

**ROUTE DESCRIPTION - River miles 558 to 495 (63 miles)**

Except during floods, the Red River of the North is slow-moving and picturesque with its tree-covered banks and frequent wildlife sightings. It is serene and quiet even as the Red passes through small cities. Reminders of the past are found in the muddy banks where bison bones occasionally are exposed. These muddy banks may make access difficult.

There are no rapids except at some of the dams. Low flows expose rocks and snags creating hazards for motors and occasionally block the channel.

**Note:** River miles are counted beginning at the mouth of the Red River at Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, and ending at Breckenridge, MN, according to a system developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Right (R) and left (L) refer to right and left bank, respectively, when facing downstream.

- 557.8 **Headwaters Park.** 100 Nebraska Avenue, Breckenridge, MN. Water access, Headwaters Monument, Friendship sculpture, interpretive kiosk, fishing pier, picnic shelter. Confluence of Bois de Sioux and Otter Tail Rivers which is navigable by canoe for about 160 miles. Connected to Welles Memorial Park by walking bridge.
- 557.8 **Welles Memorial Park and Fairgrounds.** Picnic shelter, 5 primitive campsites, 2 campsites with electricity, parking, fire ring with free wood, tables, flush toilets, historic cabin and school house. 188
- 557.6 (R) **Otter Tail River overflow** - into the Red River at high flows.
- 557.0 (L) **Chahinkapa Campground.** 8 trailer sites with hookups, tent sites, showers, restrooms, shelters, trails, zoo, golf course, fishing pier, shore fishing, sewer dump, playground and carousel.
- 556.7 **Golf course pedestrian bridge.**
- 555.6 **Kidder Dam. Portage right.** Retrofitted with rock sloopeway. Use caution, portage is only 15' from dam.
- 555.5 (L) **Kidder Recreation Area.** Trailer access with adjacent dock, 8 trailer sites with electrical and water hookups, tent areas, showers, restrooms, picnic shelters, fishing pier, shore fishing, fish cleaning station, sewer dump and world's largest catfish. 182
- 555.2 **State Highway 210 bridge.** 11 182
- 547.6 **Railroad bridge.**
- 545.1 **County Road 18 bridge.**
- 545.1 (L) **Brushvale Bridge Recreation Area.** Trailer access, primitive camping with no facilities, shore fishing. 176
- 545.1 (R) **Lloyd's Park.** Picnic area, shore fishing, monument.
- 532.4 **County Road 22/4 bridge.**
- 532.0 (L) **Abercrombie, ND and Fort Abercrombie.** Trailer access, historic site, museum, picnic/rest area, shore fishing, primitive camping, RVs allowed (no amenities). Short walk to restaurant and grocery store. More info: state.nd.us/hist. 176  
**MANAGEMENT AREA**
- 530.6 (R) **Confluence with Whiskey Creek.**
- 523.5 **County 26 bridge.** 26
- 510.7 (R) **Wolverton, MN.** Rest area and watercraft campsite.
- 510.7 (R) **Wolverton City Campground.** Located approximately 1 mile from river. 4 campsites with water, sewer, electricity, picnic tables, shelter, seasonal restrooms available at nearby baseball field.
- 509.6 **County Road 30/2 bridge.**
- 504.0 **Rock dam.** Scou 172 fore proceeding with caution. No identified portage.
- 498.0 **Powerline crossing.**
- 496.3 **Wilkin/Clay County Line.**

END OF MAP 1 - Continue to Map 2: Wilkin/Clay County Line to Georgetown

# RED RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

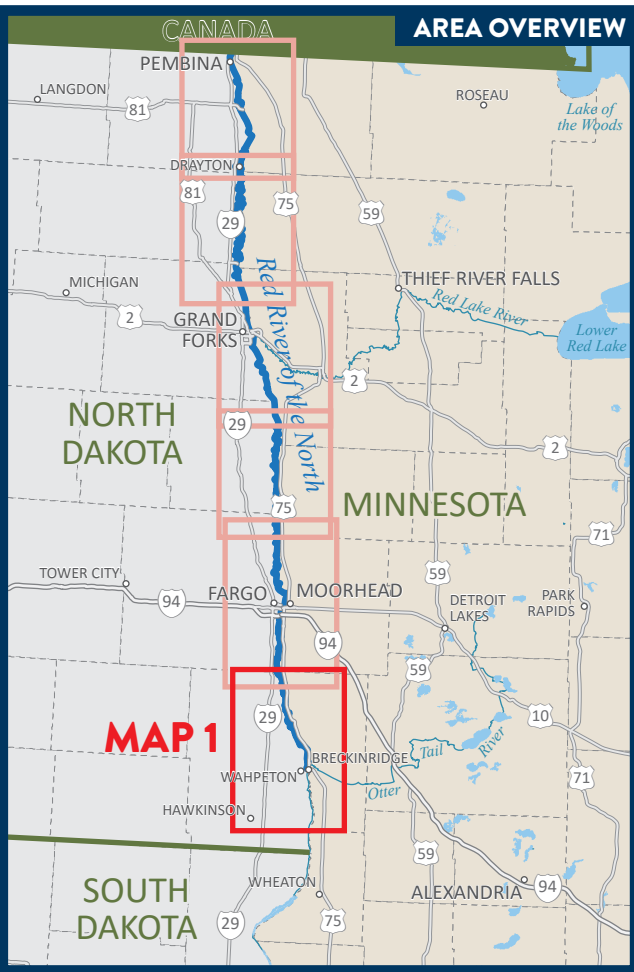


## MAP 1 - BRECKENRIDGE TO WILKIN/CLAY COUNTY LINE



**mn** MINNESOTA  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Cover Photo: River Keepers



## ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Red River is a slow moving, easy to navigate river. A trip along this section will reveal a mix of agricultural fields and small towns interspersed with wooded shorelines.

The Red River formed thousands of years ago as Glacial Lake Agassiz drained. Today, the river's tree-lined banks and flowing water are a novelty in the landscape that surrounds it. Travel just ten miles away and the wildlife and plant species that are abundant in the Red River environment are rarely seen. The river's waters are home to channel catfish and other diverse fish species, offering many angling opportunities.

Hazards include dams and widely fluctuating water levels. Flooding may occur during spring, summer and fall. Be sure to check water levels before your trip. Low water conditions may not be suitable for boating. Snags are common. Leave motors unlocked. Be aware that this river touches two states. Each may have different regulations.



Fields turn to forest along the river's edge.

Photo: River Keepers

## CONTACTS

**DNR NORTHWEST REGION HEADQUARTERS**  
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE  
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669  
218-308-2378

**DNR INFORMATION CENTER**  
500 Lafayette Rd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
888-646-6367  
[info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

## TRIP PLANNING AND SAFETY



- Plan your trip with a map before you leave. Tell someone your plans, including put-in and take-out times.
- Travel with a companion or group.
- River levels can affect your speed and trip safety. Most people paddle 2-3 river miles per hour. Check conditions at [mndnr.gov/river\\_levels](http://mndnr.gov/river_levels).
- Don't underestimate the power of wind and waves.
- Be cautious of obstacles in the river and avoid overhanging and dead trees.
- Bring clean drinking water and a waterproof container with a first aid kit, waterproof matches and extra clothes.
- Wear a life jacket at all times while on the water.
- Swimming in the river is not recommended.
- Purchase a license for your non-motorized watercraft if it's more than 10 feet in length. If you're not from Minnesota, check your state's watercraft license laws.

## WATERCRAFT CAMPING



- Camp only in designated campsites, which are often available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Riverbed camping next to private property is not permitted.
- Stay off private property. Stop only at designated sites; much of the shoreland is private property.
- Be sanitary! Use designated toilet facilities or bury human waste away from the river.
- Follow the rules for firewood. Many areas do not allow you to gather dead wood for a fire.

## MEDICAL



**ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER**  
2400 St. Francis Dr.,  
Breckenridge, MN 56520  
218-643-3000

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**

## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

### Kidder Recreation Area to Brushvale Bridge

- Put-in location: Kidder Recreation Area  
River mile **555.5**
- Take-out location: Brushvale Bridge Rec. Area  
River mile **545.1**
- Length: **10.4** river miles

This stretch of the river curves past homes and farmland with forested shoreline. Watch for several islands along the way. You may also see white-tailed deer, great blue herons or bald eagles. You'll find a boat ramp at your put-in and take-out site. Try to spot the giant catfish near Kidder Recreation Area when you launch.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE

### Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site River mile **532.0**

Take advantage of a nearby boat landing to explore this historic fort in North Dakota. Visit the museum (fee required) or view interpretive signs and buildings along the grounds.

[state.nd.us/hist](http://state.nd.us/hist)

## PROTECT THE RIVER

Your experience on the river depends on a healthy environment. As you explore the beauty of this waterway, also do your best to protect it.

### Protect Your Waters

Before launching...before leaving

- Clean off aquatic plants and animals.
- Drain all water away from the landing.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

[mndnr.gov/invasives/aquatic](http://mndnr.gov/invasives/aquatic)

### Buffer Protection

The Minnesota buffer law establishes new vegetation buffers along rivers, streams and ditches to help filter out chemicals and sediment before they reach waterways.

[mndnr.gov/buffers](http://mndnr.gov/buffers)

## More Information

[mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://mndnr.gov/watertrails)

- River level reporting
- River conditions reporting
- Interactive water trail map
- Recommended routes
- River rapids definitions
- Virtual tours

Search for outfitters at [exploreminnesota.com](http://exploreminnesota.com)

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us), 651-296-6157, or MN Relay 711.