

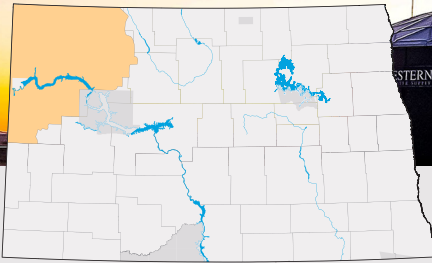


WESTERN AREA WATER SUPPLY

LOOKING AHEAD 2025-2027

\$40 MILLION

HB 1020



QUICK FACTS



WATER USERS
(9% OF ND POPULATION)



COMMUNITIES SERVED



RURAL CONNECTIONS



LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
(1, 2, 4B, 23, 26)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Western Area Water Supply (WAWS) project goal is to utilize Missouri River water, along with supplemental ground water, to meet the municipal, rural, and industrial water needs of counties in northwest North Dakota. Currently, the system supplies water to 70,000 water users in five counties: Burke, Divide, Mountrail, McKenzie and Williams. The system is expected to expand to 100,000 users by 2038.

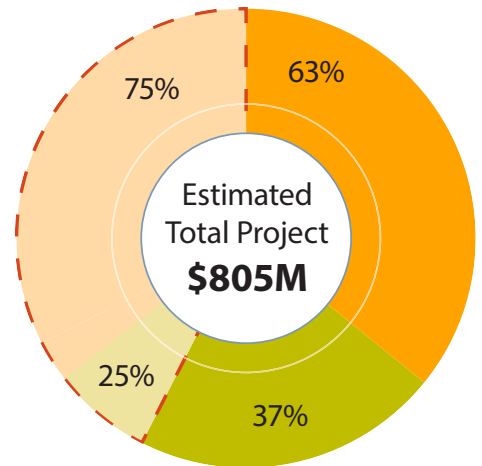
As originally planned during the 2011 Legislative Assembly, the financial model for WAWS was to take advantage of the extensive regional growth that was taking place as a result of oil production and to fund the majority of the project with loans that were to be paid by selling excess water to the energy industry. Since that time, the funding model has been modified, with the Legislature allowing restructuring of WAWS debt, and loan forgiveness of \$74.5 million in 2021 and \$30 million in 2023.

HISTORIC FUNDING

| | |
|-------|--------|
| Local | \$173M |
| State | \$290M |

FUTURE FUNDING

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Foreseeable Funding Needs | \$342.1M |
| Local | \$85.5M |
| State | \$256.6M |



LOCAL SPONSOR

In 2011, the North Dakota Legislature created the Western Area Water Supply Authority, (WAWSA) with the intent to develop the WAWS project to treat, store, and distribute water to northwestern North Dakota. WAWSA includes Williams Rural Water District, McKenzie County Water Resource District, the City of Williston, Burke-Divide-Williams Water System Association, and R&T Water Supply Association.

CURRENT DWR COST-SHARE

50%-75%



NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.

Water Resources

MAY 2025