

Stop the Attack on North Dakota's Drinking Water

Stop the attacks on America's drinking water. 1 in 3 Americans' drinking water sources are at risk now. That includes the drinking water for nearly 2 in every 5 North Dakotans. **The Administration has a strong, commonsense plan to make clean water a priority by protecting the sources that feed the drinking water for more than 117 million Americans, including 300,000 North Dakotans.** If Congress blocks the proposal to protect clean water, at least 50% of North Dakota's streams and 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide will continue to be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Stopping this proposal imperils drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

Souris River in North-Central North Dakota



Credit: Marlene Welstad, USFWS on [flickr](#)

- **40% of North Dakotans –2 out of 5 residents –** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams currently vulnerable to pollution.
- **1,500 miles of streams** that feed into North Dakota's drinking water sources are at risk. The Clean Water Rule would clarify protections for 57% of the stream miles in ND's Source Water Protection Areas, including intermittent, ephemeral, and headwater streams.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **This commonsense proposal restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the proposed rule would provide **\$388 million to \$514 million annually in benefits** to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater.
- **Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and North Dakota's vibrant recreational industry.**
- **North Dakota's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** North Dakota breweries contribute \$82 million to our economy every year and support more than 700 jobs.

North Dakota Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **Nearly 500 North Dakotans, out of more than 800,000 Americans, expressed support for the rule.**
- In 2003, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department submitted comments opposing Bush administration efforts to roll back protections for small streams and wetlands.

For more information, please visit protectcleanwater.org.