

# **Appendix K. St. Croix River Basin Planning Team Fact Sheet**

# The St. Croix River Basin.....

...is

- ↳ a National Wild and Scenic River
- ↳ one of the most pristine large river ecosystems in the Upper Midwest
- ↳ home to a rich variety of native and endangered species and habitats
- ↳ shared and highly valued by two states
- ↳ a river ecosystem worthy of preservation
- ↳ a threatened resource, unfortunately already impacted by nutrient and sediment pollution.



...is facing

- ↳ a 39% increase in residents in its watershed by 2020
- ↳ increased urbanization and agricultural activities
- ↳ additional nutrient & sediment loading from wastewater discharges and polluted runoff
- ↳ a continued decline in water quality from these additional loadings

... needs your help

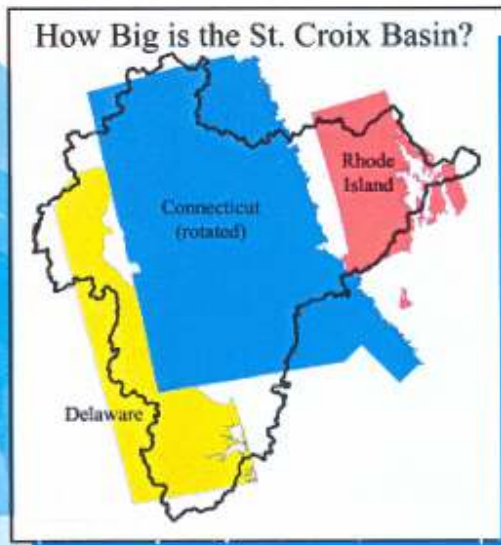
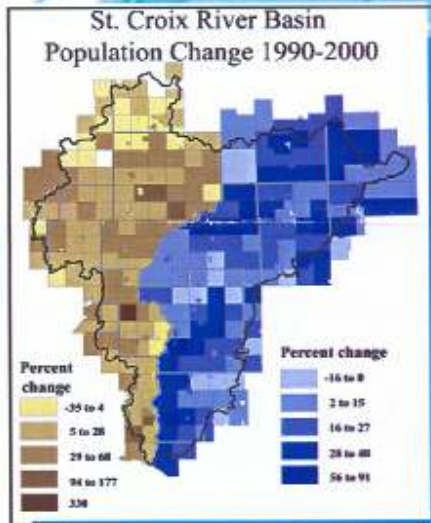
- ↳ by using water quality protection practices at home and in your community (such as reducing the use of phosphorus fertilizers and dishwashing detergents)
- ↳ by supporting protection efforts of state and local government
- ↳ to spread the message that a 20% reduction in nutrient loading is needed to prevent further water quality degradation
- ↳ to improve and protect one of the last great, large river systems in the Midwest





## Area Facts

- About 4,918,800 acres OR
- About 7,700 square miles OR
- About 19,900 square kilometers
- 2,660,000 acres in WI, or 54%
- 2,258,800 acres in MN, or 46%



The population of the St. Croix Basin prior to 1950 was 150,000. In the year 2000 there were 400,000 people. By 2020 it is estimated that there will be over 500,000 people living in the basin.

## How do we achieve a 20% reduction in nutrients and sediment loading?



Nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) and sediment enter the St. Croix and its tributaries from many different sources: wastewater treatment plants, urban stormwater, crop land, pastures and animal feeding operations, construction sites, and natural sources.



Finding and implementing a strategy for reasonable and achievable reductions from all sources is a challenge needing your input and support.

