

**Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects** was established in 1978.

Over the joint power organization's **45-year** history, numerous floodwater retention projects have been installed to temporarily hold floodwaters.

Of the 5,353.1 sq. miles of watershed area, 4,665.1 sq. miles lie within Minnesota and 688.0 sq. miles in South Dakota.

Five major watersheds are within Area II:

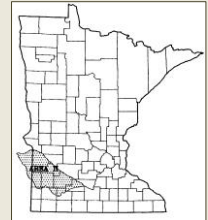
- Yellow Bank
- Lac qui Parle
- Yellow Medicine
- Cottonwood, and
- Redwood.

The most predominant land feature in Area II is the Coteau des Prairies, more commonly referred to as the Buffalo Ridge. This geologic formation is over 1,000 feet higher than the floodplain below.

Elevation drops of **92 feet/mile** (600 feet in 6.5 miles) in the Yellow Bank River and **78 feet/mile** in the Lac qui Parle River (380 feet in 4.9 miles) are the most extreme.

Senate File 542 / House File 793

## **Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Floodwater Retention Project Examples**



**SPRINGDALE 21 ROAD RETENTION** (Redwood County, 2015)



**SPRINGDALE 19 GRADE STABILIZATION** (Redwood County, 2021)



**DEL CLARK LAKE GRADE STABILIZATIONS AND ROAD RETENTION**  
(Yellow Medicine County, 2021)



**LAKE BENTON OUTLET RESTORATION** (Lincoln County, 2021)



## **LAZARUS CREEK**

*The Lazarus Creek Floodwater Retention Project was constructed by the LQP-YB Watershed District, with assistance from Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects, utilizing State of Minnesota bonding funds for engineering design and construction.*

*The dam is 67 feet in height by 700 feet in length with no permanent pool. 21 square miles of drainage area are now controlled.*

*Since its construction in 2005, the project has filled to within 4 feet of the riser structure **3** times. At the emergency spillway elevation, 640 million gallons (1950 acre-feet) of floodwaters will be temporarily impounded.*



### **TOP:**

*Aerial view of Lazarus Creek prior to construction of the dam.*

### **MIDDLE:**

*Aerial view of the dam embankment and potential impoundment area.*

### **BOTTOM:**

*Photo taken during one of the **three** flooding events (2006, 2007 and 2010).*