

APPENDIX A

Appendix A-1	Timeline
Appendix A-2	Initial Scoping and Consultation Documents & Correspondence
Appendix A-3	Interagency Meeting Documents
Appendix A-4	Alternatives Meeting Documents & Correspondence
Appendix A-5	Class III Cultural Resources Survey - Section 106 Consultation Documents
Appendix A-6	Letters of Support for EA
Appendix A-7	MOU
Appendix A-8	FONSI Notifications to NEPA Stakeholders
Appendix A-9	Watershed Plan Public Meeting Notice, Invitation and Documents
Appendix A-10	Comments and Disposition

A-1 Timeline

Consultation/Public Participation Timeline				
Date	Action	Location	Notes	Comments/Responses
3/19/2020	Initiation letters sent to consult (31 tribes/NDSHPO), to cooperate (USFWS, FEMA, USACE) and to participate sent to other state and local stakeholders		Cooperating agencies: USFWS, FEMA and USACE. This is the initial consultation with SHPO/Tribes	One tribe (Northern Cheyenne) requested to be included in all planning communications.
6/24/2021	Public Scoping Meeting	Larimore, ND	Advertised in the Larimore Leader - Tribune	
10/2021, 2025	Interagency Work Team Mtgs			
2/5/2025	Alternatives Meeting	Grand Forks, ND	Conducted in conjunction with regular public WRD meeting, attended by some state and local agencies and landowners.	
5/28/2025	ND SHPO formally consulted to review and comment on the Class III Cultural Resources Survey. This is Section 106 consultation.		ND SHPO requested edits to the survey on 6/30/25 and 7/30/25.	NRCS revised the survey twice in response to ND SHPO comments and sent the final version on 7/30/25
6/4/2025	Sponsor chose Preferred Alternative - have one year to complete EA.			
7/30/2025	ND SHPO Concurred with NRCS recommendation of "No Historic Properties Affected".			
9/3/2025	31 tribes are formally consulted to review and comment on the Class III Cultural Resources Survey. This is Section 106 consultation.			No substantive comments were received by tribes. Section 106 consultation considered concluded on 10/15/2025.
TBD - must be before 6/4/2026	Environmental Assessment posted on ND NRCS Engineering public website and certified by Dan Hovland to fulfill the NEPA requirements within the Congressional timeline.			

TBD	FONSI certified by Dan Hovland and posted on website (may be simultaneous with EA). <u>Notifications</u> sent to applicable agencies. <i>[Assuming this replaces NOA requirement in 502.23 of NWPM]</i>		NEPA responsibilities are concluded	
TBD	Submitted Draft Plan to National Water Mgmt Center			
TBD	Received comments from NWMC			
TBD	Draft Plan sent to NHQ for comment			
TBD	Received comments from NRCS National Headquarters (NHQ)			
TBD	Draft Plan or links to Plan, public mtg invite and request for comments mailed to 32 Tribes + NDSHPO. USFWS and USACE and other Federal, State and Local stakeholders, including the Governor. Letters were sent to affected landowners.		(Beginning of Public Comment Period)	
TBD	Public notices to announce public meeting and request comments on the Draft Plan - EA published in GF Herald. (No longer any local paper). Must be published 3X beginning at least 3 different days b4 meeting.		And link to Draft Plan-EA on NRCS website	
TBD	Public Informational Meeting/Request for Comments on - Draft Plan	Larimore, ND		
TBD	End of Public Comment Period (at least 15 days after meeting).			
TBD	Pubic comments summarized in Final Plan-AppA, address substantive comments, final additions. Final Plan uploaded to website.		Comment table and letters added to App A	
TBD	Sponsor and STC sign Watershed Agreement			

A-2

Initial Scoping and Consultation Documents and Correspondence

Upper Turtle Watershed Planning Roster

Point of Contact	Title	Template	Representing	Mailing Address	Mailing Address (2)	City	State	Zip	Phone No.	Email
Patricia McQuary	Manager	Cooperating Agency	US Army Corps of Engineers - ND Regular Office	3319 University Drive		Bismarck	ND	58504	701-255-0015	patricia.mcquary@usace.army.mil
Drew Becker	ND and SD Deputy Field Supervisor	Cooperating Agency	US Fish and Wildlife Service	3425 Main Avenue		Bismarck	ND	58501	701-250-4481	drew.becker@fws.gov
Watt Sprenger	District Supervisor	Cooperating Agency	US Fish and Wildlife Service- Devils Lake Wetland Management District	221 2nd Street NW, Suite #2		Devils Lake	ND	58501	701-662-8611	watt_sprenger@fws.gov
Lee dePaolo	Regional Administrator	Cooperating Agency	Federal Emergency Management Agency - Region 8	Denver Federal Center, Bldg 710	Box 25267	Denver	CO	80225	303-235-4800	
Cecily Fong	Public Information Officer	State/Local Organization	ND Department of Emergency Services	Fraine Barracks Lane - Bldg 35		Bismarck	ND	58504	701-328-8100	
Kari Goetz	Director	State/Local Organization	Grand Forks County Emergency Management Office	122 South 5th Street		Grand Forks	ND	58201	701-780-8213	
Nick West	County Engineer	State/Local Organization	Grand Forks Highway Department	P.O. Box 5682		Grand Forks	ND	58206	701-780-8248	nick.west@co.forky.org
Les Norheim	District Engineer	State/Local Organization	North Dakota Department of Transportation	1951 N Washington St.		Grand Forks	ND	58203	701-787-4500	lesnorheim@nd.gov
Bruce Kneft	Conservation Biologist	State/Local Organization	North Dakota Game and Fish Department	100 E. Bismarck Expwy		Bismarck	ND	58501	701-328-6224	bkneft@nd.gov
Keith Weston	Executive Director	State/Local Organization	Red River Retention Authority	11202 28th Avenue North, Suite C		Fargo	ND	58102	701-356-6641	rrra@redriver.net
Richard Avig	Chairman	State/Local Organization	Grand Forks County Water Resource District	151 South 4th Street	Suite 348	Grand Forks	ND	58201	701-740-5609	avigrcrcng@hotmail.com
	Commissioners	State/Local Organization	Grand Forks County Commission	151 S 4th Street #201		Grand Forks	ND	58201		
Carl Rockeman	Water Quality Division Director	State/Local Organization	North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality	518 E Divide Avenue, 4th Floor		Bismarck	ND	58501	701-328-5112	crockema@nd.gov
Sandra Simonson	Floodplain Administrator	State/Local Organization	Grand Forks County	P.O. Box 176		Orla	ND	58744	701-317-0332	sandra.simonson@hotmail.com
Justin Parks	Watershed Coordinator	State/Local Organization	Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District	4775 Technology Circle, Suite C		Grand Forks	ND	58203	701-772-2321	kristine.larson@nd.nadnet.net
Randy Gjestvang	Red River Engineer	State/Local Organization	North Dakota State Water Commission	1120 28th Avenue N., Suite C		Fargo	ND	58102	701-282-2318	rgjestvang@nd.gov
Aaron Caranza	Regulatory Division Director	State/Local Organization	North Dakota State Water Commission	900 E Boulevard Ave, # 770		Bismarck	ND	58505	701-328-4813	acaranza@nd.gov
Jon Kelsch	Water Development Division Director	State/Local Organization	North Dakota State Water Commission	900 E Boulevard Ave, # 770		Bismarck	ND	58505	701-328-2752	jkelch@nd.gov
Claudio Berg	State Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	State Historical Society of North Dakota	612 East Boulevard Avenue		Bismarck	ND	58505	701-328-2666	claudio.berg@nd.gov
John Murray, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	The Blackfeet Nation	850 Government Square		Browning	MT	59417	406-338-7521	murrayjohn@gmail.com
Jonathan Windy Boy, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation	9740 Upper Box Elder Road	PO Box 230	Box Elder	MT	59521	406.395.4700	ajboy@nei-nsn.gov
Kyle Felsman, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	PO Box 278		Pablo	MT	59855	406.675.2700 x1119	klayton@cskt.org
William BigDay, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	The Crow Tribe of Indians	PO Box 159		Crow Agency	MT	59002	406.208.3969	ebulchief@crownations.net
Michael J. Black Wolf, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Fort Belknap Indian Community	656 Agency Main Street		Harlem	MT	59526	406.353.8471	mblackwolf@fbknsp.org
Dyan Younge, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes	PO Box 1027 / 501 Medicine Bear Road		Poglar	MT	59255	406.748.2382	dyun@fpcnsn.net
Teanna Limpy, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Northern Cheyenne Tribe	PO Box 128		Lame Deer	MT	59043	406.477.4839	teanna.limpy@cheyennation.com
Lynette Bell, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation	PO Box 538		Fort Washakie	WY	82514	307.332.2081	wferrius@yahoo.com
David B. Oldman, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Northern Arapaho Tribe	PO Box 396		Ft. Washakie	WY	82514	307.856.1628	narapahothpo_2009@gmail.com
Pete Coffrey, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation	404 Frontage Road		New Town	ND	58763	701.862.2474	pcoffrey@mhanation.com
Dr. Erich Longie, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Spirit Lake Tribe of Fort Totten	PO Box 76		Fort Totten	ND	58335	701.766.4221	thpo@scotiv.com
John Eagle, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	PO Box 0		Fort Yates	ND	58538	701.854.2120	leag@standingrock.org
Jeffrey Desjarlais, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa	PO Box 900		Belcourt	ND	58316	701.477.2640	desjarlaisj.jeffrey@yahoo.com
Jaylen Strong, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians	5344 Lakeshore Dr.	PO Box 16	Nett Lake	MN	55772	218.753.6017	jaylen_strong@boisforte-nsn.gov
Jill Hoppe, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	1720 Big Lake Road		Cloquet	MN	55720	218.878.7129	jhoppe@fdltribe.com
Mary Ann Gagnon, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	PO Box 428		Grand Portage	MN	55605	218.475.0111	maryann@grandportage.com
Amy Burnette, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	115 6th Street, NW, Suite E		Cass Lake	MN	56639	218.335.2940	amy.burnette@leelake.org
Noah White, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Prairie Island Indian Community of Minnesota	5636 Sturgeon Lake Road		Welch	MN	55089	(651) 385-4116	art.owen@pic.org
Cheyenne St. John, THPO/Historic Site Mgr.	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Lower Sioux Indian Community	39527 Reservation Highway 1		Morton	MN	56270	507.697.6321	lowerstouthpo@lowerSioux.com
Natalie Weyaus, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Millie Lacs Band of Ojibwe	43408 Oodena Drive		Onamia	MN	56359	320.532.7450	natalie.weyaus@millielacsband.com
Samantha Odgaard, THPO Coordinator	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Upper Sioux Community	PO Box 147		Granite Falls	MN	56241	320.564.6334	sarac@upperSiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Jamie Arenault, THPO and NAGPRA Rep.	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	White Earth Nation of Minnesota Chippewa	PO Box 418		White Earth	MN	56591	218.983.3285 x 5807	jamie.arenault@whiteearth.com
Kade Ferris, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	PO Box 274		Red Lake	MN	56677	218.679.1961	kade.ferris@redlakeband.org
Steven Vance, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	PO Box 590		Eagle Butte	SD	57625	605.964.7554	steven.vance@crst-nsn.gov
Merle Marks, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	PO Box 50		Fort Thompson	SD	57339	605.245.2221 x 110	f.marks@chistory@msdstatedsd.net
Garrie Kills A Hundred, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 283		Flandreau	SD	57028	605.997.3512	garrie.killsahundred@fst.org
Honorable Julian Bear Runner	President	THPO	Oglala Sioux Tribe	107 W Main	PO Box 2070	Pine Ridge	SD	57770		
Thomas Brings, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Oglala Sioux Tribe	PO Box 320		Pine Ridge	SD	57770	605.867.5624	t.brings@ogelala.org
Ben Rhodd, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Rosebud Sioux Tribe of Indians	PO Box 809		Rosebud	SD	57570	605.747.4255	rst.thpo@rst-nsn.gov
Dianne Desrosiers, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Sisseton-Wahpeton Ojate	PO Box 907		Sisseton	SD	57262	605.698.3584	dianne@siw-nsn.gov
Kip Spotted Eagle, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	THPO	Yankton Sioux Tribe	Box 1153 / 800 Main Avenue SW		Wagner	SD	57380	605.384.3641	kst.thpo@gmail.com



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND
58502-1458

Voice 701.530.2000
Fax 855-813-7556

March 19, 2020

Drew Becker
US Fish and Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

RE: Formal Request to Participate as a Cooperating Agency on the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Becker:

The Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act (Section 14 of PL-83-566, as amended), authorizes financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate aging flood control dams originally constructed with the assistance of the NRCS Watershed Program. The Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam), is one of these projects.

Larimore Dam is a high hazard potential dam, constructed in 1979 through funding and technical assistance provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program, and owned and operated by the Grand Forks County Water Resource District (WRD). The dam was constructed for the purposes of flood control, wildlife, and recreation. The auxiliary spillway and riser structure do not meet current NRCS or North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) dam safety standards. Preliminary analysis has indicated a maximum population of 105 individuals, 50 structures, a state highway, multiple county/township roads, recreational facilities, historic/cultural resources, and degradation of river, wetland, and riparian habitat are at risk in the event of dam failure.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Section 1501.6, NRCS is formally requesting your agency become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of the Larimore Dam Environmental Assessment (EA). This request is being made because your agency has been identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to this project. It is anticipated that this Watershed Rehabilitation Planning effort will take place over the course of 2020-2022.

Rehabilitation to Larimore dam is not anticipated to cause any increase in flood pool elevation of the reservoir. Several meetings will be held to share progress and solicit input on structural and nonstructural alternatives, supporting technical analysis work, and the economic, environmental, cultural resource concerns, and social impacts of implementing identified alternatives. Rehabilitation to Larimore Dam is not anticipated to cause any increase in flood pool elevation of the reservoir. Supporting technical materials will also be provided electronically for comment. The EA is

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being prepared to fulfill NRCS's NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our potential federal financial assistance through Section 14 of PL-83-566, as amended. Your agency may also have NEPA compliance responsibilities concerning this project or other future projects that may be evaluated in this EA. Preparation of this EA should also assist in fulfilling environmental review requirements for your agency or other Federal agencies and meet NEPA's intent of reducing duplication and delay between agencies.

Please provide written confirmation of acceptance or denial to participate. If your agency chooses to accept, please indicate the name and contact information for your agency's point of contact. If your agency is unable to participate as a cooperating agency, then please return a written explanation why your agency cannot participate. Please note that a response declining to be a cooperating agency is required to also be submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality per 40 CFR Section 1501.6(c). Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) can be established.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the ND NRCS Watershed Program Manager, Christi Fisher at Christi.Fisher@usda.gov or by phone at (701) 530-2091. Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with this project.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: Rich Axvig, Grand Forks County Water Resource District, w/enclosure
Tina Fricke Robinson, HDR Engineering, Inc., w/enclosure
Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, Inc., w/enclosure



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND
58502-1458

Voice 701.530.2000
Fax 855-813-7556

March 19, 2020

Aaron Caranza
ND State Water Commission – Regulatory Division Director
900 E Blvd Ave #770
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Invitation to Participate on the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9
(Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Caranza:

The Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act (Section 14 of PL-83-566, as amended), authorizes financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate aging flood control dams originally constructed with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program. The Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam), is one of these projects.

Larimore Dam is a high hazard potential dam, constructed in 1979 through funding and technical assistance provided by the NRCS Watershed Program, and owned and operated by the Grand Forks County Water Resource District (GFCWRD). The dam was constructed for the purposes of flood control, wildlife, and recreation. The auxiliary spillway and riser structure do not meet current NRCS or North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) dam safety standards. Preliminary analysis has indicated a maximum population of 105 individuals, 50 structures, a state highway, multiple county/township roads, recreational facilities, historic/cultural resources, and degradation of river, wetland, and riparian habitat are at risk in the event of dam failure.

The NRCS, in partnership with the sponsoring local organization (GFCWRD), requests that your organization bring its expertise to participate in this Watershed Rehabilitation Planning effort over the course of 2020-2022. Rehabilitation to Larimore dam is not anticipated to cause any increase in flood pool elevation of the reservoir. Several meetings will be held over the course of these 3 years, which would provide your organization the opportunity to provide input on structural and nonstructural alternatives, supporting technical analysis work, and the economic, environmental, cultural resource concerns, and social impacts of implementing identified alternatives. Supporting technical materials will also be provided electronically for comment. The result of this planning process will be the Larimore Dam Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA) to support future construction of the selected alternative. NRCS and the

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Aaron Caranza

Page 2

GFCWRD would appreciate your involvement in this process to ensure that all feasible alternatives are identified for consideration and that all relevant concerns are considered in the planning process.

Please provide written confirmation of acceptance or denial to participate. If your organization chooses to accept, please indicate the name and contact information for your organization's point of contact.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the ND NRCS Watershed Program Manager, Christi Fisher at Christi.Fisher@usda.gov or by phone at (701) 530-2091. Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with this project.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: Rich Axvig, Grand Forks County Water Resource District w/enclosure
Tina Fricke Robinson, HDR Engineering, Inc. w/enclosure
Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, Inc. w/enclosure



Natural Resources
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Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND
58502-1458

Voice 701.530.2000
Fax 855-813-7556

March 19, 2020

Yankton Sioux Tribe
Kip Spotted Eagle, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
800 Main Ave SW
PO Box 1153
Wagner, SD 57380

RE: Invitation to Participate on the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9
(Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Spotted Eagle:

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.3, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), acting as the lead Federal agency is initiating the Section 106 consultation process for the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam). Under the Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act (Section 14 of PL-83-566, as amended), authorizes financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate aging flood control dams originally constructed with the assistance of the NRCS Watershed Program. The Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam), is one of these projects.

Larimore Dam is a high hazard potential dam, constructed in 1979 through funding and technical assistance provided by the NRCS Watershed Program, and owned and operated by the Grand Forks County Water Resource District (GFCWRD). The dam was constructed for the purposes of flood control, wildlife, and recreation. The auxiliary spillway and riser structure do not meet current NRCS or North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) dam safety standards. Preliminary analysis has indicated a maximum population of 105 individuals, 50 structures, a State highway, multiple county/township roads, recreational facilities, historic/cultural resources, and degradation of river, wetland, and riparian habitat are at risk in the event of dam failure.

The NRCS, in partnership with the sponsoring local organization (GFCWRD), requests that your organization brings its expertise to participate in this Watershed Rehabilitation Planning effort over the course of 2020-2022. Rehabilitation to Larimore Dam is not anticipated to cause any increase in flood pool elevation of the reservoir. Several meetings will be held over the course of these 3 years, which would provide Yankton Sioux Tribe an opportunity to provide input on structural and nonstructural alternatives, supporting technical analysis work, and the economic, environmental, cultural resource concerns, and social impacts of implementing identified alternatives. Meeting times and additional information will be provided at a later date. Supporting technical materials will also be provided electronically for comment. The result of this National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA) planning process will be the Larimore Dam Environmental Assessment to support future

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Mr. Spotted Eagle
Page 2

construction of the selected alternative. NRCS and the GFCWRD would appreciate your involvement in this process to ensure that all feasible alternatives are identified for consideration and that all relevant concerns are considered in the planning process.

Please provide written confirmation of acceptance or denial to participate. If your organization chooses to accept, please indicate the name and contact information for your organization's point of contact.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the ND NRCS Watershed Program Manager, Christi Fisher at Christi.Fisher@usda.gov or by phone at (701) 530-2091. Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with this project.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: Rich Axvig, Grand Forks County Water Resource District w/enclosure
Tina Fricke Robinson, HDR Engineering, Inc., w/enclosure
Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, Inc., w/enclosure

From: [Parks, Justin - NRCS-CD, Grand Forks, ND](#)
To: [Fisher, Christi - NRCS, Bismarck, ND](#)
Subject: Invitation to Participate
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:35:48 AM

Hi Christi,

I will participate in this project (Larimore Dam, Dam #9) and will be a point of contact for our agency.

Thanks
Justin Parks

Justin Parks
Watershed Coordinator
4775 Technology Circle, Suite 1C
Grand Forks, ND 58203
Office: 701-772-2321 ext. 3674
justin.parks1@nd.nacdnet.net
www.gfsd.org

From: [Kreft, Bruce L.](#)
To: [Fisher, Christi - NRCS, Bismarck, ND](#)
Subject: Larimore Dam Rehab
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:49:28 AM

Hey Christi,

The ND Game & Fish Department is willing to participate in the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 Rehabilitation process. I will be your contact at this email and my mailing address is:

Bruce Kreft
ND Game & Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

Thank you,
Bruce Kreft

From: [Nyhus, David L.](#)
To: [Fisher, Christi - NRCS, Bismarck, ND](#)
Cc: [Goff, Karen M.](#); [Gjestvang, Randy D.](#)
Subject: Invitation to Participate on the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:05:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Christi,

We have received your letter dated March 19, 2020 and would be glad to participate in the planning process for the Larimore Dam rehabilitation and environmental assessment. Please include me, Karen Goff and Randy Gjestvang (included on this email) as points of contact for our agency.

Sincerely,
[David Nyhus, P.E.](#)
Engineering Manager I

701.328.4950 • 701.328.3696 (fax) • dnyhus@nd.gov • www.swc.nd.gov

NORTH
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701.328.2750 • swc@nd.gov • mapservice.swc.nd.gov • 900 East Boulevard Avenue
• Bismarck, ND 58505





April 1, 2020

Ms. Mary Podoll
NRCS
Bismarck Sate Office
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5524, Invitation to Participate on the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Podoll,

We reviewed ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5524, Invitation to Participate on the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment and we would like to participate in the planning effort. Lisa Steckler will be your point of contact, Deputy SHPO Fern Swenson will likely attend meetings as well as her schedule allows.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Steckler, Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-3577, e-mail lsteckler@nd.gov

Sincerely,

for Claudia J. Berg
State Historic Preservation Officer
(North Dakota)

20-5524

From: [Teanna Limpy](#)
To: [Fisher, Christi - NRCS, Bismarck, ND](#)
Subject: UTRP Watershed Dam #9 Response- NCTHPO
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 3:05:47 PM

Ms. Fisher,

I have received your agency's correspondence regarding an invitation to participate in the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 Rehabilitation. This office requests to participate as a consulting party for this project. Please send me additional information when it becomes available. My contact information is below.

Thanks,
Teanna Limpy, THPO
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
PO BOX 128
Lame Deer, MT. 59043
W: (406) 477-4839

Newspaper Public Notice of Scoping Meeting Larimore Dam published in Larimore Leader-Tribune July 2021

A public meeting regarding potential rehabilitation of Larimore Dam will be held on July 19, 2021, beginning at 7:00 PM CDT at the American Legion Club/Willy's in Larimore, North Dakota with a street address of 114 E Main Street . Rehabilitation of the dam is being considered to bring it up to current state and federal dam safety standards and to extend the life of the dam and reservoir up to another 50-100 years. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input from the public regarding concerns that should be considered during the rehabilitation planning process. Questionnaires will be distributed to participants at the meeting and are also available upon request to the GFWRD for those unable to attend. The planning process will include identification of all feasible alternatives to bring the dam into compliance with current dam safety regulations, with evaluation of economic, environmental, social, and cultural resource impacts of each alternative. Future actions would include final design and construction if the plan meets federal planning criteria and federal, state, and local funding is available.

Larimore Dam is a high hazard potential dam, constructed in 1979 through funding and technical assistance provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program, and owned and operated by the Grand Forks County Water Resource District (WRD). The dam was constructed for the purposes of flood control, wildlife, and recreation. The auxiliary spillway and riser structure do not meet current NRCS or North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) dam safety standards.

All work is being conducted under the 2000 Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) through the USDA-NRCS. This amendment authorizes financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate aging flood control dams originally installed with the assistance of the USDA-NRCS. Federal, state, and local funds are being used to prepare the rehabilitation plan and perform the necessary analyses.

Anticipated major topics that will be presented at this meeting are:

- Overview of the Watershed Rehabilitation Program
- Overview of the Larimore Dam Rehabilitation Project
- Review of the Project Purpose and Need
- Preliminary Review of Potential NEPA Effects
- Discussion of Preliminary Alternatives

Please contact Rich Axvig, Chairman of the Grand Forks Water Resource District at 701-740-5609 or Kari Lavecchia, Secretary/Treasurer at 701-780-8312 with required special accommodations for your participation in the meeting.

Larimore Dam Rehabilitation Plan – Participant Survey

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation: _____

(agency, resident, commissioner, mayor, etc.)

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant). Please elaborate on concerns in the Additional Comments section.

KEY: **0 = No Concern or Not Relevant** **1 = Minimal Concern** **2 = Minor Concern**
 3 = Moderate Concern **4 = Significant Concern** **5 = High Concern**

Concerns Relating to Larimore Dam:

No Concern

High Concern

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Downstream Agricultural Flood Damages..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Downstream Structural Flood Damages..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Water Quality..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Algae Blooms..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Wildlife and Habitat..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Recreation..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Dam Safety..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Reservoir Water Level..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Maintaining Golf Course..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Other (1)..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Other (2)..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Other (3)..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Additional Comments: _____

June 24, 2021

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Agency_Name»
«Title»
«Street_Address»
«City», «State» «Zip_Code»

**Subject: Invitation to the Public Input Meeting for the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9
(Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation**

You are invited to attend and participate in a public meeting regarding potential rehabilitation of the Larimore Dam. Rehabilitation of the dam is being considered to bring it up to current state and federal dam safety standards and to extend the life of the dam and reservoir up to another 50-100 years. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input from the public regarding concerns that should be considered during the rehabilitation planning process. The National Environmental Policy Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require evaluations of the potential effects of federally funded projects on human and natural resources. These evaluations include input from the public.

Larimore Dam is a high hazard potential dam, constructed in 1979 through funding and technical assistance provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program, and owned and operated by the Grand Forks County Water Resource District (WRD). The dam was constructed for the purposes of flood control, wildlife, and recreation. The auxiliary spillway and riser structure do not meet current NRCS or North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) dam safety standards.

All work is being conducted under the 2000 Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) through the USDA-NRCS. This amendment authorizes financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate aging flood control dams originally installed with the assistance of the USDA-NRCS. Federal, state, and local funds are being used to prepare the rehabilitation plan and perform the necessary analyses.

The meeting will be held July 19, 2021 at the American Legion Club/Willy's, 114 E Main Street, Larimore, North Dakota at 7:00 PM CDT.

Water Board Managers		Secretary/Treasurer	Attorney	Engineer
Tom Perdue	Kenneth Farrell	Kari Lavecchia	Dan Gaustad	Jerry Pribula
Richard Axvig	Pete Buck			
Bob Drees				



Water Resource District • 151 S 4th St, Ste 348 • Grand Forks ND 58201

Office #701-780-8312 Cell #701-741-2383

Following this meeting, you are invited to participate in the field review that will be conducted on July 20, 2021 from 8:30am – 11:00am. Participants of the field review are asked to meet at the Larimore Dam Recreation Area in the parking lot next to the boat dock.

Please contact Rich Axvig, Chairman of the Grand Forks Water Resource District at 701-740-5609 or Kari Lavecchia, Secretary/Treasurer at 701-780-8312 with required special accommodations for your participation in the meeting.

Sincerely,

Rich Axvig, Chairman

Grand Forks County Water Resource District

CC: Christi Fisher, State Conservation Engineer, USDA-NRCS, Bismarck
Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, Inc.

Water Board Managers		Secretary/Treasurer	Attorney	Engineer
Tom Perdue	Kenneth Farrell	Kari Lavecchia	Dan Gaustad	Jerry Pribula
Richard Axvig	Pete Buck			
Bob Drees				

 Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
220 E. Rosser Ave
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

Christopher Swanson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

June 12, 2025

Dear Mr. Swanson,

RE: Section 12 Consultation Larimore Dam Rehabilitation

Consultation was initiated on March 19, 2020 for the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment. I appreciate the ongoing contributions USFWS has provided to the Larimore Dam Planning effort.

In accordance with Section 12 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566 (U.S.C. Section 1008), this letter serves as notification to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the opportunity to submit survey reports or investigations regarding wildlife resources that will be considered in the development of the Larimore Dam Rehabilitation Plan – EA.

Based on a recent recommendation from USFWS Biologist Jerry Reinisch, NRCS will be concurrently consulting with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department for their input on survey work in North Dakota.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the ND NRCS Watershed Program Manager, Jonathan Petersen at Jonathan.petersen@usda.gov or by phone at (701) 530-2082.

Sincerely,

DAN HOVLAND
State Conservationist

Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
220 E. Rosser Ave
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

Kathy Duttenhefner, Chief
Natural Resources Division
North Dakota Parks and Recreation
604 E. Boulevard Ave Dept 750
Bismarck, ND 58505

June 12, 2025

Dear Ms. Duttenhefner

RE: Section 12 Consultation Larimore Dam Rehabilitation

ND NRCS is requesting consultation from the ND Parks and Recreation Department for the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment.

In recent communications with the USFWS regarding Section 12 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566 (U.S.C. Section 1008), they have recommended consulting with ND Park and Recreation. The information you provided recently on a different project (Upper Maple River) was very helpful in our planning efforts. We are looking for similar survey reports or investigations regarding wildlife resources for the Larimore Dam Rehabilitation Plan/EA.

Please see the attached project map for the location. Ground disturbance will only take place within section 32 as the preferred alternative includes modifications to the spillway and auxiliary spillway. The remaining sections would be impacted by inundation during flood events. We can also provide a shapefile if that would be helpful.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me at rita.sveen@usda.gov or by phone (701) 284-7771 ext 124.

Sincerely,

Rita H. Sveen
Watershed Planner

July 10, 2025

Rita Sveen
USDA NRCS
Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

Re: Section 12 Consultation Larimore Dam Rehabilitation

Dear Rita,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has reviewed the above referenced proposed Larimore Dam Rehabilitation project in Grand Forks County, North Dakota.

NDPRD's scope of authority and expertise covers properties that NDPRD owns, leases, or manages; properties protected under Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); rare plants; and ecological communities established through the Natural Heritage Program.

The project does not appear to affect properties NDPRD owns, leases, or manages.
The project does not appear to affect any properties protected under Section 6(f) of the LWCF.

A North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database query determines whether any current or historical plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, several natural heritage elements have been documented within or immediately adjacent to the project site. Refer to the attached map and spreadsheet for additional details.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal, and ecological community conservation, management, and inter-agency cooperation. For additional information, please contact Kathy Duttonhefner at 701-328-5370, 701-220-3377 (cell), or kgduttonhefner@nd.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Sincerely,



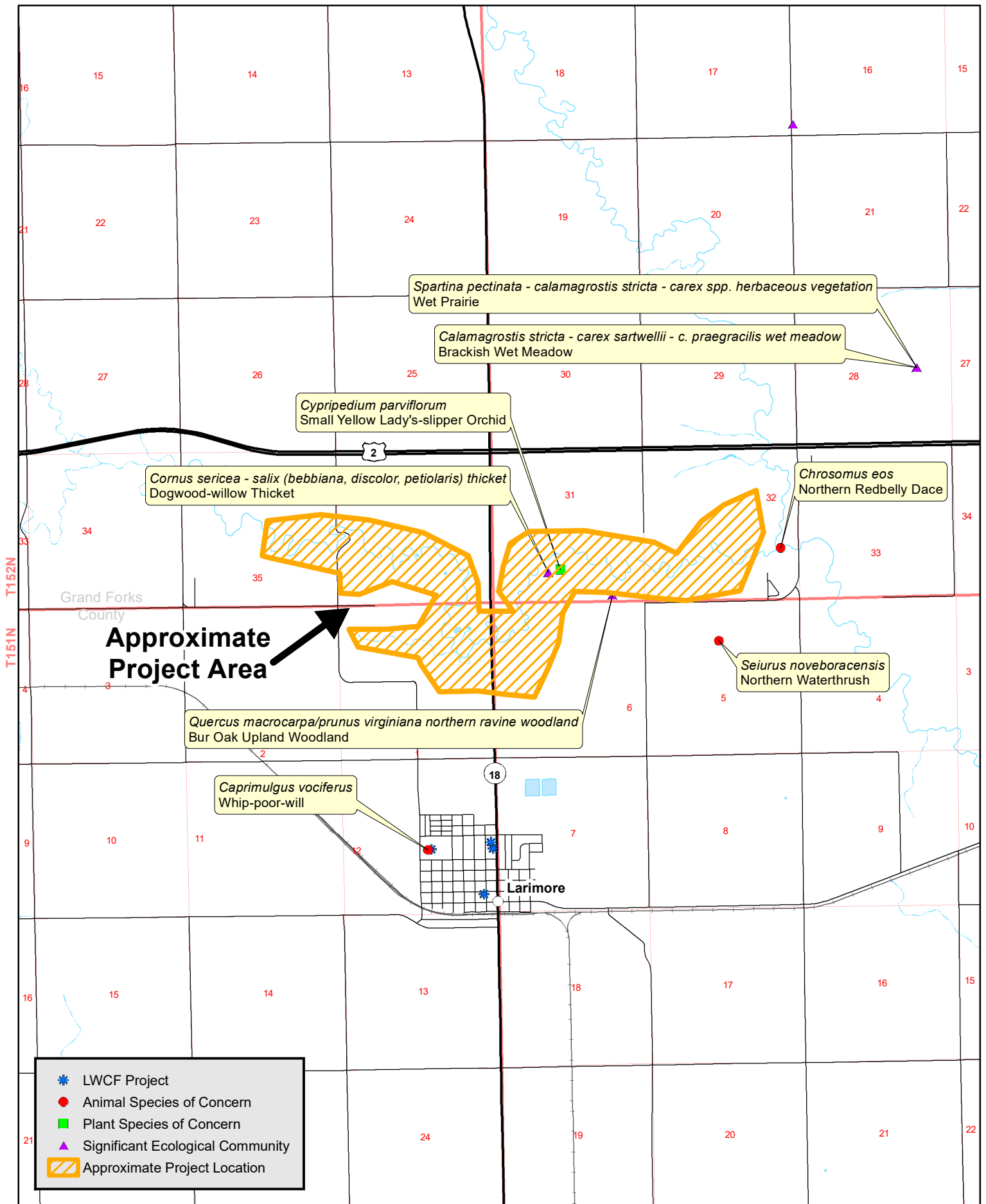
Kathy Duttonhefner, Chief Natural Resources Division

North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory
Rare Animal and Plant Species and Significant Ecological Communities

State Scientific Name	State Common Name	State Rank	Global Rank	Federal Status	Township Range Section	County	Last Observation	Estimated Representation Accuracy	Precision
<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> - <i>carex sartwellii</i> - c. <i>praegracilis</i> wet meadow	Brackish Wet Meadow	S2S3	GNR		152N054W - 28	Grand Forks	1983-08-07		S
<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Whip-poor-will	SU	G5		151N055W - 12; 151N054W - 06; 151N054W - 07; 151N055W - 13; 151N055W - 02; 151N054W - 18; 151N055W - 14; 151N055W - 01; 151N055W - 11	Grand Forks	1912-06		M
<i>Chrosomus eos</i>	Northern Redbelly Dace	S4	G5		152N054W - 32; 152N054W - 33; 152N054W - 30; 152N054W - 28; 152N054W - 29; 151N054W - 05; 151N054W - 03; 152N054W - 34; 151N054W - 04; 152N054W - 31; 151N054W - 06	Grand Forks	1979-06-12		M
<i>Cornus sericea</i> - <i>salix</i> (<i>bebbiana</i> , <i>discolor</i> , <i>petiolaris</i>) thicket	Dogwood-willow Thicket	S2S3	GNR		152N054W - 31	Grand Forks	1986-07-06		S
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i>	Small Yellow Lady's-slipper Orchid	S2	G5		152N054W - 31; 151N055W - 03; 152N055W - 36; 152N054W - 28; 152N055W - 24; 152N055W - 15; 152N054W - 19; 152N054W - 33; 152N054W - 22; 152N055W - 12; 151N054W - 01; 152N054W - 32; 152N054W - 06; 152N054W - 25; 152N054W - 14; 152N055W - 32; 152N054W - 09	Grand Forks	1961-06-12		G
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> / <i>prunus virginiana</i> northern ravine woodland	Bur Oak Upland Woodland	S3	GNR		152N054W - 31; 151N054W - 06	Grand Forks	1986-07-06		S
<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Northern Waterthrush	S4	G5		151N054W - 04; 152N054W - 09; 151N054W - 17; 152N055W - 13; 152N055W - 22; 151N055W - 02; 151N054W - 01; 152N055W - 12; 152N054W - 22; 152N054W - 33; 151N055W - 01; 152N055W - 15; 152N055W - 24; 152N055W - 14; 152N055W - 27; 151N055W - 03; 152N055W - 36	Grand Forks			G
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> - <i>calamagrostis stricta</i> - <i>carex</i> spp. herbaceous vegetation	Wet Prairie	S2S3	GNR		152N054W - 28	Grand Forks	1983-08-03		S

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory



From: [Edens, Hanna K](#)
To: [Sveen, RitaHarmsen - FPAC-NRCS, ND](#)
Cc: [Toso, Luke B](#); [jessica_n_johnson](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NLEB Culvert Inspection Larimore Dam
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 3:59:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hey Rita,

I will be your point of contact for this project if any other needs or questions come up.

I reviewed the 2022 assessment you provided. Based on the assessment being very detailed, fairly recent, and the safety concern with accessing the principal spillway this email provides you with Service approval to use the 2022 inspection. Please continue on through the Dkey and reach out if other questions come up.

Best,
Hanna

~~~~~

**Hanna Edens, MSc, AWB®**

Fish and Wildlife Biologist | North Dakota Field Office  
Ecological Services | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Main Office: (701) 250-4481  
Cell Phone: (701) 954-0312  
Email: [hanna\\_edens@fws.gov](mailto:hanna_edens@fws.gov)

---

**From:** Sveen, RitaHarmsen - FPAC-NRCS, ND <[rita.sveen@usda.gov](mailto:rita.sveen@usda.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2025 9:53 AM  
**To:** Toso, Luke B <[luke\\_toso@fws.gov](mailto:luke_toso@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NLEB Culvert Inspection Larimore Dam

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Luke,

I am working my way through the IPac Key for NLEB for our Larimore Dam Rehabilitation Plan/EA. The principal spillway is a concrete box 6' X 6'. The key is looking for an assessment survey. There are obvious safety issues with inspecting the spillway. Sometimes it's possible in late summer or fall if very dry, but there's usually some base flow. The culvert typically runs full during spring runoff. A full inspection of the conduit was completed in 2022 (attached), there was no notation of bat presence. The inspection includes many photos of the interior of the conduit.

May I use this 2022 inspection to complete the Assessment Form?  
Please advise.

**Rita H. Sveen**  
*Watershed Conservationist*  
NRCS-ND | State Engineering

**USDA** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
417 Park St. W. Ste.1, Park River, ND 58270  
p: (701) 284-7771 ext 124  
e: [rita.sveen@usda.gov](mailto:rita.sveen@usda.gov)

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## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office  
3425 Miriam Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926  
Phone: (701) 250-4481 Fax: (701) 355-8513



In Reply Refer To:  
Project code: 2026-0055458  
Project Name: Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 2

02/26/2026 16:59:58 UTC

Federal Nexus: yes  
Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Department of Agriculture

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 2'

Dear Rita Sveen:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on February 26, 2026, for 'Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 2' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2026-0055458 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

### Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

| Species                                                   | Listing Status | Determination |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ) | Endangered     | NLAA          |

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### 15-Day Review Period

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

You have indicated that you must remove a hazard tree in order to prevent imminent loss of human life. Be advised that the Act’s implementing regulations (50 CFR part 17) include a take exemption pursuant to the defense of human life (for endangered species, see 50 CFR 17.21(c) (2)): “any person may take endangered [or threatened] wildlife in defense of his own life or the lives of others.”). The regulations at 50 CFR 17.21(c)(4) require that any person taking, including killing, listed wildlife in defense of human life under this exception must notify our headquarters Office of Law Enforcement, at the address provided at 50 CFR 2.1(b), in writing, within 5 days. In addition, section 11 of the Act enumerates the penalties and enforcement of the Act. In regard to civil penalties, section 11(a)(3) of the Act states, “Notwithstanding any other provision of this [Act], no civil penalty shall be imposed if it can be shown by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant committed an act based on a good faith belief that he was acting to protect himself or herself, a member of his or her family, or any other individual from bodily harm, from any endangered or threatened species” (16 U.S.C. 1540(a)(3)). Section 11(b) (3) of the Act contains similar language in regard to criminal violations (see 16 U.S.C. 1540(b) (3)). If you think incidental take of listed bats was reasonably certain to have occurred as a result of your hazard tree removal, we advise you to contact the Office of Law Enforcement as outlined above. In the future, we recommend planning ahead so that tree removal of potentially hazardous

trees does not become an emergency. If you determine an emergency exists, however, and human life is in imminent danger, do not delay action. Also do not delay action if removal of the hazard tree is part of a federal response to a situation involving an act of God, disaster, casualty, national defense or security emergency, etc. - coordinate with the local USFWS field office as soon as practicable after the emergency is under control.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee *Bombus suckleyi* Proposed Endangered
- Western Regal Fritillary *Argynnis idalia occidentalis* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2026-0055458 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

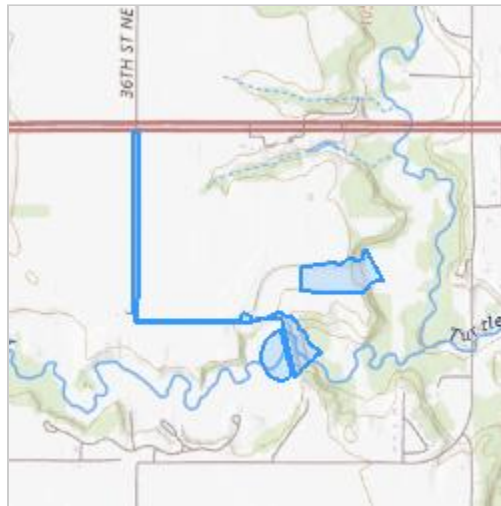
Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 2

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 2':

The location of the potential earthwork is confined to 32.3 acres in sections 32-152-54 Grand Forks County, ND. The proposed alternative consists of construction of an auxiliary spillway channel that is lined with articulated concrete blocks (ACB) to prevent erosion and failure of the spillway. A newly constructed principal spillway riser tower and a principal spillway conduit would be installed by boring and jacking through the existing dam. A rock lined plunge pool would be constructed for energy dissipation at the new conduit outlet. The existing principal spillway riser tower would be removed, and the existing principal spillway conduit would be abandoned by grouting it closed. The downstream embankment slope would be flattened, and the addition of a new chimney filter and foundation drain would be implemented to address seepage concerns. Inundation when the dam is at full capacity extends to sections 31-152-54, 35 & 36-152-55, 1-151-55, 6-151-54 for a total of 748 acres.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@47.9407761,-97.58930215686561,14z>



# A-3

## Inter-agency Meeting Documents

# Agenda

Project: Larimore Dam (Upper Turtle River Dam No. 9) Rehabilitation Plan

Subject: Alternatives Analysis

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021

Location: Virtual Meeting (WebEx)

|            |                                |                                 |
|------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Attendees: | Christi Fisher, USDA-NRCS      | Nick Reynolds, USDA-NRCS        |
|            | Jonathan Petersen, USDA-NRCS   | Brian Mager, USDA-NRCS          |
|            | Thomas Schanandore, USDA-NRCS  | Ana Vargo, USDA-NRCS            |
|            | David Nyhus, ND DWR            | Aaron Carranza, ND DWR          |
|            | Karen Goff, ND DWR             | Katie Kelly, ND DWR             |
|            | Randy Gjestvang, ND DWR        | Grand Forks WRD                 |
|            | Jon Nestoss, HDR Engineering   | Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering |
|            | Greta Backman, HDR Engineering | Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering    |

- July 19, 2021 Public Information Presentation Material (shared with group prior to meeting – please review before meeting start)
- Discussion of preliminary findings/analyses (handout shared prior to meeting)
- Alternatives Brainstorming/Discussion

2/21/2025 Interagency virtual meeting

Topic: Dewatering Larimore Dam

Attendees:

|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| NDGFD: | Patrick Isaacson  |
|        | Aaron Larson      |
|        | Bryan Sea         |
| NRCS:  | Christi Fisher    |
|        | Jonathan Petersen |
|        | Kate Staley       |
|        | Rita Sveen        |
|        | John Bauer        |

Christi explained the overall project plan, purpose and need. Current condition of the dam structures was reviewed and reasons for needing to dewater Larimore Dam reservoir were explained. NRCS is seeking input from ND Game & Fish Dept. with regard to concerns over fisheries and public use impacts during the dewatering phase.

It is estimated the reservoir would need to be dewatered for a period of about two months. Different options were discussed that could keep some water (up to 4 feet) in the reservoir, but could be complicated. NDGF felt that a 4ft. depth would leave the reservoir vulnerable to a summer kill and likely a winter kill unless a very large rain event occurs before freeze up. The initial response from NDGF was to just dewater the reservoir and restart the fishery when the project is complete.

Other wildlife concerns were focused on bat habitat if the need to remove trees should arise. If trees are to be removed NRCS would likely need to conduct a survey prior to removal, or remove the trees prior to spring to avoid direct adverse effects to any bats in the area.

NDGF asked if it would be acceptable for the department to construct an earthen fishing pier during the dewatered period. NRCS thought that would work well.

NRCS requested NDGF provide a fish stocking plan that could be added to the plan EA. NDGF will put a stocking plan together for use in the plan EA.

Over the next few months NDGF will go through their reservoir and downstream data to verify any other potential concerns regarding potential impacts to aquatic species in the watershed.

NRCS asked that all information be submitted within the next few months.

# A-4

## Alternatives Meeting Documents and Correspondence

# ***Rehabilitation of Upper Turtle River Dam No. 9 (Larimore Dam) Alternatives Discussion***



***Grand Forks County Water Resource District  
February 5, 2025***



# Agenda

- **Review of Work to Date- Christi/Jon/Tom**
- **Nonstructural Alternatives - Jon**
- **Structural Alternatives - Kate**
- **Sponsor Decisions - Christi**

## MEETING DATE:

GFSCD

A-5

Class III Cultural  
Resources Survey  
Consultation

Section 106

**Bismarck State Office**  
PO Box 1458  
220 E. Rosser Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

William Peterson  
Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
State Historical Society of ND  
612 E. Boulevard Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58505

May 28, 2025

Dear Mr. Peterson:

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4, North Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is requesting continued consultation for the identification of historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect for the implementation of undertakings proposed in the Supplemental Watershed Plan/Environmental Assessment for the Rehabilitation of the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam No. 9 (Larimore Dam). NRCS proposes construction activities to bring the dam into compliance with current performance, design and safety standards. The undertaking will not increase the permanent pool elevation behind the dam but will involve considerable ground disturbance within the immediate vicinity of the dam structure.

In April of 2020, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3(b)(3), the NRCS initiated the Section 106 consultation process with the ND State Historic Historical Society and 32 Tribal governments, requesting your participation in the planning and environmental assessment of the Larimore Dam Rehabilitation Plan.

Since that time, NRCS Cultural Resource Specialists completed a Class I Records search and field survey in 2021. An additional record search and survey was conducted in 2025 in response to changes in the APE. The surveys included test probes, and each resulted in a new site form submission. The final Draft Plan – EA is nearing completion. These documents were prepared under authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566) and in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190).

***The Class III Survey resulted in the following conclusions and recommendations by the NRCS SRCS:***

The 2021 field survey resulted in the completion of a new site: 32GF3851 (lithic scatter). While the footprint of the preferred alternative avoids this site entirely, NRCS recommends Site 32GF351 be protected from any incidental impacts of construction with fencing or signage.

The construction of Larimore Dam was completed in 1976 and is 49 years old. Rehabilitation construction would not take place until the dam reaches NRHP eligibility age of 50 years, therefore an eligibility discussion was included in the survey. A site form was submitted to NDSHPO in May 2025 for the dam; NRCS recommends the Larimore Dam is ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

---

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.11(d), NRCS's preliminary determination is "***No Historic Properties Effected***". We seek your input and concurrence with our determination and thank you for this opportunity to consult with you.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Cultural Resources Specialist, Janelle Harrison, (701) 516-2280 or [janelle.harrison@usda.gov](mailto:janelle.harrison@usda.gov). Thank you for your timely response and assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

*Acting for*  
DAN HOVLAND  
State Conservationist

Enclosure: Class III Cultural Resource Survey with appendices



June 30, 2025

Rita Sveen  
NRCS  
Bismarck State Office  
PO Box 1458  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

**ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5524 "Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Class III Cultural Resource Survey" in portions of [T152N R54W Section 31, 32]**

Dear Rita,

We reviewed ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5524 "Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Class III Cultural Resource Survey" in portions of [T152N R54W Section 31, 32] and we require additional information in order to complete our review. Please address the attached comments and we will be happy to review your project again.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Steckler, Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-3577, e-mail [lsteckler@nd.gov](mailto:lsteckler@nd.gov)

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
(North Dakota)

20-5524

**From:** [Sveen, RitaHarmsen - FPAC-NRCS, ND](#)  
**To:** [Steckler, Lisa L.](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 20-5524  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025 2:38:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Larimore Dam Class III Draft Report 7 30 2025.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

Hi Lisa,

Here is the final version. Thank you.

**Rita H. Sveen**

*Watershed Conservationist*  
NRCS-ND | State Engineering

 **USDA** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
417 Park St. W. Ste.1, Park River, ND 58270  
p: (701) 284-7771 ext 124  
e: [rita.sveen@usda.gov](mailto:rita.sveen@usda.gov)

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**From:** Steckler, Lisa L. <[lsteckler@nd.gov](mailto:lsteckler@nd.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025 2:06 PM  
**To:** Sveen, RitaHarmsen - FPAC-NRCS, ND <[rita.sveen@usda.gov](mailto:rita.sveen@usda.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 20-5524

Thank you. No need to correct for the golf course, it was just a question. We are actually fine with the report as is but just wanted to give you that information for future reports. Should I hold the report then and wait for a new version or just file it as is and close out the project?

---

**From:** Sveen, RitaHarmsen - FPAC-NRCS, ND <[rita.sveen@usda.gov](mailto:rita.sveen@usda.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025 1:55 PM  
**To:** Steckler, Lisa L. <[lsteckler@nd.gov](mailto:lsteckler@nd.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 20-5524

|                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>***** <b>CAUTION:</b> This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe. *****</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Thank you, Lisa.

See below. I've made some edits based on this feedback and will send the final version when we consult with the tribes.

Rita H. Sveen  
Watershed Conservationist  
NRCS-ND | State Engineering

 **USDA** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
417 Park St. W. Ste.1, Park River, ND 58270  
p: (701) 284-7771 ext 124  
e: [rita.sveen@usda.gov](mailto:rita.sveen@usda.gov)

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**From:** Steckler, Lisa L. <[lsteckler@nd.gov](mailto:lsteckler@nd.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025 9:20 AM  
**To:** Sveen, RitaHarmsen - FPAC-NRCS, ND <[rita.sveen@usda.gov](mailto:rita.sveen@usda.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 20-5524

Please see attached. No hard copy to follow.

A couple of notes from the architectural historian : pg 9 cites a source not in the bibliography (Bluemle 1977) – **added citation to bib.** ; pg. 19 says no sites in APE but what about previously recorded 32GF03851 (2021) **I added that the original search in 2021 found nothing, but the following narrative explains the find and how it was added as a site.** ?; gives both 1976 and 1977 for build dates of the dam – **confusion in that construction began in 1976, 1977 is the correct completion date, error corrected.** ; how old is the golf course? Website says 1959 but not on 1962 aerial - **If it's the same photo as Figure 7 on pg. 15, this photo was obtained from the NDGIS website, which gives a range of years from 1957 to 1962, I refer to the photo in the document as being from 1957. I suppose the golf course could've been added as a site, however given the construction would only impact a small area of fairway, I would request we can conclude the survey as is.**

---

**From:** Sveen, RitaHarmsen - FPAC-NRCS, ND <[rita.sveen@usda.gov](mailto:rita.sveen@usda.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 2:42 PM  
**To:** -Info-Historical Society Cultural Review <[shsculturalreview@nd.gov](mailto:shsculturalreview@nd.gov)>  
**Subject:** Larimore Dam Rehabilitation 20-5524

|                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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I have uploaded the revised manuscript to your website along with the response to your comments (also attached here)

Regards,

**Rita H. Sveen**

*Watershed Conservationist*  
NRCS-ND | State Engineering



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

417 Park St. W. Ste.1, Park River, ND 58270

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July 30, 2025

Rita Sveen  
NRCS  
Bismarck State Office  
PO Box 1458  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

**ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5524 "Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Class III Cultural Resource Survey" in portions of [T152N R54W Section 31, 32]**

Dear Rita,

We reviewed ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5524 "Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam #9 (Larimore Dam) Class III Cultural Resource Survey" in portions of [T152N R54W Section 31, 32] as submitted to our office on July 1, 2025. We concur with a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this project provided 32GF6851 is fenced and avoided during construction. Signage should only indicate "avoidance area" and not include any information that it is an archaeological site, provided it takes place in the location and in the manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Please include the ND SHPO Reference number listed above in further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Steckler, Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-3577 or [lsteckler@nd.gov](mailto:lsteckler@nd.gov)

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
(North Dakota)

20-5524



**Bismarck State Office**  
PO Box 1458  
220 E. Rosser Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

September 3, 2025

Chairman Durrell Cooper  
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma  
511 East Colorado  
Anadarko, OK 73005

RE: Request for Continued Consultation on the Class III Cultural Resource Survey for the Supplemental Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment for the Rehabilitation of the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam No. 9 (Larimore Dam)

Honorable Chairman Cooper:

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4, North Dakota NRCS is requesting continued consultation for the identification of historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect for the implementation of undertakings proposed in the Supplemental Watershed Plan/Environmental Assessment for the Rehabilitation of the Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam No. 9 (Larimore Dam). NRCS proposes construction activities to bring the dam into compliance with current performance, design and safety standards. The undertaking will not increase the permanent pool elevation behind the dam; however, it will involve considerable ground disturbance within the immediate vicinity of the dam structure.

In January of 2020, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3(b)(3), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), initiated the Section 106 consultation process with the ND State Historic Historical Society and 30 Tribal governments, requesting your participation in the planning and environmental assessment of the Larimore Dam Rehabilitation Plan.

Since that time, NRCS Cultural Resource Specialists have completed Class I Records searches in 2021 and again in April of 2025. The Class III Cultural Resource Survey was submitted to ND SHPO in 2025 and after completing several additions and edits, ND SHPO on July 30, 2025, concurred with our recommendation of “No Historic Properties Affected”. The final Draft Plan – EA is nearing completion. These documents were prepared under authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566) and in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190).

***The Class III Survey resulted in the following conclusions and recommendations by the NRCS SRCS:***

---

There are eight recorded cultural resource sites, and five unverified site leads within one mile of the APE. **No sites will be affected by the construction footprint of the project. Please note that during the 2021 field survey, cultural artifacts were found, and a site form was completed for this area. This site will not be disturbed by the construction footprint of the dam. Construction specifications will be required to include language that stipulates the site be fenced out and all impacts avoided, including staging or stockpiling.** NRCS welcomes any additional information from tribes regarding the cultural significance of this area. A summary of these sites may be found in Table 6 of the survey.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.11(d), NRCS's preliminary recommendation is "No Historic Properties Affected". Your tribe is welcome to provide additional information and comments on the Class III Cultural Resource Survey. **Comments are respectfully requested within 30 days of your receipt of this letter and packet.**

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Cultural Resources Specialist, Janelle Harrison at [Janelle.Harrison@usda.gov](mailto:Janelle.Harrison@usda.gov). Thank you for your timely response and assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

*Acting for*  
DAN HOVLAND  
State Conservationist

Cc:, Durrell Cooper, THPO

Enclosure:  
- Class III Cultural Resource Survey with appendices

A-6

Letters of Support for  
Environmental  
Assessment

# Red River Joint Water Resource District

*Providing a coordinated and cooperative approach to planning and implementing  
a comprehensive water management program in the Red River Valley*

1201 Main Avenue West  
West Fargo, ND 58078-1301

Phone: 701-298-2381  
Fax: 701-298-2397  
wrd@casscountyny.gov  
[www.redriverjointwrd.org](http://www.redriverjointwrd.org)

## SENT VIA EMAIL

December 7, 2023

Christi Fisher, P.E.  
State Conservation Engineer  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Bismarck State Office  
P.O. Box 1458  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

Dear Ms. Fisher:

RE: Dam rehabilitation plans

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the planning process for the six dam rehabilitation projects in North Dakota.

The Red River Joint WRD (RRJWRD) is appreciative of the efforts of the NRCS to plan and rehabilitate these high hazard dams to the current dam safety criteria. We support the ND NRCS proposal to continue with Environmental Assessments (EA) on each of the rehabilitation plans.

We understand that planning for five of the dams is near completion, with expectations to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents in 2024. A structural rehabilitation is recommended for each dam. This would not be expected to impact the nutrient loading from the current conditions, with the dams being in place for more than 45 years.

The EA will adequately analyze the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the alternatives. Switching to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would require more time to complete the additional processes. This would cause a delay of the needed upgrade and would increase the risk of a structural failure that could adversely impact downstream flooding and water quality conditions.

## MEMBER WATER RESOURCE DISTRICTS

Ransom County  
Richland County  
Sargent County  
Pembina County

Walsh County  
Grand Forks County  
Traill County  
Barnes County

Maple River  
North Cass  
Southeast Cass

Rush River  
Nelson County  
Steele County

Christi Fisher  
Page 2  
December 7, 2023

We realize the importance of the water quality objectives set at the international border for nutrient concentration and load objectives. We feel the structural rehabilitation of existing detention structures in the basin will not cause increased nutrient levels.

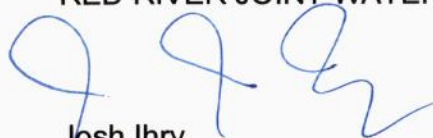
The RRJWRD is participating in watershed planning studies to create new retention projects that would reduce downstream flood threats as well as reduce nutrient levels. An EIS assessment is underway for these efforts, due to a potential positive water quality impact.

We look forward to working with the NRCS in completing these rehabilitation projects.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT



Josh Ihry  
Chair

cc: Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota Department of Water Resources



# RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

Brian Fuder, Executive Director  
Red River Retention Authority  
1120 28<sup>th</sup> Ave N Ste C  
Fargo, ND 58102-1334

December 13, 2023

Ms. Christi Fisher, State Conservation Engineer  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
220 East Rosser Avenue  
Federal Building  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

I want to express gratitude for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the planning efforts related to the dam rehabilitation projects in North Dakota.

The Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) greatly appreciates the work the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) does to ensure the continued effectiveness and safety of high hazard dams within the Red River Basin and throughout North Dakota.

There are currently six dams within the Red River Basin that the NRCS is currently studying and planning that are not in compliance with current dam safety standards and need upgrading. Without the needed upgrades, these dams have the potential to become a liability to the safety and wellbeing of the citizens, property, and the environment to which they currently provide protection.

These dams have been in use starting in 1957 and have outlived their projected life spans. Structural upgrades are needed and should not have any major downstream impacts on water quality issues. The structural stability of these dams is of concern and the sooner these upgrades can be made the safer they will be from structural failure that most definitely would have an adverse impact on water quality issues and downstream flooding. The requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement, rather than an Environmental Assessment would certainly be a cause for delay in the rehabilitation process. It is the opinion of the RRRA that an Environmental Assessment would be sufficient and that an Environmental Impact Statement would only be required if identified during conducting the Environmental Assessment.

It is also understood that the reasoning of the objectives set for nutrient concentration and loading must be considered as the Red River crosses the international boundary. This is of great

importance; however, it is felt structural rehabilitation of existing retention structures in the Red River Basin would not cause any increase in nutrient levels in the surface waters of the Red River Basin.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Please contact us if you need any further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Fuder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Fuder" clearly distinguishable.

Brian Fuder, Executive Director  
Red River Retention Authority

Cc: John Finney, Co-Chair RRRA, Josh Ihry, Co-Chair RRRA

# A-7 MOU

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**AND**  
**GRAND FORKS COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered by and between the Grand Forks County Water Resource District, the Sponsoring Local Organization for this project (Sponsor) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), (together, the Parties).

**Authorities**

The authority of NRCS to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding is Section 14 of The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. 1012, as added by Section 313 of Public Law 106-472. This section authorizes NRCS to provide technical and financial assistance to local project sponsors for rehabilitation of aging dams constructed under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566), the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-534), the Pilot Watershed Program, and the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program.

**Purpose and Mutual Interest**

The purpose of this document is to clarify the roles and functions of each partner and establish a framework under which the financial obligations and value of in-kind services of the NRCS and the Sponsor are established so as to minimize misunderstandings and maximize cooperation towards our mutual goal of rehabilitating Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam No. 9 (Larimore Dam). Therefore, the parties pledge to work together with the mutual goal of rehabilitation of this project within the current limits of their respective authorities and available funding.

The NRCS and the Sponsor are participating in the development of a plan for the rehabilitation of Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam No. 1 (Larimore Dam). Federal funds for construction of a rehabilitation project are authorized for up to 65 percent of the total costs of the rehabilitation project but will not exceed 100 percent of the actual construction costs incurred in the rehabilitation. The Sponsors will be responsible for acquisition of all land rights and permits and for the administration of the construction contract. The value of non-federal in-kind contributions can be credited to the Sponsors' 35 percent share of the total installation cost of the rehabilitation project.

## **Background**

Previously the NRCS provided technical and financial assistance to the Sponsor for works of improvement known as Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam No. 9 (Larimore Dam). This project was originally authorized and installed under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL-83-566). According to the Upper Turtle River Watershed Supplemental Plan No. 1 for the Rehabilitation of Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam No. 9 and the operation and maintenance agreement for this project, the Sponsor is responsible for the operation and maintenance of this dam to assure it will function as designed and constructed. The Sponsor has an interest in extending the service life of the dam and meeting applicable safety and performance standards and is working with NRCS to develop a Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Rehabilitation of the structure. This Supplemental Plan provides detailed information regarding various alternatives for the rehabilitation Upper Turtle River Watershed Dam No. 9 (Larimore Dam) and documentation of the preferred alternative.

## **NRCS Financial Obligation**

The NRCS commits to providing 65 percent of the construction cost of the rehabilitation project and 100% of the final design and construction engineering costs. The estimated value of the NRCS financial contribution to the project for final design and construction is \$9,785,340 as shown in Table 1.

## **Sponsor Financial Obligation**

The Sponsor commits to providing 35 percent of the total construction cost of the rehabilitation project. The 35 percent contribution will consist of credit for previous cash contributions to planning, permitting, and project administration costs. The estimated value of the Sponsor financial contribution to the project for final design and construction is \$4,443,620 as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

| Works of Improvement                       | NRCS         | Sponsors     | Total         |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Cost Shareable Items</b>                |              |              |               |
| Rehabilitation of dam (Construction Costs) | \$ 8,231,340 | \$ 4,198,660 | \$ 12,430,000 |
| Sponsors Planning Costs                    | N/A          | \$ 183,600   | \$ 183,600    |
| Sponsors Project Administration            | N/A          | \$ 50,000    | \$ 50,000     |
| <b>Subtotal: Cost-Share Costs</b>          | \$ 8,231,340 | \$ 4,432,260 | \$ 12,663,600 |
| <b>Cost-Share Percentages</b>              | 65%          | 35%          | 100%          |
| <b>Non Cost Shareable Items</b>            |              |              |               |
| NRCS Engineering & Project Administration  | \$ 1,554,000 | N/A          | \$ 1,554,000  |
| Federal, State, and Local Permits          | N/A          | \$ 11,360    | \$ 11,360     |
| <b>Subtotal: Non Cost-Share Costs</b>      | \$ 1,554,000 | \$ 11,360    | \$ 1,565,360  |

Note: Wetland mitigation credit purchase is included in the construction costs

## General Terms

- A. NRCS and Grand Forks County Water Resource District will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.
- B. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either Party to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property between the parties requires execution of separate agreements and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.
- C. This MOU takes effect upon full execution by both Parties and shall remain in effect for five years. This MOU may be extended or amended upon written request of either Party and the subsequent written concurrence of the other(s). Either Party may terminate this MOU with a 60-day written notice to the other(s).
- D. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.
- E. The Parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of a third-party beneficiary, and this MOU shall not be construed to create such status. The rights, duties and obligations contained in this MOU shall operate only between the Parties to this MOU and shall inure solely to the benefit of the Parties to this

MOU. The provisions of this MOU are intended only to assist the Parties in determining and performing their obligations under this MOU. The Parties to this MOU intend and expressly agree that only Parties to this MOU shall have any legal or equitable right to seek to enforce this MOU, to seek any remedy arising out of a Party's performance or failure to perform any term or condition of this MOU, or to bring an action for the breach of this MOU.

**Contacts:**

**NRCS:** Dan Hovland, State Conservationist (701 )530-2067 dan.hovland@usda.gov

Erica Althoff, State Engineer (701 )658-3352 erica.althoff@usda.gov

**Sponsor:** Bob Drees, Chairman (701) 741-0888

Lori Christianson, Secretary (701) 780-8312 gfcwrd@outlook.com

**Signatures:**

In witness whereof, the parties to this MOU through their duly authorized representatives have executed this MOU on the days and dates set out below, and certify that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions of this MOU as set forth herein.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Drees, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

 **DANIEL HOVLAND** Digitally signed by DANIEL  
HOVLAND  
Date: 2026.03.05 06:23:25 -06'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Hovland  
State Conservationist

\_\_\_\_\_

A-8

## FONSI Notifications to NEPA Stakeholders

A-9

Watershed Plan  
Public Meeting Notice,  
Invitation and  
Documents

A-10

Comments and  
Disposition