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From: "Tom & Shelly" <mardoy@btinet.net>
To: <:ssnortland@gp.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/25/2007 6:16:58 AM
Subject: Comment on proposed Red River Valley Water Supply Project

TO: US Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation

SUBJECT: Comment on proposed Red River Valley Water Supply Project

We know there is another 1930's era drought or worse somewhere in ND's future. The Red River and those communities that depend on it for water will be significantly impacted. The entire state of North Dakota will be significantly impacted. Planning for this inevitability is essential. I applaud the State of ND and BOR for its proactive stance in recognizing the potential water supply threat of a severe drought.

I'm writing in support of the Red River Basin Alternative and in strong opposition of the "preferred" alternative, GDU Import to Sheyenne River, or any of the alternatives that use the Missouri River as a water supply for the Red River Valley.

The Red River Basin Alternative makes the most sense ethically, environmentally and economically. Among other positive attributes, this alternative:

- Minimizes impacts to the land and landowners by requiring less land for construction.
- Minimizes costs and has best chance of staying within budget.
- Encourages better conservation, preservation, and retention of water resources in the Red River Valley. The communities and industries within the RRV must accept the limitations of their watershed. Learn to live within those limitations. The growth and sprawl of the major RRV cities may already be beyond the capability of that watershed. Importing Missouri River water would only encourage more unsustainable use and development.
- Avoids impacts to the historic majestic Missouri River, one of the great rivers of our nation, not just ND. We must very carefully scrutinize and try to avoid any action that has even a minor possibility of detrimentally impacting the Missouri River. We owe that careful consideration to this river that has contributed such a significant role in the history, discovery and characterization of our nation.
- Acknowledges the priority and importance of communities that currently and historically use the Missouri River for their water supply. Communities like Ft. Yates and New Town experienced loss of municipal water during last year's drought. ND needs to resolve existing issues involving Missouri River's water supply and not create new conflicts.
- Encourages good relations and cooperation between ND and MN. We witnessed compassion and benevolence between our states during disastrous flooding. Groundwork for the same cooperation must be in place for a disastrous drought.
- Avoids international conflicts with Canada and biota transfer issues. Importing the Missouri River to Canada will instigate a huge controversy. There is no good reason to develop an adversarial relationship with our friends in Manitoba or anywhere in Canada.

For these and other reasons, I urge the State of North Dakota and the Bureau of Reclamation to adopt the Red River Basin Alternative.

Thank you for considering my opinion and comments. Please include me in any follow-up mailings or information outreach.

Michele Doyle
1612 7th Street NW
Mandan, ND 58554
Email: [HYPERLINK "mardoy@btinet.net" mardoy@btinet.net](mailto:mardoy@btinet.net)

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