# Assessment of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Potential for Glacial Drift Aquifers in North Dakota



by Jon C. Patch, P.E. 2024

Prepared under the direction of the North Dakota Department of Water Resources Bismarck, ND

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<sup>1</sup> See "<u>about the author</u>" section

Interactive Map: https://mar.dwr.nd.gov

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## INTRODUCTION

Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) involves capturing a portion of excess or abundant surface water flows from rivers and streams (often in the spring) and storing that volume of water in an aquifer for later use. MAR projects are also referred to as artificial recharge (AR), Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), and Aquifer Recharge and Recovery (ARR). MAR has also been referred to as "water banking." Much like surface reservoirs mitigate transient river and stream flow conditions, MAR allows aquifers to be used as reservoirs. Groundwater supplies are less prone than surface water to extreme variations in quantity from short-term changes in climate, which is why groundwater is often used as a source for irrigation, municipal, rural-water, and industrial supplies. However, even aquifers are eventually affected by long-term climate trends, where extended droughts can reduce available groundwater. Mitigating these drought impacts and increasing the confidence that water supply remain dependable can be accomplished through MAR.

MAR can be accomplished generally through two means: surface infiltration or well injection. Surface infiltration is accomplished where water is placed in excavated basins and allowed to infiltrate through a vadose zone to the aquifer. This type of recharge is best suited to unconfined or "water table" aquifers where no substantial low-permeability materials preclude the direct infiltration of the water to the aquifer. Well injection involves using a well to place the water into the aquifer through pumping or gravity. This type of recharge is required where there are low-permeability materials overlying the confined aquifer preventing direct infiltration from the surface.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this investigation is to evaluate the feasibility for the use of MAR to North Dakota's glacial drift aquifers to extend and enhance their resiliency. The objective is to create a map, using reasoned criteria and considerations, of the state's glacial drift aquifer's MAR potential and to identify candidate aquifers for successful MAR application. For an aquifer to be considered as having the best potential for MAR, a minimum threshold of 1,000 acre-feet of annual recharge was established. The map, along with the currently available information and tool sets, such as the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR) GIS platform, provides a broader base from which decision makers and individuals can leverage the past knowledge with the currently available information. The map and information in this report is intended to maximize efficient conjunctive use of the state's water supply while increasing its dependability and reliability.

# HISTORY OF MAR IN NORTH DAKOTA

In North Dakota MAR has previously been used or tested in several instances. Beginning in 1932, Valley City recharged Sheyenne River water into an abandoned gravel pit overlying a surficial aquifer where their hand dug municipal well was located (Kelly, 1967 and <u>Appendix 1</u>). The simple and elegant design is still in operation today with no major changes to the original conception.

In the mid-1960s, the city of Minot supplemented water in a local aquifer with water from the Souris River (Pettyjohn and Fahy, 1968). In 1968, the Civil Engineering Department of North Dakota State University did a laboratory analysis that scale-tested the use of gravity shafts for groundwater recharge into the declining West Fargo aquifer (<u>d'Errico and Skodje, 1968</u>).

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Garrison Conservancy District supplemented groundwater in the Oakes aquifer using springtime infiltration of water pumped from the James River during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Water was pumped to low areas of the landscape, or applied through irrigation pivots (Frietag and Esser, 1986).

In the late 1980s, the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC), in cooperation with the USBR, conducted studies on a pilot recharge basin, infiltrating water from the James River to the Oakes aquifer in Dickey County, southeastern North Dakota (Schuh and Shaver, 1988; Shaver and Schuh, 1989a; Shaver and Schuh, 1989b).

The feasibility of augmenting groundwater in the Englevale Aquifer (Ransom and Sargent Counties, southeastern North Dakota) was explored, and results published by Cline and others (1993).

In 1992, the Forest River Hutterian Colony began development of an artificial recharge project to enhance and expand their irrigation capabilities in Grand Forks County (Schuh and others, 2009; and Schuh and Patch, 2009).

In 2010, the USBR considered artificial recharge as part of an integrated plan for stabilizing water supplies in the Red River Valley.

An investigation was done in 2017 on the potential geochemical effects of storing James River water in the Spiritwood Aquifer using PHREEQC Simulations of pe-pH (Korom and Hisz, 2018).

While extensive research and investigation of MAR has been conducted in North Dakota, there have been limited large-scale projects implemented. However, three noteworthy long-term MAR projects have successfully been realized: Valley City's municipal water supply, Minot's municipal water supply, and Forest River Colony's irrigation supply in Grand Forks County. These projects demonstrate the potential for further implementation and success of MAR in the region.

#### Valley City project

Prior to 1932, Valley City obtained its municipal supply from a single hand-dug municipal well that was 15 feet in diameter and 30 feet deep (Kelly, 1966). The supply was located in the small (approximately 1 square mile) Valley City aquifer, a glacial outwash deposit. The Valley City recharge system was built in 1932 as the result of prolonged drought, during which there was a rapid decline in water levels in the municipal well. The project was the subject of a feature article in the February 2, 1932 edition of the Fargo Forum (Appendix 1). The recharge project, which operates to this day, involved piping water from the nearby Sheyenne River through a 1/2 mile long, 18" tile pipeline to an excavated pit into the small surficial aquifer where the municipal well was located. Water flows from the river to the pit under the influence of gravity as the floor of the excavated pit was 6 feet below the river level. The inlet of the pipeline was approximately 2 feet below the normal river level. The maximum measured rate of free flow was 2,600 gpm. The river level was maintained by a 12-foot dam located approximately a half mile downstream from the pipeline. Steady flow in the river is now maintained by Baldhill Dam, constructed in 1949 on the Sheyenne River approximately 13 miles upstream. Valley City has a water-right to a portion of the water stored in the reservoir behind Baldhill dam (Lake Ashtabula). Releases from the Lake Ashtabula are captured downstream in the river adjacent to the recharge pit, and ultimately recaptured in wells completed in the Valley City aquifer.

In 1957, the city installed a pump and valve system on the pipeline. The valve system allowed the water-level in the pit to be raised approximately 5 feet above river level. At present, no pumping from the river to the recharge pit is needed as the water-level is held fairly steady in the Sheyenne River due to the steady releases from Lake Ashtabula. The gravity-feed system provides the necessary volumes to the recharge system; thus, a constant supply of recharge is available to the aquifer, and decline of the piezometric surface is minimal. However, occasional cleaning of the recharge pit floor is necessary due to the buildup of silt and clay bought in with the river water (Hesch, 2023). At present, about 1,000 acre-feet per year is used by Valley City for municipal use (Figure 1). All water pumped is essentially recaptured Sheyenne River Water that has be artificially recharged the Valley City aquifer.



Figure 1. Reported Municipal Water Usage in Valley City. Equals the amount recharged from Sheyenne River to the Valley City Aquifer.

Since the Valley City recharge project began in 1932, the water quality in the aquifer is identical to the Sheyenne River's chemical composition. Starting around 2005, the river's quality began to deteriorate following the infusion of lower quality water from Devils Lake, introduced via two emergency outlets situated upstream of Valley City. These outlets were constructed as a response to the chronic flooding caused by the rising Devils Lake. While the outlets have assisted in lowering Devils Lake's levels, preventing disastrous floods, they have inadvertently increased the total dissolved solids in the Sheyenne River, shifting the water type from predominantly sodium-bicarbonate to sodium-sulfate. To counteract the declining water quality sourced from the river, Valley City has, since 2009, implemented advanced ultra- and nano-filtration treatment processes.

#### Minot project

In 1965, the city of Minot constructed an artificial recharge facility to place water from the Souris River into the Minot aquifer. The project was the subject of an article published in *Public Works* periodical in September, 1968 authored by Wayne A. Pettyjohn, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Geology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio and Vernon Fahy, P.E., City Manager. Minot, ND. The article is included in its entirety as <u>Appendix 2</u>. The facility consisted of a settling basin connected to a y-shaped canal system. Along the centerline of the canals are gravel-filled bored holes, called hydraulic connectors, that perforate the poorly permeable material that overlies the Minot aquifer. The hydraulic connectors range in diameter from 30 to 72 inches and from 28 to 34 feet in depth. The lower part of the hydraulic connectors taps sand and gravel in the dewatered upper part of the Minot aquifer.

Water was pumped from the Souris River into a settling basin. When the settling basin filled to a specified level, water flowed into the recharge basin and downward in the hydraulic

connectors. During the period 1965 to 1975, it was estimated that as much as 2.6 billion gallons of water (7,979 acre-feet total or about 725 acre-feet per year) were recharged into the Minot aquifer (Pusc, 1994 and City of Minot, 1991). The recharge facility was destroyed during flooding events in the mid 1970's and no attempts to artificially recharge the Minot aquifer have been made since. Additional information on the artificial recharge facility constructed by the city of Minot is found in Pettyjohn (1967), Pettyjohn and Hutchinson (1971), and Pettyjohn (1968B).

In 1992, the City of Minot formulated a Water Management Plan advocating for the revival of an artificial recharge system for the Minot aquifer and the initiation of a similar system for the Sundre aquifer (City of Minot, 1991). The strategy included budget allocations for preliminary projects and additional research. However, the emergence of the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project, aimed at piping Missouri River water to the region, led to the shelving of the initial plan. Despite this, water levels in both the Minot and Sundre aquifers continued to plummet to critical points until a sudden rise following the flood of 2011, temporarily alleviating concerns over water scarcity. Nevertheless, subsequent years saw the resurgence of low water levels, with the Minot aquifer experiencing even more severe declines than before the 2011 flood.

It is anticipated at the time of this report that the NAWS system will achieve a significant milestone by delivering treated water from the Missouri River to the region within the 2024/2025 period.

#### **Forest River Project**

In 1992, the Forest River Hutterite Community (FRHC), near Fordville, ND in eastern North Dakota, began the planning, testing, and operation of an ARR basin and well field facility. The project, which is still being operated today, was developed in close consultation with the SWC (Schuh and Patch, 2009). SWC hydrologists provided assistance to ensure that all of the necessary scientific instrumentation was put into place to measure the effectiveness of the process, to confirm that all of the appropriate SWC permits were acquired and that the project would not impact prior water permits, and to ensure that groundwater was adequately protected from contamination. The project examined the feasibility of taking Forest River water during higher spring flows for injection into the Inkster aquifer for irrigation when needed.

The FRHC recharge project, includes two infiltration basins, each about 3.5 acres in area. Topsoil was removed from both basins to two feet below grade, with that removed soil being used to build a berm around the infiltration basins. The excavated topsoil, which was high in the less water-permeable clay, exposed a bed material of fine and medium sand, which is more permeable to water.

This project takes water from the Forest River during high flows in the spring and early summer, flows that would otherwise have been unavailable to beneficial use, for storage in a shallow

aquifer. The water is pumped from the river into the two basins, allowing gravity to move that water into an aquifer through infiltration. Water stored in the aquifer through artificial recharge is short-term storage, meaning that water cannot be "banked" long-term due to losses to evaporation and seepage. That stored water is extracted from the aquifer for irrigation, typically June through September, when the normal flows in the river are too low to support direct pumping from the river for irrigation.

In order to quantify the amount of water that could be reliably withdrawn from the Forest River for aquifer injection, an analysis based upon two climate scenarios, a "dry" and a "wet" cycle was developed by the SWC. The dry cycle allowed for 200 acre-feet of aquifer recharge annually, and the wet cycle allowed 600 acre-feet of aquifer recharge annually. During the time the project was being contemplated, the region was in a multi-year severe drought. Since the project began, the region has been in an extended wet cycle. After a few years of operation, the restrictions on the amount that could be pumped from the river to recharge the aquifer have increased. Volumes pumped from the river for the recharge project are now based on approval of an annual operating plan which set the limits of the amount to be recharged on the projected crop plan and probable water usage based on crop types to be irrigated. FRHC water permits set conditions requiring a minimum flowrate past the USGS gaging station at Fordville, ND. Since beginning the operation of the recharge basin, the FRHC has obtained three water appropriations from the Forest River that now total 1820 acre-feet annually. The maximum annual pumpage from the Forest River to the infiltration basin was 1610 acre-feet in 2021 (Figure 2). This has allowed up to 2,200 acres of irrigation that would not have been possible through direct water appropriation from the aquifer due to the fact that the Inkster aquifer was at or near full appropriation prior to 1992 when the recharge project began.



# Figure 2. Reported Water Usage from Water Permits 4561 and 4980 approximately equal the amount recharged from to the Inkster Aquifer from the Forest River.

The project has operated continuously for 30 years. Over that period, approximately 83% of the water injected into the aquifer was recovered for irrigation and 17% of the water injected was lost through various natural processes (evaporation, plant use, seepage from the aquifer to

adjacent springs, etc.). Basin infiltration raised the water-level elevation at the basin sites, creating a "mound" in the water table. The ability of water to infiltrate the sand at the bottom of the recharge basins is limited by the buildup of the suspended solids in the river water and forms a "filter cake," or a layer of sediment and organic materials that reduces the permeability to the more-permeable underlying sands, lowering the ability of water to pass through. It was discovered, that a basin floor composed of fine to medium sand is better at trapping the suspended solid load and allowing the filter cake layer to form. This filter cake prevents deep infiltration of the fine-grained materials brought in by the river water. After the basin infiltration is completed for the season, the basin bottoms are allowed to dry out exposing the filter cake material, usually less than 1" thick. Once it is completely dried out and cracked, a road grader is used to windrow the material and an earthmoving scraper removes of material. Annual removal of the filter cake has allowed the Forest River Project to operate effectively for the entire 30 years history without a loss of infiltration capability. No major renovations of the basin floors have been required at the current rate of surface removal, although it is expected that replacement of bottom sands with nearby materials may be needed at some time in the future.

No adverse impacts to groundwater quality were detected as a result of the Forest River Project. Normal depth to water in the vicinity of the recharge basin is approximately 30 feet. It was discovered that the water-table mound that developed under the recharge basin at times nearly intersected the bottom of the basin, which would effectively stop the infiltration. From this it was learned that basin infiltration type aquifer recharge works best in unconfined aquifers with relatively deep (greater than 20') water tables, or with aquifers composed of large hydraulic conductivity materials (coarse sands or coarser). Aquifers with shallow water tables (less than 20') and smaller hydraulic conductivity materials (medium sand or finer) will not work as well due to higher evaporation and plant use and a lack of storage volume in the aquifer.

The average long-term estimated cost of recharging the aquifer, including amortized construction costs, maintenance costs and pumping costs was about \$100 to \$130 per acrefoot. The cost to pump the water from the aquifer for irrigation is not included in that estimate. The stable sources of irrigation water allowed the Forest River Colony to expand into the production of high value, water intensive crops, such as potatoes. The recharge facility continues to operate to this day.

# **METHODS OF ANALYSIS**

In order to properly evaluate the MAR potential for the states glacial drift aquifers, it was necessary to assemble basic aquifer data such as location, areal extent, thickness, hydraulic conductivity, degree of confinement, depth, water-level trends, water quality, water usage, nearby streamflow data duration hydrographs. These data were then used in conjunction to develop a set of criteria and considerations to assess and rank the MAR potential for each aquifer.

#### Assemblage of Aquifer Basic Data

A comprehensive list of all of the glacial drift aquifers in the state was assembled from various sources. Primarily, the list of aquifers and aquifer names found in the DWR *mapservice* website (https://mapservice.dwr.nd.gov) was used as the de-facto standard. Modifications were made to the list the further define segments of aquifer systems, complexes, segments, or sub-aquifers. A complete listing of aquifers evaluated in this investigation are found in <u>Appendix 3</u>. Basic data were gathered on all of the aquifers and, where available, hyperlinks compiled to directly link to the page of the County Ground Water Study report or to other prominent reports where the aquifer is defined and described. Analysis of the hydrogeologic setting and size, water-level trends in the aquifer, aquifer water-usage, and water quality was completed on those aquifers, aquifer segments, or sub-aquifers. In addition, surface water sources that could serve as potential sources of supply to recharge the aquifers were assessed for mean quantity of flow, chemical quality, and distance to the target aquifer.

#### Aquifer water-level trends

To better understand the history of use and impact of climatic effects to groundwater levels in the state, a water-level trend analysis was undertaken on all of the aquifer systems where water levels have been monitored. A 4D<sup>™</sup> algorithm designed to operate within the water-level database environment was implemented. The algorithm termed "Trends" (Bader, 1993) compiles all of the water levels from selected wells in the database and creates a daily array of incremental water-level changes (daily delta) for each well with two or more water-level measurements recorded in the database. A cumulative average daily delta array is created based on the summation of all of the daily delta values for each well divided by the number of wells included on that day. Because the algorithm is based solely on the change in water level, the elevation of the water-level measured is not relevant, nor is the frequency or period of record. The algorithm is housed within the Well Inventory Client software interface to the NDWR site inventory database A subjective point on which to base the water-level change delta relative to the assumed average water-level prior to major development was selected. For the most part, the average water-level in about 1970 was used as the zero-change basis. Most of the water-level monitoring of these aquifers has occurred since the 1960's with the widespread advent of center-pivot irrigation systems and regional rural water system development. Aquifer systems that were analyzed for water-level trends using the "Trends" program are listed in Appendix 5 which have hyperlinks to the hydrographs.

#### Aquifer water-usage assessment

Most of the substantial use of groundwater that has taken place in the state has been since the wide-spread implementation of center-pivot irrigation systems and regional rural water system development beginning mainly in the 1960s. A few notable exceptions of large-scale groundwater usage for municipalities date back to the 1930s, one of which is the West Fargo aquifer system that was used as a regional municipal/rural water supply since the 1930s. An assessment of aquifer water usage was accomplished through the querying of water usage data in the DWR's water permit database, accessible through the web and mapservice interfaces. The 2022 reported water usage from all aquifers is listed in <u>Appendix 4</u> (source: NDDWR water permit database). A summary of the highest 2022 water-use totals from aquifers in each of the categories of: total use, irrigation usage, municipal and rural water usage, and industrial use is shown in Table 1. An analysis of the 10-year average annual municipal and rural water usage from aquifers is displayed in the pie diagram in Figure 3. It should be noted that although the West Fargo aquifer system appears in the top twenty suppliers of water in the 10-year average

	inclu	uding tem	o pe	rmit	s)		0		,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
					Top Total Use					
						acre-feet				
				1	Central Dakota	26,125				
				2	Oakes	12,442				
				3	Spiritwood	12,310				
				4	Elk Valley	11,077				
				5	Englevale	10,115				
				6	Sheyenne Delta	9,405				
				7	Page	6,976				
				8	Milnor Channel	6,548				
				9	Lodgepole	5,620				
				10	LaMoure	5,424				
				11	Missouri River	5,080				
				12	Hofflund	4,789				
				13	Little Muddy	4,766				
				14	Jamestown	4,417				
				15	Sundre	3,868				
				16	New Rockford	3,796				
				17	Minot	3,437				
				18	Knife River	2,889				
				19	Karlsruhe	2,753				
				20	Lake Nettie	2,597				
	Top Irrigation				Top Municipal + Rural					
	Use				Water Use				Top Industrial Use	
		acre-feet				acre-feet				acre-feet
1	Central Dakota	25,717		1	Jamestown	3,884		1	Lodgepole	5,620
2	Oakes	12,250		2	Sundre	3,811		2	Hofflund	1,984
3	Englevale	10,114		3	Spiritwood	3,437		3	Little Muddy	1,024
4	Elk Valley	8,943		4	Minot	3,427		4	Missouri River	966
5	Spiritwood	8,367		5	Missouri River	2,974		5	New Town	915
6	Sheyenne Delta	8,347		6	Elk Valley	2,134		6	Dakota Group	914
7	Milnor Channel	5,816		7	Shell Valley	1,513		7	Shell Creek	884
8	Page	5,707		8	Page	1,269		8	Milnor Channel	732
9	LaMoure	4,794		9	Sheyenne Delta	1,058		9	Ray	709
10	Little Muddy	3,741		10	Wahpeton Buried Valley	906	-	10	Hankinson	685
11	New Rockford	3,328		11	Hankinson	904	-	11	Tobacco Garden Cr.	535
12	Hofflund	2,799		12	Icelandic	862	-	12	Spiritwood	505
13	Karlsruhe	2,744		13	Enderlin	847	-	13	Jamestown	486
14	Knife River	2,394		14	Fordville	841	-	14	Central Dakota	408
15	Charbonneau	2,363		15	Voltaire	670	-	15	Wahpeton Buried Val	399
16	Lake Nettie	2,299		16	McVille	643				
1/	Streeter	2,231		1/	Laivioure	631				
10	Lake Souris	2,157		18	New Town	523				
19	Carrington	1,728		19	Pleasant Lake	510				
20	Skjermo Lake	1,584		20	Most Forse Couth	495				
				21	NewPockford	451				
				22		424				
				23	Ray	420				
				24	ιταγ	410				



Figure 3. Average Annual Municipal and Rural Water Usage From 2013-2022 from Aquifers.

annual municipal and rural water use in Figure 3, it was discontinued as the source for the City of West Fargo in 2016 and is no longer one of the top 20 municipal and rural water use suppliers.

A chart of the long-term water-level change of the top 20 aquifers supplying municipal and rural water use is presented in Table 2. The chart contains the following information:

- 1. **Aquifer Use and Ranking**: The data contains information on different aquifers or segments, with a 10-year average use measured in acre-feet (ac-ft), and a rank based on water use where 1 represents the highest use.
- 2. **Size and Volume**: Each aquifer is described by its size in square miles and average thickness in feet, which when combined give the total volume of the aquifer in acre-

feet. A specific yield value (drainable pore space) of 0.25 was used in the volume calculation.

- 3. **Type**: The aquifers are classified by type (confined, semi-confined, or unconfined).
- 4. **Annual use/Volume**: Percentage of aquifer storage used annually.
- 5. **Long-Term Water-Level (WL) Change**: The long-term change in water-level in feet is shown, which can indicate the sustainability of water use.

From the data, we can note several points:

- The **Sundre** aquifer has the highest water use rank with 4284 ac-ft, and it also has a relatively high annual use/volume percentage (0.64%) compared to other aquifers.
- The **Minot** aquifer has the highest annual use/volume percentage (2.82%) of aquifers that have a negative long-term water-level change (decline).
- The **West Fargo System** and **Wahpeton Buried Valley** have significant long-term waterlevel drops of -123 ft and -50 ft, respectively, which could be concerning for sustainability.
- The **Jamestown** aquifer has the highest annual use/volume percentage at 7.19%, which is substantially higher than the other listed aquifers, and it shows an increase in water level, which is unusual compared to others.
- **McVille** and **Ray** aquifers show an increase in water levels, with Ray having the most significant rise at 12 feet, which might suggest there is sufficient replenishment through natural recharge.
- The aquifer sizes vary greatly, with **Sheyenne Delta** being the largest in area (504.3 sq.mi.) and **New Town** being one of the smallest (20.5 sq.mi.).
- Larger annual use/volume percentage may indicate more vulnerability to drought cycles should natural recharge not be able to keep up with the demand given the relatively small amount of storage in relation to the demand.

These data can be used to help assess the need for consideration of MAR in the overall water resource management of the aquifers and identify trends in water usage. It's clear that some aquifers are under more stress than others, and the long-term water-level changes provide critical feedback on the sustainability of current water usage practices.

Reported water usage plots for selected aquifers are listed in Table 3 which has hyperlinks to the plots. <u>Appendix 6</u> contains the graphical representations of annual water usage, categorized by type. These visual aids are designed to facilitate the identification of any discernible patterns or trends in water utilization across different categories.

Aquifer or Segment	10-year ave- use (ac-ft)	Water Use Rank	Sq.Mi.	ave- thickness (ft)	volume (ac-ft)	Туре	Annual use/Volume	Long-term WL change (ft)
West Fargo System	1456	6	153.9	100	2,462,400	confined	0.06%	-12
Wahpeton Buried Valley	923	10	14.9	120	286,080	confined	0.32%	-5
Sundre	4284	1	28.1	150	674,400	confined	0.64%	-3
Minot	3159	3	7	100	112,000	semi-confined	2.82%	-2
Spiritwood near Warwick	1669	4	59.8	150	1,435,200	confined	0.12%	-22
New Town	506	20	20.5	50	164,000	confined	0.31%	
Enderlin	758	15	3.9	80	49,920	both	1.52%	-
Icelandic	991	8	88.5	50	708,000	unconfined	0.14%	l l
Shell Valley	883	11	47.1	40	301,440	unconfined	0.29%	l l
Voltaire	851	13	40.6	25	162,400	unconfined	0.52%	l l
Elk Valley South	1511	5	100	40	640,000	unconfined	0.24%	4
Spiritwood near Jamestown	966	9	175	150	4,200,000	confined	0.02%	4
Hankinson	805	14	40.3	40	257,920	unconfined	0.31%	
LaMoure	617	16	50.9	50	407,200	unconfined	0.15%	
Sheyenne Delta	870	12	504.3	50	4,034,400	unconfined	0.02%	
Fordville	605	17	43.2	30	207,360	unconfined	0.29%	
Jamestown	3625	2	10.5	30	50,400	unconfined	7.19%	
Page	1140	7	352.4	60	3,383,040	both	0.03%	
McVille	551	18	60.2	180	1,733,760	confined	0.03%	
Rav	528	19	115.5	60	1.108.800	confined	0.05%	1

# Table 2.Long Term Water-Level Change of the Top 20 Aquifers Supplying Municipal and<br/>Rural Water Use.

Table 3. Reported Water Usage Plots for Selected Aquifers in Appendix 6

Elk Valley South	Missouri River
<u>Enderlin</u>	<u>New Town</u>
Fordville	Page
<u>Hankinson</u>	Ray
Icelandic	Shell Valley
Jamestown	Sheyenne Delta
Lake Nettie	Spiritwood Near Jamestown
Lake Souris	Spiritwood-Warwick
Lamoure	Sundre
Lignite City	Voltaire
Mcville	Wahpeton Buried Valley
Minot	West Fargo

#### Water quality assessment of aquifers and rivers

An assessment of the water quality was made on key aquifers which have high potential to be target aquifers for MAR consideration and their potential MAR surface water sources of supply. The primary indicator used to generalize the water quality was the parameter of calculated total dissolved solids (TDS) of samples collected with results stored in the NDDWR site inventory database. TDS plots for selected aquifers are listed in Table 4, which has hyperlinks to the plots and displayed in <u>Appendix 7</u>. Selected river TDS plots are listed in Table 5 and displayed in <u>Appendix 8</u>.

Table 4. TDS Plots for Selected Aquifers Included in <u>Appendix 7</u> .				
Elk Valley South	Spiritwood-Warwick			
<u>Enderlin</u>	Sundre			
Fordville	Voltaire			
<u>Icelandic</u>	Wahpeton buried valley			
Minot	West Fargo			
New Town	West Fargo North			
Shell Valley	West Fargo South			
Spiritwood Near Jamestown				
Table 5.         TDS Plots for Selected Rivers Include	d in <u>Appendix 8</u> .			
Forest River near Fordville	Sheyenne River near West Fargo			
James River (4 stations)	Souris River (Foxholm and Bantry)			
Maple River near Enderlin	Tongue River near Akra			
Red River (Wahpeton, Hickson)	Turtle River near State Park			
Red River (All)	Wild Rice (Abercrombie and Rutland)			
Sheyenne River near Warwick	Willow Creek near Willow City			

#### Assessment of Surface water sources of supply

An assessment of surface water sources of supply that could be used in MAR applications was made by querying the streamflow gage network operated by the US Geological Survey (USGS). The long-term mean flowrate was obtained from each of the 106 gages. These gaging stations with their long-term mean (categorized) are displayed in Figure 4. The streamflow duration hydrographs for selected gaging stations on streams which could be considered as sources of supply are also presented in Appendix 9.



Figure 4. USGS Stream Gaging Stations Showing the Long-Term Mean Streamflow.

# RANKING CRITERIA AND CONSIDERATIONS

The potential for MAR can be determined based on multiple criteria, considerations, and factors.

#### A. Need-based Considerations:

- Need for the Stabilization of Water Levels: Aquifers that have previously experienced over usage or where current withdrawals may be exceeding the long-term sustainability may benefit from water-level stabilization and recovery through the use of MAR. Identification of these aquifers can be made through an aquifer system trend analysis using the DWR's water-level trends program described earlier in this report. High ranking aquifers under this consideration include the West Fargo aquifer system, the Fox Hills aquifer, and the Spiritwood aquifer near Warwick.
- Need to Allow Future Appropriation: The implementation of MAR in areas where aquifers are fully appropriated may allow for additional appropriation to occur without fear of over-appropriation and violation of the duty of the prior appropriation doctrine to protect prior appropriators. MAR can mitigate the challenges of water scarcity, particularly during dry periods when the natural replenishment of aquifers is often insufficient to keep pace with the ongoing extraction for agricultural, industrial, and domestic use. Having a MAR process in-place can prevent or respond to this imbalance. MAR offers a strategic approach to counteract this issue by moving available surface flows into the aquifer during these dry periods. Aquifers that need supplementary water to provide for additional water appropriations include Central Dakota aquifer.
- Water Storage Needs: This considers aquifers that could be used as a reservoir for water storage offering protection to drinking water supply availability especially during extended drought periods. The stored water in these aquifers increase the resilience to these critical groundwater supplies. The Spiritwood Aquifer near Warwick segment is a prime example.
- Need to "Free-up" Groundwater Supplies: There are aquifers that currently face a
  higher threshold of allowable appropriation due to the need to mitigate the impact of
  seasonal drawdown and ensure adequate drinking water supplies through those times.
  This is essential to safeguard these drinking water supplies during peak seasonal
  demand especially during prolonged droughts. The Elk Valley aquifer, a major
  groundwater source for regional rural water systems, stands out in this regard.

#### B. Hydrogeological Considerations

When considering MAR as a solution for enhancing water availability, a thorough understanding of the hydrogeological characteristics of the potential target aquifer is crucial. These characteristics fundamentally influence the aquifer's ability to accept, store, and transmit the recharged water efficiently. Key factors such as the extent, thickness, degree of confinement,

depth to water, hydraulic conductivity and their ability to hold stored water before escaping to springs, seeps and evapotranspiration are all pivotal components in determining the feasibility and effectiveness of MAR projects.

The extent and thickness of an aquifer are essential in determining its storage capacity. A larger and thicker aquifer can potentially hold more recharged water, making it a more suitable candidate for MAR. This factor is particularly important in regions where significant quantities of water need to be stored to meet the demands during dry periods. The degree of confinement of an aquifer, whether it is unconfined, semi-confined, or confined, also plays a vital role. Generally speaking, artificial recharge is easier and more economically feasible to unconfined aquifers. However, not all aquifers are simply confined or unconfined, or deeply or shallowly confined. Most aquifers vary in status and depth of confinement. For this reason, discretionary adjustments of MAR potential are made based on aquifer depths as indicated on drill logs, and on information provided in County Study reports and other sources.

Unconfined aquifers are easier to recharge as water can percolate directly from the surface. Confined aquifers, with their overlying impermeable layers, may require more sophisticated methods such as direct injection through constructed wells or deep excavation and installation of high hydraulic conductivity materials to flow downward under the force of gravity.

Depth to water, or the distance from the ground surface to the water table or piezometric surface is another critical factor. Shallow depths to water in combination with lower hydraulic conductivity sands may create a water table mound that intersects the floor of the recharge basin, thereby slowing or stopping the infiltration rate. Deeper depths to water in an unconfined aquifer, typically 20 feet or more, are a more desirable setting when considering a site for basin infiltration type recharge. But, deeper water levels can also often mean less saturated thickness of aquifer in which to screen recovery wells and allow for cones of influence to develop.

Hydraulic conductivity, the ability of the aquifer materials to transmit water, is perhaps one of the most critical factors. High hydraulic conductivity means water can move more freely through the aquifer, making it more suitable for rapid recharge and recovery. However, in aquifers with low hydraulic conductivity, water moves more slowly, create higher mounds, and limit the efficiency of MAR operations.

Understanding these hydrogeological factors is essential not only for the initial assessment of an MAR project's feasibility but also for its ongoing management. This includes determining the optimal locations for recharge, the best methods to use (such as surface spreading, direct injection and the quantity of water that can be safely recharged.

#### C. Available Source Water Considerations

When developing a MAR project, one of the key considerations is the identification and evaluation of available source water. The viability and cost-effectiveness of a MAR project largely depend on the ability to secure an adequate, sustainable, and suitable source of water for recharge. This involves a comprehensive assessment of various factors related to potential water sources, such as their availability, proximity to recharge sites, quality, and compatibility with the target aquifer.

Initially, the evaluation process often includes looking at nearby river systems or treated wastewater as potential sources. River water, especially during periods of high flow, can provide a substantial and renewable supply of water for recharge. However, it is essential to consider the seasonal variability and the legal or environmental constraints associated with diverting river water. On the other hand, using treated wastewater offers a dual benefit: it provides a consistent water source and helps in wastewater management. This option is particularly relevant in urban areas where wastewater is continuously generated and needs sustainable disposal or reuse methods.

The feasibility of delivering these potential recharge sources to MAR sites is another critical aspect. This involves analyzing the logistical and infrastructural requirements, such as constructing pipelines or channels, and their associated costs and environmental impacts. The proximity of the water source to potential recharge sites is a crucial factor in this assessment. Closer sources generally mean lower conveyance costs and reduced energy usage, making the project more sustainable and economically viable.

When considering surface water sources such as rivers or streams, it is imperative to evaluate their potential suspended solids sediment load. High levels of suspended solids in the water can pose challenges for MAR projects. Sediments can clog the recharge basins, infiltration galleries, or injection wells, leading to reduced infiltration rates and increased maintenance costs. Clogging can also create anaerobic conditions that may lead to undesirable biological and chemical changes in the recharged water and the aquifer. Therefore, understanding the sediment dynamics of the source water is essential. This includes assessing seasonal variations in suspended solids load, especially during periods of high flow which are often associated with increased sediment transport.

In cases where sediment load is a concern, pre-treatment of the source water might be necessary before it can be used for recharge. Pre-treatment methods like sedimentation basins, filtration systems, or constructed wetlands can be employed to reduce the sediment content to acceptable levels. This not only helps in maintaining the efficiency of the MAR system but also extends its operational lifespan and reduces maintenance costs.

#### D. Suitability of the Aquifer to Accept the Various Methods of Recharge

Evaluating the suitability of an aquifer for MAR involves a detailed assessment of how effectively it can accept water through various recharge methods. Two primary methods typically considered are surface infiltration and the use of injection wells, each with its own set of parameters that need to be thoroughly analyzed to determine their feasibility.

- 1. **Surface Infiltration Feasibility**: This method involves spreading water over a large area (such as recharge basins or through infiltration galleries) allowing it to percolate down through an unsaturated zone (vadose zone) and into the aquifer. The feasibility of surface infiltration is largely dependent on the permeability of the vadose zone above the aquifer. Vadose zones consisting of course sand and gravel are ideal as they allow easy percolation of water. Conversely, silty or clayey vadose zones with low permeability can hinder the infiltration process. The depth of the unsaturated zone is also a factor; a shallower unsaturated zone can lead to quicker water table mound intersection with the basin floor but deeper water tables can also mean less saturated thickness of aquifer material. Additionally, the land area available for creating recharge basins or infiltration systems and its proximity to the source water are important logistical considerations.
- 2. Injection Well Feasibility: This method involves directly injecting water into the aquifer through wells. Key factors in assessing the feasibility of injection wells include the depth of the well and the geologic characteristics of the aquifer. The depth to groundwater is crucial as it determines the head space available for injecting water under pressure. Additionally, the presence of confining layers above or within the aquifer needs to be considered. These layers can either aid in containing the recharged water within specific aquifer zones or pose challenges by restricting the flow of water. High aquifer hydraulic conductivity facilitates the dispersion of water within the aquifer, while adequate storage capacity ensures that the aquifer can accommodate the additional volume.

Both methods require careful monitoring and management to ensure effective recharge and to avoid potential issues such as clogging in injection wells or the formation of impermeable layers due to sedimentation in surface infiltration systems.

In summary, assessing the suitability of an aquifer for different MAR methods requires a detailed understanding of its hydrogeological characteristics. This includes the depth to groundwater, confining layers, hydraulic conductivity, storage capacity, soil permeability, and the depth of the unsaturated zone. Such a comprehensive evaluation ensures that the chosen recharge method is not only feasible but also efficient and sustainable in the long term.

#### E. Water Quality Considerations

Water quality considerations are a central aspect of planning and implementing MAR projects. Ensuring that the quality of the source water is compatible with the existing groundwater is vital primarily to prevent deterioration of water quality within the aquifer or contamination of the groundwater resource.

- 1. **Compatibility of Water Quality**: The chemical and biological makeup of the source water needs to be thoroughly analyzed and matched with the characteristics of the groundwater. Factors such as pH, salinity, dissolved organic and inorganic compounds, and the presence of microbes and nutrients must be considered. This is important to prevent chemical reactions that could lead to clogging, especially in methods like injection wells, where fine pores can easily become blocked by precipitates or entrapped gases. Similarly, biological growth stimulated by organic compounds or nutrients in the recharge water can lead to biofouling, affecting the efficiency of the recharge process.
- 2. **PHREEQC Analysis**: Tools like USGS's PHREEQC (derived from the terms PH, REaction, and EQuilibrium in C language), a geochemical modeling software, are invaluable in assessing the chemical interactions between the recharge water and the aquifer material. This software can simulate a variety of chemical reactions, including dissolution, precipitation, ion exchange, and adsorption processes that might occur during and after the recharge. By using such models, project planners can predict potential problems and adjust the treatment of the source water or the recharge method accordingly to avoid adverse effects. PHREEQC analysis can also ensure that unintended consequences, such as the mobilization of lead or arsenic do not occur by introducing source water into an aquifer matrix where those interactions may occur.
- 3. Vulnerability of the Aquifer to Contamination: The intrinsic characteristics of the aquifer, such as its hydrogeological features and existing quality of groundwater, determine its vulnerability to contamination. Assessing this vulnerability is crucial, especially when considering the recharge of treated wastewater or urban runoff, which may carry a range of pollutants. Understanding how contaminants move and degrade within the aquifer, and how quickly they can reach drinking water wells, is essential for safeguarding the quality of the groundwater.

#### F. Environmental Impact Considerations

Environmental impact considerations are an integral part of planning and executing MAR projects. The artificial introduction of water into an aquifer can have a range of effects on the hydrogeologic flow systems, local ecosystems, land use, and even farming practices. It is crucial to conduct comprehensive environmental impact assessments to anticipate, mitigate, and manage these effects.

1. Alteration of Hydrogeologic Flow Systems: MAR can significantly modify the natural flow of groundwater. This alteration may affect not only the aquifer being recharged but also interconnected water systems. Changes in flow patterns can lead to unintended consequences such as the migration of contaminants within the aquifer, changes in the direction of groundwater flow, or alterations in the discharge patterns to springs and

streams. A detailed hydrogeological study is essential to understand these potential impacts and to design recharge systems that minimize negative consequences.

- 2. **Impact on Ecosystems**: Ecosystems that depend on groundwater, such as wetlands, springs, and riparian habitats, can be profoundly affected by changes in groundwater levels and flow patterns. For example, increasing the groundwater-level through MAR might enhance wetland habitats in some cases, but it could also lead to waterlogging in other areas, adversely affecting terrestrial ecosystems. Additionally, changes in water quality due to recharge activities could impact aquatic life, particularly if the recharge water contains pollutants or nutrients.
- 3. Land Use Changes: The implementation of MAR projects often requires physical infrastructure like recharge ponds, wells, or conveyance systems. This infrastructure can lead to changes in land use, potentially impacting local landscapes and land values. In agricultural areas, such changes could affect farming practices and land availability for cultivation.

Addressing the potential environmental impacts of MAR is essential for the successful and sustainable implementation of these projects. Thorough evaluation and careful planning can help mitigate adverse effects, ensuring that MAR projects contribute positively to water resource management without compromising environmental integrity and the well-being of local communities and existing water supply systems.

#### G. Regulatory Considerations

Navigating the regulatory landscape is a critical aspect of planning and implementing MAR projects. A comprehensive understanding of the existing regulatory framework and permitting prerequisites is essential to ensure compliance and to facilitate a smooth project development process. These regulations are often multi-faceted, involving different state agencies and sometimes local jurisdictions, each with its own set of rules and areas of authority.

1. State Agencies' Jurisdiction: Typically, two primary state agencies are involved in the oversight of groundwater-related activities. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) usually holds the primary authority over water quality concerns. This agency is responsible for ensuring that MAR projects do not negatively impact the quality of groundwater and adhere to environmental protection standards. They regulate aspects like the permissible levels of contaminants in the recharge water, monitoring requirements, and the impact of the project on existing water quality. Compliance with DEQ regulations is essential for obtaining project approvals and for the ongoing monitoring and management of MAR projects.

On the other hand, the DWR oversees water rights and appropriation. This agency ensures that the water used for recharge is legally available and that the project does not infringe upon the water rights of other users.

2. Local Jurisdictions and Land Use Regulations: Beyond state agencies, local jurisdictions like counties and cities may also play a significant role, especially when it comes to land use and zoning regulations. The siting of surface facilities for a MAR project, such as

recharge basins or infrastructure for water conveyance, must comply with local zoning laws and land use policies. This might involve obtaining special permits, adhering to specific construction standards, or engaging in public consultation processes. Local jurisdictions may also have specific environmental protection rules or water management plans that need to be considered.

- 3. **Navigating Regulatory Overlaps**: Often, MAR projects may fall under the purview of multiple regulatory bodies, each with its own set of requirements. Navigating these overlapping jurisdictions can be complex and requires careful planning and coordination. Ensuring that the project complies with all relevant regulations is not just a legal necessity but also crucial for maintaining the project's legitimacy and public acceptance.
- 4. **Engaging with Regulatory Agencies**: Early and proactive engagement with regulatory agencies can facilitate a smoother permitting process. This involves understanding their requirements, seeking their guidance during the planning phase, and keeping them informed throughout the project lifecycle. Building a positive relationship with these agencies can also be beneficial in addressing any regulatory challenges that may arise during the project.
- 5. **Keeping Abreast of Regulatory Changes**: Regulatory frameworks are not static; they can evolve in response to new scientific findings, policy shifts, or changes in public priorities. Keeping abreast of these changes and understanding their implications for MAR projects is important for ongoing compliance and for adapting project management strategies as necessary.

Regulatory considerations are required for successful implementation of MAR projects. A comprehensive assessment of the regulatory environment, adherence to the requirements of various agencies, and proactive engagement with regulatory bodies are key to navigating the complexities of water resource management and ensuring the sustainability and legal compliance of MAR initiatives. As an example, an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) project was conceived in the early 1990s to help resolve an impending municipal water supply crisis in the Lakehaven Utility District in Federal Way, Washington. The project was intended to store enough water to annually serve the summertime needs of more than 100,000 people. The OASIS (optimization of aquifer storage for increased supply) project was finally completed in 2007 after finally receiving the necessary state permits. The original feasibility study for OASIS occurred in 1994. For several years the OASIS Project was not pursued due to a lack of clear law regarding the ownership of artificially recharged water. In 2000, the state Legislature clarified the issue by expanding the definition of a reservoir to include aquifers, largely as a direct response to the OASIS Project. Later that year, Lakehaven submitted a reservoir application for the project. It took an additional three years, as a result of a rule-making process, for the Washington State Department of Ecology to begin processing the application. Ecology provided the district with a draft report of examination for the application in September 2005. Following negotiations with the district and tribal interests, an amended draft report of examination was written in May 2006. A final approved reservoir permit for the project was received by the district in September 2006, more than a decade after the project was deemed feasible and a full six years after the application was submitted.

#### H. Cost-effectiveness Evaluation

Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a MAR project is essential for determining its economic viability. This process involves a careful assessment of both the initial and ongoing costs against the potential benefits the project offers.

- 1. **Initial Capital Costs**: The upfront investment is significant, covering the construction of recharge wells or basins, and any necessary infrastructure like pipelines or treatment facilities. Costs vary depending on the project's scale, the recharge method, and local geological conditions.
- 2. **Operational and Maintenance Costs**: Ongoing expenses include the costs of operating the system, maintaining infrastructure, monitoring water quality and aquifer levels, and administrative tasks. Regular maintenance is key to maintaining system efficiency and longevity.
- 3. Water Delivery Costs: The expense of transporting water to the recharge site, influenced by the distance and the mode of transportation, is an important factor, especially if the water source is far from the recharge area.
- 4. **Cost-Benefit Analysis**: It's crucial to weigh these costs against the project's benefits, which can range from increased water security and agricultural support to environmental protection. Quantifying these benefits, although challenging, provides a more comprehensive view of the project's value.
- Long-Term Financial Sustainability: Assessing the project's long-term financial sustainability involves considering future changes in water demand, potential regulatory shifts, and ongoing maintenance needs.
- 6. **Funding and Financing**: Exploring diverse funding and financing options, like government grants, public-private partnerships, or water trading credits, is part of the economic assessment.

Overall, a thorough cost-effectiveness evaluation helps in understanding the full financial implications of a MAR project, ensuring that it is not only feasible initially but remains viable and beneficial over the long term.

#### I. Stakeholder Considerations

Stakeholder support is essential for the success of MAR projects. Effectively engaging with and gaining the backing of various groups impacted by the project is crucial:

- 1. Landowners: Their cooperation is vital, especially when projects require land for infrastructure. Transparent dialog over land use concerns, property values, and disruptions is essential.
- Community Members: Open communication with local communities is key to addressing concerns about environmental changes, water quality, and impacts on local amenities.

- 3. **Water Users**: Farmers, industries, and municipal suppliers have a vested interest in the project. Engaging with them helps understand and accommodate their water needs and quality concerns.
- 4. **Regulatory Agencies**: Their approval is critical. Regular communication and adherence to regulations are essential for smooth project approval and implementation.
- 5. **Building Support**: Educate stakeholders about the benefits, like improved water security and environmental protection, and address concerns to build broad-based support.
- 6. **Ongoing Engagement**: Maintain a dialogue, provide updates, and be responsive to feedback throughout the project's lifecycle to sustain support and trust.

Stakeholder engagement in MAR projects involves continuous dialogue and responsiveness to the concerns and needs of landowners, local communities, water users, and regulatory bodies, ensuring broad acceptance and support for the project.

# APPLICATION OF THE RANKING CRITERIA AND CONSIDERATIONS

With the ultimate goal of this project to rank and map North Dakota's glacial drift aquifers for their MAR potential and identify the best candidates, it's paramount to properly apply and weight each of the comprehensive set of criteria and considerations listed above. To this end, a systematic approach was employed to develop a comprehensive map of the aquifers, each annotated with a quantified level of suitability for becoming candidates for MAR. This process involved the implementation of a stratified evaluation framework, comprising five distinct tiers. Each tier represents a gradation in the likelihood of an aquifer being deemed an appropriate and promising candidate for MAR project to be able to artificially recharge a significant amount of water into the aquifer. This tiered system allows for a nuanced and detailed assessment of each aquifer's potential, facilitating informed decision-making in the selection of optimal candidates for MAR projects. These five tiers are:

**Tier 1 – (Excellent MAR Potential)**: This is the highest rating, signifying that MAR could be exceptionally effective, and sustainable when integrated into the overall water management system.

**Tier 2 – (Very Good MAR Potential)**: This rating indicates that MAR could be highly effective and well-suited to the local hydrogeological conditions.

**Tier 3 – (Good MAR Potential)**: This rating is given when MAR could be generally effective and appropriate in limited site-specific areas.

Tier 4 – (Fair MAR Potential): This rating suggests that MAR may provide some level of aquifer recharge potential or benefit, but there are significant limitations or inefficiencies. Tier 5 – (Poor MAR Potential): This rating indicates that MAR would likely be ineffective or unsuitable given hydrogeological context.

A systematic ranking approach was applied to the aquifers listed in <u>Appendix 3</u>. Application of the ranking criteria and considerations were applied to each of the aquifers with emphasis given to higher ranking for aquifers with the ability to accommodate 1,000 acre-feet annually or more through a MAR project. A review was made of published reports describing the aquifers, mostly from the County Ground Water Studies Series, where favorable conditions exist for the likelihood of a successful recharge through a MAR project. Favorable hydrogeological conditions for successful MAR projects would be in environments where aquifers are either in unconfined conditions and have sufficient depth to the water table to allow a mound to form yet not intersect the recharge basin floor, and have high enough transmissivity to allow recapture by high capacity production wells.

The highest rating (*Tier 1, excellent*) denotes those aquifers with the highest level of need for artificial recharge to the aquifer to help solve past or ongoing over-appropriation effects, such as an unsustainable downward trend in water-levels or potential prior-appropriation conflicts. Also, aquifers where there is a perceived major future water need but lack existing capacity to serve the need without MAR support. Aquifers in this category also have the hydrogeologic

characteristics to enable large quantities to be put into storage to provide needed resilience to critical drinking water supplies through municipal and rural water systems.

A *Tier 2 (very good)* rating was given to aquifers where MAR could be highly effective and wellsuited to the local hydrogeological conditions. These aquifers may also be highly appropriated and future appropriation limited because of the need to ensure the rights of the prior appropriators are protected. These aquifers could easily accommodate the storage of water added through a MAR project especially in areas where there is a high level of demand on the aquifer.

Aquifers where there is significant development but no current need for substantial MAR enhancement are considered *Tier 3 (good)*. This rating is given when MAR could be generally effective and appropriate in limited site-specific areas and during drought cycles. Aquifers in this category typically have stable (or rising) water-level trends but may be susceptible if future large-scale development may lead to downward water-level trends. Also, MAR enhancement may allow additional appropriation to occur without violating the prior appropriation doctrine.

Named unconfined aquifers with little or no significant development were ranked as *Tier 4 (fair)* potential simply because geologic conditions exist for success for successful MAR and if development were to occur in the future, they could become higher ranked and considered better candidates for MAR to occur. These are aquifers are not currently moderately or heavily developed but may have the capacity to accept and store water either due to their high transmissivities or deeper water levels and could be used as transitory reservoirs to store water captured from surface water sources in times of abundant flow in those sources. The existing water quality may not be suitable for supply to irrigation or drinking water but could possibly be improved with the addition of higher quality surface water sources.

Buried aquifers where there is no significant past, current, or imminent development rank the lowest (*Tier 5, poor*) for their MAR potential. This rating indicates that MAR would likely be ineffective or unsuitable given their hydrogeological context. Attempts at MAR may lead to minimal or no recharge, or inefficient use of resources. In addition to buried (confined) aquifers with no significant development, unnamed aquifers, or other small aquifers with minimal or no existing or potential development were put into this category.

Ranking Tier	Number of Aquifers in Tier
1. (Excellent)	3
2. (Very good)	6
3. (Good)	46
4. (Fair)	55
5. (Poor)	175
Grand Total	285

# **AQUIFERS BY RANK**

#### Tier 1 (Excellent potential for MAR consideration)

Spiritwood-Warwick Wahpeton Buried Valley West Fargo

#### Tier 2 (Very good potential for MAR consideration)

Elk Valley South
Enderlin
<u>Icelandic</u>
Minot
Spiritwood near Jamestown
<u>Sundre</u>

#### Tier 3 (Good potential for MAR consideration)

Fordville	Little Muddy	Sand Prairie
Glencoe Channel	<u>McVille</u>	Shell Valley
Guelph	Missouri River	Sheyenne Delta
<u>Hankinson</u>	<u>Napoleon</u>	Spiritwood-Griggs
Hofflund	New Rockford	Spiritwood-LaMoure SE
Inkster	New Town	Spiritwood-Oakes
Jamestown	<u>Oakes</u>	<u>Strasburg</u>
<u>Karlsruhe</u>	Page	<u>Streeter</u>
Knife River	<u> Pleasant Lake - Int. Chan.</u>	Voltaire
Lake Nettie	Pleasant Lake - N Deep Chan	Warwick Aquifer
Lake Souris	Pleasant Lake - S Deep Chan	Winona
LaMoure	Ray	Wishek
	FordvilleGlencoe ChannelGuelphHankinsonHofflundInksterJamestownKarlsruheKnife RiverLake NettieLake SourisLaMoure	FordvilleLittle MuddyGlencoe ChannelMcVilleGuelphMissouri RiverHankinsonNapoleonHofflundNew RockfordInksterNew TownJamestownOakesKarlsruhePageKnife RiverPleasant Lake - Int. Chan.Lake NettiePleasant Lake - S Deep ChanLaMoureRay

#### Tier 4 (Fair potential for MAR consideration)

<u>Adrian</u>	<u>Brightwood</u>	Denbigh-Lake Souris	<u>Esmond</u>
Antelope Creek	Cherry Creek	<u>Douglas</u>	<u>Grenora</u>
Apple Creek	<u>Crete</u>	<u>Edinburg</u>	<u>Heimdal</u>
Beaver Lake	<u>Crosby</u>	<u>Ellendale</u>	<u>Hillsburg</u>
Braddock	Dead Colt	Elm Creek	Horseshoe Valley

James River	Milnor Channel	Pleasant Lake	Strawberry Lake
<u>Juanita Lake</u>	<u>Mohall</u>	Rugby Aquifer	Tiffany Flats
Karlsruhe Deep Channel	<u>Munich</u>	<u>Rusland</u>	Tobacco Garden
Keene	North Burleigh	<u>Skjermo Lake</u>	<u>Tokio</u>
Killdeer	Northwest Buried Channel	Spiritwood - Grand Rapids	Trappers Coulee
Lignite City	Painted Woods Creek	Spiritwood-Berlin	West Wildrose
Little Missouri River	<u>Pembina Delta</u>	Spiritwood-SE	Yellowstone
Medford	Pembina River	Spiritwood-Sheyenne River	Yellowstone River Channel
<u>Medina South</u>	Pipestem Creek	Square Butte Creek	

# Tier 5 (Poor potential for MAR consideration)

Austin	Dry Fork Creek	Lake Ilo	<u>Riverdale</u>
<u>Bantel</u>	<u>Dunseith</u>	<u>Landa</u>	Rocky Run
Battle Creek	East Fork Shell Creek	<u>Leeds</u>	<u>Rolla</u>
Beaver Creek	<u>Eastman</u>	Little Heart	Roosevelt
Beaver Creek2	<u>Edgemont</u>	Little Knife River Valley	<u>Rosefield</u>
Belmont	<u>Elliot</u>	Little Stoney	Russell Lake
Bennie Peer	<u>Estevan</u>	Long Lake	<u>Ryder</u>
<u>Bicker</u>	<u>Fairmount</u>	Lost Lake	Ryder Ridge
Big Bend	<u>Fillmore</u>	Lower Wishek	<u>Sanish</u>
Big Coulee	Foothills	Lucy	Seven Mile Coulee
Buffalo Creek	Foothills South	<u>Maddock</u>	<u>Shealy</u>
Burnt Creek	Fort Mandan	<u>Manfred</u>	<u>Sheldon</u>
Butte	Fox Haven	<u>Martin</u>	Shell Creek-Central
Charbonnoau	Garrison	<u>McClusky</u>	Shell Creek-East Branch
Charmelaka	Glenburn	<u>McIntosh</u>	Shell Creek-White Lake
	Glenview	<u>McKenzie</u>	<u>Shields</u>
Clayton	Goodman Creek	Medina North	Smoky Butte
<u>Clearwater</u>	Grand Forks	Middle James	Snake Creek
<u>Cleary</u>	Guinnor	<u>Midway</u>	Soo Channel
<u>Colfax</u>	<u>Gwinner</u>	<u> Missouri River - Lake Sak</u>	Souris River
<u>Columbus</u>	Heart River	Missouri River-Oahe	South Branch Beaver Creek
Cottonwood Creek	Hiddenwood Lake	Montpelier	South Fessenden
<u>Courtenay</u>	Hillsboro	<u>Oberon</u>	Spiritwood-Devils Lake
Crane Creek	Homer	Otter Creek	Spiritwood-Rogers
Cut Bank Creek	Horse Nose Butte	Painted Woods Lake	Spiritwood-Towner County
Deer Lake	<u>Kenmare</u>	Pony Gulch	Spring Creek
Denbigh Buried Channel	<u>Kiigore</u> Kabla	Random Creek	Squaw Creek
Des Lacs River	KODIE	Renner	<u>St. James</u>

<u>Starkweather</u>	Trenton	White Shield	<u>Zeeland</u>
<u>Stoneview</u>	Turtle Lake	<u>Wildrose</u>	Wahpeton Complex
Stoney Creek	Upper Apple Creek	<u>Wimbledon</u>	Wahpeton sand plain
<u>Sydney</u>	Upper Buffalo Creek	Windsor	Wahpeton shallow sand
<u>Thompson</u>	<u>Vang</u>	Wing Channel	West Fargo North
Tolgen	<u>Wagonsport</u>	Wolf Creek	West Fargo South
Tolgen North	Weller Slough	<u>Ypsilanti</u>	
Tower City	White Earth	Zap	

# CREATION OF THE MAP SHOWING THE MAR POTENTIAL

An interactive map showing a color-coded ranking of MAR Potential for each aquifer was created using a combination of geographical information system (GIS) tools and web mapping technologies. The aim was to enhance accessibility and user engagement with aquifer data through an interactive web-based platform. The interactive map is available through the web at the web at <a href="https://mar.dwr.nd.gov">https://mar.dwr.nd.gov</a>. A static images of the webpage are shown in Figures 5 and 6.

#### Data Sources and Initial Setup

The foundational layer for the map was sourced from the DWR map service (mapservice.dwr.nd.gov), specifically the aquifer basemap. This layer provided crucial spatial information about the aquifers and aquifer names. The basemap was downloaded and imported into a QGIS project, a popular open-source GIS software. In addition to the aquifer basemap, several other layers were incorporated to enrich the map's usefulness:

- County Boundaries: To give spatial context within well-known political bounds.
- Rivers and Streams: For a better understanding of the hydrological context and distance to aquifers if desired to be used as recharge sources to them.
- Water Permits: Showing areas with active water rights.
- Long-term Stream Flow Data: To give insight into surface water flow trends, quantity and quality.

The aquifer layer was the focal point of this project. To maximize its utility, several fields were added to its attribute table:

- County Study Hyperlinks: Linking to detailed studies or reports on aquifers within specific counties.
- Composite Hydrograph Hyperlinks: Directing users to hydrograph data illustrating water-level changes over time.
- Water Quality Hyperlinks: Offering quick access to water quality reports and data.
- Areal Size and Approximate Thickness: Quantitative data providing a sense of the scale and capacity of each aquifer.
- Calculated Volume: Estimating the total water volume contained within each aquifer.
- MAR Rank: A qualitative measure based on various factors such as size, recharge rate, and water quality.

#### Web Map Creation and Deployment

With the data layers enriched and organized, the next phase involved converting the QGIS project into a web-accessible format. For this, the opensource plugin, qgis2web

(<u>https://github.com/qgis2web/qgis2web</u>), was employed. This tool facilitated the creation of an interactive web map directly from the QGIS interface. The resulting web map offered several interactive features:

- Layer Toggling: Users can choose which layers to display, tailoring the map to their specific interests or needs.
- Pop-up Windows: Clicking on an aquifer triggers a pop-up window, presenting the user with detailed information and hyperlinks to external resources.
- Zoom and Pan: Intuitive navigation controls for exploring different regions of the map.
- Rank Filtering
- Aquifer Search
- More info button and icon
- Related links

#### Accessibility and User Interaction

The interactive web map can be accessed at <u>mar.dwr.nd.gov</u>. The interactive aquifer map uses a combination of GIS technologies and web mapping tools to bring static data together into an engaging and informative web-based platform. This approach significantly expands the reach of the map, allowing all users – researchers, policymakers, educators and the general public – to interact with aquifer MAR ranking data along with existing pertinent datasets allowing informed decision-making regarding water resources management with respect to managed aquifer recharge.


Figure 5. Interactive website displaying the ranking of MAR Potential for ND Glacial Drift aquifers.



Figure 6. Interactive website displaying the individual ranking tiers of MAR Potential for ND Glacial Drift aquifers.

# DISCUSSION OF AQUIFERS WITH BEST MAR POTENTIAL

There are nine distinct aquifers within the state which have been classified within the Tier 1 (excellent) and Tier 2 (very good) categories, thereby signifying their strong potential suitability for successful MAR application. An in-depth analysis of the three aquifers within the Tier 1 category is presented below. Following that, a concise overview of the six aquifers in the Tier 2 category is also provided.

Tier 1 – Excellent Potential for MAR

#### The West Fargo aquifer system

West Fargo aquifer is actually a system of aquifers with a similar depositional environment in and around the cities of Fargo and West Fargo (Figure 7). Stated by Ripley (2000), "the spatial



Figure 7. Figures from Ripley (2000) showing the map of aquifers making up the West Fargo Aquifer System and geologic sections of the West Fargo North and West Fargo South aquifers.

distribution of the glacial sediments (approximately 200 to 400+ feet thick) is extremely complex. It is within these sediments that the West Fargo Aquifer System (WFAS) is found." The two primary sub units of the WFAS are the West Fargo North and West Fargo South aquifers. The geologic setting for each of these aquifers is similar: about 50 to 100 feet of sand and gravel buried under approximately 80 feet of tight lacustrine clay and silt. The tight lacustrine clay overlying the aquifer restricts any significant recharge from natural precipitation from making its way into the aquifer system hence, the water levels have declined over 100 feet since the 1930s when significant water supply development began for municipal and industrial supply began (Figure 8).

The decline in water-level in the aquifer was apparently enough even in 1968 that an investigation was initiated by the SWC to investigate artificial recharge to the aquifer which was then referred to as the Southwest Fargo aquifer. In 1968, the Civil Engineering Department of North Dakota State University, did a laboratory analysis that scale-tested the use of gravity shafts for groundwater recharge into the declining Southwest Fargo aquifer. The laboratory investigation is described in a report entitled <u>"The Use Of Gravity Shafts For Ground Water Recharge."</u> To summarize the conclusions of the report, the number of 48" gravity shafts composed of uniform sands with different sizes with much higher permeabilities than the aquifer itself (U.S. Standard Sieves sizes 20, 30 and 40), would be 6, 18 or 25 shafts, respectively, to recharge 1MGD (million gallons per day) under water-table conditions. Larger sand sizes reduce the number of shafts but may increase the risk of clogging sediment or other detrimental elements entering the aquifer. Theoretically, the maximum permeability of the shaft should be provided for flow considerations, but the minimum permeability should be equal to that of the aquifer to prevent sediment from entering the aquifer.

In laboratory tests, clogging occurred in the top few inches of the shaft, and in field conditions, it is possible that air binding or bacteriological clogging could occur, but it might be prevented by chlorination. Measures to prevent clogging by algae would need to be determined in field tests. Two shaft designs are feasible: (a) for shaft restoration and (b) for shaft replacement. Both designs include a minimum sand size to prevent sediment penetration into the aquifer. The shaft restoration design has a coarse gravel and sand at the bottom, reducing to a pea gravel and medium sand in the upper 10 feet, with a uniform fine sand in the top portion. The shaft replacement design is the reverse of this, with the minimum sand size equal to No. 20 sand throughout the full depth. The reduction in clogging rate of the upper layers of the shafts under reduced sediment concentration shows that the life expectancy of the shaft can be extended and the permeability retained by a reduction in turbidity or sediment loading.

Where land is available, simple detention or lagooning may reduce the necessary turbidity for highly turbid water. A sedimentation basin will also result in a reduction of particle size of the sediment. The shaft test results show a definite reduction in clogging rate in the upper level of the shaft with the use of recharge water having lower levels of turbidity. Turbidity levels in the Sheyenne River at Southwest Fargo at various flow rates were estimated, and the results of the laboratory tests were found to be applicable to future field experiments in the Southwest Fargo area using recharge water from the Sheyenne River. Sedimentation experiments using river water during higher river stages would be required to determine the physical and economic value of sedimentation for pre-treatment of recharge water during periods of high flows.

The composite hydrograph of observation wells in the West Fargo Aquifer system shows there has been over 120 feet of water-level decline in the aquifer system as a result of municipal, industrial, and rural-water water supply development since the 1930s. The reason for the large decline is the lack of significant natural recharge to the system due to the overlying tight lake clay layer. Most of the water in the aquifer is thought to be connate water placed in the aquifer at the time of deposition during the Pleistocene, hence the "cold" signature in the stable isotopic analyses described by Ripley (2000). The pre-development aquifer water-level was at or near land surface. After several decades of pumping it appears the aquifer broke into unconfined conditions in approximately 1963 based on the inflection in slope of the water-level decline. A more gentle decline in water-levels occurred until about 1983 where a steeper decline began. It does not appear there was a dramatic increase in water usage to cause the decline so it is speculated that the decline may have been caused by a reduction in the areal size of the saturated portion of the unconfined aquifer. The water-level decline tapered off until about 2016 when water levels began to increase. This is due to the City of West Fargo abandoning the West Fargo aquifer as their primary source of supply and transitioning to purchasing their municipal water from the City of Fargo which uses the Red River as their supply source.

Recorded Water Usage from the WFAS since 1977 is shown in Figure 9. The City of West Fargo was the primary municipal user until 2016, Cass County Water District is the primary rural water supply, and Cargil, Inc. is the primary industrial user from WFAS.



Figure 8. Composite Hydrograph of Wells in the West Fargo Aquifer System.



Figure 9. Reported water usage from the West Fargo Aquifer System.

The overall water quality of the West Fargo aquifer can be characterized by the total dissolved solids (TDS). The mean TDS trend of all samples from the West Fargo aquifer is shown in Figure 10. The trendline of the mean TDS shows the water quality has improved over the period of record from approximately 1,000 mg/l in 1962 to approximately 600 mg/l in 2022.



Figure 10. Spatial and Temporal TDS Analyses from the West Fargo Aquifer System.

Nearby surface water sources that could be used as sources of supply include the Sheyenne and Red rivers. The mean TDS trends of these sources are show in Figures 11. The Red River mean TDS is less than 500 mg/l which indicates excellent water quality and would improve the in-situ water quality of the aquifer if used as a MAR source. The Sheyenne River has an average TDS of approximately 900 mg/l which has been improving since about 2016 when the TDS was averaging approximately 1,150 mg/l (Figure 11). At present, use of the Sheyenne River as the source of supply for MAR to the West Fargo aquifer system would slightly degrade the in-situ quality of the aquifer, however, if the trend of improving water quality in the Sheyenne River continues as it as for the last several years, it would become a very viable source of supply for MAR to the WFAS.



Figure 11. Mean TDS of samples collected from the Red River at Hickson and Fargo and the Sheyenne River near West Fargo.

The long-term mean flow is 468 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the Red River at Fargo and 192 cfs in the Sheyenne River at West Fargo. Streamflow duration hydrographs for these two sources are shown below in Figure 12.



Figure 12. Streamflow Duration Hydrographs from the Red River at Fargo and the Sheyenne River near West Fargo.

Pros and Cons of the West Fargo Aquifer as a candidate for MAR

Pros:

- Over 100 feet of water-level decline has occurred from development
- Large reservoir for water to be stored due to past dewatering
- Suitable fresh water supply nearby (Red and Sheyenne Rivers)
- Could easily accommodate 1,000+ acre-feet per year in MAR
- Could provide resiliency to the greater Fargo area water supplies.
- Continued dewatering may result in some land subsidence if not addressed

#### Cons:

- Buried confined system
- More sophisticated recharge method required
- No immediate need for recharged water to be put to beneficial use

#### Wahpeton Buried Valley aquifer

The Wahpeton Buried Valley aquifer system is a complex of aquifers which occur at three distinct levels: the Wahpeton Shallow Sand (WSS) aquifer, the Wahpeton Sand Plain, (WSP) and the Wahpeton Buried Valley (WBV) aquifer (Ripley, 1992). From Ripley (1992): "The WBV aquifer is at least 12 to 15 miles long, about a mile wide, and has an average thickness of about 125 feet. The aquifer terminates to the north somewhere near Abercrombie, and to the south the aquifer continues to at least several miles into Minnesota. The WBV aquifer crosses the Red River a mile southeast of Minn-Dak Farmers' Cooperative beet plant.

The top of the aquifer is generally about 150 feet below land surface, although in places overlying sand units that are in direct connection with the sand of the WBV aquifer are found at depths of 75 feet or less in some places. The bottom of the WBV aquifer is generally about 250 to 300 feet below land surface in the deepest part of the channel. The bottom of the aquifer in some areas is as little as 150 feet below land surface.

The material found in the WBV aquifer is generally sand or sand and gravel. The sand is generally well sorted medium to coarse, subangular to subrounded sand. The pore space between the sand and gravel grains is where the water in the Wahpeton Buried Valley aquifer is stored. This space is approximately about 35 percent of the volume of the aquifer. Not all of the water in the pore space is retrievable. The actual retrievable volume of water stored is about 25 percent of the aquifer volume."

Honeyman (2021), provided updated information of the aquifer system in his Recommended Decision on an amendment to Water Permit Nos. 1822 and 1898 (Figure 13). The amendment allows the City of Wahpeton to move their well field to a new location in the vicinity of 133-048-02DDD. Should the city pump their maximum allocation at this location, an additional 40.5 feet of drawdown could occur on top of the current developmental decline which the aquifer has already sustained in the decades since development began. Total drawdown of approximately 80 feet at this location would put the water-level below the top of the aquifer at this location. Generally, the water-level decline in the aquifer as a whole has been 40 to 45 feet due to the demand of the municipal and industrial development in the aquifer (Figure 14).





Figure 13. From Honeyman (2021), Amendment to Water Permit Nos. 1822 and 1898 - Aquifer Test Results



Figure 14. Composite Hydrograph of Wells in the Wahpeton Buried Valley Aquifer.

Recorded Water Usage (from Permits in North Dakota) from the Wahpeton Buried Valley aquifer since 1977 is shown in Figure 15. The primary municipal user is the City of Wahpeton and the primary industrial user is Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative. Honeyman (2021) provide a thorough description of historical use in the aquifer including water-use by the City of Breckenridge, MN which pumps water from the WBV for their municipal use.



Figure 15. Reported water usage from the Wahpeton Buried Valley Aquifer.

The overall water quality of the WBV aquifer as characterized by the mean total dissolved solids (TDS) trend of all samples from the WBV aquifer is shown in Figure 16. The trendline of the mean TDS shows the water quality has held steady over the period of record at approximately 650 to 700 mg/l.



Figure 16. Spatial and Temporal TDS Analyses from the Wahpeton Buried Valley Aquifer.

Nearby surface water sources that could be used as sources of supply include the Wild Rice and Red rivers. The mean TDS trends of these sources are show in Figure 17. The Red River mean TDS is less than 500 mg/l which indicates excellent water quality and would improve the in-situ water quality of the aquifer if used as a MAR source. The Wild Rice River average TDS trends from near 500 mg/l in 1970 to over 1,000 mg/l in 2020, however, appears to be in a declining trend to around 900mg/l in 2023. Use of the Wild Rice River as the source of supply for MAR to the Wahpeton aquifer system would degrade the in-situ quality of the aquifer at the present time but if the trend of improving water quality continues it may become a viable source of water for MAR to the WBV aquifer.



Figure 17. Mean TDS of samples collected from the Red River at Wahpeton and Hickson and Wild Rice River near Rutland and Abercrombie.

The long-term mean flow is 468 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the Red River at Fargo and 192 cfs in the Sheyenne River at West Fargo. Streamflow duration hydrographs for these two sources are shown below in Figure 18.



Figure 18. Streamflow Duration Hydrographs from the Red River at Fargo and the Sheyenne River near West Fargo.

Pros and Cons of the Wahpeton Aquifer as a candidate for MAR:

#### Pros:

- Over 45 feet of water-level decline has occurred from development
- Large reservoir for water to be stored due to past dewatering
- Suitable fresh water supply nearby (Red and Wild Rice Rivers)
- Could easily accommodate 1,000+ acre-feet per year in MAR
- Could provide resiliency to the Wahpeton area water supplies.
- An additional 40 feet of decline could occur without the addition or artificial recharge
- Immediate need
- Would allow additional appropriation for beneficial use

#### Cons:

- Buried confined system
- More sophisticated recharge method required

#### Spiritwood aquifer near Warwick

The Spiritwood aquifer near Warwick (SPW-WAR) is a segment of the Spiritwood aquifer that is for the most part hydraulically separated from the segment to the north, the Spiritwood aquifer near Devils Lake, and the segment to the south, the Spiritwood aquifer near the Sheyenne River. The SPW-WAR is a buried confined aquifer that varies from 3 to 8 miles wide and is about 13 miles long and covers about 60 sq. miles. The aquifer is 150 to 200 feet thick along its axis in this segment. The aquifer is composed of sand and gravel ranging from fine sand to very coarse gravel and cobbles with a large portion of the aquifer consisting of coarse sand to fine gravel. Much of this segment of the Spiritwood aquifer is overlain by the Warwick aquifer. The Warwick aquifer is a surficial outwash deposit. The aquifer thickness ranges from 20 to 200 feet and is for the most part unconfined. For the most part, the Spiritwood and Warwick aquifers are separated by a layer of either till or glacio-lacustrine clay and silt. In some places, there is nearly continuous sand and gravel from the surface to the bottom of the SPW-WAR with just small interruptions of low-K material. One such area is depicted on the Geologic section C-C' from Patch and Honeyman, 2003 shown in Figure 19.



Figure 19. Geologic section C-C' from Patch and Honeyman, 2003 showing the nearly continuous sand and gravel from land surface to the bottom of the Spiritwood aquifer in this area.

There is a downward vertical gradient of flow at all locations where nested piezometers screen both the Warwick and Spiritwood aquifers (Table 6). This indicates that MAR water loaded into the Warwick aquifer will infiltrate downward to the Spiritwood aquifer thereby allowing the use of recharge basins as the practical methodology for MAR into the SPW-WAR.

## Table 6.Warwick and Spiritwood aquifer Water-Level Elevation Difference at Well Nest Sites

Well Nest Location	Aquifer Screened	Screened Interval	Water-Level	Difference (ft)
15006201DDD2	Warwick	5-15'	1465	
15006106CCC2	Spiritwood	198-203'	1446.05	18.95
15006118BBB2	Warwick	0-15'	1455.59	
15006118BBB3	Spiritwood	292-302'	1444.39	11.20
15006203DDD2	Warwick	5-15'	1471	
15006203DDD	Spiritwood	168-173'	1448.24	22.76
15006210DDD2	Warwick	0-10'	1471.65	
15006210DDD	Spiritwood	168-173'	1447.62	24.03
15006213CCC	Warwick	0-10.4'	1459.18	
15006224CBB*	Spiritwood	158-163'	1375.37	83.81
15106203DDD1	Warwick	62-65'	1499.59	
15106203DDD4	Spiritwood	258-268'	1454.3	45.29
15106220DAD2	Warwick	55-58'	1464.53	
15106220DAD1	Spiritwood	143-146'	1464.5	0.03
15106223ABB3	Warwick	48-53'	1466.53	
15106223ABB2	Spiritwood	148-153'	1439.72	26.81
15106223ABB	Spiritwood	228-231'	1439.69	26.84
15106224CCC3	Warwick	18-23'	1473.45	
15106224CCC	Spiritwood	258-261'	1435.19	38.26
15106224DDC3	Warwick	18-23'	1469.97	
15106224DDC2	Spiritwood	148-153'	1434.78	35.19
15106224DDC1	Spiritwood	218-223'	1434.82	35.15
15106225DAA3	Warwick	18-23'	1472.33	
15106225DAA2	Spiritwood	148-153'	1432.87	39.46
15106225DAA1	Spiritwood	218-223'	1432.48	39.85
15106227AAA3	Warwick	6-11'	1464.85	
15106227AAA2	Spiritwood	198-204'	1437.26	27.59
* Well is scrooped in	the Spiritwood aquifor poor	the Shevenne Piver comment	min	0.02
	and Spintwood aquiter field	the oneyenne niver segment	mean	31.68
			mean	31.00

 mean
 31.68

 median
 27.59

 max
 83.81

The composite hydrograph of observation wells in the SPW-WAR aquifer (Figure 20) shows there has been over 20 feet of water-level decline since 2002 in the aquifer system as a result of municipal, rural-water, irrigation development. Since 2002, the decline rate has been approximately 1 foot per year. The reason for the large decline rate is the deficit in the natural recharge to the system compared with the demand placed by the various use types. Although there is sufficient available drawdown at present, the unabated rate of decline could put these water supplies in jeopardy in the future. Especially if the drought cycle were to exacerbate the rate of decline.



Figure 20. Composite Hydrograph of Wells in the Spiritwood aquifer near Warwick.

Recorded Water Usage from the SPW-WAR since 1977 is shown in Figure 21. The aquifer supports about 3,000 acres of irrigation, the City of Devils Lake municipal supply, and Greater Ramsey Water District. Both Greater Ramsey and the City of Devils Lake have agreements to supply water to neighboring water districts including Northeast Water District and Tri-County water users. Over 15,000 people rely on these public water supplies according to annual use reports of these entities.



Figure 21. Reported water usage from the Wahpeton Buried Valley Aquifer.

The overall water quality of the SPW-WAR aquifer as characterized by the mean total dissolved solids (TDS) trend of all samples from the SPW-WAR aquifer is shown in Figure 22. The trendline of the mean TDS shows the water quality has held steady over the period of record at approximately 450 to 500 mg/l.



Figure 22. Spatial and Temporal TDS Analyses from the Spiritwood aquifer near Warwick.

The only existing nearby surface water source that could be used as source of supply for MAR is the Sheyenne River located approximately 7 miles south of the aquifer. The mean TDS trends of the source is shown in Figure 23. Presently, the mean TDS is 900 to 1000 mg/l which indicates it would not be a suitable source since the aquifer has much fresher water and would degrade in quality with the addition of the Sheyenne River water. If the water quality were to return to the pre-1995 level of under 500 mg/l TDS, it could be considered an excellent source of supply. The only known potential alternative source would be Missouri River water via a pipeline shunt from the planned Red River Valley Water Supply project should that ever be considered to bring that water into the region.



Figure 23. Mean TDS of samples collected from the Sheyenne River near Warwick.

The long-term mean flow is 57 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the Sheyenne River near Warwick. Streamflow duration hydrograph for this location is shown below in Figure 24.



Figure 24. Streamflow Duration Hydrographs from the Sheyenne River near Warwick.

#### Pros:

- Over 20 feet of water-level decline has occurred in the past 20 years
- Large reservoir for water to be stored due to past dewatering
- Water levels are declining at a rate of 1 foot per year on average
- Aquifer could easily accommodate 1,000+ acre-feet per year in MAR
- Could provide resiliency to several rural water systems throughout the region.
- Unique geology would allow basin infiltration to the overlying Warwick aquifer which will infiltrate down to the Spiritwood aquifer
- Would allow for additional appropriation for beneficial use

#### Cons:

• No current nearby water source of equal or better quality than in-situ aquifer water

## Aquifers in Tier 2 - Very good potential for MAR consideration

#### Elk Valley South aquifer

#### Pros:

- Shallow unconfined system with limited resilience during extended drought periods
- Supplies fresh drinking water to over 15,000 people in east central North Dakota
- MAR would allow the appropriation of water to multiple pending permits
- Water levels are declining slightly even through the recent 30-year wet cycle
- Aquifer could accommodate 1,000+ acre-feet per year in MAR
- Could provide resiliency to several rural water systems throughout the region.
- Geology would allow basin infiltration method
- Would allow for additional appropriation for beneficial use

Note: The nearest source is the Turtle River which may not support 1,000 acre-feet per year of MAR water.

#### Enderlin aquifer

#### Pros:

- The aquifer has sustained over 10 feet of water-level decline that has occurred in the past 12 years, yet water-use has been declining during that time
- Aquifer could accommodate 1,000 acre-feet per year in MAR
- Could provide resiliency to municipal and critical industrial water need in the region.
- Geology would allow basin infiltration method
- Maple River flows could support recharge project and in located nearby
- Water quality of the aquifer and Maple River are similar
- Note: MAR implementation would benefit the City of Enderlin and the nearby sunflower seed crushing plant which are the only two major users of the Enderlin aquifer.

#### Icelandic

#### Pros:

- The aquifer is shallow unconfined, geology would allow basin infiltration method
- Aquifer could accommodate 1,000 acre-feet per year in MAR due to demand
- Water levels have declined over 5 feet and are continuing to declining slightly even through the recent 30-year wet cycle
- Without MAR the aquifer the fairly thin, unconfined system could be susceptible to negative effects of an extended drought period
- Could provide needed resiliency to a major rural water system, North Valley Water District

• Would allow for additional appropriation for beneficial use from the aquifer

Note: The closest nearby source is the Tongue River which has adequate water quality by may lack a constant enough flowrate to be a viable MAR source especially during drought periods

#### Minot aquifer

#### Pros:

- The aquifer has sustained over 25 feet of water-level decline since 2011 high
- Due to declines, the aquifer has a large reservoir for water to be stored
- Water levels are declining at a rate of about 2.5 feet per year
- Aquifer could easily accommodate 1,000+ acre-feet per year in MAR
- Could provide resiliency to the City of Minot and Northwest Area Water Supply System.
- Has a proven track record for use in a past successful artificial recharge project
- Would allow for additional appropriation for beneficial use especially industrial use
- In-situ water quality could be dramatically improved with Souris River Water which has an average TDS of 600 mg/l

#### Cons:

• Poor in-situ aquifer water quality – average TDS is around 1,300 mg/l

Note: Demand on the aquifer will essentially cease once the NAWS system in fully operational

#### Sundre

#### Pros:

- The aquifer has sustained over 40 feet of water-level decline since 1975 high
- Due to declines, the aquifer has a large reservoir for water to be stored
- Water levels are declining at a rate of about 1.5 feet per year in the past decade
- Aquifer could easily accommodate 1,000+ acre-feet per year in MAR
- Could provide resiliency to the City of Minot and Northwest Area Water Supply System.
- Has a proven track record for use in a past successful artificial recharge project
- Would allow for additional appropriation for beneficial use especially industrial use
- In-situ water quality could be dramatically improved with Souris River Water which has an average TDS of 600 mg/l

#### Cons:

• Poor quality in-situ aquifer water – average TDS is around 1,100 mg/l

Note: Demand on the aquifer will essentially cease once the NAWS system in fully operational

#### Spiritwood near Jamestown

#### Pros:

- Could provide resiliency to two a rural water systems in the region.
- Would allow for additional appropriation for beneficial use especially as industrial hub
- Water quality is compatible with the James River, about three to seven miles distant

#### Cons:

- Buried confined system
- More sophisticated recharge method required

### Aquifers in Tier 3 - Good potential for MAR consideration

Tier 3 aquifers, classified as having good potential for MAR, possess a unique combination of characteristics that make them suitable for this purpose. However, there are also some limitations to consider when evaluating these aquifers.

Pros:

- Generally have favorable hydrogeological properties, such as high transmissivity, storage capacity, and unconfined setting which allow for efficient water storage and recovery during MAR operations.
- There is significant demand on these aquifers justifying the need or potential use of MAR water.
- The water quality in these aquifers is typically suitable for MAR, with good or adequate water quality for most beneficial uses.

#### Cons:

- Currently no overriding need for a MAR project due to current adequate water supply
- Cost-effectiveness of a MAR project can not be justified under current conditions.
- Water level trends indicate a stable or rising water-level
- Limited surface water availability for use in a MAR project

## Aquifers in Tier 4 and 5 – Fair or Poor potential for MAR consideration

Typically, the cons outweigh the pros for aquifers classified in these tiers. They lack the need for MAR consideration or their hydrogeologic settings would not lend themselves to effective MAR implementation.

# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This project aimed to develop a comprehensive understanding of the potential for MAR in North Dakota. The project included four stages, with deliverables such as the development of a ranking criteria and considerations for MAR potential, a comprehensive database of existing aquifers, an interactive web-based map showing MAR potential, and a comprehensive report identifying the top potential MAR candidates and recommendations.

This investigation has shown there are many potential candidates for successful MAR among the nearly 300 glacial drift aquifers, segments, or sub-units identified and mapped in North Dakota. The project provides valuable insights into the use of MAR in state's aquifers. The ranking considerations allows for an assessment of each aquifer's potential for MAR. The data collected provides a comprehensive understanding of the baseline conditions of the aquifers and other water sources in the state.

Ranking criteria were applied to each aquifer, resulting in detailed profiles and water-level trend analysis. The top-ranked aquifers with high MAR potential were identified for further study or implementation. Finally, a high-resolution interactive web-based MAR map was created. This report also provided recommendations for future MAR initiatives, pilot and/or production projects, and multiple scenario hydrological modeling of potential MAR.

The completion of this project has laid a solid foundation for further exploration and implementation of MAR in North Dakota, which can contribute to the state's water management and sustainability efforts.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this project, the following recommendations are made to further advance the understanding and implementation of MAR in North Dakota:

- Establish a dedicated MAR program: Create a dedicated program responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of MAR projects in the state. This will ensure that resources and expertise are effectively allocated to maximize the benefits of MAR for North Dakota's water management and sustainability efforts.
- 2. Foster collaboration and partnerships: Engage stakeholders, including local communities, water users, other government agencies, and research institutions, in the planning and implementation of MAR projects. This will help to build support for the projects and ensure that the needs and concerns of all parties are addressed.
- 3. Develop multi-scenario hydrogeological models of selected Tier 1 and Tier 2 candidates: Utilize the comprehensive data collected in this project to develop multi-scenario hydrogeological models that can simulate various MAR scenarios. This will help to identify the most effective and sustainable approaches to MAR in the state.
- 4. Conduct pilot and/or production projects: Select the top-ranked aquifers identified in the project and initiate pilot or production projects to test the feasibility and effectiveness of MAR in these areas. This will provide valuable real-world data and insights into the practical aspects of implementing MAR in North Dakota.
- 5. Continue research and monitoring: Invest in ongoing research and monitoring to refine the understanding of the state's aquifers and improve the effectiveness of MAR techniques. This will enable the state to adapt to changing conditions and make informed decisions about the future of its water resources.

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#### Appendix 1. Valley City Project – Fargo Forum Article -1932.



**Boon For Barnes Town** 

Common Sense, Engineering Acumen Solve Drastic Problem, Eliminate Big Initial Cost and Heavy Maintenance Fee

#### By Staff Corresponden

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## Appendix 2. Minot Aquifer Article in *Public Works* Periodical, 1968 Artificial Recharge Solves Water Problem



# **Artificial Recharge Solves Water Problem**

# WAYNE A. PETTYJOHN, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Geology The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio and VERNON FAHY, P.E.

City Manager Minot, North Dakota

N INTENSIVE ground-water investigation in 1963-64 by the U.S. Geological Survey, made in cooperation with the North Dakota State Water Commission and the city of Minot, served to forewarn of an impending shortage of water supply for the nearly 50,000 people. The Minot ground-water reservoir (aquifer), which in 1963 supplied the city's entire water supply, was being depleted faster by pumping, about 4 mgd, than it was being replenished by natural recharge, about 3 mgd, from the Souris River and adjacent buried glacial deposits. Consequently, the drilling of additional wells in the already overdeveloped aquifer would only accelerate the depletion. Extensive test drilling indicated that other larger-yielding aquifers are not present in the Minot area.

The Souris River had been used as a source for part of the municipal water requirements for many years. Although the annual average flow of the river is about 136 cfs, or 89 mgd, during dry weather there is often no flow at all. Moreover, much of the annual discharge is appropriated to water rights preceding those of the city of Minot. Hence, much of the time the river is not a reliable source of direct supply. However, the relatively large peak flows indicated that the Souris River is a potential source of water for recharge to the aquifer, particularly if surface-water control or retaining structures could be built.

Two plans were considered to alleviate the forthcoming water shortage for the city of nearly 50,000 people:

1) A pipeline about 50 miles long, connecting Minot with Garrison Reservoir. The cost of the facility in 1959 was estimated at \$12 million and because of the urgency of the

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need, the time factor was considered critical. Funding was not immediately available and time for planning, fund-raising and construction was inadequate. 2) Artificial recharge of the

Minot ground-water reservoir as suggested by the U.S. Geological Survey on the basis of a cooperative investigation with the North Dakota State Water Commission.

The ground-water recharge facility described herein was designed and constructed by the city of Minot. The facility, located at the west end of Minot, is referred to as a dual recharge system because natural infiltration of surface water from a spreading basin through a surface layer of sandy clay is supplemented by flow through gravelfilled perforations, called "hydraulic connectors," in the clay layer. It covers a small area of city-owned land and permits maximum water infiltration at nominal cost. The artificial-recharge system, which required relatively little time for construction, has been successful both in an engineering and economic sense and, no doubt, could be used in other regions with similar problems.

About 7.5 acres of land were purchased by the city in an area where investigations indicated maximum infiltration rates probably could be achieved. The long, narrow, wedgeshaped plot trends east-west; it is about 1,800 feet long and 260 feet wide at the west end (Fig. 1). It is bordered on the south by a railroad track, on the north by a housing development, and on the west by a section-line road. Because of the size and location of the area, the land was of little economic value for other purposes.

Prior to construction, several test holes were drilled at the site to determine the subsurface conditions. The upper 7 to 20 feet of the strata consist of sandy clay and a few thin layers of sand. At greater depths a bed of coarse sand and gravel is present. About 45 feet of the deeper sand and gravel were unsaturated at the time of test drilling. The sand and gravel bed is

directly connected to the Minot aquifer; in fact, it represents the dewatered upper part of the aquifer

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#### **Facilities**

Storage reservoir and sediment basin. A pit was constructed at the west end of the site to provide a sediment basin because water from the Souris River contains a large concentration of sediment, especially during periods of peak discharge. The dimensions of the pit at land surface are 180 feet by 210 feet. It is 35 feet deep and the walls have a 2 to 1 slope. The bottom of the pit measures approximately 60 feet by 90 feet. The upper part of the pit is constructed in clay, but the lower 15 to 23 feet are in unsaturated fine to coarse gravel.

Although the sediment basin was designed as a holding structure so that the clay and silt would settle out of the water before it flowed into the canals, observations showed that initially the basin would recharge at least 2 mgd. As expected, the rate has since decreased, owing to a buildup of fine material on the floor of the basin, which re-quires periodic cleaning. The basin, when full, holds about 300 million gallons of water.

Recharge channel system. A Yshaped canal system was excavated in the overlying clay to a depth of about 10 feet, with a bottom width of 12 feet and side slopes of 3 to 1. The wide bottom of the canal permits entry of maintenance equipment. The bottom area of the canals is covered with 12 inches of coarse gravel overlaid with 6 inches of fine washed sand, forming a filter bed. Although some infiltration (leakage) will occur through the upper layer of sandy clay, the rates were considered to be too small to be effective. The filter bed removes sediment from the water and is most effective when the water level in the canals is just below the top of the filter bed. Although it has not been done as yet, the water level in the canals could be main-tained just below the top of the filter during the summer to inhibit the growth of algae.

**PUBLIC WORKS for September 1968** 

The major function of the canal system is to transport water from be sediment basin to the hydraulic conectors that are bored along the enterline in the bottom of the curals as shown in Figure 1. The total length of the canal system is approximately 2,460 feet; it can store about 270 million gallons of water when full.

Hydraulic connectors. The purof the hydraulic connectors, pose of the hydraunt constants arge-diameter perforations bored through the clay aquiclude and backfilled with permeable material, particle high-permeability conis to provide high-permeability conduits through which the aquifer can be readily recharged with surface water from the canals. This system allows much larger volumes of water to be recharged than natural conditions would have permitted, requires a minimum of excavation, and eliminates the need for such things as costly slope protection and excessive land acquisitions. By use of hydraulic connectors, therefore, the volume of water recharged to an aquifer from a very small facility may be equal or greater than the volume recharged from a much larger area by natural leakage through confining beds.

Originally 36 hydraulic connectors 30 inches in diameter were bored along the canal centerline through the overlying clay into the unsaturated sand and gravel (Fig. 1). The holes range in depth from 28 to 32 feet, for a total of slightly more than 1,000 linear feet. They were cased to their full depth with 30-inch diameter corrugated metal culvert during the boring operation. Following completion of each bor-



AERIAL view of the recharge facility, showing how it is arranged on a narrow, wedge-shaped piece of land bounded by railroad and housing near the Souris River.

ing, a 1¼-inch diameter plastic pipe was inserted in the center of each hole to permit measurement of water levels. While the casing was being withdrawn, the holes were backfilled with coarse, washed gravel. A 7-foot section of the culvert, including 18 inches extending above the base of the canal, was left in the upper part of the hole. The casing was perforated and covered with a mound of coarse gravel that acts as a sediment filter.

Tests indicated that the hydraulic connectors have an average infiltration rate of 60 gpm. It was assumed, therefore, that a total of about 3 mgd of river water could

FIGURE 1. Plan and section of Minot's artificial recharge facility. Connectors link canals with the subsurface gravel aquifer.





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Photo courtesy Minot Daily News

■ VIEW above shows recharge canals, partially filled, with the sediment basin in the foreground. Culvert at left runs under the access road. A more recent picture, below, was made after gravel dams were installed to reduce sediment load going into canals. The dams are also effective in removing floating masses of algae.



be recharged through the 36 connectors.

Several months after the recharge system had been in operation, it was found that the connectors were becoming plugged with silt and clay. Moreover, the small diameter of the holes made it almost impossible to remove the gravel pack. Consequently, four holes, approximately 12 feet in diameter, were excavated in the canals to a depth of about 26 feet by a city-owned crane with a 34-yard clam attachment. Thirty-four feet of 72-inch diameter corrugated culvert were permanently installed in each hole (the casing extended about 8 feet above the bottom of the canal). The upper 8 feet and the lower 4 feet of each culvert were perforated with an acetylene torch to facilitate

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water movement. To observe water levels, 36 feet of 2-inch diameter steel pipe were installed in each culvert prior to backfilling the excavation with washed ½-inch gravel both inside and outside of the culvert. The large diameter hydraulic connectors can provide a total of at least 1 mgd of recharge.

Site improvements. The alignment of the canals and settling basin with respect to the prevailing wind direction indicated a need for slope erosion control. Sod was used rather than seeding because of the steepness of the slopes and the immediate need for slope protection. All exposed slopes were sodded to operational water stage. This process provided excellent erosion protection on the canal margins; however, it became immediately evident that additional protection was needed on the pit slopes to reduce the erosive action of wind-driven waves.

The wave-erosion problem was eliminated by placing a heavy-duty plastic sheet, 12 feet wide, around the entire perimeter of the pit. It was positioned so that the mean water level in the pit would be at the approximate centerline of the plastic, thus providing 6 feet of lining above water level. Although ice in the pit exceeds 24 inches in thickness during the winter, the plastic liner has remained in place and undamaged. Installation involved the insertion of metal pins through wooden slats placed on the upper and lower edges of the liner.

Chain link security fencing with barbed wire climbing guards was placed around the entire recharge site. The fence is 6 feet high, including two gates, 12 feet wide.

Water-transmission system. The water supply for the artificial-recharge system is obtained from the Souris River at a point approximately 1,000 feet south of the recharge site. A deep well turbine pump was removed from an existing well adjacent to the river and two 25-horsepower horizontal pumps were installed in a pump house with intakes in the river. This installation is separate from the intakes and pumps for the surface water treatment plant, which are about a mile downstream from the recharge site. Because the abandoned deep well is connected to the city's system by a 10-inch cast iron main laid in the section line right-

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of-way, it was relatively easy to supply water to the recharge site. The main was cut and a plug was installed on the city side of the main. A 90 degree bend was placed in the pump line section and the main was extended into the recharge pit. A second 10-inch main was also laid. The double pump installation resulted in a pumping rate of approximately 4 mgd to the recharge site.

The water level in the artificialrecharge installation is monitored by electronic controls that automatically actuate the pumps from a control panel in the water-treatment plant.

Souris River Dam. A dam on the Souris River was constructed by the North Dakota State Water Commission several hundred yards downstream from the recharge site in order to deepen the water over the pump intakes, to augment the surface-water supply, and to in-crease natural ground-water recharge in the vicinity of the well field. The dam is a poured concrete structure with two gates capable of allowing 2,300 cfs to pass. The total cost of the dam was approximately \$87,000, of which \$30,-000 was paid by the North Dakota State Water Commission. The remain'ng \$57,000 was paid by the City of Minot.

Following construction of the dam, the city was able to pump 40 percent of 1.6 mgd of the municipal daily requirement directly from the river. During periods of drought, however, the quantity of water in surface storage will be depleted rapidly and the city will have to increase withdrawals from the ground-water reservoir accordingly. The costs involved in the con-

struction of Minot's dual-technique artificial-recharge facility were small in comparison to the benefits

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# <image>

CITY MANAGER Vernon Fahy checks water level recorder during construction of the recharge facility. The observation well is 68 feet deep.

received, insignificant if compared to the estimated cost of \$12 million for a pipeline from Minot to Garrison Reservoir, and infinitesimal if compared with the cost of a surface-water reservoir with a storage capacity equal to that of the Minot aquifer. The actual costs of constructing the entire recharge facility are summarized in Table 1.

#### Experience

During the last two years Minot has been able to take some portion of its supply from the river during all months except January and

#### Table 1—Costs and Estimates

echaige site	¢ 8 2 2 8 00
Purchase of land	\$ 0,220.00
xcavation of basin and canal system (87¢ per cubic yard)	35,060.35
Boring of 36 30-inch diameter and 4 72-inch diameter hydraulic connectors, including culvert	12,347.50
Site improvements (sod, plastic liner, security fencing)	16,885.00
Water transmission system (1,000 feet of 10-inch cast iron main, installation of pumps)	33,653.00
Souris River dam (city cost \$57,000)	87,000.00
Total cost	\$193,173.85
Annual maintenance and cleaning costs of entire facility	\$ 1,200.00
Estimate of costs for alternate method Pipeline to Garrison Reservoir (1959 estimate)\$	12,000,000.00

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February. When there is ample flow, about 40 to 50 percent river water is used and the balance from wells. The amount available from the river decreases rapidly after October 1 when the upstream dam owned by the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife is closed for the winter season.

The recharge system is operated whenever there is enough water in the river to do so. Last winter it was not possible to recharge because of lack of flow. Experience indicates that winter recharging is most efficient because of lack of algae and a lower sediment load. The canals at the recharge site

seem to offer conditions conducive to growth of algae. These growths can be killed by drying the canals for a few days. Coarse rock dams have been constructed at the point where the canals connect with the sedimentation pit thus requiring all water to flow through about a tenfoot width of coarse rock just as it enters the canals. This should filter out some of the coarser algae which have been pumped from the river as well as reduce the sediment load.

A definite time schedule for cleaning the recharge site has not been established but, based upon (Continued on page 148)

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#### Appendix 3. All Named Aquifers In NDDWR Mapservice Database. Hyperlinks To County Studies Report Page Or Other Prominent Report Where They Are Described.

Adrian Antelope Creek **Apple Creek** Austin Bantel **Battle Creek Beaver Creek Beaver Creek2 Beaver Lake** Belmont **Bennie Peer** Bicker **Big Bend Big Coulee** Bismarck Braddock Brampton Brightwood **Buffalo Creek** Burnt Creek Butte Carrington Cattail Central Dakota Charbonneau **Cherry Creek Cherry Lake** Clayton **Clearwater** Cleary Colfax Columbus **Cottonwood Creek**  Courtenay Crane Creek Crete Crosby Cut Bank Creek **Dead Colt** Deer Lake Denbigh Denbigh Buried Channel Fort Mandan **Denbigh-Lake Souris** Des Lacs River Douglas **Dry Fork Creek** Dry Lake Dunseith East Fork Shell Creek Eastman Edgeley Edgemont Edinburg Elk Valley Elk Valley middle Elk Valley north **Elk Valley South** Ellendale Elliot Elm Creek Emerado Enderlin Englevale **Englevale Lower Englevale Middle Englevale Upper** 

Eric Lake Esmond Estevan Fairmount Fillmore Foothills **Foothills South** Fordville Fox Haven Galesburg Garrison Glenburn **Glencoe Channel** Glenview Goldwin **Goodman Creek** Grand Forks Grenora Guelph Gwinner Hamilton Hankinson Heart River Heimdal Hiddenwood Lake Hillsboro Hillsburg Hofflund Homer Horse Nose Butte Horseshoe Valley Icelandic Inkster

James River Jamestown Juanita Lake Karlsruhe Karlsruhe Deep Channel Keene Kenmare Kilgore Killdeer Klose **Knife River** Koble Lake Ilo Lake Nettie Lake Souris LaMoure Landa Leeds **Lignite City** Little Heart Little Knife River Valley Little Missouri River Little Muddy Little Stoney Long Lake Lost Lake Lower Wishek Lucy Maddock Manfred Marstonmoor Plain Martin **McClusky** 

McKenzie Chan Creek Trappers Coulee	
McVille Pleasant Lake - S Deep South Fessenden Trenton	
Medford Chan Spiritwood Turtle Lake	
Medina North Pony Gulch Spiritwood - Grand RapidsUpper Apple Creel	<u>&lt;</u>
Medina South Random Creek Spiritwood near Upper Buffalo Cree	<u>ek</u>
Middle James Ray Jamestown Vang	
Midway Renner Spiritwood-Berlin Voltaire	
Milnor Channel Riverdale Spiritwood-Devils Lake Wagonsport	
Minot Rocky Run Spiritwood-Griggs Wahpeton Buried	Valley
Missouri River Rolla Spiritwood-LaMoure SE Wahpeton Comple	X
Missouri River - Lake Sak Roosevelt Spiritwood-Oakes Wahpeton sand pl	ain
Missouri River-Oahe Rosefield Spiritwood-Rogers Wahpeton shallow	sand
Rugby Aquifer         Spiritwood-SE         Warwick Aquifer	
Montpelier Rusland Spiritwood-Sheyenne Weller Slough	
Mount Moriah Russell Lake River West Fargo	
Munich Ryder County West Fargo North	
Napoleon Ryder Ridge Spiritwood-Warwick West Fargo South	
New Pockford Sand Prairie Spring Creek West Wildrose	
New Town	
North Burleigh Seven Mile Coulee Square Datte Creek White Shield	
North Burley Shealy Wildrose Wildrose	
Northwest Burled Channe Sheldon Starkweather Wimbledon	
<u>Nortonville</u> <u>Shell Creek</u> <u>Stoneview</u> <u>Windsor</u>	
<u>Oakes</u> <u>Shell Creek-Central</u> <u>Stoney Creek</u> <u>Wing Channel</u>	
Oberon Shell Creek-East Branch Strasburg Winona	
Otter Creek Shell Creek-White Lake Strawberry Lake Wishek	
Page Shell Valley Streeter Wolf Creek	
Painted Woods Creek Sheyenne Delta Sundre Yellowstone	
Painted Woods Lake Shields Sydney Yellowstone River	
Pembina Delta Skjermo Lake Channel	
Pembina River Smoky Butte Yellowstone-Misson	<u>uri</u>
<u>Pipestem Creek</u> <u>Snake Creek</u> <u>Tobacco Garden</u> <u>Ypsilanti</u>	
Plainview Soo Channel Tokio Zap	
Pleasant Lake Souris River Zeeland	
Pleasant Lake - Int. Chan. Souris Valley Tolgen North	

Annality	August - married	the state of the state of the	A	Course of The second	and the second se		100 C	the state of the s		
Aquifer Grand Total	40.626	Industrial 20.828	140.902	202 720	Aquifer Grand Total	MU+RW	Industrial 20.839	140 903	Grand Total	
Central Dakota	40,020	408	25,717	26,125	Rolla	40,626	20,828	140,902	179	
Oakes	193		12,250	12,442	Dead Colt	0		176	176	
Spiritwood	3,437	505	8,367	12,310	Undetermined	0	0	173	173	
Elk Valley	2,134		8,943	11,077	Horseshoe Valley	0		169	169	
Englevale	1	0	10,114	10,115	Elm Creek	0		167	167	
Sheyenne Delta	1,058		8,347	9,405	Horse Nose Butte	0	166		166	
Page	1,269	1232	5,707	6,976	North Burleigh	0		157	157	
Milnor Channel	0	732	5,816	6,548	Tappen	0		149	149	
Lodgepole	0	5,620	4 704	5,620	Esmond	0	222.23	144	144	
LaMoure	0.51	0.00	4,/94	5,424	Goodman Creek	0	137		137	
Missouri River	2,914	1 0 8 4	2 700	5,080	Midway Fire Creat Africate	0		129	129	
little Muddu	0	1,504	3 7 4 1	4,765	Elm Creek/Snields	0		128	128	
lamestown	3 884	486	46	4,700	Filendale	0		110	110	
Sundre	3,811	2	56	3,868	Columbus	117		115	117	
New Rockford	424	44	3.328	3,796	Little Missouri Buri	0	114		114	
Minot	3,427	8	2	3,437	Robinson	0		104	104	
Knife River	495	0	2,394	2,889	Gravel Sediments	0	0	100	100	
Karlsruhe	10		2,744	2,753	Smoky Butte	0	0	99	99	
Lake Nettie	298		2,299	2,597	Spring Creek	90		9	99	
Charbonneau	0	14	2,363	2,377	Grenora	42	3	45	91	
Streeter	0		2,231	2,231	Garrison	0		78	78	
Lake Souris	45	0	2,157	2,201	White Lake Br. of Sl	34	39		73	
Carrington	326	4	1,728	2,127	Wolford	0		73	73	
Shell Valley	1,513	20202	282	1,795	Little Stoney	0		71	71	
Hankinson	904	685	0	1,589	Glenview	0		69	69	
skjermo Lake	0	4	1,584	1,587	Seven Mile Coulee	0		68	68	
weville	643	245	922	1,566	Arne	0		68	68	
New Town	523	915	100	1,538	Painted Woods Cre	0		67	67	
Underined	821	194	4/4	1,494	Tongue River	60	2	0	62	
fellowstone-Misso		03	1,307	1,309	Keene	0	29		29	
sand Prairie	13		1,308	1,308	Square Butte Creek	0		50	56	
Wahneton Buried V	906	300	1,307	1 305	Kugby	10			51	
Raw	418	709	104	1 232	Little Heart	43		. 49	49	
White Shield	0	0	1.100	1,100	West Wildrose	0	1.41	43	49	
Fordville	841	6	163	1.010	Colfax	0	46	13	46	
Denbigh	0	3	985	988	Fort Union	4	28	12	45	
celandic	862		112	974	Sand Sediments	0		42	42	
Voltaire	670	262		932	Souris Valley	30	5	3	37	
Dakota Group	0	914		914	Long Lake	0		37	37	
Shell Creek	0	884		884	Hell Creek	0	36		36	
Enderlin	847			847	Windsor	0		36	36	
Cattail	0		749	749	Local Glacial Depos	0		34	34	
Warwick	8		718	726	Edinburg	0	2	30	33	
Winona	0		720	720	Fairmount	32		0	32	
Tobacco Garden Cr	0	535	169	704	Big Coulee	31			31	
strasburg	0	8	692	692	Hilsboro	29			29	
fox Hills	420	258	9	688	Lignite City	24	5	0.255	28	
Glencoe Channel	0		677	677	Little Knife River Va	0	0	28	28	
Unnamed	39	116	512	000	Elliot	0		27	27	
aueipn Burnt Crowk	0		581	581	Martin	25			25	
idaeley	0		5/6	010	Nortonville	0		24	24	
Rismarck	0	0	300	548	Sharanna Chanad	22			22	
Pleasant Lake	510	0	303	548	Snevenne Channel	20	12		20	
Vishek	152		386	538	Wing Channel	10	12		10	
Napoleon	84	1	445	529	Till	10	5		5	
uanita	0	() S	520	520	Cannonbal-Ludlow	0	4		4	
Medina	0		453	453	Undefined sand an	0	3		3	
West Fargo South	451			451	Burlington	1	1		2	
Middle James	0	0	440	440	Wildrose Buried Ch	ō	2		2	
Rusland	399			399	Fargo	0	0	1	1	
Killdeer	0	333	64	396	East Fork Shell Cree	1	28556	122	1	
Cherry Creek	0	384		384	<b>Basal Tongue River</b>	0	1		1	
Lake Ilo	0	194	174	368	11.28					
Gwinner	362			362						
Soo Channel	0	8	357	357						
Clearwater	0	356		356						
West Fargo	223	130	100.000	352						
Painted Woods La	0	\$	343	343						
McKenzie	0	3	303	306						
Douglas	0	0	302	302						
Trappers Coulee	0		288	288						
Lignite Seams and I	0	260	240	260						
Lanamed configuration	0	335	240	240						
Strachers Lake	0	225	221	225						
Sanish	0	210	221	210						
Trenton	0	125	70	195						
Mohall	193	125	70	193						
Sentinel Butte-Top	193	186	0	189						
Saleshure	187	100	U	187						
Heart River	10/		196	186						
COMPLEXIBLE	0		180	100						

Appendix 5. Composite Hydrographs of Aquifers Using "Trends" Program									
Antelope Creek	Grenora	Missouri River	<u>Spiritwood-Griggs</u>						
Apple Creek	Guelph	<u> Missouri River - Lake Saka</u>	kasypieretwood-LaMoure SE						
<u>Bismarck</u>	Gwinner	Missouri River-Oahe	Spiritwood-Oakes						
<u>Brampton</u>	<u>Hankinson</u>	Mohall	Spiritwood-Rogers						
<u>Brightwood</u>	Heart River	Munich	Spiritwood-SE and Brampto						
<u>Carrington</u>	<u>Heimdal</u>	<u>Napoleon</u>	Spiritwood-Sheyenne River						
Cattail	Hofflund	New Rockford	Spiritwood-Towner County						
<u>Central Dakota</u>	Horse Nose Butte	<u>New Town</u>	<u>Spiritwood-Warwick</u>						
<u>Charbonneau</u>	Horseshoe Valley	Northwest Buried Channe	l Spring Creek						
Cherry Creek	<u>Icelandic</u>	<u>Oakes</u>	<u>Strasburg</u>						
<u>Clearwater</u>	Inkster	Page	Strawberry Lake						
<u>Columbus</u>	James River	Painted Woods Lake	Streeter						
<u>Crete</u>	<u>Jamestown</u>	<u>Pembina River</u>	<u>Sundre</u>						
<u>Crosby</u>	<u>Juanita Lake</u>	<u>Pleasant Lake</u>	<u>Tiffany Flats</u>						
<u>Denbigh</u>	<u>Karlsruhe</u>	<u> Pleasant Lake - Intermedia</u>	ate other coeffarden						
Denbigh Buried Channel	Karlsruhe Deep Channel	<u> Pleasant Lake - North Dee</u>	p Tatapopores Coulee						
Denbigh-Lake Souris	Keene	Pleasant Lake - South Dee	p Titeantoel						
Douglas	<u>Kilgore</u>	Pony Gulch	<u>Turtle Lake</u>						
East Fork Shell Creek	Killdeer	Ray	Upper Apple Creek						
<u>Eastman</u>	Knife River	<u>Rugby Aquifer</u>	<u>Voltaire</u>						
Edgeley	Lake Ilo	Rusland	Wahpeton Buried Valley						
<u>Elk Valley</u>	Lake Nettie	<u>Ryder Ridge</u>	Wahpeton Complex						
Elk Valley middle	Lake Souris	Sand Prairie	Wahpeton sand plain						
Elk Valley north	LaMoure	<u>Sanish</u>	Wahpeton shallow sand						
Elk Valley South	Lignite City	Seven Mile Coulee	Warwick Aquifer						
Ellendale	Little Heart	<u>Shell Creek</u>	West Fargo						
Elliot	Little Knife River Valley	Shell Creek-Central	West Fargo North						
<u>Elm Creek</u>	Little Missouri River	Shell Creek-East Branch	<u>West Fargo South</u>						
Enderlin	Little Muddy	Shell Creek-White Lake	West Wildrose						
Englevale	Little Stoney	Shell Valley	White Shield						
Englevale Lower	Lost Lake	Sheyenne Delta	<u>Wildrose</u>						
Englevale Middle	Lower Wishek	<u>Shields</u>	Wing Channel						
Englevale Upper	<u>Maddock</u>	<u>Skjermo Lake</u>	<u>Winona</u>						
Esmond	Manfred	<u>Smoky Butte</u>	<u>Wishek</u>						
<u>Fairmount</u>	<u>Martin</u>	Soo Channel	Wolf Creek						
Fordville	McKenzie	Souris Valley	Yellowstone						
Garrison	McVille	<u>Spiritwood</u>	Yellowstone River Channel						
<u>Glenburn</u>	<u>Midway</u>	Spiritwood - Grand Rapids	<u>Yellowstone-Missouri</u>						
Glencoe Channel	Milnor Channel	Spiritwood near Jamestov	<u>vn</u>						
<u>Goodman Creek</u>	<u>Minot</u>	Spiritwood-Devils Lake							

Source code for Trends algorithm

Date and time: 7/22/1993, 14:01:58 Last Modified: 11/21/2023

Method: E\_WatLev\_Trends Description This procedure is called from the Export button script from the WH Output Form layout. The procedure is used to generate Water Level trends for the individual hydrologists. In order to call this procedure the hydrologist must first pass the wells to the export array within the layout and then select the appropriate button setting to invoke the well run sheet selection from the pop list for exporting water level information Parameters

# C\_LONGINT(\$1; vParentProcess) C\_BLOB(\$2)

#### vParentProcess:=\$1

ARRAY LONGINT(vWellIndexAr; 0)
BLOB TO VARIABLE(\$2; vWellIndexAr)

QUERY WITH ARRAY([Well\_Header]Well\_Index; vWellIndexAr)

C\_BOOLEAN(terminateProcess; processCompleted)
terminateProcess:=False
//TRACE
C\_BOOLEAN(vDone)

vDone:=False

- C\_LONGINT(\$i; \$j) C\_LONGINT(\$Time; \$vNum) C\_LONGINT(\$k) C\_REAL(\$Depth1; \$Depth2; \$Total) C\_DATE(\$BeginDate; \$EndDate) C\_DATE(\$BeginDate; \$EndDate) C\_REAL(\$DiffDepth) C\_TEXT(\$LineRet) C\_TEXT(\$LineRet) C\_TEXT(\$LineRets) C\_REAL(progressStatus)
- \$vNum:=Records in selection([Well\_Header])
  If (\$vNum#0)
   progressMessage:="Setting up Index Array"
   progressStatus:=0

RELATE MANY SELECTION([Water\_Levels]Well\_Index)
QUERY

SELECTION([Water\_Levels]; [Water\_Levels]Time\_Meas=?00:00:00
?)
QUERY

SELECTION(Water\_Levels]; [Water\_Levels]Depth\_to\_Water>9000; \*)

QUERY SELECTION([Water\_Levels]; &
; [Water\_Levels]Depth\_to\_Water<9000)
 ORDER BY([Water\_Levels]; [Water\_Levels]Date\_Meas; >)
 // Establish the Begining and ending dates and
number of days between
 FIRST RECORD([Water\_Levels])
 \$BeginDate:=[Water\_Levels]Date\_Meas
 LAST RECORD([Water\_Levels])

\$Time:=\$EndDate=\$BeginDate ARRAY LONGINT(vWLTrendInd; \$Time) ARRAY REAL(vWLYer; \$Time) ARRAY REAL(vWLYer; \$Time) wWLYear{1}:=Year of(\$BeginDate)+((\$BeginDate-Date("01/01/"+\$tring(Year of(\$BeginDate)))+1)/365.25) For (\$i; 2; \$Time) vWLYear{\$i}-wWLYear{\$i} vWLYear{\$i}:=vWLYear{\$i-1}+0.002737851
End for progressMessage:="Generating Array Data"
progressStatus:=0 FIRST RECORD([Well Header]) \$i:=1 While ((\$i<=\$vNum) & (Not(terminateProcess)))</pre> progressStatus:=\$i/\$vNum
progressMessage:="Processing Wells . . ." RELATE MANY([Well\_Header]Well\_Index) QUERY SELECTION([Water\_Levels]; [Water\_Levels]Time\_Meas=?00:00:00 ?) QUERY SELECTION([Water\_Levels]; [Water\_Levels]Depth\_to\_Water>9000; \*) QUERY SELECTION([Water\_Levels]; & ; [Water\_Levels]Depth\_to\_Water<9000) ORDER BY([Water\_Levels]; [Water\_Levels]Date\_Meas; >) FIRST RECORD([Water\_Levels]) For (\$j; 1; (Records in selection([Water\_Levels])-1)) Selection([Water\_Levels])-1) State1:=[Water\_Levels]Date\_Meas
NEXT RECORD([Water\_Levels])
\$Depth2:=[Water\_Levels]MP\_Elevation-[Water\_Levels]Depth\_to\_Water \$Date2:=[Water\_Levels]Date\_Meas
If (\$Date2#\$Date1) \$DiffDepth:=(\$Depth2-\$Depth1)/(\$Date2-\$Date1) For (\$k; (\$Date1-\$BeginDate); (\$Date2-\$BeginDate-1)) vWLTrendInd{\$k}:=vWLTrend Ind{\$k}+1 vWLTrendSum{\$k}:=vWLTrend Sum{\$k}+\$DiffDepth End for

End if

End for NEXT RECORD([Well\_Header]) \$1:=\$i+1 End while

#### End if

processCompleted:=True

Repeat DELAY PROCESS(Current process; 120)

Until (terminateProcess) ARRAY LONGINT(WLTrendInd; 0) ARRAY REAL(vWLYear; 0) ARRAY REAL(vWLYear; 0)

















































Composite Hydrograph of Observation Wells in the West Fargo South Aquifer # of wells 0 20 Adj. One-year moving averag Adj. Daily Average 18 -20 16 -40 14 12 -60 10 -80 8 П Change In Trom assur

T

1935 1945 1955 1965 1975 1985 1995 2005 2015 2025

Date Source: ND Dept. of Water Resources Site inventory Database

6

4

2

feet)

evel

water |

In Ground

-120

-140



Date Source: ND Dept. of Water Resources Site inventory Database















Date Source: ND Dept. of Water Resources Site inventory Database





Date Source: ND Dept. of Water Resources Site inventory Database



Date Source: ND Dept. of Water Resources Site inventory Database



Appendix 6. Reported Water Usage Plots for Selected Aquifers.

































































































# Appendix 9. Plots of Streamflow Duration Hydrographs from Selected Streamgage Sites (from waterwatch.usgs.gov).





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jon C. Patch is a Consulting Hydrogeologist. He formerly served as the Director of Water Appropriations at the North Dakota State Water Commission, a position he attained after over 30 years of service in the agency. He has been lead or co-lead investigator in numerous water resource investigations and groundwater studies, most notably as it relates to this investigation, an aquifer recharge and recovery project in a shallow unconfined aquifer in Grand Forks County, North Dakota.

- Qualifications:
  - M.Sc. in Environmental Engineering, North Dakota State University
  - B.Sc. in Geological Engineering, University of North Dakota

### • Professional Experience:

- Over 40 years of professional experience in the fields of engineering, hydrology and hydrogeology, 38 of which were at the North Dakota State Water Commission
- Former Director of Water Appropriations

### • Expertise:

- Water resource management
- Groundwater modeling
- Water rights adjudication
- Contributions:
  - Established methodologies and technology in aquifer testing, water resource investigations, and monitoring

#### Certifications:

• Registered Professional Engineer, North Dakota