

<b>County</b>	Prairie	<b>Upstream River Mile</b>	126.5
<b>Classification</b>	PCS: Partially confined straight	<b>Downstream River Mile</b>	118.1
<b>General Location</b>	Downstream of Fallon Bridge	<b>Length</b>	8.40 mi (13.52 km)

### Narrative Summary

Reach D3 straddles the Prairie/Dawson County line, extending from the Fallon Bridge to about two miles into Dawson County. The reach is 8.4 miles long and has been classified as a Partially Confined Straight (PCS) reach type, indicating minimal meandering and some influence of the valley wall on river form and process. Sandstones of the Fort Union Formation typically form the south bank, and younger erosion-resistant terraces confine the channel to the north. Because of the geologic confinement, channel migration rates are low and the riparian corridor is notably thin or absent. The Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) is extremely narrow because there has been only minor bank migration in this reach since 1950. All of the migration measured in the reach was at RM 123, where the river abruptly hits the south valley wall and apparently backwaters as it has developed a series of islands that drive local bank movement. From 1950 to 2011, the right bank migrated almost 900 feet at this single location. These islands provide areas for riparian colonization and habitat for bird species such as least terns.

Approximately 1,500 feet of bank armor have been mapped in the reach; about 2/3 of that armor protects the Interstate Bridge, with the remainder (600 feet) protecting irrigated land. Two pipelines cross the river about 1,000 feet downstream from the Interstate Bridge. One is an 8-inch petroleum product line that has been abandoned and purged, and the other is a product line that was directionally drilled in 1999. About 4,000 feet downstream from the Fallon Bridge, three large bridge piers from an old trestle remain in the middle of the river.

The Glendive Pump Station #1 is located about two miles downstream of the Fallon Bridge at RM 124.5L and is part of the Glendive Unit of the Buffalo Rapids Project. Construction of the unit began November 12, 1937, with ground breaking for excavation of the main canal. The following April 1938, excavation began on the lateral system. The first operation of the pumping station occurred on September 26, 1939, before the Unit was completed; diverted water was allowed to flow about ten miles down the main canal. Ice damage in 2012 required in extensive repairs to the pumping station. The unit serves 16,500 acres of irrigated land.

Land use in Reach D3 is predominantly agricultural, with about 600 acres of pivot irrigation development since 1950. All of the pivots are on the north side of the river, and several of them extend to the river bank and into the CMZ. In total, 57 acres of land under pivot irrigation are within the CMZ, making them especially prone to the threat of bank erosion. Although there has been extensive pivot development, most irrigated land had remained in flood irrigation in 2011 (1,500 acres).

Dump sites were mapped on the banks or in adjacent riparian areas at RM 125.6R, RM 124.2L, and RM 122L.

The most recently available map of the proposed Keystone Pipeline route shows that the line would cross the Yellowstone River at the lower end of Reach D3, at approximately RM 118.2 ([www.keystone.steamingmules.com](http://www.keystone.steamingmules.com)). The river is at Milepost 198 on the proposed pipeline route.

About 108 acres or 49 percent of the historic 5-year floodplain has become isolated in Reach D3, primarily due to flow alterations.

There are 11 acres of mapped Russian olive in the reach.

Bluff pools and terrace pools make up 22 percent of the low flow fish habitat mapped in the reach, indicating that this reach may provide important areas for fish species that prefer this habitat type.

A hydrologic evaluation of flow depletions indicates that flow alterations over the last century have been major in this reach. The magnitude of the 100-year flood is now 20,000 cfs or 14 percent lower than it was pre-development. The 2-year flood, which strongly influences overall channel form, has dropped by 22 percent. Low flows have also been impacted; severe low flows described as 7Q10 (the lowest average 7-day flow anticipated every ten years) for summer months has dropped from an estimated 4,820 cfs to 2,750 cfs with human development, a reduction of 43 percent. More typical summer low flows, described as the summer 95% flow duration, have dropped from 6,970 cfs under unregulated conditions to 3,240 cfs under regulated conditions, a reduction of 55 percent.

Seasonal low flows have increased by 62 percent in the winter and 75 percent in the fall.

CEA-Related observations in Reach D3 include:

- Isolation of historic 5-year floodplain area due to flow alterations

Recommended Practices (may include Yellowstone River Recommended Practices--YRRPs) for Reach D3 include:

- Solid waste (dump site) removal at RM 125.6R, RM 124.2L, and RM 122L
- Pipeline crossing practices at RM 126.2
- Russian olive removal

The following table summarizes some key CEA results that have been used to describe overall condition and types of human influences affecting the river. The values are specific to this single reach. Blanks indicate that a particular value was not available for this area. This information is consolidated from a large dataset that is presented in more detail in the full reach narrative report.

<b>Discharge</b>	<b>Undev.</b>	<b>Developed</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>"Undeveloped" flows represent conditions prior to significant human development, whereas "developed" flows reflect the current condition of both consumptive and non-consumptive water use.</b>		
2 Year (cfs)	68,900	53,700	-22.1%			
100 Year (cfs)	143,000	123,000	-14.0%			
<b>Bankfull Channel Area (Ac)</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1950-2001</b>	<b>Bankfull channel area is the total footprint of the river inundated at approx. the 2-year flood.</b>
	859.0	873.8	874.4	875.1	16.1	
<b>Physical Features</b>	<b>2011 Length (ft)</b>	<b>% of Bankline</b>	<b>2001-2011 Change</b>	<b>There are additional types of bank armor such as car bodies and steel retaining walls, but they are relatively minor.</b>		
Rock RipRap	1,492	1.7%	210			
Concrete Riprap	0	0.0%	0			
Flow Deflectors	0	0.0%	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>210</b>			
<b>Length of Side Channels Blocked (ft)</b>	<b>Pre-1950s</b>	<b>Post-1950s</b>	<b>Numerous side channels have been blocked by small dikes.</b>			
	0	0				
<b>Floodplain Turnover</b>	<b>1950 - 1976</b>	<b>1976 - 2001</b>	<b>1950-2001 In-channel riparian encroachment (negative number indicates retreat)</b>		<b>The rate of floodplain turnover reflects how many acres of land are eroded by the river. Turnover is associated with the creation of riparian habitat.</b>	
Total Acres	85.7	56.1	13.81 acres			
Acres/Year	3.3	2.2				
Acres/Year/Valley Mile	0.4	0.3				
<b>Open Bar Area</b>	<b>Point Bars</b>	<b>Bank Attached</b>	<b>Mid-Channel</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>The type and extent of open sand and gravel bars reflect in-stream habitat conditions that can be important to fish, amphibians, and ground-nesting birds such as least terns.</b>	
Change in Area '50 - '01 (Ac)	-86.9	37	13.8	-36.1		
<b>Floodplain Isolation</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>% of FP</b>	<b>Floodplain isolation refers to area that historically was flooded, but has become isolated do to flow alterations or physical features such as levees.</b>			
5 Year	107.6	49%				
100 Year	100.7	13%				
<b>Restricted Migration Area</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>% of CMZ</b>	<b>Channel Migration Zone restrictions refer to the area and percent of the CMZ that has been isolated by features such as bank armor, dikes, levees, and transportation embankments.</b>			
	17.7	1%				
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Changes in land use reflect the development of the river corridor through time. The irrigated agricultural are is a sub-set of the mapped agricultural land.</b>	
Agricultural Land (Ac)	5,808.1	5,698.2	Flood (Ac)	1,421.0	1,504.2	
Ag. Infrastructure (Ac)	21.5	69.3	Sprinkler (Ac)	0.0	0.0	
Exurban (Ac)	0.0	0.0	Pivot (Ac)	0.0	597.7	
Urban (Ac)	0.0	0.0				
Transportation (Ac)	65.1	78.0				
<b>1950s Riparian Vegetation Converted to a Developed Land Use (ac)</b>	<b>To Irrigated</b>	<b>To Other Use</b>	<b>Total Rip. Converted</b>	<b>% of 1950s Rip.</b>	<b>Changes in the extents of riparian vegetation are influenced by land use changes within the corridor.</b>	
	5.3	0.0	5.3	1.0%		
<b>National Wetlands Inventory</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Acres per Valley Mi</b>	<b>Total Wetland Acres</b>	<b>Wetlands units summarized from National Wetlands Inventory Mapping include Riverine (typically open water sloughs), Emergent (marshes and wet meadows) and Shrub-Scrub (open bar areas with colonizing woody vegetation).</b>		
Riverine	12.1	1.5	<b>99.3</b>			
Emergent	80.1	10.2				
Scrub/Shrub	7.1	0.9				
<b>Russian Olive (2001) (Appx. 100-yr Floodplain)</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Russian olive is considered an invasive species and its presence in the corridor is fairly recent. Its spread can be used as a general indicator of invasive plants within the corridor.</b>			
	10.7	0.9%				
<b>Riparian Forest at low risk of Cowbird Parasitism (Ac/Valley Mile)</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Change 1950-2011</b>	<b>Cowbirds are associated with agricultural and residential development, displacing native bird species by parasitizing their nests.</b>	
	30.6	7.8	5.5	-25.1		



## CHANNEL MIGRATION ZONE MAP

