

**UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
BASIN INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

2000

**MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY
NORTHERN DISTRICT
BRainerd OFFICE**

“From then on this infant stream already shows signs of the capricious and encroaching propensities that characterize its power and course along its various stages of growth all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico. It is testing its strength over a stretch of a quarter of a mile which it doubles in length by making a series of meanders before coming to rest in a third lake [*Nicollet Lake*] that must cover a quarter of a mile square at certain times of the year. This lake is a composite of the Mississippi and other wild streams emptying into it from the surrounding swamps that fill the bottom of the valley opening into the southwestern bay of Lake La Biche. As the Mississippi issues from this lake, it resumes its meandering across more marshes and two or three miles later enters Lake La Biche, heads north, veers south and descends towards the Gulf of Mexico.”

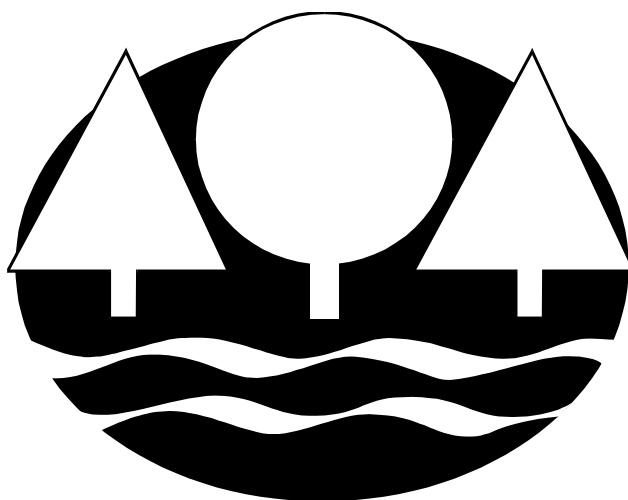
Joseph N. Nicollet, 1837, *The Journals of Joseph N. Nicollet, A Scientist on the Mississippi Headwaters With Notes on Indian Life, 1836-37*

Cover Photographs by:
Kelli Huxford, MPCA
Steve Kohls, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

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Jim Hodgson, MPCA
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Glenn Skuta, MPCA
Steve Heiskary, MPCA
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