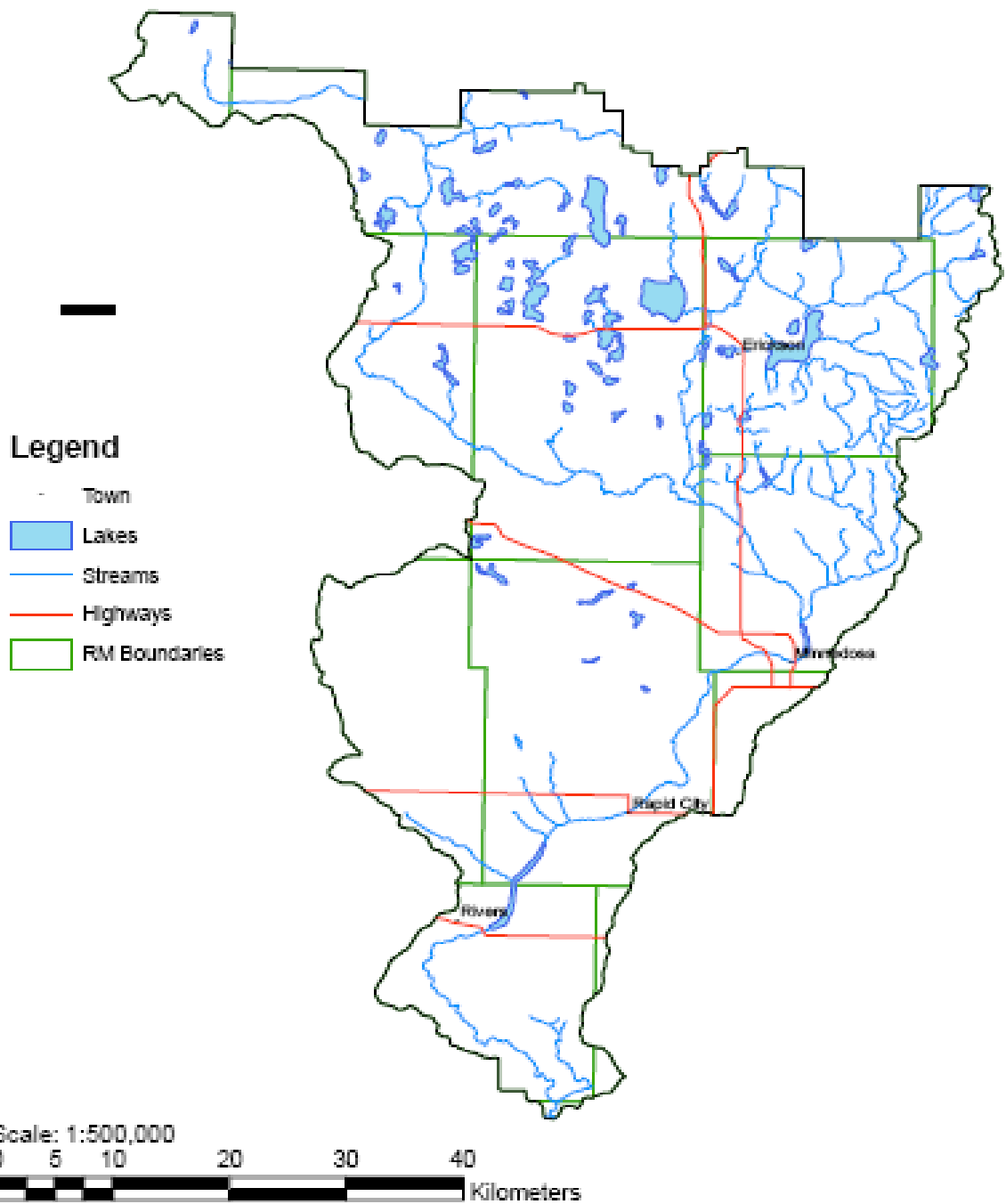


# Little Saskatchewan River Watershed



## Little Saskatchewan River Watershed

This watershed encompasses the area from Brandon north to Riding Mountain National Park and the Assiniboine River east to the Little Saskatchewan River.

This area is dotted with numerous waterbodies of various sizes and is often referred to the “pothole area of Manitoba”.

One of the concerns in this watershed is the encroachment and elimination of riparian habitat by agriculture activities. As a result of the nutrient and sediment loading from these poor practices, many waterbodies are experiencing accelerated eutrophication and related problems (algae blooms, summer and winter fish kills). This is exacerbated by the rolling terrain in this watershed. Appropriate riparian protection measures have been encouraged and many individual projects have been undertaken in this watershed but the lack of ongoing educational programs and funding opportunities have changed or are discontinued.

There are three major dams on the Little Saskatchewan River that have created reservoirs that have developed into sport fisheries.

Lake Wahtopanah is the largest of these and is an extremely important walleye fishery to the area, both in terms of recreation and economics.

Two pool and riffle fish ladders have been constructed in an attempt to re establish traditional fish migration routes on the Little Saskatchewan River . The Rapid City fish ladder was constructed in 1992 and the Lake Minnedosa fish ladder was constructed in 1999.

Four lake aeration systems have been installed on waterbodies that were experiencing winter fish kills. Antons, Eagle, Pybus and Corstophine Lakes contribute to the economics of their local areas.

Numerous waterbodies have also been stocked with indigenous or salmonoid fish species on an annual basis.

This area has also many world renowned stocked trout fisheries that attract anglers from all over. This area hosted the Canadian National Fly Fishing Championships in 2003 and is scheduled to do the same in 2010.

One major blockage to fish movement during low water events is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Dam at Brandon.

The over Watershed Health Assessment would be “healthy with concerns”.

Very little data is available for fish species in the Little Saskatchewan River watershed. It is widely known though that this watershed supports a variety of fish species that support sport and recreational fishing. Generally speaking, native fisheries are limited by habitat and angler pressure. Watershed activities that have an impact of fish habitat include

impacts to the riparian areas of waterways – channelization, drain maintenance construction practices, streambank stability/erosion, and barriers and obstructions posed by manmade structures along waterways