x	Riverine	3.8	6
	Total	2607.1	1,377

Table 1 - Alternative 1 Wetlands Potentially Eligible to Drain

Table 2 - Alternative 2 Wetlands Potentially Eligible to Drain

Wetland Code	Wetland Type	Acres	Count
L2AB, G, d, x	Lake	1523.5	14
PABF	Freshwater Pond	1.4	3
PEM1A, d	Freshwater Emergent	20.1	36
PEM1C, d	Freshwater Emergent	85.9	35
Pf	Other (farmed)	48.2	194
	Total	1679.1	282

#### **2- Mitigation Cost Estimates**

In order to complete a cursory economic analysis for project alternatives, it was necessary to develop cost estimates for the wetland and deepwater habitat mitigation requirements outlined above. Compensatory wetland mitigation in North Dakota is coordinated through the North Dakota Interagency Review Team (NDIRT) made up of NRCS, USACE, EPA, and USFWS which has published technical guidelines outlining requirements for mitigation bank sponsors. The 10 Mile Lake watershed lies within the Red River wetland mitigation service area. Mitigation credits may be purchased by project developers through existing approved banks, however currently in the Red River there 175 acres of mitigation credits available for purchase, for Clean Water Act wetland mitigation, at an average price of \$63,000/acre currently. Clearly this is only a small fraction of what would be necessary for the 10 Mile Lake project and there is no availability of credits for lacustrine fringe or deepwater habitat mitigation. The practical and cost-effective approach would be for the Barnes WRD to develop their own mitigation sites in partnership with an experienced mitigation bank entity operating in ND. As a part of the PL-566 project, Barnes WRD would purchase land rights, complete construction of restoration/creation projects under the NDIRT guidelines and turn over long term management of the mitigation bank properties to the partner. A multitude of sites spread across the Red River watershed would likely be necessary, although sites in Barnes County near the project would be preferred.

Recognizing that wetland mitigation would be a major cost to the project, NRCS invited Barnes WRD to identify any cost-effective mitigation sites in the county. Barnes WRD hired Houston Engineering to assist with this. HEI and NRCS looked at 4 potential sites. The sites (labeled 16, 17, 18, and 22) are all wetlands with pre-existing drainage, however, none are fully converted. NRCS and HEI completed wetland delineations according to USACOE wetland delineation procedures. Of the 4 sites, 2 have the



potential to generate wetland credits. Wetland 16 is located within the SE¼ of Sec. 35 T142N R61W and the N½ of Sec. 2 T141N R61W, Barnes County ND. It has the potential to generate 23.2 credits. Wetland 18 is located within the NE ¼ Sec. 35 T142N R61W. It has the potential to generate 13.7 credits. Total potential number of credits between the two wetlands is 36.9. These credits would be suitable for depressional wetlands, not lacustrine fringe or deepwater habitat. (See Figures 4 and 5) Unfortunately, 36.9 is only a fraction of the credits required for depressional wetlands, let alone the credits required for lacustrine fringe and deepwater habitat.

Given that the goal of the PIFR was to simply complete a feasibility level economic analysis, NRCS intentionally utilized a very optimistic cost estimate of \$20,000/acre for mitigation of depressional wetlands and assumed these could be developed in areas currently not being farmed. Note that if mitigation were to occur on cropland, the economic loss of taking that land out of production would further reduce the overall economic benefits of this project. Development of a site to mitigation the 1,254 acres of deepwater habitat and 539 acres of lacustrine fringe wetlands would logically involve construction of a dam. A dam on the Upper Maple River was constructed in Steele County in 2015 at a total cost of \$9.2 million, including land rights; adjusted to 2024 that would be \$11.8 million. The dam has a maximum height of 30 feet and impounds 5,205 acre-feet of water to the auxiliary spillway crest. It was constructed as a dry dam; however, construction costs would be similar if a principal spillway design to create a permanent pool would have been included. The stage-storage curve for the dam indicates that this project could have generated 387 acres of deepwater habitat, and 338 acres of lacustrine fringe wetlands and mitigation costs were estimated accordingly. Note that this is again a generous estimate; in reality, construction of a dam with a permanent pool would likely require extensive mitigation of riverine and depressional wetlands that would be flooded by the permanent pool level. In addition to those potentially high wetland mitigation costs, any cropland taken out of production by the new dam would also have to be accounted for in the PL-566 economic analysis. Table 3 provides a summary of the mitigation cost assumptions utilized for this analysis, with the recognition that this is an unlikely "best case" scenario from an economic standpoint.

Mitigation Type	Mitigation	Alt 1	Alt 1 Mitigation	Alt 2	Alt 2 Mitigation
	Development		Cost		Cost
	Assumption				
Deepwater Habitat	\$30,332/ac	1,254 ac	\$38,036,193	1,254 ac	\$38,036,193
Lacustrine Fringe	\$34,726/ac	539 ac	\$18,717,089	539 ac	\$18,717,089
Wetlands					
Depressional Wetlands	\$20,000/ac	1,612 ac	\$32,240,000	156 ac	\$3,120,000
Total		3.405 ac	\$88.993.282	1.949 ac	\$59.873.282

Table 3- Mitigation Requirements

#### **3- Preliminary Engineering Alternatives**

As noted in the PIFR, a preliminary design had already been developed for a control structure and outlet channel designed to lower 10 Mile Lake by 4 feet by Houston Engineering (see attachment). NRCS laid out the alternative channel location shown in Appendix 2, Exhibits 10 and 11 to minimize wetland impacts, as required by E.O. 11990. The control structure would likely be a corrugated metal riser with incorporated slide gate. Houston Engineering provided an approximate construction cost estimate for the control structure and channel, in 2024 dollars, as listed below based on proportioning the length of the previous design to the new alignment.



To evaluate both a minimum and maximum approach to installing subsurface drainage in cropland, to look at benefit-to-cost ratios, two alternatives were developed. Alternative 1 maximizes cropland drainage along the outlet channel, to the extent possible given topography and existing conservation easements, for the purpose of maximizing benefits. Alternative 2 includes only cropland drainage immediately adjacent to 10-Mile Lake, for the purpose of minimizing costs. In reality, there would be a full range of potential scenarios between the two. Costs for cropland drainage were derived from the Ellingson Tile report (see attachment) average for 3/8" drainage coefficient for tiling.

Item	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Construction
				Cost
Furnish and install 36" pipe (incl. road crossings and field	6,040	LF	\$125	\$755,000
accesses)				
Drainage channel excavation (incl, topsoil, seeding, etc.)	36,300	LF	\$66	\$2,395,000
Furnish and install water control structure	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000
Erosion control	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000
Mobilization, overhead, traffic control, contractor QC	1	LS	\$150,000	\$150,000
Subtotal – control structure and channel				\$3,400,800
Alternative 1				
Subsurface tile installation	13,329	AC	\$1,140	\$15,195,060
Total				\$18,595,860
Alternative 2				
Subsurface tile installation	539	AC	\$1,140	\$2,431,620
Total				\$5,832,420

#### Table 4- Construction Costs

Total implementation costs, including engineering, administration, land rights, and utilities were estimated as follows and percentages applied up to the maximum federal share allowed by the NRCS policy. Note that it is assumed that the WRD would develop contracts with private owners of fields to be tiled (with the private owner funding the non-federal share of tiling) and that construction easements for that work would be at no charge to the project.

Table 5- Total implementation Costs, Alternative 1

Item	Total Cost	NRCS	Local/State
Engineering Design	\$816,192	\$816,192	\$0
Construction Engineering	\$544,128	\$544,128	\$0
Construction	\$18,595,860	\$13,946,895	\$4,648,965
Sponsor Legal/Contract Admin Costs	\$85,000	\$0	\$85,000
Land Rights (not including mitigation)	\$1,125,000	\$0	\$1,125,000
Wetland / Deepwater Habitat Mitigation (construction + land rights)	\$88,993,282	\$44,496,641	\$44,496,641
Utility Relocations	\$215,000	\$0	\$215,000
Total	\$110,374,462	\$59,803,856	\$50,570,606

Table 6- Total Implementation Costs, Alternative 2

Item	Total Cost	NRCS	Local/State
		-	-

Engineering Design	\$408,096	\$408,096	\$0
Construction Engineering	\$272,064	\$272,064	\$0
Construction	\$5,832,420	\$4,374,315	\$1,458,105
Sponsor Legal/Contract Admin Costs	\$85,000	\$0	\$85,000
Land Rights (not including mitigation)	\$1,125,000	\$0	\$1,125,00
Wetland / Deepwater Habitat Mitigation (construction + land rights)	\$59,873,282	\$29,936,641	\$29,936,641
Utility Relocations	\$215,000	\$0	\$215,000
Total	\$67,810.862	\$34,991,116	\$32,819,746

An estimate of \$5,000 was assumed for annual operation and maintenance costs for the control structure and channel and \$3/acre was assumed for tile drainage systems in crop fields, which would including energy costs for pumping. The O&M for wetland mitigation sites was assumed to be included in the per acre rates.

Table 7- Operation and Maintenance Costs

Item	Alt 1	Alt 2
Annual 0 & M Costs Channel/Outlet Structure	\$5,000	\$5,000
Annual O&M Costs Tile Drainage	\$39,987	\$6,399
Total	\$44,987	\$11,399

#### 4- Historic Crop Types, Yield Projections

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) Cropland Data Layer (CDL) provides remote sensing derived raster data for the U.S. on an annual basis. In North Dakota, this source is generally considered to be the most reliable data source for crop type estimates at a watershed scale. Data was summarized for the watershed for 2021, 2022, and 2023 as shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3 which are summarized in Table 8.

Сгор	2021 (acres)	2022	2023	Avg.	% of Total
		(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
Corn	9,289	2,210	4,537	5,345	24%
Soybeans	10,841	10,043	6,854	9,246	41%
Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Rye)	4,021	4,000	8,940	5,654	25%
Dry Beans	80	640	0	240	1%
Alfalfa	80	80	80	80	0%
Grass/Pasture	2,055	2,055	2,055	2,055	9%
Total	26,366	19,028	22,466	22,920	

Table 8- Historic Crop Data

The proposed project alternatives would be targeted to improving production on row crops, therefore only the percentage of row crops in the watershed was relevant to the analysis. Predictive equations for yield improvements due to drainage are not available for dry beans, barley, and rye and spring wheat is the predominant small grain crop grown in Barnes County. Therefore, the percentages were adjusted for economic analysis as listed in Table 9. Crop yields, with and without subsurface tile, were



taken from the Ellingson Tile Drainage Assessment (see attachment) prepared for the project area. Note that the yields without tile reported in the Ellingson report match to the NDSU

Сгор	% of Total	Average Undrained Cropland Yield (bu/ac)	Average Drained Cropland Yield (bu/ac)
Corn	26%	143.4	178.1
Soybeans	46%	37.5	42.9
Spring Wheat	28%	59.9	69.8

#### **5- Economic Benefits Analysis**

The analysis relies on the procedures and guidance provided in the Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies (P&G), the Principles and Requirements for Federal Investments in Water Resources (PR&G), and the National Resources Economics Handbook (NREH) part 611. The analysis uses the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 federal discount rate for water resources projects of 2.75%.

#### **Crop Production Benefits**

The National Resource Economics Handbook 611.0102(b)(1) directs use of current normalized prices for economic evaluation of watershed projects. The state-level normalized prices as provided by the Economic Research Service (ERS) for 2023 were utilized for revenues. For land newly brought into production due to the project, the full annual direct production costs from the NDSU 2024 Crop Budgets for South East North Dakota was utilized. For the additional yield on tiled land, it was assumed that the only production costs that would increase would be drying and hauling costs.

Сгор	Price	Full Production Costs	Drying and Hauling Costs
Corn	\$4.00/bu	\$422.30/ac	\$0.17/bu
Soybeans	\$9.50/bu	\$320.33/ac	\$0.20/bu
Spring Wheat	\$5.99/bu	\$229.88/ac	\$0.17/bu

#### Table 10- Crop Revenues and Costs

The resulting annual crop production benefits due to newly created cropland under each alternative are outlined below.

Table 11- Production Benefits Due to Newly Created Cropland

Сгор	Alt 1 New Cropland (ac)	Alt 1 Net Revenue Increase	Alt 2 New Cropland (ac)	Alt 2 Net Revenue Increase
Corn	153	\$44,425	90	\$26,043
Soybeans	265	\$23,104	155	\$13,543
Spring Wheat	162	\$30,487	95	\$17,872
Total	580	\$98,016	340	\$57,458

The resulting annual crop production benefits due to installation of drain tile on existing cropland under each alternative are outlined below.



Crop	Alt 1 Drained	Alt 1 Net	Alt 2 Drained	Alt 2 Net
	Cropland (ac)	Revenue	Cropland	Revenue
		Increase	(ac)	Increase
Corn	3,519	\$471,625	563	\$75,473
Soybeans	6,087	\$302,880	974	\$48,469
Spring Wheat	3,722	\$213,821	596	\$34,217
Total	13,329	\$988,326	2,133	\$158,159

Table 12- Production Benefits Due to Tile Drainage Installation

#### Road Maintenance Benefits

NRCS contacted the township boards responsible for road maintenance and repairs around the lake and received the following information on road maintenance costs due to high water that would be avoided with construction of this project, over the last 5 years.

Table 13- Benefits Due to Reduced Road Maintenance

Year	Township	High Water Road Repair Costs
2019	Laketown	\$33,184
2020	Laketown	\$133,831
2021	Edna	\$102,265
2022		that
2023	Laketown	\$
Total	\$988,326	
Average Annua	\$61,243	

#### City of Dazey Municipal Benefits – Buildings, Streets, Sewage Lagoons

NRCS contacted both the former and current mayors of Dazey to request information on expenditures related to high water tables. The city has spent substantial funds on lift stations, ditch clean out, street repairs, and work on the sewage lagoons due to high groundwater but could not easily put together historical data other than a recent expenditure of \$ 6,817. An estimate of \$20,000 a year was utilized, as an intentionally liberal value in computing the potential benefits of the project in terms of avoided costs to Dazey.

#### Residential Benefits - Sump Pump O&M, Basement Refinishing, Mold Remediation

NRCS requested information from the Barnes WRD, Moore Engineering, and directly asked a resident but was unable to glean any specific information on costs related to high ground water control in basements, although it is generally known to be a persistent issue for many of the 81 homes in the area (55 homes within Dazey and 26 rural homes). An estimate of \$20,000 a year was utilized, as an intentionally liberal value in computing the potential benefits of the project in terms of avoided costs to private homeowners.

#### 6 - Benefit Cost Summary

The net present values and benefit to cost ratio of each alternative are listed in Table 14.

Discount rate = 2.75%

Construction Years = 2024-37 Project Life = 50 Years Construction Period + Project Life = 50 Years

Table 14- Alternative Net Present Value, Benefit-to-Cost Ratio Summary

Item	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
	Net Present Value	Net Present Value
Costs		
Implementation Costs	\$ 104,571,051	\$64,245,415
Operation and Maintenance Costs	\$ 1,119,592	\$283,687
Financing Costs	\$ 5,911,746	\$3,632,005
Total Costs	\$ 111,602,389	\$68,161,107
Benefits		
Revenue from New Cropland Under Production	\$ 2,439,323	\$1,429,948
Revenue from Tiling Existing Cropland	\$ 15,496,875	\$3,090,681
Reduced Road Maintenance	\$ 1,524,160	\$ 1,524,160
Reduced Residential Groundwater Costs	\$ 497,740	\$ 497,740
Reduced Municipal Groundwater Costs	\$ 497,740	\$ 497,740
Total Benefits	\$ 20,455,839	\$7,040,270
Benefit/Cost	0.18	0.10
Net Benefits	(\$91,146,550)	(61,120,837)

#### 7 - References

Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). "Normalized Prices". September 30, 2023. <u>https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/normalized-prices/</u>

Ellingson Water Management, 2024. 10 Mile Lake Drainage Assessment.

Haugen, 2024. North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension. Farm Management Planning Guide EC 1659 Projected 2024 Crop Budgets: South East North Dakota. <u>https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/ag-topics/farm-managemetn/crop-economics/projected-crop-budgets</u>.

North Dakota State University. 2020 North Dakota Custom Rates Part II – Late Season Operations, December 2020. <u>https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/ag-topics/farm-management/2020-north-dakota-custom-rates.</u>

NRCS National Bulletin NB 200-24-1 ECN – Discount Rate for Fiscal Year 2023 Water Resources Planning and Evaluation. November 1, 2023.

#### 8 - List of Preparers (PIFR and/or PIFR Technical Appendix)

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Technical assistance on field wetland extents, preliminary design, and construction cost estimates from Houston Engineering, Inc:

Mike Opat, P.E. Senior Civil Engineer

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Technical assistance for mitigation needs and requirements:

- J. Reinisch USFWS
- T. Erhardt USACOE
- B. Soiseth USACOE
- M. Linsay NDDWR
- J. Martin NDDWR

Attachments:

Ellingson Water Management, 2024. Drainage Assessment 10 Mile Lake

Moore Engineering, 2021. Preliminary Plans 10 Mile Outlet



#### Figure 1 - 2021 Crop Data





#### Figure 2 - 2022 Crop Data





#### Figure 3 - 2023 Crop Data





#### Figure 4 - Wetland 16, Potential Mitigation Site





#### Figure 5 - Wetland 18 Potential Mitigation Site





# ELLINGSON WATER MANAGEMENT

## **DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT**

Prepared For: NRCS June 24, 2024



#### DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT: ASSUMPTIONS AND SUMMARY TABLE

The table below outlines key information on all fields/farms selected for this assessment. ROI values are derived from proprietary calculations using factors such as: preliminary project costs, soil properties, weather history, crop value and rotation, and each crop's projected yield response to tile drainage.

For this analysis the Potential Drain Tile Area from the map on the next page is considered as a single field, the ROI values in this analysis represent an average of that area. Individual fields could have a higher/lower ROI depending on each field's unique soil characteristics and crop rotation. The crop yields used in this analysis are from the county estimates of the National Agricultural Statistics Service for the 2023 growing season.


### **Field Summary**



Field Rank	Field Name	Location	Total Area (Acres)	Investment Range per acre	Annual ROI (%)	Image	Recommended Drainage Coefficient
1	10 Mile Lake Project	Barns County, North Dakota	11432	\$970 – \$1310	7.1		3/8



### **Financial Summary**

Crop		Drainage Coefficient								
	1/4	3/8	1/2	3/4	1	1-1/2	2			
Corn	9.9%	11.8%	11.1%	9.0%	8.0%	6.6%	6.0%			
Soybeans	3.5%	4.8%	4.6%	3.8%	3.4%	2.8%	2.4%			
Wheat	3.7%	4.8%	4.6%	3.7%	3.3%	2.7%	2.4%			
ROI	5.7%	7.1%	6.7%	5.5%	4.9%	4.0%	3.6%			

The table above shows a return on investment for each drainage coefficient. Numbers are weighted based on the crop rotation specified. Your best returns are highlighted in Dark Green

#### **Projected Yield Response 3/8" Drainage Coefficient**

	Yield Response & Revenue								
Crop	Rotation	Market Price	Unit	Historical Ave Yield	Projected Yield Increase	Projected Yield	Current Revenue	Projected Revenue	Profit
		\$/Unit		Unit/AC	Unit/AC	Unit/AC	\$/AC	\$/AC	\$/AC
Corn - Field	33.3%	3.83	BU	143.10	34.99	178.09	548.07	682.10	134.02
Soybeans	33.3%	10.32	BU	37.50	5.35	42.85	387.00	442.24	55.24
Wheat	33.3%	5.55	BU	59.90	9.87	69.77	332.45	387.20	54.76
	100%							503.85	81.34

	10 year Payback analysis											
				Years								
D/C	Initial Investment	Annual Profit	1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10						10		
1/4	\$ 10,928,343.76	\$ 623,824.81	\$ (10,304,518.96)	\$ (9,680,694.15)	\$ (9,056,869.34)	\$ (8,433,044.53)	\$ (7,809,219.72)	\$ (7,185,394.91)	\$ (6,561,570.10)	\$ (5,937,745.29)	\$ (5,313,920.49)	\$ (4,690,095.68)
3/8	\$ 13,028,205.00	\$ 929,565.67	\$ (12,098,639.33)	098,639.33) \$ (11,169,073.66) \$ (10,239,507.99) \$ (9,309,942.32) \$ (8,380,376.65) \$ (7,450,810.98) \$ (6,521,245.31) \$ (5,591,679.64) \$ (4,662,113.97) \$ (3,732,548.30) \$ (3,732,								
1/2	\$ 14,879,628.98	\$1,002,807.78	\$ (13,876,821.20)	\$ (12,874,013.43)	\$ (11,871,205.65)	\$ (10,868,397.87)	\$ (9,865,590.10)	\$ (8,862,782.32)	\$ (7,859,974.54)	\$ (6,857,166.77)	\$ (5,854,358.99)	\$ (4,851,551.21)

**Estimated Investment Per Acre:** 

Estimated Return on Investment:

7.1%

**Estimated Profit Per Acre:** 

\$81

\$1140





Recommended drainage coefficient



### **Field Overview - Drainage**



Key	Drainage Class	Acres(%)
	Somewhat poorly drained	43.00%
	Moderately well drained	23.00%
	Well drained	16.00%
	Poorly drained	14.00%
	Very poorly drained	2.00%
	Somewhat excessively drained	1.00%
	Excessively drained	0.00%
	Total	99.00%



A formulation based off soil properties and crop productivity index (CPI) to determine the response of subsurface drainage in a given area to increase yield potential and improve soil health.



### Field Overview – Soil



Key	Soil Code	Description	Acres (%)	Drainage Class	Crop Prod Index	Water Table Depth (Annual Minimum)
	G100A	Hamerly-Tonka complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	<b>2383.60</b> 20.85	Somewhat poorly drained	85	0.0
	G101A	Hamerly-Wyard loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	1810.18 15.83	Somewhat poorly drained	85	29.9
	G143A	Barnes-Svea loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	<b>1797.31</b> 15.72	Moderately well drained	85	48.0
	G144B	Barnes-Buse loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	<b>831.88</b> 7.28	Well drained	80	59.8
	G118A	Vallers loam, saline, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>742.18</b> 6.49	Poorly drained	35	9.1
	G250A	Divide loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	<b>656.25</b> 5.74	Somewhat poorly drained	65	29.9
	G12A	Vallers, saline-Parnell	576.58	Poorly drained	35	0.0



Key	Soil Code	Description	Acres (%)	Drainage Class	Crop Prod Index	Water Table Depth (Annual Minimum)
		complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes	5.04			
	G167B	Balaton-Wyard loams, 0 to 6 percent slopes	<b>425.02</b> 3.72	Moderately well drained	71	29.9
	G143B	Barnes-Svea loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	<b>281.82</b> 2.47	Well drained	80	48.0
	G143C	Barnes-Buse-Langhei loams, 6 to 9 percent slopes	<b>211.18</b> 1.85	Well drained	64	0.0
	G288A	Fordville loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	<b>190.45</b> 1.67	Well drained	60	59.8
	G732A	Swenoda-Barnes fine sandy loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	<b>177.72</b> 1.55	Moderately well drained	80	48.0
	G3A	Parnell silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>176.33</b> 1.54	Very poorly drained	20	0.0
	G377B	Embden-Egeland fine sandy loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	152.17 1.33	Moderately well drained	71	48.0
	G4A	Southam silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>79.72</b> 0.70	Very poorly drained	6.1	0.0
	G680B	Barnes-Sioux complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes	<b>72.64</b> 0.64	Well drained	85	59.8
	G143F	Buse-Barnes loams, 15 to 35 percent slopes	63.80 0.56	Well drained	24	0.0
	G275A	Renshaw loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	62.79 0.55	Somewhat excessively drained	45	0.0
	G25A	Marysland loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>59.92</b> 0.52	Poorly drained	30	9.1
	G614B	Barnes-Svea loams, 0 to 6 percent slopes, extremely stony	<b>58.36</b> 0.51	Well drained	6	48.0
	G276B	Renshaw-Sioux complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	<b>57.09</b> 0.50	Somewhat excessively drained	43	0.0
	G143D	Barnes-Buse-Langhei loams, 9 to 15 percent slopes	<b>55.27</b> 0.48	Well drained	48	0.0
	G147F	Buse-Barnes-Darnen loams, 9 to 35 percent slopes	<b>45.65</b> 0.40	Well drained	24	0.0
	G251A	Divide loam, loamy substratum, 0 to 2	<b>44.20</b> 0.39	Somewhat poorly drained	70	29.9



Key	Soil Code	Description	Acres (%)	Drainage Class	Crop Prod Index	Water Table Depth (Annual Minimum)
		percent slopes				
	G732B	Swenoda-Barnes complex, 3 to 6 percent slopes	<b>43.60</b> 0.38	Moderately well drained	76	48.0
	G624A	Vallers, saline-Manfred loams, 0 to 1 percent slopes, extremely stony	<b>42.98</b> 0.38	Poorly drained	5	0.0
	G454A	Glyndon loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	<b>39.28</b> 0.34	Somewhat poorly drained	80	29.9
	G447A	Colvin-Borup complex, saline, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>37.00</b> 0.32	Poorly drained	35	9.1
	G680C	Barnes-Sioux complex, 3 to 9 percent slopes	<b>33.38</b> 0.29	Well drained	80	59.8
	G45A	Colvin silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>30.24</b> 0.26	Poorly drained	40	9.1
	G2A	Tonka silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>26.04</b> 0.23	Poorly drained	40	0.0
	G272E	Sioux-Arvilla-Renshaw complex, 9 to 25 percent slopes	<b>22.14</b> 0.19	Excessively drained	11	0.0
	G523A	Lowe-Fluvaquents, channeled complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	<b>20.57</b> 0.18	Poorly drained	12.2	0.0
	G486C	Eckman-Zell loams, 6 to 9 percent slopes	<b>17.15</b> 0.15	Well drained	68	59.8
	G426A	Minnewaukan loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	<b>16.98</b> 0.15	Poorly drained	20	5.9
	G807A	Arveson loam, loamy substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>16.53</b> 0.14	Poorly drained	30	9.1
	G6A	Vallers loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>14.48</b> 0.13	Poorly drained	40	9.1
	G116A	Easby clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>14.45</b> 0.13	Poorly drained	15	9.1
	G61A	Dovray silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	<b>7.31</b> 0.06	Very poorly drained	20	0.0
	G123A	Svea-Cavour loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	<b>6.70</b> 0.06	Moderately well drained	100	48.0
	G272C	Sioux-Arvilla-Renshaw complex, 6 to 9 percent slopes	<b>6.06</b> 0.05	Excessively drained	15	0.0



Key	Soil Code	Description	Acres (%)	Drainage Class	Crop Prod Index	Water Table Depth (Annual Minimum)
	G606A	Nutley silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes, colluvial	<b>5.84</b> 0.05	Well drained	85	59.8
	G521A	Lowe loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	<b>5.30</b> 0.05	Poorly drained	40	9.1
	G456A	Glyndon loam, saline, 0 to 2 percent slopes	<b>4.63</b> 0.04	Somewhat poorly drained	48	29.9
	G998	Water, miscellaneous	<b>4.27</b> 0.04	N/A	N/A	0.0
	G680F	Buse-Sioux complex, 9 to 35 percent slopes	<b>3.87</b> 0.03	Well drained	24	0.0
	G606B	Nutley silty clay, 2 to 6 percent slopes, colluvial	<b>1.61</b> 0.01	Well drained	80	59.8

# TEN MILE LAKE HIGH WATER OULET

## **BARNES COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

# **BARNES COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**

VICINITY MAP







**Consulting Engineering • Land Surveying** 925 10th Avenue East, Suite 1 • West Fargo, North Dakota www.mooreengineeringinc.com

-PROJECT LOCATION



PROJECT No. 19404



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## Concept Drawing, Control Structure

