

725 W. University Ave.  
Minot, ND 58703, ph. 839-8675  
March 18, 2006

Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Sirs:

The proposal of the Red River Valley Water Supply project to take water from the Missouri River to supply future development in Fargo seems unreasonable. For some time there has been considerable wrangling over Missouri river management due to not enough water for everybody. This year there is not enough water to do the spring release that was agreed on to conserve endangered species. There has been continued friction between downstream uses and ND uses. There has not been enough water for adequate water levels for Lake Sakakawea for some years. It seems inappropriate to plan to take more water out and pipe it a considerable distance. In thinking of future development more effort needs to be made to put the growth and development where the water is – in Bismarck/Mandan, or even better in Washburn, Stanton, New Town, Williston, Cannon ball and Fort Yates, and possibly Dickinson and Minot. State development efforts are too often too focused on the Red River Valley. I am convinced that smaller communities (less than 50 thousand) are better at providing most of their citizens the possibility for maximum individual development and happiness and we should strive to increase the part of the population in smaller towns. In addition there will probably be strong Canadian objection to transferring water from the Missouri to the Red River.

Yours truly,

*Margaret Lowe*

Margaret Lowe

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