

ROUTE DESCRIPTION - River miles 290 to 206 (84 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.

289.4 (R) Confluence with Grand Marais Creek

277.0 (L) Confluence with Turtle River.

274.5 (R) Oslo Access. Trailer access, river level gauge. Primitive camping, fire ring, parking. 0.4 miles from the Oslo trailer access. Oslo City Park/Campground. Campsites with electricity, water, dump station, restrooms, picnic shelters. For more information call Oslo City Hall at 218-695-3841.

274.6 Highway 54/1 bridge and railroad trestle.

249.1 (L) Confluence with the North Marais River.

246.0 Powerline crossing.

245.3 (L) Confluence with the Forest River

245.1 Powerline crossing.

244.4 (L) Joliet Ferry Wildlife Management Area. Primitive camping allowed. Site is marked by rectangular signs "Wildlife Management Area". Call ND Game and Fish office at 701-662-3617 for more information. See <http://gf.nd.gov/licenses> for current regulations.

239.8- (R) Frank Rose Aquatic Management Area. Fishing, wildlife observation, hunting and trapping allowed.

237.9 Highways 17/317 bridge.

234.0 Red River of the North Wildlife Management Area. Hunting and wildlife observation.

232.0 (R) Confluence with the Snake River.

223.5 (L) Confluence with the Park River.

209.2 (L) Hastings Landing. Trailer access, parking, shore fishing, dock, fish cleaning station. Short walk to downtown Drayton. 0.5 miles from Hastings Landing - Schumacher Park. Electric and water hookups, dump station, water, restrooms, showers, shelters, picnic tables, tennis court, swimming pool, basketball court, golf course, playground, baseball diamonds. Visit draytonnd.com for more information.

207.5 Highway 66/11 bridge. River level gauge.

END OF MAP 5 - Continue to Map 6: Drayton to Canadian Border

RED RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

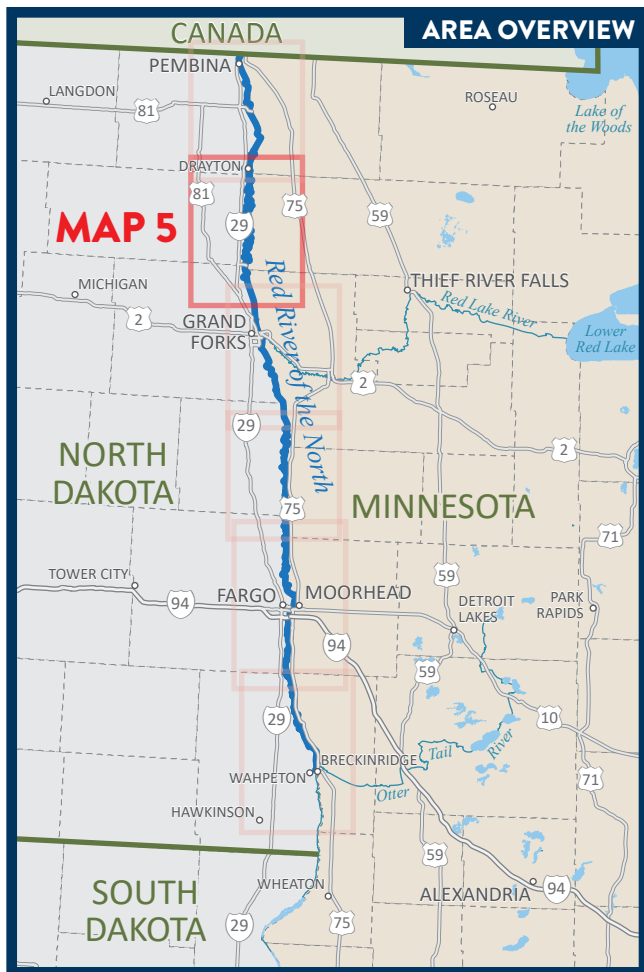


MAP 5 - GRAND MARAIS CREEK TO DRAYTON



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. This section is full of meandering twists and turns that pass partially wooded shorelines. Just beyond the trees, agricultural land surrounds the river on either side.

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.

River hazards include 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 and each may have different regulations.



Photo credit: David Lipp

Follow the river's winding path.

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.
- 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.

FISHING

The Red River's diverse fish population makes it a great place to cast a line. Northern pike, channel catfish, goldeye, carp and a population of trophy walleye lie within its waters. An international effort is underway to reintroduce the lake sturgeon, which was decimated by overfishing and dams. It is the only fish species that doesn't have an open season on the Red River.

mndnr.gov/fishing

EXPLORE THE SHORE

Frank Rose Aquatic Management Area River mile 239.8-240.8

This aquatic management area protects over 100 acres of habitat along the Red River. Watch for wildlife like raccoons, mink, bald eagles, ducks, great blue herons, Canada geese, pileated woodpeckers, hawks and owls. The river banks are steep here, but you could land a canoe or kayak for some shoreline fishing.

mndnr.gov/amas

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

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

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

MEDICAL



ALTRU HOSPITAL
1200 S. Columbia Rd.
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-780-5000

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

More Information

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

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