

South Central Dakota Regional Council

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**Serving the North Dakota Counties of Barnes, Dickey, Foster,
Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells**

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
April 2024 through March 2028**

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SOUTH CENTRAL DAKOTA REGIONAL COUNCIL

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs)

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INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the South Central Dakota Regional Council is a planning and project implementation process designed to promote economic development through retention of existing jobs and attracting new jobs, in addition to enhancing and preserving the quality of place.

The South Central Dakota Regional Council, serving the North Dakota counties of Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells, was formed as a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration District on June 16, 1977.

The CEDS Document:

- Describes the background, problems, needs, resources and opportunities of the nine-county region
- Identifies the goals and objectives of the CEDS plan and projects for the nine-county region
- Presents strategies and action plans devised to achieve set goals
- Outlines the standards for program evaluation

The SCDRC Board/CEDS Committee is comprised of individuals representing many groups, including, but not limited to: business, industry, workforce, education, economic developers, and county and city government. The Committee will recommend and/or modify CEDS priorities and action strategies as needed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Central Dakota Regional Council (SCDRC) is comprised of nine counties in southeast-central North Dakota – Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells. It is officially referred to as Region VI of the eight official planning Districts of North Dakota. It is organized as a government entity formed by the North Dakota Legislature.

The mission of the South Central Dakota Regional Council is to collaborate to improve the quality of place in the region. The Regional Council serves as a liaison, innovator and facilitator of dialogue and actions among the nine counties, the state of North Dakota, the federal government, the businesses and nonprofit organizations serving the area.

The vision of the South Central Dakota Regional Council is to be a coordinated group of leaders working together to improve the quality of life in the District.

The CEDS Committee has identified the following goals for the District for the next five years:

1. Support the development of a workforce that provides sustainability and growth opportunities for the District.
2. Provide support for the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure for regional growth.
3. Manage the SCDRC organization in an efficient manner and access the resources for a viable regional council that is effective in assisting the nine-county region to plan and grow.
4. Create a quality of place where people want to live and raise their families.
5. Support business development and provide access to business capital that allows businesses to expand, diversify, and build upon existing sectors, and to grow new sectors.

6. Explore and investigate opportunities for energy and natural resource development while continuing to support and grow agricultural opportunities in the region through value-added agricultural options.
7. Increase the region’s resilience to disasters.
8. Collaborate and develop partnerships that will share information, tools and investment for growth in the region.
9. Collaborate and develop partnerships that will support the USDA Regional Food Business Centers Program.
10. Regional Workforce Impact Program – Collaborate with the region to provide a plan of action for our region on this program.

South Central Dakota Regional Council was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the state of North Dakota on December 20, 1973, as one of the state’s eight planning and development regions. The Regional Council was designated as a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Economic Development District (EDD) on June 16, 1977. In 2000, the Regional Council Board of Directors organized as a government entity formed by joint powers agreements that are signed annually by each of the nine member counties.

The nine member counties are Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells.

Board of Directors

Each of the nine counties in the South Central Dakota Regional Council is represented on the Board of Directors by a county commissioner. Each county also has one board member representing the small cities in that county. The cities of Jamestown and Valley City, both with population of more than 5,000 each have one representative on the Board of Directors. Also represented by seats on the Board of Directors are North Dakota Job Service, business and industry, and economic developers of the District.

The South Central Dakota Regional Council Strategy Committee has 28 members. The Committee is comprised of 18 elected officials (64%), 10 non-government representatives (36%).

South Central Dakota Regional Council Executive Board

- President: Vicky Lovell, Sanborn, ND
- Vice-President: Spencer Marchand, Harvey, ND
- Secretary-Treasurer: Kim Lees, Buchanan, ND
- Member: Joseph Neis, Edgeley, ND
- Member: Jessical Welder, Wishek, ND

2023 South Central Dakota Regional Council Board of Directors

1. Government representatives 51 to 65%

Name	Government	Position
Vicky Lovell	Barnes County	Commissioner
Kacey Holm	Dickey County	Commissioner
Josh Averill	Griggs County	Commissioner
Blanche Schumacher	Logan County	Commissioner
Perry Turner	McIntosh County	Commissioner
Levi Taylor	Stutsman County	Commissioner
Dennis Dockter	Wells County	Commissioner

David Schlogel	City of Jamestown/Stutsman County	City Councilman
Anne Ehni	Wells County SCD	Supervisor
Curtis Klein	Foster County SCD	Supervisor
Eric Hoberg	City of Napoleon/Logan County	City Councilman
Jessica Welder	City of Wishek/McIntosh County	Mayor
Kevin Roller	City of Fessenden/Wells County	Mayor
Matt Thorpe	City of Ellendale/Dickey County	Mayor
Bruce Storhoff	City of Nome/Barnes County	Mayor
Iris Brandt	City of Glenfield/Foster County	Mayor
Vince Watkins	City of LaMoure/LaMoure County	City Councilman
Gwen Crawford	City of Valley City/ Barnes County	City Representative

2. Non-Government representatives 35 to 49%

a. Private Sector Representative

Name	Company /Enterprise	Position
Connie Ova	Ova Farms	Partner
Joseph Neis	Neis Bus Service	Owner
Keith Heidinger	KK Farms	Owner
Bernie Wanzek	Wanzek Farms	Owner
Kim Lees	Lees Farm	Owner
Paul Paintner	Pizza Ranch	Owner
Spencer Marchand	Marchand Retail Group, Inc.	Owner
Pat Copenhaver	Pat Copenhaver Farms	Owner

b. Stakeholder Organizations Representatives (At least one required)

Name	Organization	Position
Danica Chaput	Job Service ND, Jamestown	Customer Service Manager
Larry Robinson	Valley City State University	Executive Director of University Advancement

Calculations

	Number	Percent
1. Government Representatives (51 to 65%)	18	64
2. Non-Government Representatives (35 to 49%)		
a. Private Sector Representatives (min. 1)	8	
b. Stakeholder Organization Representative (min. 1)	2	36
3. <u>At-Large Representatives (0 to 14%)</u>	0	0
Total Board Membership	<u>28</u>	<u>100%</u>

South Central Dakota Regional Council Staff

- **Traci Redlin**, Director. Redlin joined the Council in October 2017. She has a degree in Business/Accounting and an Administrative Assistant Certification. Her experience includes administrative services, training, project coordination, grant writing/administration. Redlin works within all aspects of the Regional Council including grant writing, CDBG, USDA, FEMA and EDA. She works closely with loan clients, economic developers and city/county and state officials in the region.
- **Jennifer Schultes**, Planner. Schultes rejoined the Council in March 2019. Previously she worked for the council from August, 2015 – May, 2018. She has a degree in Business Administration. Her experience includes non-profit administration, advertising sales, purchasing, grant writing/administration and planning. Schultes works with all aspects of the Regional Council including outreach, grant writing, Multi-hazard mitigation plans, FEMA applications, CDBG, USDA, FEMA, EDA, Law Enforcement Operations Plans (LEOP) and Emergency Operation planning. She works closely with loan clients, economic developers and city/county and state officials in the region.
- **Krista Kuglin**, Marketing Director. Kuglin works with our web site and social media marketing and assists our region in knowing about the programs available to them.
- **LeAnn Fuchs**, Contractor - Bookkeeping. Her experience includes working in financial management and operating a small business.

Update Process

The South Central Dakota Regional Council Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee has met quarterly for the past five years. In addition, Regional Council staff and board members participated in workforce development meetings and housing meetings in several of the District's counties along with completing a housing study. Staff also participated in state and county mitigation planning meetings.

In the past year, the District held CEDS Committee meetings on October 19, 2022, January 18, 2023, March 15, 2023, and July 19, 2023.

The draft District CEDS plan was reviewed by the CEDS Committee on September 20, 2023, and put on the District website: www.scdrc.org. Public comments were sought for more than 30 days. In addition all CEDS Committee members, city and county auditors, and other stakeholders were informed of the public comment period either via mail or email. The CEDS draft plan was also discussed at a number of economic development corporation and civic meetings.

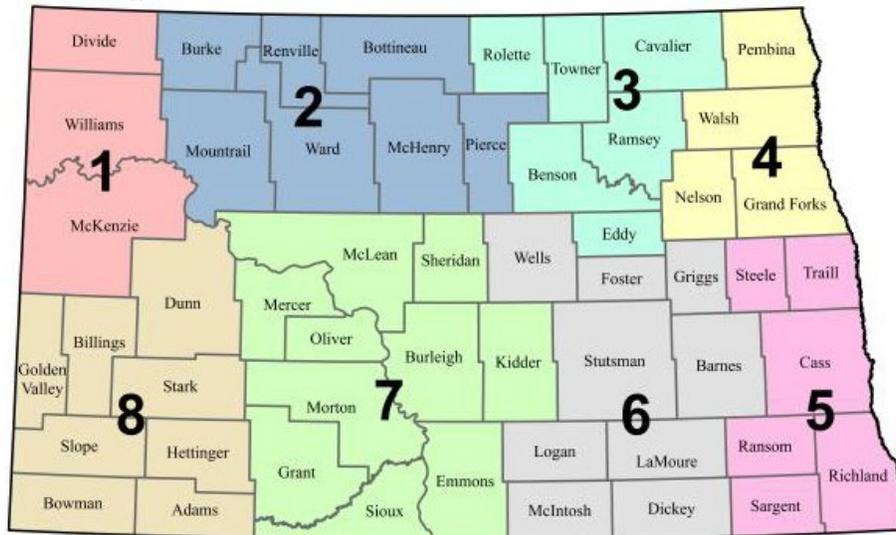
At the September 20, 2023 meeting, the SCDRC CEDS Committee approved the SCDRC Executive Board to meet and incorporate any comments if other comments were received. No additional comments were received.

1 BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT AND ITS ECONOMY

The District

The District is North Dakota Sub Region VI of the state’s eight sub regions. It includes the counties of Wells, Foster, Griggs, Stutsman, Barnes, Logan, LaMoure, McIntosh and Dickey. (See Figure 1) The southern counties border the South Dakota border.

Figure 1. The Sub-Regions of the State of North Dakota



The District depends heavily on the agricultural industry. All nine counties have vast amounts of farm production areas, including crop and livestock. The agricultural industry also drives the other industries in the District. Much of the manufacturing, a major cluster in the area, is closely tied to the production of agricultural equipment and parts. The wholesale trade industry is also a strong industry in the District. In seven of the District’s counties — Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh and Wells, it is in the top four of the county’s employers. In three of the counties — Foster, Griggs and Wells — the wholesale trade industry is the highest paying industry in the county. According to the N.D. Workforce Intelligence Network, in 2012 District establishments employed about 6 percent of the state’s workforce.

The District encompasses 6,828,096 acres of area (water and land), or 10,573.55 square miles, and as of the 2020 Census has a population of 55,629. Total population density is 5.3 people per square mile. (See Table 1) Table 1 depicts the 2020 population, land and population density of each county in the District, and Figure 2 shows the population density in the District’s counties compared to other counties in the state.

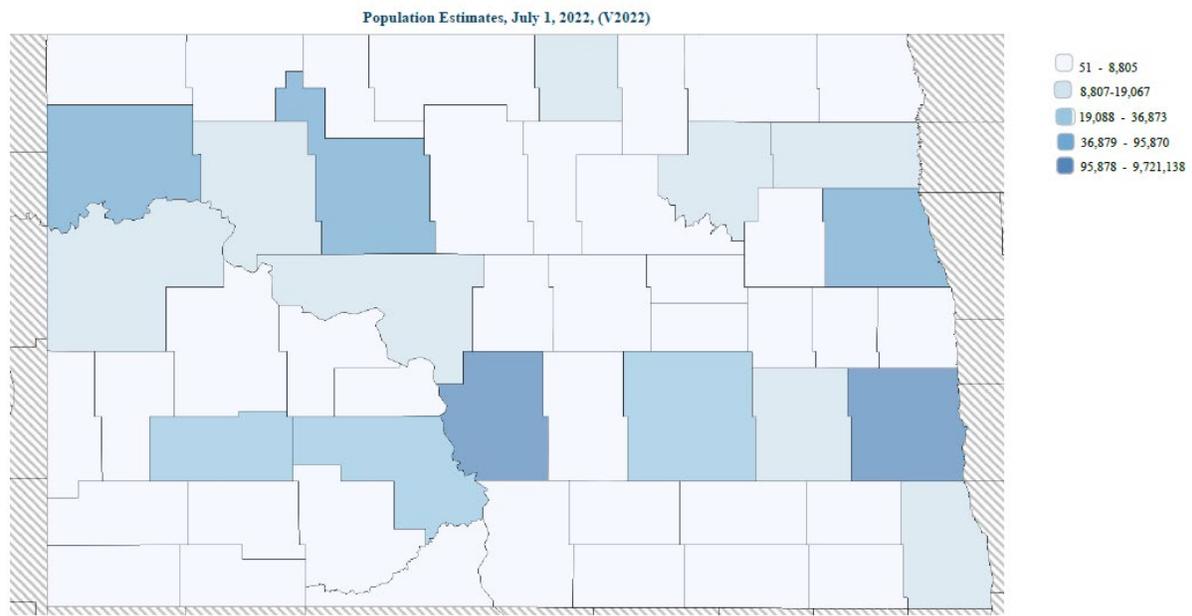
Table 1. ND Region VI — 2020 Population, Area, and Density by County

County	2020 Census Population	Land Area in Square Miles	Density Per Square Mile
Barnes	10,853	1,492	7.3
Dickey	4,999	1,131	4.4
Foster	3,397	635	5.3
Griggs	2,306	709	3.3
LaMoure	4,093	1,146	3.6
Logan	1,876	993	1.9
McIntosh	2,530	975	2.6
Stutsman	21,593	2,222	9.7
Wells	3,982	1,271	3.1
Region Total	55,629	10,574	5.3
State Total	779,094	69,001	11.3

Land area is the size, in square units (metric and nonmetric) of all areas designated as land in the Census Bureau’s national geographic (TIGER) database.

Source: US Census Quick Facts

Figure 2. District’s 2022 Population Estimates Compared to Counties in State



Source: US Census Bureau

The District is a sparsely populated area with numerous acres dedicated to farming and ranching. The geology, temperatures and precipitation combine to create good growing conditions throughout the region. The surface geology includes the Missouri Couteau region characterized by multiple closed basin drainages — also known as the Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota and the riverine drainage of the James, Pipestem and Sheyenne rivers and tributaries. The temperature is typically warm to hot and often humid in the summer and cold to severely cold in the winter, e.g. temperatures dropping to -30 and -40 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation mainly occurs in the summer months; however, snow cover is typical with average snowfall ranging about 40 inches of snow. These averages were more than doubled in the 2008-09 and 2019-2020 winters.

The majority of the District's population lives in 60 incorporated cities. However, only two cities — Jamestown, Valley City — are classified as urban, with populations of more than 2,500. The region has limited socio-economic infrastructure which further limits the economic development in the area. The nine counties of the District are located between two of the state's major population centers – the counties of Burleigh to the west and Cass to the east. The most population in the region is located in communities along Interstate 94 in Stutsman and Barnes counties.

Economy

The District's major economic engine is agriculture. Until 2002, the District's trend was towards larger farms and ranches with fewer operators. Table 2, page 11, shows the farm numbers and average size in each county. In 2017, the number of farms in all counties decreased except Barnes increased from the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture. The District has 17 percent of the farms in the state.

Increasing mechanization and efficiency of scale continue to reduce the opportunities for rural employment. While agriculture is the primary economic engine in the District, manufacturing, energy development, technology, and tourism are contributing an increasing amount of economic activity and employment. The District has developed three clusters growing from the strong agricultural base: manufacturing, energy and technology.

Several firms in the District were developed to design equipment and technology to address agricultural demands. Manufacturing clusters have developed allowing the growth and development of ag-related businesses and manufacturers. Energy development opportunities of the District, including ethanol, bio-diesel, and wind, are the primary growing energy components in the District. This growth area capitalizes on the agricultural base of the District. Energy development is growing in the district with the development of wind farms and plant-based fuels. Dakota Spirit AgEnergy constructed a 1 billion dollar ethanol plant in Spiritwood Township in eastern Stutsman County providing 36 full-time jobs.

The Courtenay Wind Farm in northern Stutsman County is a 200-megawatt wind farm with 100 turbines put into service in 2016. The wind farm spans nearly 25,000 acres of property leased from approximately 60 land owners and generates enough power about 105,000 homes. The wind farm was constructed between 2014-2016.

Foxtail Wind Farm began construction in 2018 in Dickey County and will be a 150-megawatt wind farm with approximately 75 turbines completed in 2018-2019.

Ashtabula Wind Farm is the largest wind farm in North Dakota and has 250 turbines.

Tourism businesses also capitalize on the District's assets: water, agri-business, hunting fishing and bird-watching opportunities, the scenery and heritage. Tourism businesses are mostly seasonal with the greatest activity in the summer and fall. The numerous bodies of water and the District's cold winters make ice fishing one of the draws for the winter season. Snowmobiling, dog sledding and cross country skiing also are winter draws in parts of the District. District tourism entities and businesses partner and work closely with the N.D. Division of Tourism.

The Valley City-Barnes County I-94 Regional Development Corridor is a 76-acre industrial site purchased by the development corporation to provide land for expansion of the John Deere Seeding Group and advanced manufacturing.

Table 2. ND Region VI 2012 and 2017 Comparison of Number of Farms and Farm Size

County	Number of Farms 2012	Number of Farms 2017	Average Size of Farms – 2012 (in acres)	Average Size of Farms – 2017 (in acres)
Barnes	392	749	1,096	1,271
Dickey	543	419	1,166	1,620
Foster	310	230	1,206	1,713
Griggs	456	393	977	1,154
LaMoure	642	571	1,131	1,273
Logan	379	351	1,165	1,800
McIntosh	471	363	1,252	1,343
Stutsman	1,028	939	1,267	1,401
Wells	543	435	1,359	1,806
Total Region VI	4,764	4,450	1,179	1,487
Total State of ND	30,961	26,364	1,268	1,492

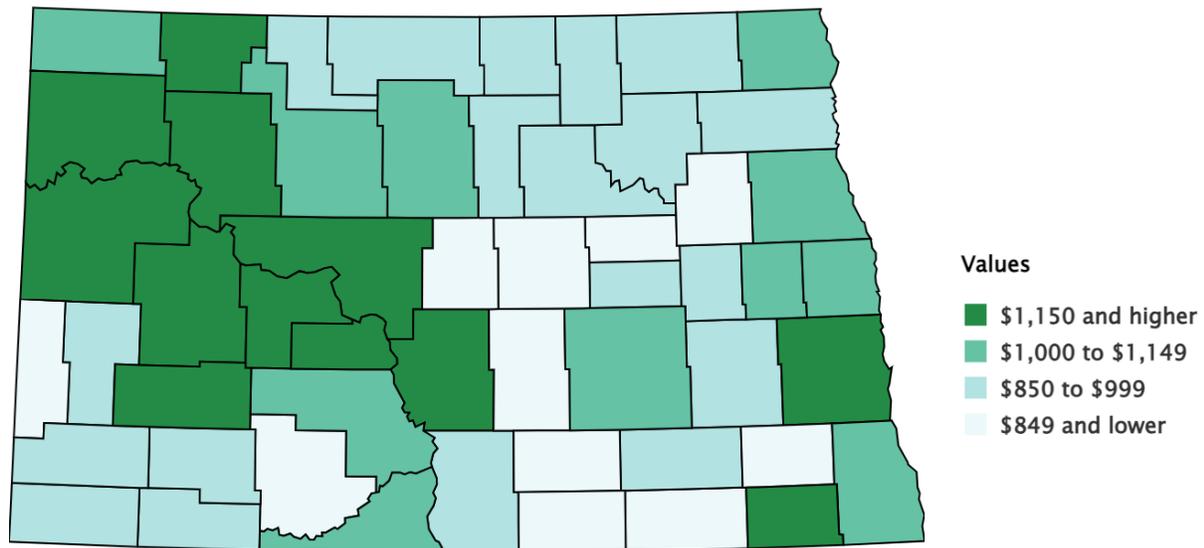
Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

Wages and Income

In 2020, the average annual wage for each individual county was lower than the state annual average. The state’s average annual wage was \$52,450 compared to \$43,631 for the District. (See Table 3) Average annual wages in the District have increased by approximately 67 percent between 2000 and 2020. McIntosh County experienced the largest change during this timeframe, increasing by 87 percent. While Stutsman County posted the smallest change, increasing by 59 percent.

Figure 3 shows the Average Weekly Wages by County

Figure 3. 2022 North Dakota Average Weekly Wages by County



Source: North Dakota Census Bureau.

Table 3. ND Region VI – Average Annual Wage by County Comparison 2000 through 2020

				Change 2000-2010		Change 2010-2020	
	2000	2010	2020	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Barnes	\$20,020	\$30,680	\$49,694	\$10,660	34.8%	\$19,014	38.3%
Dickey	\$19,292	\$29,536	\$48,713	\$10,244	34.7%	\$19,177	39.4%
Foster	\$21,476	\$35,932	\$50,966	\$14,456	40.2%	\$15,034	29.5%
Griggs	\$20,228	\$27,924	\$44,671	\$7,696	27.6%	\$16,747	37.5%
LaMoure	\$17,992	\$33,436	\$52,162	\$15,444	46.2%	\$18,726	35.9%
Logan	\$16,120	\$24,232	\$42,643	\$8,112	33.5%	\$18,411	43.2%
McIntosh	\$16,848	\$26,104	\$53,269	\$9,256	35.5%	\$27,165	51%
Stutsman	\$23,036	\$34,060	\$46,486	\$11,024	32.4%	\$12,426	26.7%
Wells	\$17,784	\$26,832	\$54,947	\$9,048	33.7%	\$28,115	51.2%
REGION TOTAL	\$19,200	\$29,860	\$43,621	\$10,660	35.7%	\$13,761	31.6%
STATE TOTAL	\$24,700	\$48,670	\$52,450	\$23,970	50.7%	\$3,780	8%

Population

Out-migration, which has been ongoing since the Great Depression, has had the greatest effect on population change and decline. The main reasons for out-migration are lack of skilled and high paying jobs, individuals seeking better employment opportunities, further education, and greater economic and social opportunities. The District’s farm-based economy has seen an increase in the size of the average farm since 1930 as small-scale farming has proven to be unsustainable. The population of each county in Region VI peaked in 1930 shortly before the Great Depression and has been declining each decade since.

The city of Jamestown, with a population of 15,849 as of the 2020 US Census, is the largest city in the District and the District’s major trade and employment center. Valley City is the second largest with a population of 6,575 as of the 2020 US Census and is also a trade and employment center. The District has numerous small cities that serve as agricultural product gathering and distribution sites. Access to a railroad, interstate highway and natural gas are a key determinant to the viability and sustainability of the towns in the District.

Table 4 – Region IV - Population and Household Growth Trends and Projections 1970-2020

	-- Change --																
	1970-1990		1990-2000		2000-2010		2010-2020		1970-1990		1990-2000		2000-2010		2010-2020		
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	
POPULATION																	
Barnes	14,669	13,960	12,545	11,775	11,066	11,574	-2,124	-14.5%	-770	-6.1%	-709	-6.0%	508	4.0%			
Dickey	6,976	7,207	6,107	5,757	5,289	5,313	-869	-12.5%	-350	-5.7%	-468	-8.1%	24	0.4%			
Foster	4,832	4,611	3,983	3,759	3,343	3,018	-849	-17.6%	-224	-5.6%	-416	-11.1%	-325	-8.2%			
Griggs	4,184	3,714	3,303	2,574	2,420	2,352	-881	-21.1%	-729	-22.1%	-154	-6.0%	-68	-2.1%			
LaMoure	7,117	6,473	5,383	4,701	4,139	3,771	-1,734	-24.4%	-682	-12.7%	-562	-12.0%	-368	-6.8%			
Logan	4,245	3,493	2,847	2,308	1,990	1,861	-1,398	-32.9%	-539	-18.9%	-318	-13.8%	-129	-4.5%			
McIntosh	5,545	4,800	4,021	3,390	2,809	2,766	-1,524	-27.5%	-631	-15.7%	-581	-17.1%	-43	-1.1%			
Stutsman	23,550	24,154	22,241	21,908	21,100	22,623	-1,309	-5.6%	-333	-1.5%	-808	-3.7%	1,523	6.8%			
Wells	7,847	6,979	5,864	5,102	4,207	4,071	-1,983	-25.3%	-762	-13.0%	-895	-17.5%	-136	-2.3%			
TOTAL	78,965	75,391	66,294	61,274	56,363	57,349	-12,671	-16.0%	-5,020	-7.6%	-4,911	-8.0%	986	1.5%			
North Dakota	617,761	652,717	638,800	642,200	672,591	818,310	21,039	3.4%	3,400	0.5%	30,391	4.7%	145,719	22.8%			
HOUSEHOLDS																	
Barnes	NA	5,080	4,975	4,884	4,826	5,138	--	--	-91	-1.8%	-58	-1.2%	312	6.5%			
Dickey	NA	2,441	2,299	2,283	2,180	2,243	--	--	-16	-0.7%	-103	-4.5%	63	2.9%			
Foster	NA	1,618	1,541	1,540	1,495	1,387	--	--	-1	-0.1%	-45	-2.9%	-108	-7.2%			
Griggs	NA	1,388	1,294	1,178	1,131	1,132	--	--	-116	-9.0%	-47	-4.0%	1	0.1%			
LaMoure	NA	2,263	2,075	1,942	1,825	1,655	--	--	-133	-6.4%	-117	-6.0%	-170	-9.3%			
Logan	NA	1,205	1,096	963	843	755	--	--	-133	-12.1%	-120	-12.5%	-88	-10.4%			
McIntosh	NA	1,850	1,687	1,467	1,308	1,223	--	--	-220	-13.0%	-159	-10.8%	-85	-6.5%			
Stutsman	NA	8,597	8,661	8,954	8,931	9,595	--	--	293	3.4%	-23	-0.3%	664	7.4%			
Wells	NA	2,549	2,406	2,215	1,943	1,786	--	--	-191	-7.9%	-272	-12.3%	-157	-8.1%			
TOTAL	NA	26,991	26,034	25,426	24,482	24,914	--	--	-608	-2.3%	-944	-3.7%	432	1.8%			
North Dakota	NA	227,644	240,878	257,152	281,192	325,526	--	--	16,274	6.8%	24,040	9.3%	44,334	15.8%			
Household Size	--	2.79	2.55	2.41	2.30	2.30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--			

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; North Dakota Statewide Housing Needs Assessment; Housing Needs Assessment for The North Dakota Planning Region VI

Household Tenure

Household tenure (the legal right people have to live in a house or apartment) information is important in understanding household trends in a given area to better understand the need for future housing development. In the District, approximately 69.7 percent of all households owned their housing in 2020, this is higher than the

71.9 percent of all households owned their housing in 2020, giving it a higher home ownership rate in comparison to North Dakota (62.5 percent owned in 2020). Within the District, Logan County had the highest ownership rate at 84.2 percent while Stutsman County had the highest renter rate at 37.5 percent.

Table 5 - ND Region VI – Comparison of Household Tenure 2010 and 2022

TABLE D-11 HOUSEHOLD TENURE NORTH DAKOTA REGION VI 2010 and 2022										
County	2010				Total	2022				
	Owner	Pct.	Renter	Pct.		Owner	Pct.	Renter	Pct.	
Barnes	3,330	69.0%	1,496	31.0%	4,826	3,378	70.6%	1,409	29.4%	4,787
Dickey	1,572	72.1%	608	27.9%	2,180	1,484	75.3%	486	24.7%	1,970
Foster	1,113	74.4%	382	25.6%	1,495	1,063	72.6%	401	27.4%	1,464
Griggs	865	76.5%	266	23.5%	1,131	818	79.9%	206	20.1%	1,024
LaMoure	1,483	81.3%	342	18.7%	1,825	1,383	80.2%	341	19.8%	1,724
Logan	705	83.6%	138	16.4%	843	661	84.2%	124	15.8%	785
McIntosh	1,036	79.3%	271	20.7%	1,307	829	71.4%	333	28.6%	1,162
Stutsman	5,957	66.7%	2,974	33.3%	8,931	5,664	62.5%	3,405	37.5%	9,069
Wells	1,532	78.8%	411	21.2%	1,943	1,381	75.0%	461	25.0%	1,842
TOTAL	17,593	71.9%	6,888	28.1%	24,481	16,605	69.7%	7,222	30.3%	23,827

Sources: U.S. Census; Maxfield Research & Consulting, LLC.

Between 2010 and 2022, the District lost 988 owner households (5.61 percent loss), while the number of renter households increased by 334 (4.62 percent gain). All counties experienced a decline in owner households during the decade except for Barnes that had an increase. While Dickey, Foster, Foster, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells counties all gained renter households.

Transportation Access

Major transportation routes are U.S. Highways 52 and 281, Interstate Highway 94, and numerous additional state highways including 200, 36, 46, 1, 11, 13, 56, 9, 30, 3, 32, 26, 45, and 65 serve the area.

Three major railroad tracks and two short-line freight railroads cross the region. A Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad track crosses east to west along U.S. Interstate 94 and a northwest-southeast track crosses the counties of Wells, Foster, Griggs and Barnes. The Canadian Pacific Railroad passes through the counties of Wells, Foster, Stutsman, and Barnes. Two short-line freight railroads serve the region. The Dakota Missouri Valley and Western Railroad operates in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. It cuts east to west through the counties of Logan, McIntosh, LaMoure, and Dickey counties in the region. The Red River Valley and Western Railroad cuts north to south through the counties of Foster, Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey.

According to the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission, the District has one commercial service airport and 14 general aviation airports. In addition, there are numerous private airfields.

Jamestown has the only commercial air service in the region. The Jamestown Regional Airport is operated by the Jamestown Regional Airport Authority. Air service is provided by United Airlines with flights to Denver. Flying lessons, charter flights, aircraft sales and rentals, aircraft repairs, fuel, and general aviation support can be obtained from on-airport businesses.

General aviation airports are located in the cities of Harvey, Fessenden, Carrington, Cooperstown, Valley City, Gackle, Napoleon, Wishek, Edgeley, Kulm, Ashley, LaMoure Ellendale and Oakes. These airports are available for crop spraying, leisure, pilot training, individual, and corporate planes.

Education

North Dakota has consistently been one of the states providing the best education in the nation. Students in the region score among the top in the nation. One school in the District: Wm. Gussner Elementary, Jamestown, received the National Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Achievement.

Education is rated among the region's top assets. Quality education continues to be a factor in recruiting workers and businesses into the region. The continued out-migration in the area threatens the education of the region. Educational facilities through high school are generally good to excellent. The continued dwindling population base is threatening more of the small-town elementary and high schools. Numerous school Districts have combined to continue to provide a quality curriculum.

In addition to the public schools, there are several private schools: St. Catherine Elementary School in Valley City, St. Johns Academy in Jamestown, Hillcrest SDA School in Jamestown, and Victory Christian School in Jamestown.

Serving students with special needs are the Anne Carlsen Center in Jamestown, the South Central Prairie Special Education Unit in Napoleon, the Lonetree Special Education Unit in Harvey, the Sheyenne Valley Special Education Unit in Valley City, Griggs/Steele/Trail Special Education Unit in Portland, and the Buffalo Valley Special Education Unit in Jamestown.

The region has three career and technology centers serving primarily high school students: Sheyenne Valley Area Career and Technology in Valley City, James Valley Area Career and Technology Center in Jamestown, and the Southeast Region Career and Technology Center in Oakes.

Table 6. Comparison of Enrollment Public School Districts Serving ND Region VI

Public School District	County	2018-2019				2022-2023			
		K-6	7-8	9-12	Total	K-6	7-8	9-12	Total
Litchville-Marion	Barnes	79	11	22	112	81	18	29	128
Valley City	Barnes	459	186	353	998	513	148	366	1027
Barnes County North	Barnes	115	38	82	235	113	40	76	229
Ellendale	Dickey	151	55	85	291	184	54	97	335
Oakes	Dickey	281	80	129	490	244	79	155	478
Carrington	Foster	263	81	149	493	316	80	175	571
Griggs County	Griggs	139	35	72	246	134	47	68	24
Midkota	Griggs	102	25	75	177	85	27	57	169
Edgeley	LaMoure	103	38	75	216	130	51	63	244
Kulm	LaMoure	69	19	41	129	58	15	40	113
LaMoure	LaMoure	152	66	106	321	138	39	76	253
Gackle-Streeter	LaMoure	63	15	19	97	57	23	21	101
Napoleon	Logan	125	31	83	239	131	39	69	239
Ashley	McIntosh	69	24	46	139	72	13	44	129
Wishek	Mcintosh	122	26	53	201	120	38	54	212
Zeeland	McIntosh	10	8	10	28	12	4	11	27
Jamestown	Stutsman	903	539	696	2138	1039	329	777	2145
Kensal	Stutsman	33	0	0	33	25	0	1	26
Medina	Stutsman	91	17	42	150	101	34	67	202
Montpelier	Stutsman	51	21	30	102	64	15	31	110
Pingree-Buchanan	Stutsman	80	22	27	129	86	24	46	156
Fessenden-Bowdon	Wells	230	27	33	290	86	31	49	166
Harvey	Wells	216	43	132	391	225	67	102	394
Totals:		4066	3906	1107	2360	4014	1215	2474	7478

Source: ND Department of Public Instruction

Institutions of Higher Education

Three institutions of higher education are located in the region. Plus one state college offers onsite workforce training:

- University of Jamestown, in Jamestown, Stutsman County, is a private, liberal arts four-year college established in 1883, which grants Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Science in nursing degrees. University of Jamestown offers more than 40 areas of study.
- Valley City State University in Valley City, Barnes County, is a four-year institution in the North Dakota University System, that offers more than 80 degree programs in teacher education, information technology, business, communication arts, social science, math, science, health, physical education, art, music, and fish and wildlife, and offers degrees in nursing in partnership with Dakota College in Bottineau
- Trinity Bible College, Ellendale, Dickey County, is a private two- and four-year institution that awards Bachelor of Arts, Associate of Arts and one-year certificates.
- North Dakota State College of Science also offers workforce-training programs in the region. NDSCS is working with businesses, community leaders and legislators to identify if a workforce training center could be developed in Jamestown to serve the central portion of the state.

Health Care

Health care continues to be a concern in the region as rural communities struggle to find health care professionals willing to move to rural areas. The reimbursement for services and lack of population to allow for economy of scale also impact healthcare providers.

The District was fortunate to have the Jamestown Regional Medical Center in Jamestown obtain federal grants and loans to build a new medical facility near Interstate 94. (The former hospital building was retrofitted to provide senior housing, senior services and office space.)

Health Care Facilities in the District by counties:

Barnes County

Mercy Hospital, Valley City
CHI Health and Home, Valley City
The Legacy Place, Valley City
Barnes County Social Services, Valley City
City-County Health District, Valley City
South Central Senior Services, Valley City
Gaukler Family Wellness Center, Valley City
Sheyenne Care Center, Valley City
Hi Soaring Eagle Ranch, Valley City
Retire Safely, Valley City
Sky Line Villa, Valley City
Open Door Center, Valley City
Open Door Group Home, Valley City
Sisters of Mary of the Presentation “Maryvale”, Valley City

Dickey County

Dickey County Social Services, Ellendale
Prince of Peace Care Center, Ellendale
Good Samaritan Society, Oakes
Evergreen Place, Ellendale
CHI Oakes Hospital, Oakes
Maryhill Manor, Enderlin

Foster County

Foster County Medical Center: Huber Jay MD, Carrington
CHI St. Alexius Health – Carrington Medical Center, Carrington
Foster County Public Health, Carrington
Golden Acres Manor, Carrington
Lutheran Home-Good Shepherd, New Rockford

Griggs County

Cooperstown Medical Center, Cooperstown

LaMoure County

Sanford Health LaMoure Clinic, LaMoure
LaMoure County Public Health, LaMoure
Sanford Health Edgeley Clinic, Edgeley
St. Rose Care Center, LaMoure
Sanford Health: Karen A. Kaiser, LaMoure

Parkside Lutheran Nursing Home, Lisbon
North Dakota Veterans Home, Lisbon
Beverly Anne Assisted Living, Lisbon

Logan County

Gackle Nursing Home, Gackle
Napoleon Clinic, Napoleon
Central Valley Health Unit, Napoleon

McIntosh County

Ashley Medical Center, Ashley
Wishek Community Hospital, Wishek
Ashely Medical Center – Nursing, Ashley
Wishek Living Center, Wishek
Napoleon Care Center, Napoleon
Wishek Community Hospital & Clinics, Wishek

Stutsman County

Jamestown Regional Medical Center, Jamestown
North Dakota State Hospital, Jamestown
Ave Maria Village, Jamestown
Eventide at Hi-Acres Manor, Jamestown
Edgewood Senior Living, Jamestown
Bethal Home, Jamestown
Roseadele, Jamestown
Rock of Ages, Jamestown
Jamestown Hospital Hospice, Jamestown
Alpha Opportunities, Jamestown
Triumph Inc, Jamestown
Anne Carlson Center, Jamestown
Sanford Jamestown Dialysis, Jamestown
Sanford Health Clinic, Jamestown
Stutsman County Social Services, Jamestown
Jamestown Village, Jamestown
Heritage Centre, Jamestown

Wells County

Harvey Clinic, Harvey
Central Dakota Clinic, Harvey
Central Dakota Clinic, Fessenden
Wells County District Health Department, Fessenden
St. Aloisius Medical Center, Harvey
Jackson Group Home, Harvey
North Street Group Home, Harvey

Also, out-migration and the aging of the population threaten the emergency medical services. The region has fewer people to recruit for volunteer services, and volunteers are reaching ages that limit their ability to perform lifting and moving of patients. Those that are recruited for emergency services have jobs that take them out of their cities during business hours.

Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

The South Central Dakota Regional Council reviewed the analysis of stakeholders and held its own SWOT analysis. The following is a summary of the analysis.

Strengths

Business Opportunities – Expansions and new Start-up businesses

- Banks are looking to loan funds
- Local economic development groups providing funding for businesses
- Diversity of businesses looking to locate in region
- Federal, state and local partnerships to assist businesses
- Building of multiple businesses in the area
- Home based businesses on the rise
- Close location to jobs in larger areas

Agricultural and production agricultural opportunities continues to expand

- Technology assisting ag businesses to grow opportunities
- Farmers and ranchers diversifying into other crops and livestock
 - Good farming economy helping farmers and ranchers to expand and add value to rural places

Economy of North Dakota

- Economy in state growing and expanding
- Region preparing for growth with better planning and identifying opportunities
- Funding available from variety of resources to promote growth
- Location and transportation hubs in region benefiting local communities
- People helping people (fundraisers/financial support)
- Job Market Opportunities
- Volunteerism
- Good relationship with federal partners
- Good relationship with state and local entities and programs

Quality of Place and Medical Facilities

- High speed Fiber Optic internet connection all throughout the counties including rural areas
- New medical facilities available
- Communities developing wellness centers
- Partnerships to support medical needs
- Expansion of fiber optic lines in rural areas
- Quality educational system which is growing
- Daycare facilities being developed
- Diversity of opportunities – hunting, fishing, industry, ag0
- Abundance of recreational opportunities, and quality tourism sites
- Great places for people to “hear the story” of a rich heritage
- Quality of Education – Top in the nation
- Power lines being input underground in rural areas to prevent power outages
- Access to resources – economic and small business
- Future thinkers
- Recreation – hunting, fishing, golf etc.

Return of Young People and the Energy Impact

- Promotion of state bringing more young people to state
- Support of “future” thinkers, not as close-minded
- “Can Do” attitudes helping address growth
- Good core volunteer groups
- Access to resources for business partnerships with energy related growth

Weaknesses

- Lack of emergency services volunteers
- Lack of general services in rural communities including gas stations, grocery stores and places to work
- Lack of population which leaves a low tax base in rural areas
- Pay scale needs to be a “living wage”
 - Not enough money to entice businesses to region, especially smaller communities
 -
- Competition for unemployed or underemployed workers, not enough people
- Winter weather a deterrent to workforce recruitment
- Aging of workforce, especially in the more southern counties
- Lack of skilled workforce for the jobs available
- Lack of work ethic
- Lack of desire to become a skilled worker
- Lack of knowledge of soft skills for majority of jobs
- People lack job loyalty
- Loss of ability to attract blue collar workers to white collar communities
- Lack of diversity of workforce
 - Student loans and size of loans make things more difficult for new employees
 - Lack of business participation in workforce training, planning, and support
 - “Colleges and universities should do it”
 - Disconnect between education and business. “Let the other party do it.”
- Lack of incentives to encourage people to find work regionally
- Lack of communication and collaboration within stakeholders – “silos”
- Lack of vehicles to invest funds in local communities
- Lack of Angel Fund investors in our region
- State funds should and must include investments in Region VI and other areas of similar demographics
- Outmigration
- Not enough investors
- Roads – counties and townships are struggling to keep roads passable from flooding and
- Commuting Costs – Price of gas is rising
- Winter Weather – effects workforce recruitment
- Tourism season is short, 3 months

Opportunities

- Tourism
- Housing
- Jobs available in all areas
- Industry

- Wind Farms
- Plans for growth – space to build
- Tax base from new businesses
- Larger Towns have jobs available for those in rural areas
- Young People – trades opportunities
- Valley City State University and University of Jamestown
- North Dakota State College of Science trades education
- Historic Preservation
- Local Public /Business In Vo/Tec – collaboration between employers and Career and Technology Centers
- Support Main Street Businesses
- RWIP Program – (Regional Workforce Impact Program)
- USDA Regional Food Business Centers Program.
- Community Foundations
- Angel Funds – capital investors – international investors

Threats

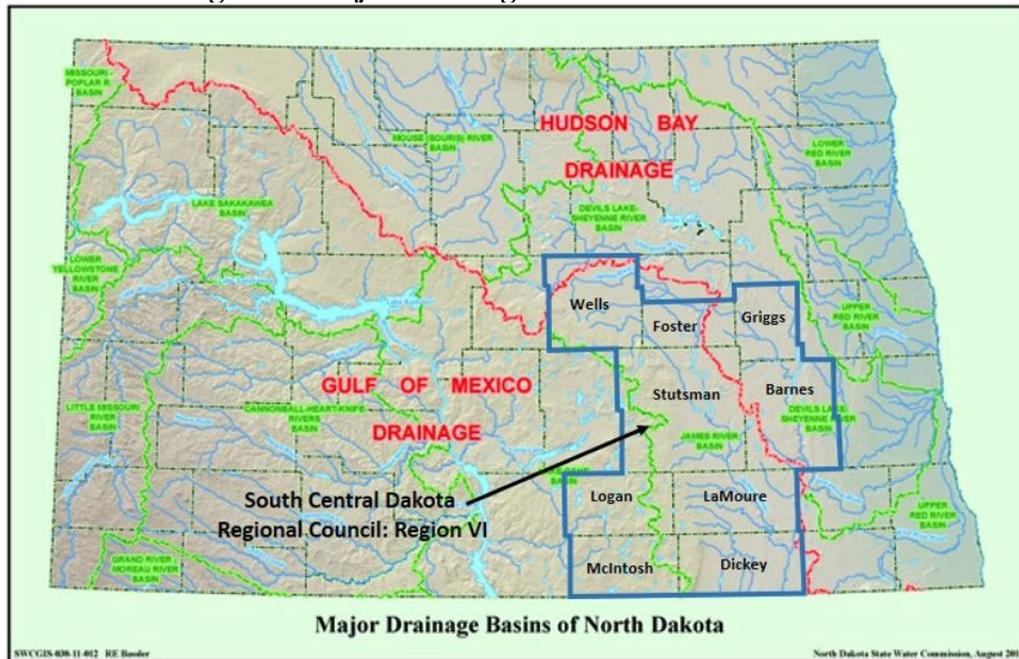
- Consolidation into larger areas killing small towns
- Internet shopping
-
- Lack of housing
- Lack of return on investment
- Lack of trust in government
- Lack of housing in the region
 - Lack of funding to entice builders to build in the area
- Lack of funding
- Loss of business – lack of workforce
- Lack of Plumbers, construction crews, electricians
- Deferred maintenance and infrastructure
- Age of business owners
- Permanent flood protection and related costs
- Lack of tax base in rural areas to complete infrastructure projects
- High cost of infrastructure
- Aging Infrastructure
- Aging population
- Not enough power lines are yet underground and wide spread power outages are common
- Volunteer Emergency response teams are low in numbers
 - These volunteers work full-time jobs outside of most rural jurisdictions so are unavailable during that time

2 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DATA AND ANALYSIS

Topography

The topography of the area ranges from flat grasslands to rolling hills and river valleys. The most significant physical feature of the area is the Great Northern Divide, or Laurentian Divide, as shown on the map below in Red. Water north and east of the Divide flows to the Arctic Ocean by rivers to Hudson Bay, or directly to the Arctic. Water south and west of the Divide makes its way to the Atlantic Ocean by a variety of streams, including the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River to the east, and the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico to the south.

Figure 4. Major Drainage Basins of North Dakota



Source: North Dakota State Water Commission

The James and Sheyenne rivers are the main rivers in the District. The James River is a tributary of the Missouri River and is approximately 700 miles in length and drains a basin of roughly 20,000 square miles in North and South Dakota. The river begins in Wells County near the city of Fessenden and flows through the city of Jamestown where it is impounded by the Jamestown Dam, forming the Jamestown Reservoir. The Pipestem River joins the Jamestown River in the city of Jamestown and flows directly south into Brown County, South Dakota.

The Sheyenne River is a major tributary of the Red River of the North and is approximately 600 miles in length. The river begins in Sheridan County and flows east-southeast before joining the Red River of the North in Fargo. The river is impounded by the Baldhill Dam and forms Lake Ashtabula north of Valley City, a major recreation area and tourist destination in North Dakota. The water in the Sheyenne River is also a water source for the cities of Valley City and Fargo. The river is a source of flooding for the city of Valley City with the major floods occurring in the spring of 2009 and 2011. The closed basin of Devils Lake drains through the Sheyenne River north of Cooperstown in Griggs County. This excess water impacts the communities located along the Sheyenne River including Cooperstown and Valley City in the District.

Geology and Soils

Soils and surface features of the District's landscape are highly influenced by the complex geological activities of the past. The subsoil, or parent material, are mainly glacial deposits. All are calcareous and contain a great variety of rock materials. Glacial and end moraines and marginal moraines consist of a mixture of fine and coarse rock materials pushed up by the front edge of the advancing glacial ice. These materials are called glacial tills.

Near ground moraine areas, the till is most commonly loam or clay loam with varying amounts of pebbles and stones. These areas are often called till plains and are very gently undulating to gently rolling with numerous small potholes. Glacial outwash, kames, and eskers consist of layered materials deposited by melt-water. They are usually loam, sandy loam, or sandy material over-layered gravels, gravelly sands, or sands. Outwash areas are usually level. Kames are often single hills and eskers are ridges.

Ground water aquifers will follow some of the ancient riverbeds or former outwash lakes. Several major aquifers underlie the District. They are of concern because of the irrigation and municipal water pumped from them and the recharging sources. The longevity of the aquifers and their potential for contamination is in question.

Vegetation

The District has limited native forestry. Most non-native trees were planted for field and farmstead protection and in towns. Mid-grass native prairie is the backbone of the livestock economy in the District. Thousands of acres of tame, cool-season grasses are used for hay land and pastureland. Major crops of the area are corn, soybeans and small grains. Livestock in the area is mostly beef cattle.

The District's landscape is dominated by intensively cultivated land planted annually to small grains and row crops. Less productive cropland and areas of rough terrain are scattered with hayfields and pasture areas respectively. Hayfields are usually dominated by domestic grasses and forbs.

Historical and Cultural Sites

The District has numerous identified and unidentified historical and cultural sites. It contains paleontological sites, archaeological sites, historical sites, buildings, and bridges, which are significant cultural resources. The area contains sites covering a wide array of past activities including prehistoric, tribal history, historic battlefields, homesteading, early settlements, transportation, and agricultural practices. Historic trails and routes, from the 1863 Sully Expedition and the 1839 Nicollet-Fremont Expedition crisscross the District. The James River Valley has some of the oldest prehistoric sites in the state of North Dakota. District staff works closely with the North Dakota Historical Society to identify any development impacts to historic and cultural sites.

North Dakota historic sites located in the region include:

Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site consists of two sites. The Oscar-Zero site is located four miles north of Cooperstown on Highway 45. The second site, November-33 is located two miles east of Cooperstown on Highway 200. The site depicts the role intercontinental ballistic missile launch sites played in the Cold War years in North Dakota.

Whitestone Hill State Historic Site is located 23 miles southeast of Kulm in Dickey County. The site marks the location where on September 3, 1863, General Alfred Sully's troops attacked a tipi camp of Yanktonai, the Dakota, Hunkpapa Lakota, and Blackfeet (Sihhasapa Lakota). The site includes a portion of

the battlefield, a small museum and two monuments, one honoring the Indian dead and a second commemorating the soldiers who died in the battle.

Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site is located at 504 Third Avenue Southeast in Jamestown. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is the oldest surviving courthouse in North Dakota. Meetings were held in the courthouse in preparation for statehood. The building is a rare example of Gothic-Revival style architecture.

Wadeson Cabin State Historic Site is located on the east bank of the Sheyenne River near Kathryn. The site is a hand-hewn oak log cabin, with dovetailed corners, that stands on its original fieldstone foundation. It was built in 1876 by Carl Jenson and his nephew Jon Bjerke. The cabin has served as a community hall, country store, pioneer home, and, finally, as an icehouse. A marker, beside a small parking area on the north side of the building, presents a short history of the site.

State or National Parks, or National Wildlife Refuges

There are no national parks located in the District. There is one State Park (Beaver Lake State Park) and two national wildlife refuges (Chase Lake and Arrowwood). There are also two wetland management Districts in the District that are not designated as national wildlife refuges but are managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Beaver Lake State Park is the only state park in the District. Consisting of 283 acres, the park is situated on the western shore of Beaver Lake 17 miles southeast of the city of Napoleon in Logan County. The park is staffed year-around with camping, picnicking and water-based activities available from mid-May through the end of September. The park also features cabins for rent, RV pad sites, an amphitheater, showers, a boat ramp, swim beach, fishing area, playground and six non-motorized trails with 5.34 miles of path in a series of loops and segments. Beaver Lake State Park is managed as natural and scenic areas and is shown on the map below.

In addition, the District has state managed recreational areas, the **Doyle Memorial State Recreation Area** is located in the District. Located in Logan County on Green Lake, Doyle Memorial is leased by the city of Wishek. The area is popular for camping, fishing and boating. This small prairie recreation area, established in 1925, occupies a peninsula jutting into Green Lake in the rolling farmland of south central North Dakota.

Clausen Springs Dam Recreation Area is located 17 miles south of I-94, 1 mile east, 1 mile south of Kathryn. The lake is managed by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in cooperation with the Barnes County Park Board. There is a boat dock, swimming beach, three vault toilets, and a new shower house. The park is managed by the Barnes County Park Board. It provides numerous camping sites with or without electricity and plenty of day use opportunities. The park is well shaded and nicely maintained.

Little Yellowstone Park is managed by the Barnes County Park Board. It is a 27-acre campground and multi-use recreation area located 4 miles south and 1 mile east of Kathryn on State Highway 46. It provides 34 campsites – 14 electrical and 20 more secluded primitive (non-electrical) campsites.

Jamestown Reservoir is located two miles north of Jamestown. It is managed by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation in cooperation with Stutsman County Park Board. It has modern campground, concession, boat rental, primitive camping, water, electric hookups, seven boat launches, seven picnic shelters, two swimming beaches, three miles of hard-surfaced walking and biking trails, a world-class disc golf course, and 2,492 acres of water surface area. Available species include

pike, walleye, crappie, bluegill, small mouth bass, muskie, and bullhead. The reservoir is created by the Jamestown Dam, a rolled-earth dam spanning the James River. The dam was constructed in 1953 as a flood control measure.

Pipestem Dam is located five miles north of Jamestown on U.S. Highways 52 and 281. It is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The 840-acre lake offers year-round recreational opportunities including trails, camping, fishing, picnicking and wildlife viewing.

Lake Ashtabula, created by the Baldhill Dam on the Sheyenne River, is located 12 miles northeast of Valley City on Barnes County Road 19. The dam was built in 1950 as a project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers providing flood protection, augmenting water supplies in dry years, providing recreational and wildlife habitat year-round. Available species include fathead minnow, northern pike, walleye, and yellow perch. The lake is 5,174 acres in size. The Corps of Engineers operates seven recreation areas at Lake Ashtabula, providing a variety of facilities and services, and actively manages 14 separate wildlife areas at Lake Ashtabula. These areas provide quality habitat for many species of wildlife.

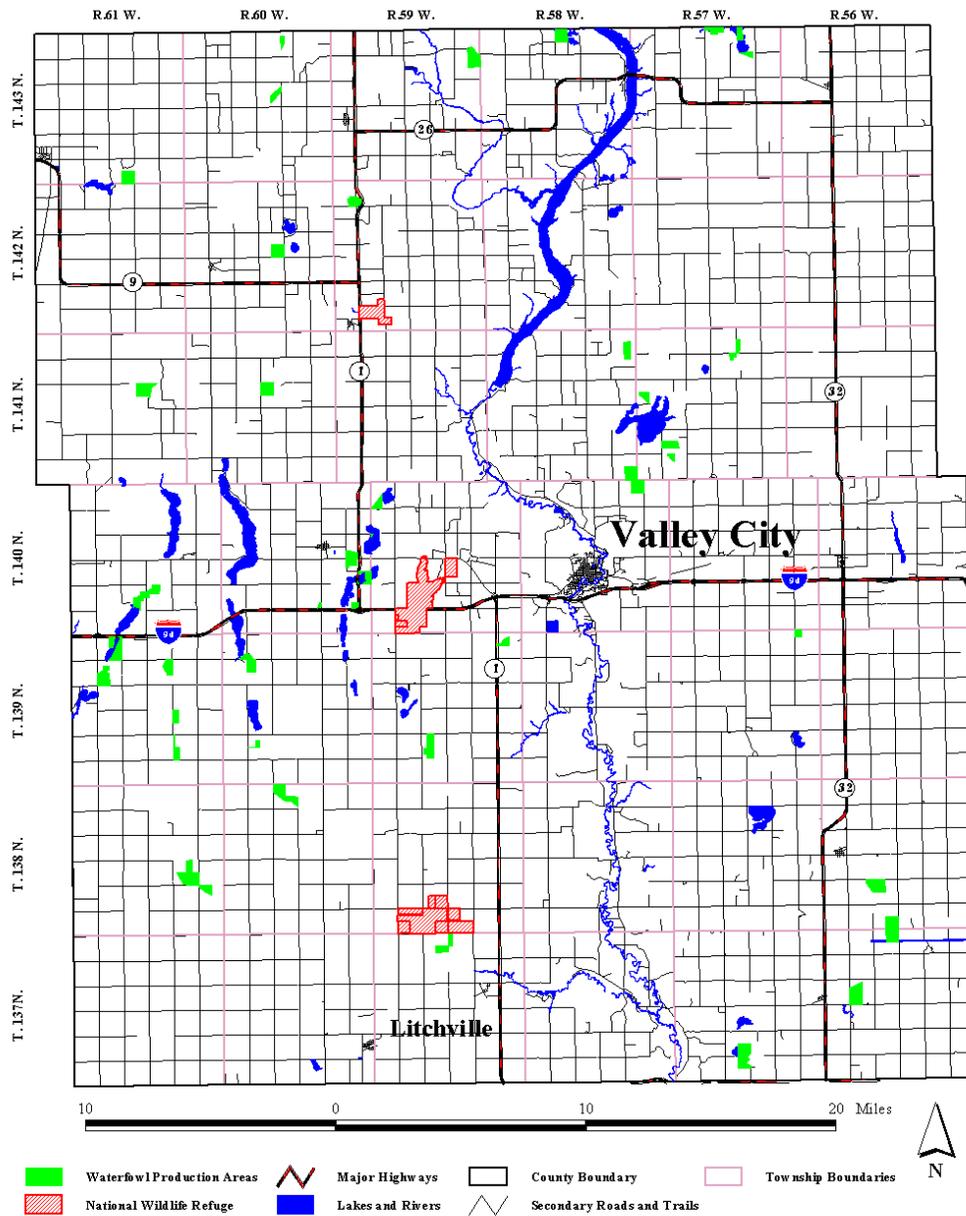
The District has several national wildlife refuges and waterfowl protection areas.

Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge was designated by Congress in 1975. It has a total of 4,155 acres. The refuge consists mainly of Chase Lake and two islands therein, which serve as the breeding ground and habitat for roughly 20,000 white pelicans, one of the largest colonies in North America. The two islands are strictly off-limits to birders. While technically 4,385 acres in size, 230 acres were not designated as Wilderness as they are separated from the rest of the refuge by a power line. Chase Lake constitutes more than half of the refuge with the remaining acreage consisting of grassland and wetland with little tree coverage.

Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1935 to serve as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds. Arrowwood is located along the James River in near the city of Pingree in Stutsman County, 26 miles north of the city of Jamestown. The refuge consists of 15,934 acres. It is made up of lakes, marshes, prairie grasslands, wooded coulees and cultivated fields. Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, canoeing, non-motorized boating, and cross-country skiing during winter months and berry picking.

The District has numerous Waterfowl Production Areas, Wildlife Development Areas, and Wildlife Protection Areas. These areas are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. These unique areas are key assets to the development, growth and sustainability of tourism in the District. They also limit some industrial development projects that could damage these areas and their missions. These areas in each of the District's nine county are identified in the following figures of maps from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife:

Figure 5 - Waterfowl Production Areas and National Wildlife Refuges in Barnes County



Barnes County, North Dakota
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Valley City Wetland Management District

Figure 6 - Waterfowl Production Areas in Dickey County

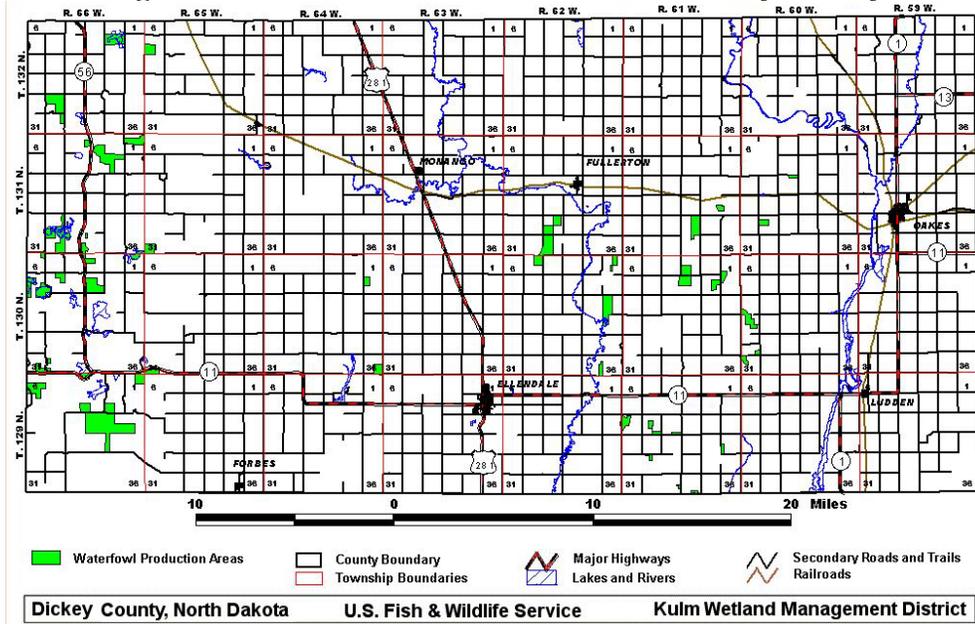


Figure 7 - Waterfowl Production Areas in Foster County

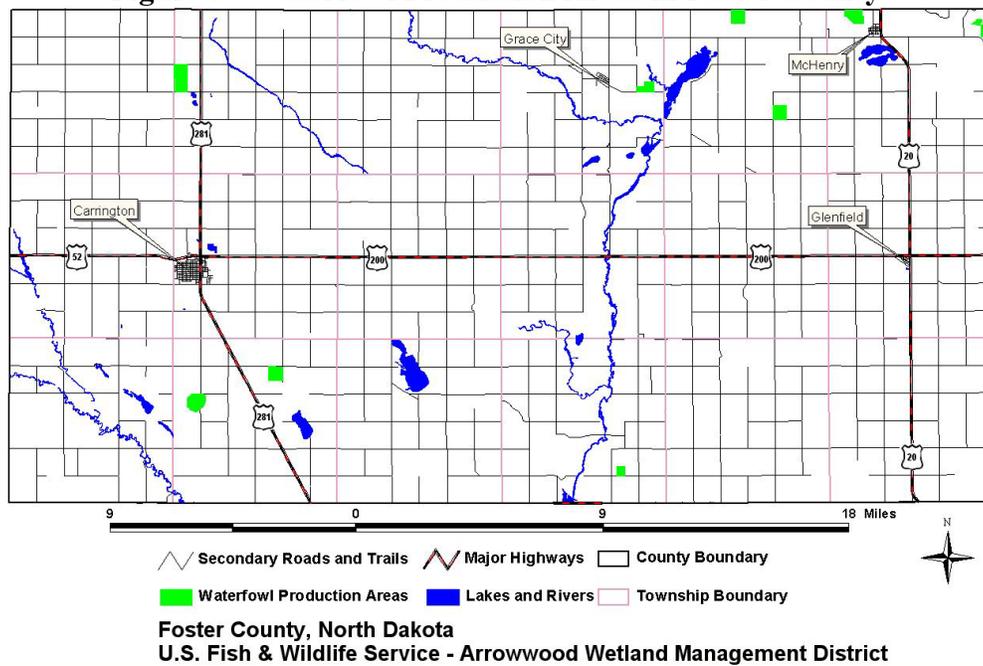
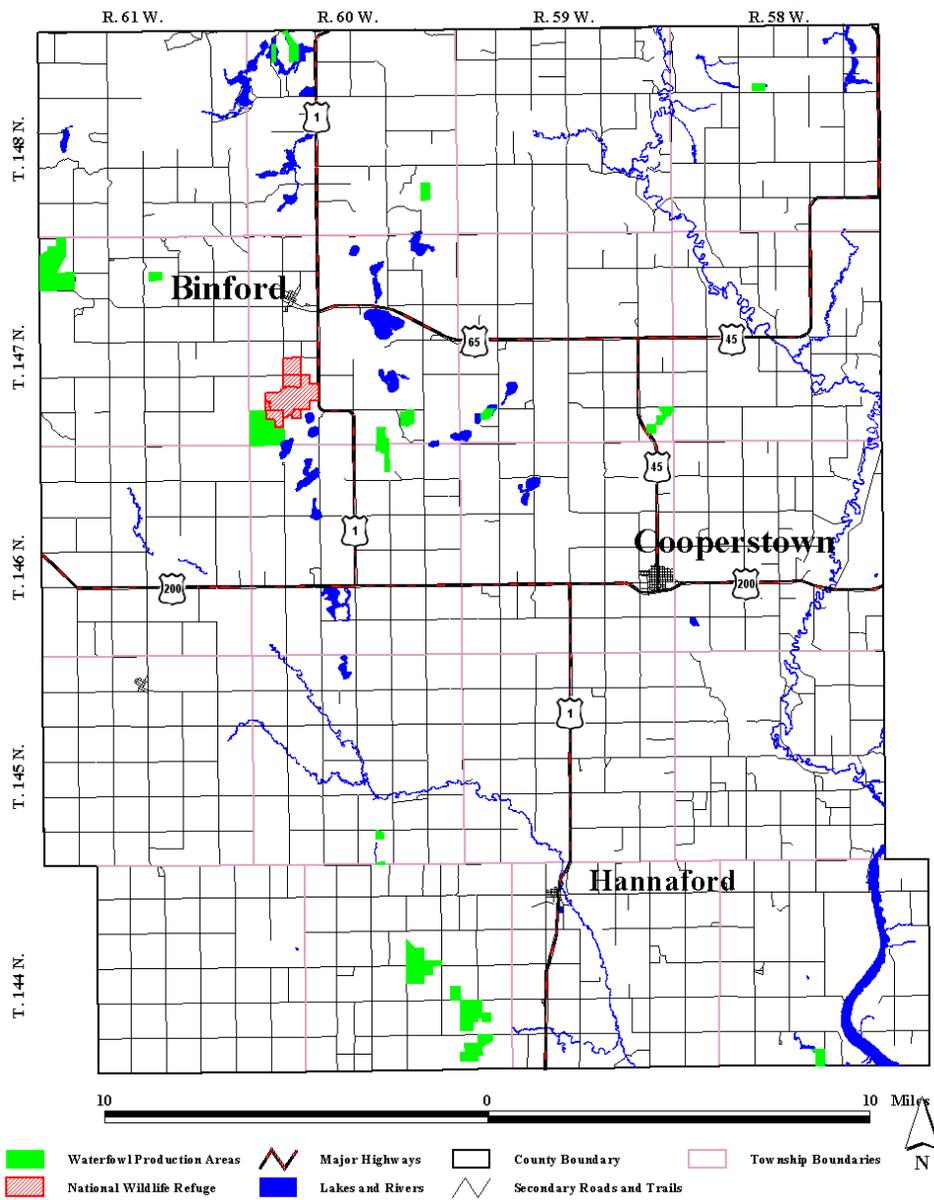


Figure 8 - Waterfowl Production Areas and National Wildlife Refuges in Griggs County



Griggs County, North Dakota
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Valley City Wetland Management District

Figure 9 - Waterfowl Production Areas in LaMoure County

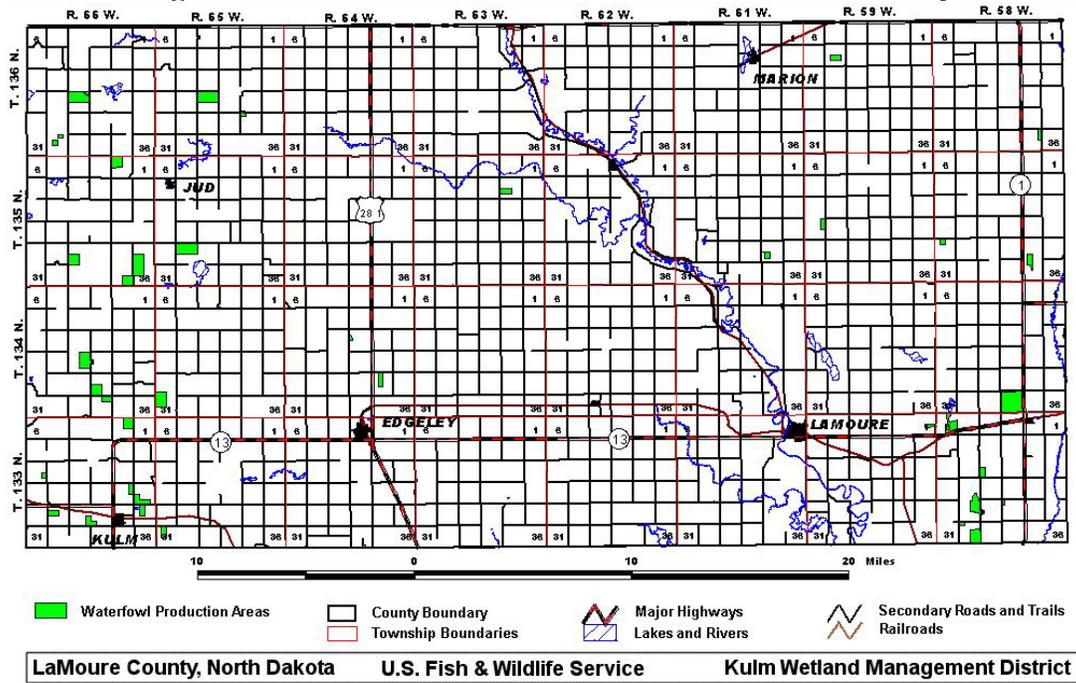


Figure 10 - Waterfowl Production Areas in Logan County

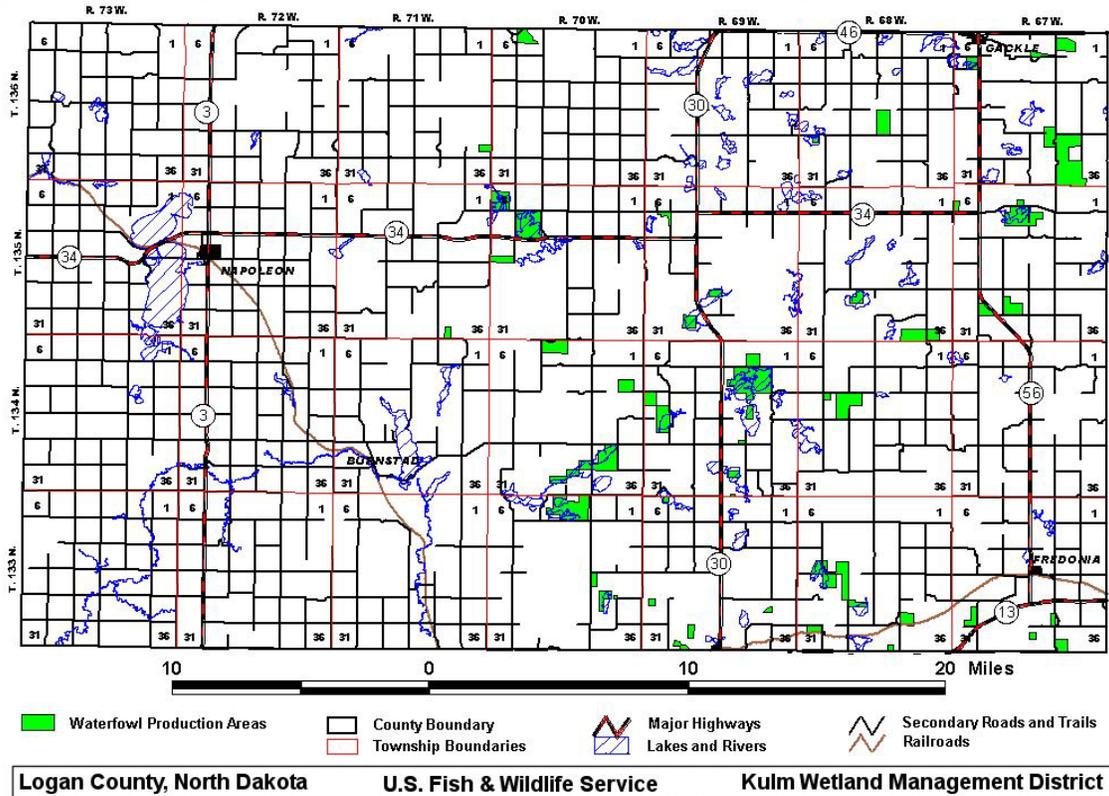


Figure 14. Waterfowl Production Areas in McIntosh County

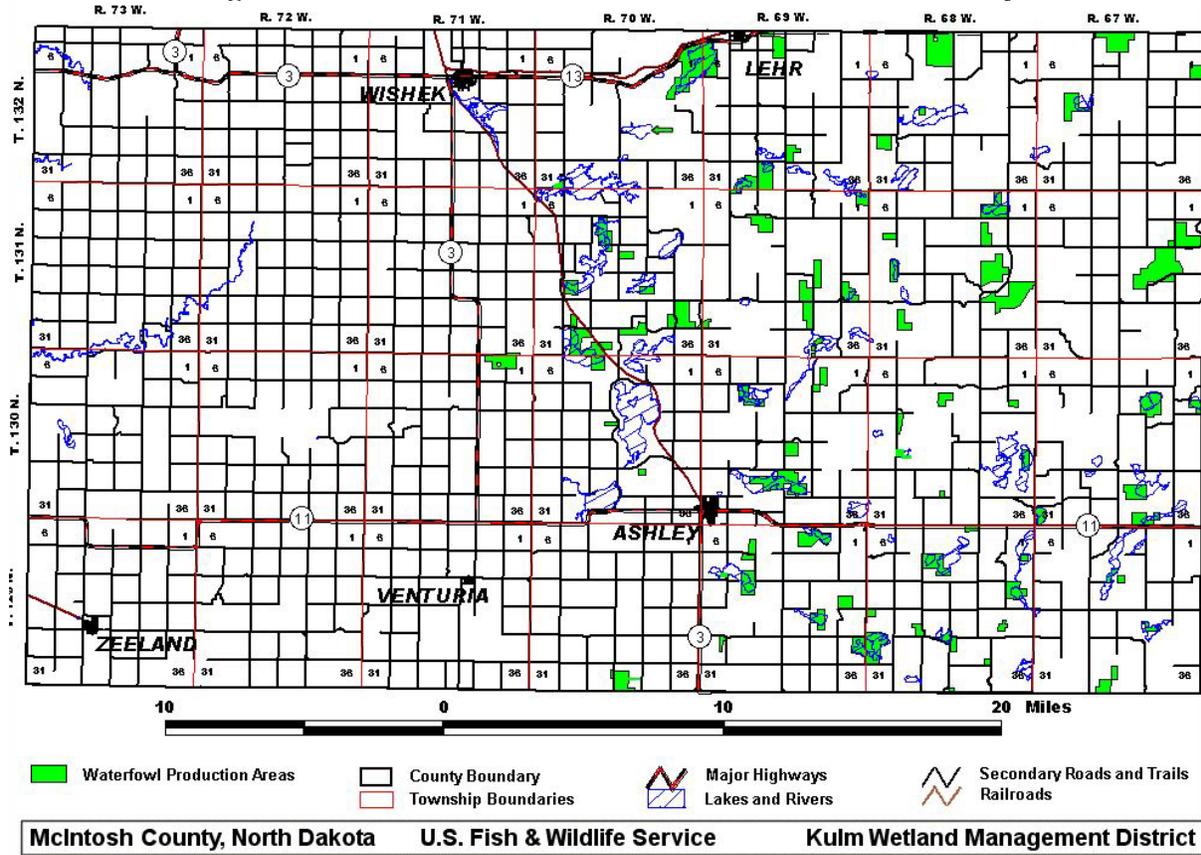
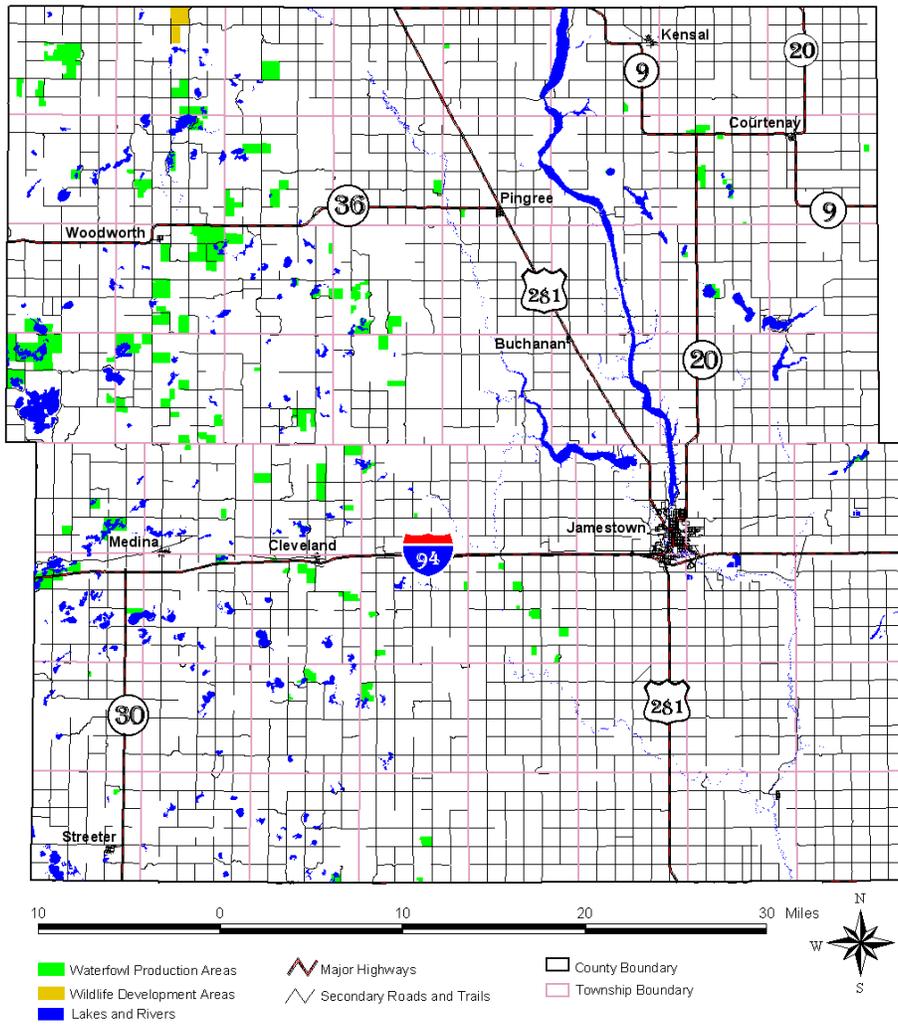


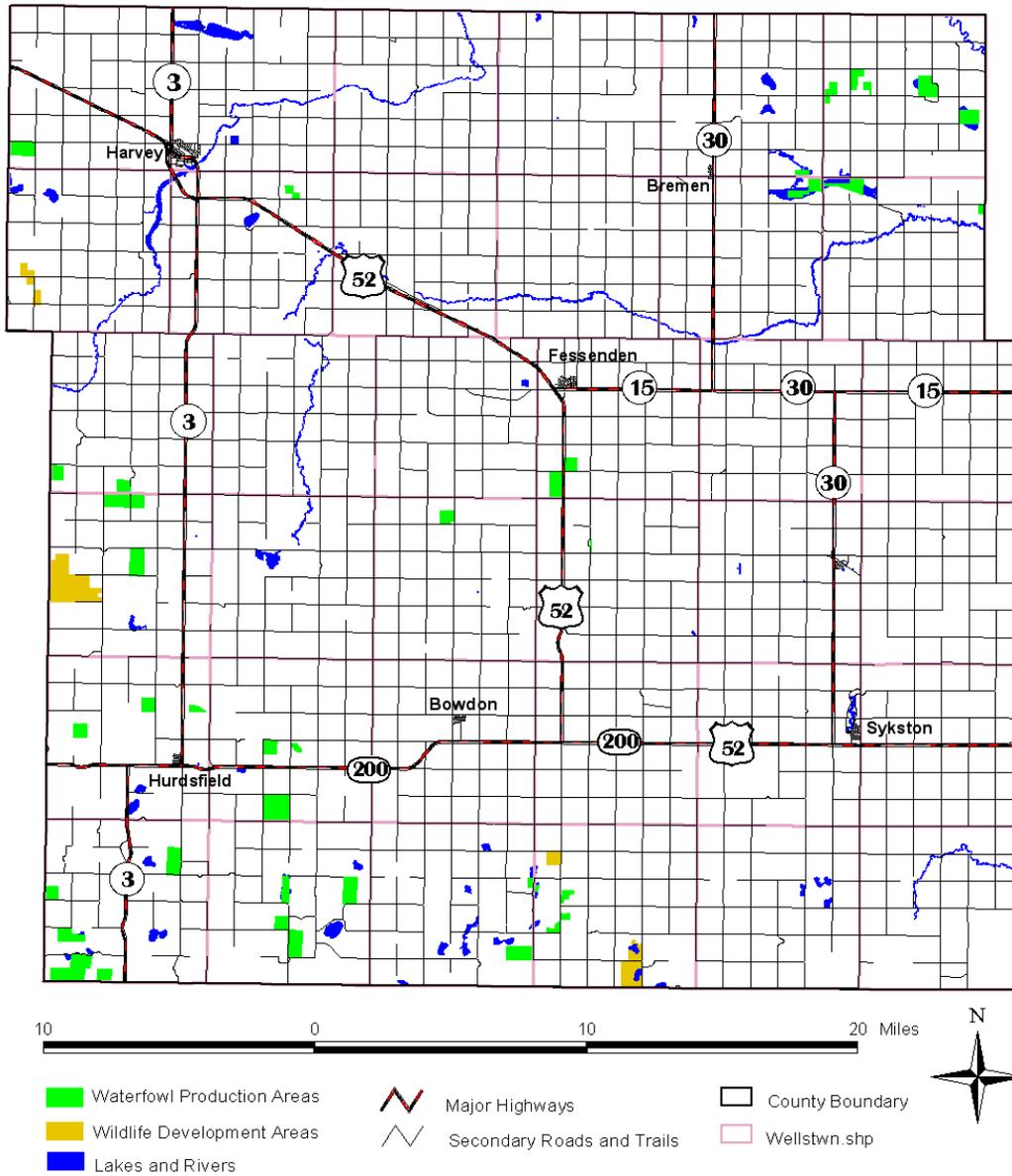
Figure 15. Waterfowl Production Areas in Stutsman County



Stutsman County, North Dakota

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chase Lake Wetland Management District

Figure 16. Waterfowl Production Areas in Wells County



Wells County, North Dakota
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chase Lake Wetland Management District

Wilderness Areas

There are no wilderness areas in the District, or the state of North Dakota, under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Wild or Scenic Rivers

There are no wild or scenic rivers located in the District, or the state of North Dakota, under the Wild and Scenic Rivers act of 1968.

Endangered Species

U.S. Fish and Wildlife have identified numerous species of birds, mammals, and insects in North Dakota as the state's federally listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species – 1995. Source: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Bismarck, ND, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Online, Jamestown, ND.

The following are birds and mammals in North Dakota are listed as the state's federally listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species that are listed with sightings or range within the District:

Birds

- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) – Endangered
- Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) – Threatened
- Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris Canutus Rufa*) - Threatened

Mammals

- Northern Long-Eared Bat – (*myotis Septentrionalis*) - Endangered

Insects

- Dakota Skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) – Threatened

Fish

- Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus Albus*) – Endangered

Flowering Plants

- Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Plantanthera Praeclara*) – Threatened

National Grasslands

There are no national grasslands located in the District under the management of the United States Forest Service.

Prime/Unique Agricultural Lands

Prime and/or unique agricultural lands are important farmlands, including lands identified with soils that are prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland, are subject to the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981. Table 16 highlights the number of acres per county in the District by rating classification.

Prime Farmland as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas.

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, and other fruits and vegetables.

Farmland of Statewide Importance is land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland, but is still used for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. “Farmland of Statewide Importance” may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law.

Farmland of Local Importance is land not identified as having national or statewide importance, but is still used for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. There is no “Farmland of Local Importance” in the District.

Prime Farmland is found abundant in and comprises the most amount of total acreage in the following counties: Barnes (49.1 percent), Dickey (35.8 percent), Foster (58.7 percent), Griggs (42.5 percent), LaMoure (59.1 percent), Stutsman (30.6 percent) and Wells (51.6 percent). “Prime Farmland” only consisted of 2.7 percent and 6.1 percent of the total acreage of farmland in Logan and McIntosh counties, respectively. In total, there is 2,544,067 acres of “Prime Farmland” comprising 36.9 percent of the total 6,888,980 acres in the District.

In addition to “Prime Farmland” there are areas of farmland that would be rated “Prime,” if they were drained or irrigated. Barnes and Griggs counties contain the greatest amount of Prime Farmland (if drained) in the District with 167,552 and 48,345 acres, respectively. There are approximately 753 acres of prime farmland (if irrigated) in Logan County and 192 acres in McIntosh County.

Counties with the most farmland rated as “Not Prime” in percent of total acreage can be found in Logan (69.7 percent), McIntosh (60.5 percent) and Stutsman (50.2 percent) counties. Farmland of Statewide Importance is most common in McIntosh, Dickey and Logan counties with 31.7 percent, 29.8 percent and 21.9 percent, respectively. LaMoure, Stutsman and Wells counties have between 14.4 percent and 15.7 percent of total land rated as Farmland of Statewide Importance. Barnes, Foster and Griggs counties have below 10 percent.

Superfund or Brownfield Sites

There are no Superfund sites in the District.

Brownfield Sites

1. Golden Rule, 201 2nd ave SW, Ellendale, ND 58436 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
2. GI Enterprise, 514 Third Ave, Litchville, ND 58461 - Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
3. City Bar, 519 Third Ave, Litchville, ND 58461 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
4. Super Valu, 518 Third Ave, Litchville, ND 58461 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
5. Former Bank Building, Heaton, ND 58418 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
6. Former Store Building, Heaton, ND 58418 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos

7. Glamour Den, 963 Main St, Carrington, ND 58421 – Site Cleanup Complete - Asbestos
8. Mel’s Diner, 943 Main St, Carrington, ND 58421 – Site Cleanup Complete – No contamination
9. Carrington Floral, 969 Main St, Carrington, ND 58421 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
10. Old Schoolhouse and Gym, 107 2nd Ave, Forbes, ND 58439 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
11. Verona Community Center, 205 7th St, Verona, ND 58490 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
12. Old Super Value, 8 N Centennial St, Wishek, ND 58495 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
13. Old Red Owl Store, 23 N Centennial St, Wishek, ND 58495 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
14. Former 1st National Bank, 320 Main Ave, Marion, ND 58466 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
15. Wishek Comm. Hosp., 1007 4th Ave S, Wishek, ND 58495 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
16. Valley City – Barnes County Health, 149 4th St NE, Valley City ND 58072 – Site Cleanup Complete – Asbestos
17. Old Cathay School, 219 3rd Ave, Cathay, ND 58422 – Active – Asbestos, Universal and Hazardous Waste

Sole Source Aquifers

There are no sole source aquifers in North Dakota. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines a sole or principal source aquifer as one which supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. There are several aquifers supplying water in the region and are identified on the N.D. State Water Commission, N.D. Department of Health, and U.S. Geological Survey websites.

Disaster and Economic Recovery and Resiliency

Flooding has had a continuous negative impact on the economy of the region. Counties in the District have been part of five Presidential Disaster Declarations since 2007. The counties as part of the declarations are:

Flooding and Severe Winter Storms Disaster Declarations

- 2023 – Barnes, Dickey, LaMoure and Wells Counties – 4717
- 2023 – Dickey and Wells Counties - 4686
- 2022 - Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells - 4660
- 2021 – LaMoure County - 4613
- 2020 – Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs LaMoure, Logan, Stutsman and Wells Counties – 4475
- 2020 – Wells County – 4565
- 2020 - Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells - 4553
- 2019 – Logan, LaMoure and Dickey Counties - 4444
- 2013 – Wells County - 4128
- 2013 – Wells and Foster County – 4118
- 2011 – Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells - 1981
- 2011 – Barnes - 3318
- 2010 – Barnes County
- 2010 – Barnes, Dickey, Foster, LaMoure and Stutsman Counties – 3309
- 2010 - Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells - 1829
- 2010 - Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells – 1907
- 2010 – Wells County – 1901
- 2010 – Barnes, Dickey, Logan and McIntosh Counties – 1879

This flooding has damaged all types of infrastructure including water sources, sanitary sewer systems, roads and streets. In addition, the preparedness, response and recovery has taken a great deal of the District’s governmental entities budgets. The District suffers losses from riverine flooding and closed basin flooding. The numerous years of excessive moisture has meant the growth of the closed basins. Flooding has caused

loss of health and safety services and stopping or limiting commerce in some communities. The Regional Council has responded to assist in grant writing services and mitigation planning services. With the assistance of Regional Council staff, jurisdictions have accessed FEMA mitigation grant funds, Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funds, and U.S.D.A. Rural Development funds. Businesses have also accessed Small Business Administration funds.

Another issue with flood hazards in the region is the lack of counties being FEMA mapped. Without maps that identify the high hazard areas, everyone is required to pay the highest risk rate for flood insurance. The sparse population of the District leaves FEMA mapping as a low federal priority. FEMA mapping has become a federal priority and many of the counties in our district are continuously working with FEMA officials to complete flood maps.

In addition to flooding, the District is at risk for losses to severe summer weather, windstorms, drought, severe winter weather, fire, communicable diseases, transportation accidents, hazardous materials incidents, and dam failure.

Covid 19 Disaster Declarations

- 2020 - Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells - 4509
- 2020 - Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells - 3477

The District's major economic base in agriculture increases its risk for economic losses from natural disasters, especially hail, windstorms, and drought. The large use of hazardous materials in agricultural production and the chemicals being transported on trains and major highways through the region also increase the opportunity for hazardous materials releases.

Participants at the CEDS meetings identified the development of facilities that create waste water – specifically in the Spiritwood Energy Park – could have negative impacts on the region's water sources. Specifically identified was the James River. Brown County, S.D., sent representatives to the District's environmental meeting to identify concerns.

While the region's rivers, lakes and wetlands are cause for concern from flooding, they are also critical in the tourism cluster that capitalizes on hunting, fishing, bird watching and camping. The numerous federal properties managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation mean there are a large percentage of highly paid federal employees in the District.

Participants also identified the development of wind farms in the midst of major bird production areas and migration flyways could negatively impact birds and endangered species.

Consideration of native prairie and highly erodible land was identified since agriculture is the major economic engine in the region. When property with wetlands is developed for industry, the wetlands must be mitigated. Participants encouraged keeping mitigated wetlands to as close as possible to the wetland area being mitigated, except for airports. This maintains the birds and wildlife using the wetlands. Participants identified concern for available land to mitigate future development. Counties maintain wetland banks for infrastructure development needs.

The group identified one risk in the region as abandoned wells on former farmsteads. The removal of buildings and change in ownership of the land mean unmarked abandoned wells present a hazard for people and wildlife falling into the wells and contamination of ground water.

Air quality issues with dust from non-paved roads were discussed at the District's environmental meetings and at mitigation planning meetings in the region.

3 VISION AND MISSION

The vision of the South Central Dakota Regional Council is to be a coordinated group of leaders working together to improve the quality of place in the District.

The Regional Council serves as a liaison, innovator, and facilitator of dialogue and actions among the nine counties, the state of North Dakota, the federal government and the businesses and nonprofit organizations serving the area.

4 GOALS

Following numerous meetings of the CEDS Committee and stakeholders, goals and objectives were reviewed and updated. The district's goals are created to be adaptable to allow the District's changing needs to be addressed as the region grows and evolves. The following goals have been identified and ranked:

Rank	Goal
1	Support the development of a workforce that provides sustainability and growth opportunities for the region.
2	Provide support for the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure for regional growth.
3	Manage the SCDRC organization in an efficient manner and access the resources for a viable regional council that is effective in assisting the nine-county region to plan and grow.
4	Create a quality of place where people want to live and raise their families.
5	Support business development and provide access to business capital that allows businesses to expand, diversify and build upon existing sectors and to grow new sectors.
6	Explore and investigate opportunities for energy and natural resource development while continuing to support and grow agricultural opportunities in the region through value-added agricultural options.
7	Disaster Preparedness and Community Resiliency. Increase the region's resilience to disasters.
8	Collaborate and develop partnerships that will share information, tools and investment for growth in the region.

Workforce Development Goal 1: Support the development of a workforce that provides sustainability and growth opportunities for the region		Rank Priority High Medium or Low
Objective	Encourage educational partners to utilize local, state and federal economic development partners and businesses to ensure workforce needs are met	
Strategy	Identify and support partnerships with training and educational partners to develop skills needed for a quality, available workforce	Medium

Objective	Identify tools and funding to assist in workforce development	
Strategy	Provide opportunities for businesses to participate in workforce training funding to increase and enhance their employees' skills	High
Strategy	Partner with state and federal agencies to share knowledge of regional labor needs and to access their funding programs	Medium
Strategy	Conduct regular workforce training needs assessments	Low
Strategy	Work to create a more skilled and resilient workforce to meet the needs of our communities	Medium
Strategy	Promote the RWIP Program through the state of North Dakota	Medium

Objective	Create our own workforce by retaining youth in the region	
Strategy	Create programs to inform students about opportunities for jobs, careers, and education in the region	Medium
Strategy	Create opportunities for students to engage and volunteer in their community	Medium

Objective	Recruit workers to the region	
Strategy	Recruit workers from outside the region and state through partnerships with businesses and government entities	Medium
Strategy	Encourage wages and benefits that will maintain and draw people to the area	Medium
Strategy	Encourage communities to engage in the find the good life campaign	Medium

Infrastructure Development Goal 2: Provide support for the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure for regional growth		Rank Priority High Medium or Low
Objective	Support development of infrastructure to encourage economic growth	
Strategy	Maintain and expand road, streets, water, and sewer in communities to assure health and safety	High
Strategy	Support transportation enhancements for regional and local businesses	Medium
Strategy	Encourage the development and expansion of natural gas pipelines	Medium
Strategy	Educate, inform and partner with legislators and state agencies to maintain and develop infrastructure in the region	Medium
Strategy	Develop and expand technology for communication, business growth and quality of life	Medium

Strategy	Provide funding through existing local, state and federal programs to support water/sewer infrastructure projects	High
Strategy	Provide information about funding programs to support infrastructure enhancement for local communities to include housing development	Medium

Objective	Identify housing expansion opportunities and support communities expanding housing options to address demand	
Strategy	Share housing assessment findings with communities and developers	Medium
Strategy	Provide information about tools available to communities to support new housing development and/or rehabilitation	High
Strategy	Participate in housing meetings to expand housing in our District	High
Strategy	Work to increase housing options for the workforce	High

South Central Dakota Regional Council Operations and Partnerships Goal 3: Manage the SCDRC organization in an efficient manner and access the resources for a viable regional council that is effective in assisting the nine-county region to plan and grow		Rank Priority High Medium or Low
Objective	Enhance staff and board capabilities and structure	
Strategy	Review bylaws, committee procedures, personnel policies, etc., to assure compliance with state and federal regulations	Medium
Strategy	Provide and/or attend professional development, leadership and technical training programs for staff, board members and key stakeholders in the region	Medium

Objective	Maintain quality staff to provide services in region	
Strategy	Maintain fully qualified staff	High
Strategy	Ensure continued appropriate professional development and technical training programs for staff	High

Objective	Stabilize long-term office financing	
Strategy	Continue contractual relationships with state and federal agencies and develop new contracts with state agencies, federal agencies and foundations	High
Strategy	Maintain a membership fee schedule to keep pace with inflation and to assure matching funds for contractual relationships	Medium
Strategy	Continue to provide contract work to local members	Medium
Strategy	Develop new contractual relationship with Bush Foundation and/or others to identify needs, build consensus and develop projects to provide needed services.	High

Community Development		Rank Priority High Medium or Low
Goal 4: Create a quality of place where people want to live and raise their families.		
Objective	Work with jurisdictions to develop long-range plans to sustain, preserve, and grow the region	
Strategy	Assist in the development and updating city, township and county plans for proactive planned growth	High
Strategy	Facilitate forums and discussions to bring diverse groups together to discuss issues and opportunities to encourage consensus and partnerships for growth and sustainability of local communities	Medium
Strategy	Expand collaborative & inclusive regional, multi-agency efforts to assess & develop solutions to the region's childcare needs & the impact of childcare shortages on worker retention and recruitment, especially in rural communities.	High

Objective	Support tourism and recreational growth opportunities	
Strategy	Encourage the incorporation of trails, parks and recreational areas in plans	Medium
Strategy	Identify and support historic sites and preservation efforts	Low
Strategy	Assist startup, expansion, and retention of viable tourism operations with technical assistance, financial planning and business planning.	Medium
Strategy	Identify and assist entities and communities to capitalize and promote specialty foods, farm tours, and Agri-tourism opportunities	Medium
Strategy	Increase and improve quality of lodging opportunities	Medium
Strategy	Encourage training opportunities for communities and tourism operators	Low

Objective	Promote the region through marketing and internet opportunities	
Strategy	Assist in compiling data to allow communities and tourism entities to make good decisions	Low
Strategy	Encourage the development of a regional brand and market the region within and outside of the state in tandem with state tourism	Medium
Strategy	Assist businesses, entrepreneurs and communities to explore opportunities for regional tourism packages	Medium
Strategy	Collaborate and develop partnerships that will support the USDA Regional Food Business Centers Program.	High

Objective	Promote the quality services that region provides – education, medical facilities, general services	
Strategy	Encourage communication of health care providers in the region to enhance and improve services and make them more accessible	Medium
Strategy	Support tools and incentives that assist in the recruitment of health care professionals	Medium
Strategy	Encourage health care workforce training and recruitment opportunities	Medium

Strategy	Explore hospital Districts to improve care and maintain within reasonable driving distance	Medium
Strategy	Continue to support expansion of medical facilities into small communities	Medium
Strategy	Support emergency service training to enhance existing skills in the rural communities	Medium
Strategy	Support and provide technical assistance to entities seeking funding for medical equipment	Medium

Business Supports		Rank Priority High Medium or Low
Goal 5: Support business development and provide access to technical assistance and business capital that allows businesses to expand, diversify and build upon existing sectors and to grow new sectors		
Objective	Technical Assistance	
Strategy	Collaborate and develop partnerships that will support the USDA Regional Food Business Centers Program.	High
Strategy	Provide technical assistance and planning services to entrepreneurs and businesses for business startup, expansion, and/or evaluation	High
Strategy	Identify and/or develop training and educational opportunities to enhance existing business practices for business owners	Medium
Strategy	Provide training for business consultants and economic developers to enhance their skills to provide better services to the regional businesses	Medium
Strategy	Identify and quantify all funding programs available to support business development with a database of support services	Medium

Objective	Business Capital	
Strategy	Partner and leverage funding sources to provide financing for startup and expansion ventures	High
Strategy	Identify strategic partners to enhance business development opportunities	Medium
Strategy	Educate key players in what funding is available and how to access it, thus providing more equity options in the region	High
Strategy	Identify and develop tools to encourage more local investment in the local communities	Medium

Economic Development		Rank Priority High Medium or Low
Goal 6: Explore and investigate opportunities for sustainable energy and natural resource development while continuing to support and grow agricultural opportunities in the region.		
Objective	Expand opportunities for value-added agriculture	
Strategy	Provide technical assistance for existing value-added agricultural companies to explore new national and international markets and trade opportunities	Medium

Strategy	Research value-added processes in agricultural and energy sectors	Medium
Strategy	Identify new sources of funding to assist targeted energy and agricultural development	Medium

Objective	Develop and enhance relationships to encourage development in the region	
Strategy	Partner with state, regional and federal agencies, organizations and entities to sustain and enhance natural resources	Medium
Strategy	Identify and support collaborations and partnerships working to promote energy development in the Region	Medium
Strategy	Support existing partnerships already working on energy development and provide technical assistance for business development that is a result of these partnerships	Medium

Objective	Support communities and businesses growth	
Strategy	Assist Region’s communities in addressing the impacts of energy and agricultural development	Medium
Strategy	Support and strengthen Main Street businesses that expand due to value-added agricultural products and processes or energy development processes or products	High

Disaster Preparedness and Community Resiliency		Rank Priority
Goal 7:		High Medium
Increase the region’s resilience to disasters		or Low
Objective	Reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards	
Strategy	Assist in grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding to maintain current plans and data	High
Strategy	Facilitate the creation and updating of plans to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties	Medium
Strategy	Assist in grant writing/administration for mitigation projects	High
Strategy	Assist local units of governments to adopt and enforce ordinances	Medium
Strategy	Assist local units of governments to adopt and enforce planning and zoning.	Medium
Objective	Restore services and economic vitality	
Strategy	Work with local emergency managers and jurisdictions to secure financing for repair of critical infrastructure	High
Strategy	Encourage business owners to work with the SCORE chapter, Small Business Development Center, Small Business Administration and local financial institutions to secure financing to reopen and repair after a disaster and to make improvements to mitigate future losses	Medium
Strategy	Assist in grant writing/administration to fund mitigation projects	Medium

Economic Development Goal 8: Collaborate and develop partnerships that will share information, tools and investment for growth in the region		Rank Priority High Medium or Low
Objective	Create opportunities for collaboration of economic development and tourism groups in the nine-county region	
Strategy	Provide technical assistance and training opportunities for developers	Medium

Objective	Strengthen partnerships with local, regional, state, and federal entities	
Strategy	Coordinate with regional, state and federal entities to bring information about financial programs and tools to the region	High

Objective	Strengthen and develop leaders in the region	
Strategy	Help communities identify generational issues in leadership roles to formulate ways to overcome barriers caused by generational differences	Medium
Strategy	Bring leadership opportunities to the region and encourage participation in leadership training programs	Medium
Strategy	Support existing leadership development programs and support board training to enhance leadership skills	Medium
Strategy	Support the development of the Young Professional Network to encourage more young leaders to become involved in business development and leadership roles in the District	Medium-Low

5 STRATEGIC PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Goal 1. Support the development of a workforce that provides sustainability and growth opportunities for the region

Project	Regional Impact	Priority	Lead Organization	Partners	# Jobs Created/ Timeline S= set date 0 = ongoing	Evaluation
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Encourage educational partners to utilize local, state and federal economic development partners and businesses to ensure workforce needs are understood and met

Promote educational partners and workforce through newsletters	All	Medium	LED-JSDC	NDSCS, LED, SBDC, SCDRC, SCORE, Chambers, Banks	4/0	# of newsletters
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Identify tools and funding to assist in workforce development

Workforce needs assessment and trainings	All	Low	LED	SCORE, SBDC, SCDRC, Chambers	0/0	# of assess. and trainings
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Create our own workforce by retaining youth in the region

Hire part-time employees at the college level to give real life work experience	All	High	Job Service ND, PS	PS	2/0	# of employees
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Recruit workers to the region

Promote Self Promotion Campaigns to Cities & Counties	All	Medium	LED-JSDC, VCBC Dev.	EDU, Chambers, LED, Local, Bank	0/0	Ongoing
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Goal 2: Provide support for the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure for regional growth

Project	Regional Impact	Priority	Lead Organization	Partners	# Jobs Crtd/ Time S= set date 0 = ongoing	Evaluation
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Support development of infrastructure to encourage economic growth

5 infrastructure proj. funded with CDBG, state or federal prog.	All	Medium-High	Local	SCDRC, LED, PS	0/S	# of projects
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Identify housing expansion opportunities and support communities expanding housing options to address demand

10 meetings on housing data and funding in region	All	Medium	Local	SCDRC, LED, Local, Bank, Chamber	0/0	# of meetings
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Goal 3: Manage the SCDRC organization in an efficient manner and access the resources for a viable regional council that is effective in assisting the nine-county region to plan and grow.

Project	Regional Impact	Priority	Lead Organization	Partners	# Jobs Created/ Timeline S= set date 0 = ongoing	Evaluation
Enhance staff and board capabilities and structure						
Quarterly board meetings held	All	High	SCDRC	Local, LED, Chambers, PS, Tourism, EDU	0/0	# of meetings
Educational opportunities, speakers or tours	All	Medium	SCDRC	Local, LED, Chambers, PS, Tourism, EDU, EXT, RLND	0/0	# of events
Maintain quality staff to provide services in region						
Professional development	All	High	SCDRC	Local, Foundations, EXT, RLND, EDU	0/0	# of events
Stabilize long-term office financing						
Maintain nine county district	All	Medium	SCDRC	Local, Chambers, LED, EDU	0/0	# of members
Continue contracts and reporting with federal and state agencies	All	High	SCDRC	Local, LED, EDU	0/0	# of contracts

Goal 4: Create a quality of place where people want to live and grow their families

Project	Regional Impact	Priority	Lead Organization	Partners	# Jobs Created/ Timeline S= set date 0 = ongoing	Evaluation
Work with jurisdictions to develop long-range plans to sustain, preserve, and grow the region						
4 new or updated zoning, comprehensive or capital plans	All	High	Local	SCDRC, LED, Chambers, Tourism	0/0	# of plans
4 regional meetings on issues in district	More than two counties	Medium	Local	SCDRC, LED, Chambers, EDU, Bank, EXT, Tourism	0/S	# of meetings

Support tourism and recreational growth opportunities						
4 tourism/recreation business starts or expansion	All	Medium	PS- private sector	Tourism, SBDC, SCDRC, LED, Banks, Local	10/0	# of business starts
Promote the region through marketing and internet opportunities						
4 businesses start/update marketing efforts	All	Medium	PS- private sector	SBDC, LED, Bank, Tourism, EXT	2/0	# of business starts
Promote the quality services that region provides – education, medical facilities, general services						
Educational opportunities enhanced	All	Medium	EDU	Local, PS, Bank, Chambers, LED	0/0	# of meetings
Medical opportunities enhanced	All	Medium	PS-Private sector	Local, EDU, Bank, Chambers	10/0	# of meetings
Day care development efforts	All	Medium	PS-Private sector	Local, Chambers, Bank, EXT, AMRC, Childcare Aware ND	5/0	# of meetings

Goal 5: Support business development and provide access to technical assistance and business capital that allows businesses to expand, diversify and build upon existing sectors and to grow new sectors

Project	Regional Impact	Priority	Lead Organization	Partners	# Jobs Crt/ Timeline S= set date 0 = ongoing	Evaluation
Technical Assistance						
Small Business counseling and support	All	High	SCDRC	SCORE, SBDC, Local, LED, Bank, EDU,	20/0	# clients served
Provide Grant Writing and other technical support for all businesses.	All	High	SCDRC	USDA RFBCP, SBDC, SCORE, Bank, Farms	0/0	# Clients Served
Business Capital						
Provide gap financing for 5 businesses	All	High	SCDRC	PS, Bank, LED, Local	20/0	# of loans
Access federal, state and regional funding for 10 businesses	All	High	PS – private sector	LED, SCORE, SCORE, Bank, EDU	20/0	# of loans

Goal 6: Explore and investigate opportunities for sustainable energy and natural resource development while continuing to support and grow agricultural opportunities in the region.

Project	Regional Impact	Priority	Lead Organization	Partners	# Jobs Created/ Timeline S= set date 0 = ongoing	Evaluation
Expand opportunities for value-added agriculture						
2 Research value-added projects	More than one county	Medium	PS-private sector	SP-APUC, SCDRC, LED, Bank, EDU, EXT	0/0	# of projects
3 value-added business starts	More than one county	Medium	PS	Local, LED, SCDRC, SCORE, Bank, EDU, EXT	40/S	# of business starts
2 energy projects	More than one county	Medium	PS	Local, LED, SP, SCDRC, SCORE, FP, Bank, EDU, EXT	25/S	# of projects
Develop and enhance relationships to encourage development in the region						
Wind farm projects	More than one county	Medium	PS	Local, LED, Bank, Tourism, EXT,	10/0	# of projects
2 energy projects	More than one county	Medium	PS	Local, LED, SCDRC, SCORE, Bank, EXT, EDU	10/S	# of projects
1 crypto mining operation	One County	Low	PS	Local SCDRC	1/S	# of projects
Support communities and businesses' growth						
6 businesses	More than one county	High	PS	Local, LED, SCDRC, SCORE, Bank, EXT, Chambers	25/0	# of businesses
3 Infrastructure projects for new development	More than one county	Medium	Local	LED, SCDRC, Bank, Chambers	0/0	# of projects

Goal 7: Increase the region’s resilience to disasters

Project	Regional Impact	Priority	Lead Organization	Partners	# Jobs Created/ Timeline S= set date 0 = ongoing	Evaluation
Reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards						
1 mitigation plan updated	All	Medium	EM	Local, EDU, SCDRC, Utilities, Chambers	0/0	# of plans
4 mitigation projects completed	All	High	EM	Local, SCDRC,	0/0	# of projects
Restore services and economic vitality						
Assist disaster impacted businesses	All	Medium	SBDC	Local, EDU, EXT, SCDRC, LED, AMC, Utilities, Chambers	0/0	# of clients
Repair infrastructure	All	High	Local	SCDRC, Utilities	0/0	# of projects
Assist in grant writing	All	Medium	SCDRC	Local, EM	0/0	# of projects

Goal 8: Collaborate and develop partnerships that will share information, tools and investment for growth in the region

Project	Regional Impact	Priority	Lead Organization	Partners	# Jobs Created/ Timeline S= set date 0 = ongoing	Evaluation
Create opportunities for collaboration of economic development and tourism groups in the nine-county region						
Quarterly meetings of region’s developers	All	Medium	SCDRC	LED, Tourism, Chambers	0/0	# of meetings
Strengthen partnerships with local, regional, state, and federal entities						
Meetings with State, Federal and Local Partners	All	High	LED	SCDRC, SBDC, Bank, USDA, HUD, DC,	12/0	# of sessions
Strengthen and develop leaders in the region						
Leadership training	All	Medium	RLND	Chambers, EDU, EXT, PS	0/0	# of trainings

Abbreviations are:

Bank– local financial institutions

Chambers – Local chambers of commerce and convention and visitor bureaus

EDU – K-12 schools, North Dakota State College of Science, University of Jamestown, Valley City State University, Trinity Bible College, vocational training centers, University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University

EM—Emergency Managers

EXT – NDSU Extension, county and state offices

Found – Foundations funding into the region

FP – Federal partners

LED – Local economic development groups

Local – city, county, township governments

PS – private sector businesses, entrepreneurs

AMRC – American Red Cross

RLND – Rural Leadership North Dakota, NDSU Extension Service

SCDRC – South Central Dakota Regional Council

SBDC – Small Business Development Center – Jamestown Center

SP – State partners

Tourism – Tourism promotion groups, i.e. Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway Association, Birding Drives Dakota, North Country National Scenic Trail – Sheyenne River Valley Chapter

6 COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

Development Services and Partners: South Central Dakota Regional Council works with numerous entities, agencies and organizations to address the priorities in the CEDS Action Plan. These partnerships may be directly between South Central Dakota Regional Council and other entities, or may be between other entities. This document incorporates strategies and goals from North Dakota State Mitigation Plans, County Mitigation Plans, North Dakota Department of Transportation Plan, North Dakota Department of Commerce Workforce Plan, North Dakota Housing Finance, USDA Rural Development – ND 2.0 and Governor’s Strategic ND 2020 and North Dakota Economic Development Strategic Plan 2010-2020 by North Dakota Economic Development Foundation. District staff participated in the planning meetings of several of these plans.

In its role to address the priorities of the CEDS Action Plan, South Central Dakota Regional Council:

- Offers funding opportunities including gap loan funding available through three revolving loan funds: ND Community Development Loan Fund, EDA Revolving Loan Fund, and USDA Intermediary Revolving Program.
- Hosts the local SCORE chapter that provides no cost business consulting to entrepreneurs and small businesses in the nine counties of the economic District.
- Offers planning, zoning and technical assistance.
- Administers HUD Community Development Block Grant funds from the state of North Dakota
- Shares information about the region and to region partners through Websites, newsletters and email blasts.

Local Partners:

County and city governments

Banks and financial institutions serving the region

Local Development Partners:

Barnes County

- Valley City/Barnes County Development Corporation
- Valley City Area Chamber of Commerce
- Valley City Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway
- Wimbledon Community Improvement Corporation (WCIC)

Dickey County

- Dickey County Job Development Authority
- Ellendale Job Development Authority
- Oakes Enhancement Incorporated (OEI)
- Oakes Area Chamber of Commerce

Foster County

- Carrington Development Corporation
- City of Carrington JDA
- Carrington Chamber of Commerce
- McHenry Development Corporation

Griggs County

- Griggs County Economic Development Corporation
- Griggs County Jobs Development Authority
- Hannaford Development Corporation

LaMoure County

- Edgeley Community Development Corporation
- Kulm Development
- LaMoure Development
- Marion Job Development Authority

Logan County

- Logan County Job Development Authority
- Gackle Community Development Corporation

McIntosh County

- City of Ashley Economic Development
- Ashley Chamber of Commerce
- McIntosh County Job Development Authority
- Wishek JDA

Stutsman County

- Buffalo City Tourism Foundation
- Chase Lake Foundation
- Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce
- Jamestown Civic Center/Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation
- Kensal Economic Development
- Medina Community Development Corporation
- Streeter Development Association

Wells County

- Bowdon Development Corporation
- Fessenden Development Corporation
- Harvey Economic Development
- Harvey Chamber of Commerce

Regional Partners:

- Childcare Aware of North Dakota
- Great Plains Housing Authority
- Cass County Electric Cooperative
- Griggs-Steel Empowerment Zone
- Highway 281 Association
- Job Service North Dakota offices in Valley City, Oakes, and Jamestown
- Montana Dakota Utilities
- North Dakota Community Action Partnership, Region VI
- North Dakota State University Extension Service County offices
- North Dakota State College of Science
- Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
- Otter Tail Power Company

- Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway Association
- Sheyenne River Valley Chapter of North Country National Scenic Trail
- Trinity Bible College
- University of Jamestown
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Valley City State University

State and Federal Partners:

- Bank of North Dakota
- Dakota Certified Development Corporation
- Economic Development Administration
- Economic Development Association of North Dakota
- Historical Society of North Dakota
- Job Service North Dakota
- North Dakota Association of Regional Councils
- North Dakota Department of Commerce
 - ND Division of Community Services
 - ND Division of Tourism
 - ND Economic Development and Finance
 - ND Workforce Development
- North Dakota Department of Emergency Services
- North Dakota Department of Transportation
- North Dakota Forest Service
- North Dakota Game and Fish
- North Dakota Housing Finance Agency
- North Dakota Humanities Council
- North Dakota Parks and Recreation
- North Dakota Small Business Development Center
- North Dakota State University Extension Service
- North Dakota State University
- Red River Corridor
- Small Business Administration
- University of North Dakota
- USDA Rural Development
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey

7 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The performance measures will be tied to the long-term goals in this CEDS document. The following criteria will be used to measure the District's performance as an EDA Economic Development District:

- The frequency of participation of Board and CEDS committee members.
- The participation of government, business and community leaders in projects.
- The frequency that District staff interacts with jurisdictions, stakeholders and partners in the District.
- Number of jobs created or retained through projects.
- The amount and types of funding leveraged through projects.

8 SOUTH CENTRAL DAKOTA REGIONAL COUNCIL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) ADOPTION RESOLUTION

Whereas, a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee has been appointed by the South Central Dakota Regional Council District governing body to facilitate the process of developing a CEDS and overseeing its long-term implementation, and;

Whereas, the South Central Dakota Regional Council CEDS committee has facilitated the preparation of the CEDS document and reviewed the final draft, and;

Whereas, the South Central Dakota Regional Council CEDS committee has determined the CEDS represents the needs and wishes of the District and will enable a course of action to meet those needs and wishes, and;

Whereas, the South Central Dakota Regional Council CEDS committee has recommended the governing body approve and adopt the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Therefore be it resolved, the governing body of the South Central Dakota Regional Council hereby adopts and approves the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and further requests the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce review and approve the South Central Dakota Regional Council District CEDS.

Signed this ____ day of December 2023.

Vicky Lovell, President

Appendix 1: Tourism Assets and Opportunities

Recreation Areas

- State parks
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Army Corp of Engineers recreation areas
- County parks

Numerous, quality wildlife management areas

- Federal waterfowl production areas
- State Wildlife management areas
- Federal refuges
- Camping

Water Recreation

- Jamestown Reservoir
- Lake Ashtabula – 10 miles north of Valley City
- Numerous sloughs and wetlands
- Pipestem Reservoir
- Rivers – including, Sheyenne, James, Pipestem, and more

Hunting/trapping

- Deer
- Pheasant
- Ducks
- Furbearers (mink, muskrat, weasel, rabbit, fox)
- Turkeys
- Mountain lions
- Prairie dogs
- Geese
- Waterfowl
- Elk
- Grouse
- Coyotes
- Moos
- Economic impact – processing meat, licensing, lodging, restaurant, gas.

Natural history

- Missouri Couteau, which runs parallel and east to the Missouri River, from Montana to Nebraska

Nature-based tourism

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Boating, canoeing
- National Scenic Byway – Sheyenne River Valley
- Birding - Birding Drives North Dakota
- North Country National Scenic Trail
- Northern Tier Bicycle Route
- Winter activities
- Ice fishing
- Cross country skiing
- Snowmobiling
- Snow shoeing

Sky

- Northern lights
- Stars

Proximity to other communities

- Tourists can pack in lots of things with short drive
- Opportunity to do a variety of things
- Travel to 5-6 communities in one weekend

Restaurants

- Unique places
- Homemade soups, lefsa, kuchen

Food

- Ethnic food
- Rhubarb
- June berries
- Wine – locally made
- Coffee roasters

Historic buildings and sites–

Numerous:

- Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site, including Oscar Zero Launch Control Center and the November 33 Missile Facility
- Putnam House, Carrington
- Midland Continental Railroad Depot-Wimbledon
- Barnes County Courthouse
- Valley City Auditorium
- VCSU President’s House
- Barnes County - Alderman School (National Register)
- Churches
- Opera house Ellendale
- Non chain restaurants
- “a piece of North Dakota”
- Hometown butcher shops - sausage
- Dandelions
- Local flavor – bars
- Microbreweries
- Manford – restoring town site
- Carroll House, Fullerton
- Valley City, All Saints Episcopal Church
- Valley City Public Library
- Rudolph Square
- Museums: Lutz Mansion, State Hospital
- Amphitheater and Fieldstone WPA Features at Valley City Pioneer Park
- Cemeteries

Appendix 2. Region’s Disaster and Economic Recovery and Resiliency

The South Central Dakota Regional Council supports and encourages communities in the district to engage in pre-disaster, post-disaster, and mitigation planning. This document establishes the role the South Central Dakota Regional Council in pre-disaster and post-disaster planning and recovery. This document is not intended to undermine or replace existing federal, state or local disaster plans. It identifies how the Regional Council will work in conjunction with its partners. The Regional Council is prepared to facilitate planning and provide assistance as outlined in this strategy document.

The South Central Dakota Regional Council works closely with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, the nine county emergency managers, nine county commissions and city leaders. In Region VI of North Dakota, the counties take the lead in pre-disaster preparedness and post-disaster planning and implementation through the development and continued updating of countywide multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard mitigation plans that are approved by the State of North Dakota and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In each county, an emergency manager is the lead in disaster recovery and resiliency. Staff of the South Central Dakota Regional Council work with emergency managers and state emergency services staff to assist in updating the mitigation plans, identification of mitigation projects, writing of grants, administration of grants, and gathering, compiling and analysis of data, resources, and impacts.

Region VI Emergency Managers are:

- Barnes County, Jessica Jenrich, 1525 12th St. NW, Valley City, ND 58072, 701-845-8510
- Dickey County, Charlie Russell, P O Box 215, Ellendale, ND 58436-0215, 701-320-6299
- Foster County, Open Position, 1000 5th St N, Carrington, ND 58421
- Griggs County, Annie Laura, P O Box 574, Cooperstown, ND 58425, 701-797-3311
- LaMoure County, Kimberly Robbins, P O Box 128, LaMoure, ND 58458, 701-883-6096
- Logan County, Daniel Schwartz, 301 1st St NE, Mandan, ND 58554, 701-989-7970
- McIntosh County, Neil Meidinger, P O Box 326, Ashley, ND 58413, 701-321-1607
- Stutsman County, Andrew Kirking, 205 6th St. E, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-252-9093
- Wells County, Tammy Roehrich, P O Box 114, Fessenden, ND 58438, 701-341-1359

Disaster economic recovery in the state of North Dakota is led by the N.D. Department of Commerce. The North Dakota Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), the Small Business Administration and economic development groups in each community also assist in economic recovery. The Regional Council hosts one of the eight offices of the North Dakota Small Business Development Center (SBDC). In an immediate recovery effort, the SBDC would assist the Small Business Administration to provide business consulting and access to recovery assistance. The Regional Council works closely with each of the state and federal agencies to assist in disaster economic recovery. The South Central Dakota Regional Council provides economic recovery services to communities and businesses by providing research, grant writing and grant administration of state and federal programs.

Phase I. Pre-disaster Preparedness.

The nine-county area of the South Central Dakota Regional Council is at risk of disasters from hazards including the following: communicable diseases in people, plants, and animals; dam failure; drought; flooding (overland and riverine); hazardous material release (i.e. propane, anhydrous ammonia), homeland security incident; shortage or outage of critical materials or infrastructure (i.e. loss of power, water or sewer; shortage of groceries, fuel; blocked roads); structure fire and structure collapse; summer storms; transportation accident (vehicle, rail, air, pedestrian); wildland fire; winter storms; and windstorms.

In pre-disaster preparedness, the challenge facing the nine-county area is the lack of comprehensive mitigation capabilities for natural hazards and manmade threats. Mitigation capabilities are divided into four categories: Administrative and Technical, Education and Outreach, Financial, and Planning and Regulatory.

Administrative and technical mitigation capabilities includes city and county staff, their skills and tools for mitigation planning to implement specific mitigation actions. The two largest cities in the region - Jamestown and Valley City - are the only cities with adequate administrative and technical capabilities, which include: full-time staff such as auditor, engineer, building inspection, public works, law enforcement, and fire chief. Smaller cities have limited part-time employees providing basic services, and all volunteer fire departments and ambulance services. Services through the South Central Dakota Regional Council are an administrative and technical capability for jurisdictions in the region.

Education and outreach mitigation capabilities include education and outreach programs, and methods already in place to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information. Education and outreach programs are frequent in Jamestown and Valley City. However, aside from fire prevention week at public and private schools, smaller cities and rural areas lack education and outreach on multiple levels. Of the 60 incorporated cities in the region, only nine maintain websites, which is used as the primary communication outlet to citizens. The South Central Dakota Regional Council may assist in education and outreach capability in the region.

Financial mitigation capabilities include access to or eligibility to use funding resources for hazard mitigation for jurisdictions. Funding streams in the nine-county area are primarily based on local property tax. The smaller cities and rural areas have limited tax base due to the agriculture sector being the primary economic engine. Cities such as Jamestown and Valley City have enacted sales taxes, Tax Increment Financing districts, and use special assessments to raise revenue and repay bonds. The South Central Dakota Regional Council serves as a financial mitigation capability through grant writing and grant administration.

Planning and regulatory mitigation capabilities include jurisdictional plans, policies, codes, and ordinances adopted and in place that prevent and reduce the impacts of hazards. Building codes have been adopted by many cities throughout the region, but Jamestown, Valley City, Ellendale, and Oakes are the only cities with inspection services. Ordinances to varying degrees of intensity have been adopted by some small cities, but they lack city staff for enforcement. The cities of Jamestown and Valley City have zoning, ordinances, land use, transportation and various other plans and policies. The South Central Dakota Regional Council serves as a planning and regulatory mitigation capability through planning services it provides.

The District's CEDS Committee created the following goal that includes objectives and strategies for Disaster Preparedness and Community Resiliency to direct the actions to be taken by the South Central Dakota Regional Council to improve mitigation capabilities.

Disaster Preparedness and Community Resiliency Goal 7: Increase the region’s resilience to disasters		Rank Priority High Medium or Low
Objective	Reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards	
Strategy	Assist in grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding to maintain current plans and data	High
Strategy	Facilitate the creation and updating of plans to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties	Medium
Strategy	Assist in grant writing/administration for mitigation projects	High
Strategy	Assist local units of governments to adopt and enforce ordinances	Medium
Strategy	Assist local units of governments to adopt and enforce planning and zoning.	Medium
Objective	Restore services and economic vitality	
Strategy	Work with local emergency managers and jurisdictions to secure financing for repair of critical infrastructure	High
Strategy	Encourage business owners to work with the SCORE chapter, Small Business Development Center, Small Business Administration and local financial institutions to secure financing to reopen and repair after a disaster and to make improvements to mitigate future losses	Medium
Strategy	Assist in grant writing/administration to fund mitigation projects	Medium

During meetings held throughout the district, the following was identified per the EDA Disaster and Economic Recovery and Resiliency Strategy Guidelines.

- **Engage in pre-disaster recovery and mitigation planning.**

The South Central Dakota Regional Council may assist jurisdictions in grant writing and grant administration in order to obtain funding to maintain updated pre-disaster recovery and mitigation plans and data. The Regional Council also could facilitate the creation and updating of such plans to assess and prepare for pre-disaster recovery and hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties. These meetings have and in the future will encourage all communities to engage in pre-disaster recovery and mitigation planning.

- **Know the community’s risks and vulnerabilities.**

Each county has certain risks and vulnerabilities. In order to accurately assess what they are in each community, emergency managers and the County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meet and evaluate the county’s risks and vulnerabilities. This information is then documented in the county’s plan and its state plan. The South Central Dakota Regional Council may work with the counties and communities to help facilitate the creation and updating of plans to assess and address the risks and vulnerabilities identified in the meetings held by the emergency managers and the County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

- **Inventory and organize the community’s recovery resources (people, businesses, public services...etc.)**

An inventory of each county’s recovery resources is maintained by the County Emergency Managers and the LEPC. These two entities also work alongside state agencies (i.e. ND Department of Emergency Services, Department of Commerce, Department of Health) organizations (i.e. American Red Cross, Salvation Army) to complete this task. To assist, the South Central Dakota Regional Council is available for grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding to maintain plans and update data.

- **Engage in business continuity planning.**

Continuity planning for businesses is essential in keeping a business open. The North Dakota Small Business Development Center assists businesses in continuity planning in this region. In addition, the American Red Cross provides the Red Cross Ready Rating Program to assist businesses in planning for disasters and disaster recovery. Each of these are fundamental in creating an effective business continuity plan. The South Central Dakota Regional Council is a sub host of the ND Small Business Development Center and encourages business owners to work with the Small Business Development Center, Small Business Administration, and local financial institutions to go over their business continuity plan and to secure financing to reopen and repair after a disaster and to make improvements to mitigate future losses.

- **Ensure there are resources available for the elderly and those with special needs.**

County emergency managers working with the N.D. Department of Emergency Services and N.D. Department of Health identify vulnerable populations, populations with special needs and develop county preparedness plans. The South Central Dakota Regional Council may assist in grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding to maintain current plans and data to allow for adequate resources for the elderly and those with special needs. The Regional Council will also facilitate the creation and updating of plans to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties.

- **Identify shelters.**

County emergency managers working with the N.D. Department of Emergency Services, N.D. Department of Health and American Red Cross identify shelters available in each county and community. The South Central Dakota Regional Council may assist in identifying shelters by grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding to maintain current plans and data and by facilitating the creation and updating of plans to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties.

- **Identify recovery partners (Federal, state, local, and private sector), type of assistance and resources they can provide. Develop an interagency action plan.**

To identify recovery partners to help out in the case of a disaster or emergency, County emergency managers and the LEPCs plan meeting agendas which include the federal, state, local and private sector partners as resources in developing interagency action plans for each respective county in the region. The South Central Dakota Regional Council may assist with to maintain current plans and data involving recovery partners, assistance and resources by assisting with grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding. The Regional Council may also facilitate the creation and updating of plans after specific meetings and obtaining valuable data to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties.

- **Identify what recovery activities will take place immediately, short-term, intermediate, and long-term.**

Recovery activities take place at different times. County emergency managers and county LEPCs have identified recovery activities in each county's response and recovery plan in order to decide which activities will take place immediately and which activities will be short-term, intermediate, or long-term. To help with identifying the timeline for certain recovery activities, South Central Dakota Regional Council may facilitate the creation and updating of plans to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties. The Regional Council may also work with local emergency managers and jurisdictions to secure financing for repair of critical infrastructure and assist in grant writing and grant administration to fund mitigation projects.

- **Develop and disseminate a community evacuation plan.**

Evacuation plans are developed by city engineers and/or county emergency managers working with LEPCs for each community in their county. After the plans are created, they are disseminated by each

jurisdiction. To help with community evacuation plans, the South Central Dakota Regional Council may assist local units of governments to adopt and enforce ordinances, assist in grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding to maintain current plans and data and facilitate the creation and updating of plans to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties.

- **Establish a communication chain.**

Emergency Managers have a communication chain identified in their response plans. South Central Dakota Regional Council may assist local units of governments to adopt and enforce ordinances, assist in grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding to maintain current plans and data, and facilitate the creation and updating of plans to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties in order to keep the communication chain updated and current.

- **Engage the community. Take advantage of opportunities to communicate the process and protocols to follow in the event of a disaster and what recovery efforts will be undertaken.**

Community members are engaged through community meetings, social media and websites with the community's process and protocols. The emergency managers also work closely with media to share information. The community is invited to participate in each part of the disaster planning process. This is accomplished by opening all mitigation planning meetings to the public and publishing news releases in the newspapers. In addition, paper and online surveys regarding preparedness and mitigation are circulated throughout the communities. Emergency managers are engaging all jurisdictions in their counties by including members from each jurisdiction in the planning process. To help each jurisdiction engage the community, the South Central Dakota Regional Council may assist in meeting facilitation, grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding to maintain current plans and data, facilitate the creation and updating of plans to assess and address hazard mitigation issues in all nine-counties, assist in grant writing and grant administration to obtain funding for mitigation projects, assist local units of governments to adopt and enforce ordinances, work with local emergency managers and jurisdictions to secure financing for repair of critical infrastructure and encourage business owners to work with the Small Business Development Center, Small Business Administration and local financial institutions to secure financing to reopen and repair after a disaster and to make improvements to mitigate future losses.

Phase II: Post-disaster Planning and Implementation

Disaster Assessment

Following a disaster, the South Central Dakota Regional Council will be available to cities, counties and regional partners to:

- Assess the nature and magnitude of the disaster.
- Assess the impact on the economy.
- Assess the impact on transportation and public infrastructure.
- Assess the impact on housing, schools, and health care facilities.

Develop and/or Implement Recovery Timeline:

Based on the assessment, the Regional Council will be available to assist cities, counties, and the state with:

- Listing and prioritizing recover activities to be performed
- Identifying resources (federal, state, local and private sector) needed for each activity
- Determining the level and type of assistance needed
- Identifying roles and responsibilities

- Determining the timeframe for each recovery activity (immediate, short-term, intermediate, or long-term)
- Establishing recovery benchmarks

Implement Recovery Plan

Per the identified recovery plan, the Regional Council may assist in the following activities to assist in the long-term recovery:

- Identify federal, state, regional and local programs to assist
- Apply for funds from federal, state, regional and local programs
- Assist in the development of management funds to endure the most effective use of funds.