



One Watershed  
One Plan

# Red Lake River

## Pilot Watershed Profile

Fall 2015

### Planning Partners

#### Counties:

- Polk
- Pennington
- Red Lake

#### Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

- West Polk
- Pennington
- Red Lake

#### Watershed Districts:

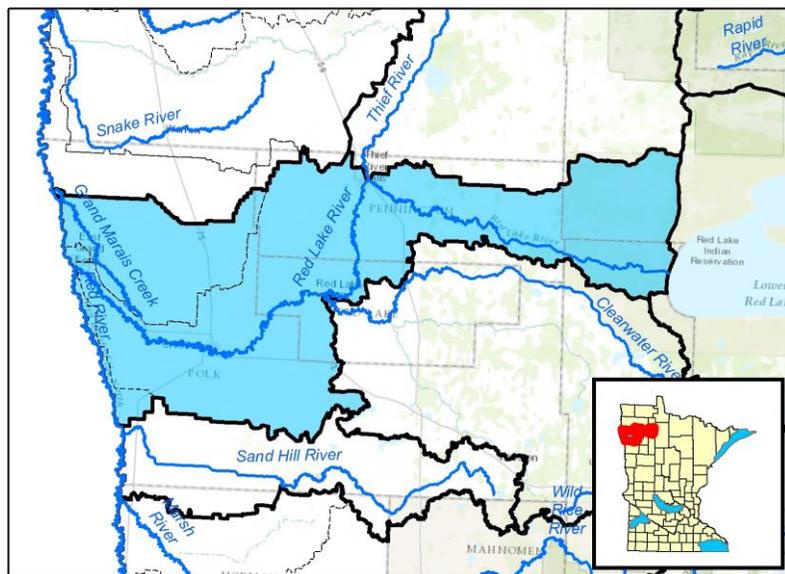
- Red Lake Watershed District

## What is *One Watershed, One Plan*?

The vision of *One Watershed, One Plan* is to align planning on major watershed boundaries with prioritized, targeted, and measurable watershed plans developed and implemented locally. These plans build on existing efforts, including current local water plans, state and local knowledge, and a systematic, science-based approach to watershed management.

## The Red Lake River Pilot Watershed

The *One Watershed, One Plan* boundary for the Red Lake River was drafted along the area's major watershed boundary. The resulting watershed planning area includes portions of Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Clearwater, and Beltrami counties.



In early 2014, planning partners in this watershed joined together to submit a nomination to pilot *One Watershed, One Plan*. In June, the Red Lake River was selected as one of five major watersheds across the state to pilot this program.

The pilot program has involved a broad range of stakeholders, including local governments, state

agencies, and community members as partners in the planning process.

"I like the fact that you will end up with one plan instead of eight for the designated area," said Tanya Hanson, Red Lake River SWCD Manager. "I believe the plan will help prioritize and target future projects."

The plan will address the largest threats and provide the greatest environmental benefits to the Red Lake River Watershed.



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## Next Steps for the Red Lake River's *One Watershed, One Plan*

- Continue to engage in planning meetings to finalize the draft plan.
- Establish BMP implementation goals for the three different planning zones in the watershed.
- Complete the plan by 2016, and implement it throughout the 10-year timeframe of the plan.
- Provide BWSR with lessons, feedback, and experience gained from the pilot plan to help adjust and streamline the framework for statewide rollout of the program.

## Tips from the Red Lake River

- **“With more LGUs involved, you have to get all of the LGUs on the same page before you can communicate information to the consultant. You can’t have just one LGU working with the consultant. We find it works best to have the LGUs meet often and relay that information to the consultant.”**

--Peter Nelson, Pennington SWCD Water Plan Coordinator

- **“Ideally, start writing the plan after the WRAPS are done. There is a section in the WRAPS reports for listing restoration and protect strategies along with corresponding timelines, scale of adoption, entities of primary involvement, and interim goals. If there is a completed WRAPS report for the watershed, that section would be very helpful for developing the *One Watershed, One Plan* document for that watershed.”**

--Corey Hanson, Red Lake River Watershed

## *One Watershed, One Plan* Background

*One Watershed, One Plan* is rooted in Minnesota’s long history of water management by local government. Planning for the program began with the Local Government Water Roundtable (Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts). Roundtable members recommended that local governments charged with water management should develop focused implementation plans on a watershed scale. In 2012, the Minnesota State Legislature, through the *One Watershed, One Plan* legislation, authorized BWSR to develop and implement a comprehensive watershed management plan approach. The resulting approach coordinates and consolidates water plans on a watershed basis instead of political boundaries.

## How Do I Stay Informed?

For up-to-date information on the statewide rollout of *One Watershed, One Plan*, please visit the BWSR program website, available at [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html). For information on the Red Lake River pilot watershed, please contact your local County, Soil and Water Conservation District, or Watershed District office, and visit <http://redlakecountyswcd.org/one-watershed-one-plan.html>.