

A REVIEW OF INTERBASIN WATER TRANSFERS

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ABSTRACT

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The biota-transfer aspect of large-scale interbasin water transfers, including the economic issues created by biota transfers, has assumed greater importance in recent years. Many public interest groups oppose interbasin water transfers because of biota-transfer implications. An ecological assessment of large-scale water transfer is difficult because information is lacking on biota-transfer. Forecasting future environmental and ecological scenarios is complex, although considerable advances have occurred in ecological modeling. Recognizing this need, a multi-disciplinary research program on biota-transfer studies, sponsored by the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and the State Water Commission, was instituted by the North Dakota Water Resources Research Institute. Comprehensive case studies are almost non-existent due to the lack of baseline studies. The science of evaluating biota-transfer implications is in its infancy. The review clearly brought out the need for baseline studies to develop tools for evaluating biota-transfer implications.