



**Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC)  
Post-Plenary Communications Materials  
August 2017**



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## Highlights and Accomplishments from MRRIC's August 8-10, 2017 Plenary Meeting *Omaha, Nebraska*

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) met in August 2017 to learn more about and discuss the next steps in the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan development process, including the Proposed Action for the Biological Assessment, the next steps associated with developing the Biological Assessment, the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Process, and the process for developing and finalizing the Biological Opinion. The Committee also established bird, fish and human considerations work groups focused on Adaptive Management implementation.

MRRIC is a 70-member committee made up of federal, state, tribal, and stakeholder representatives from throughout the basin, which extends over 529,350 square miles and affects the lives of millions of people. Established in the fall of 2008, MRRIC serves as a collaborative forum developing a shared vision and comprehensive plan for the recovery and restoration of the Missouri River ecosystem.

### Substantive Decisions

- The Committee reached final consensus on the following recommendations:
  - A recommendation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service indicating MRRIC's support for the removal of tires and trash from the Missouri River from Gavin's Point to Ponca reach (Available at the following link: <https://community.apan.org/wg/mrric/m/mrric-documents-2017/202895>)
  - The Committee reached final consensus on a recommendation that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers modify the next version of the Adaptive Management Plan to reflect the evolving understanding of the relationship between MRRIC and the lead agencies in implementation of the Adaptive Management Plan (as described in MRRIC's Adaptive Management Governance Planning Recommendations).(Available at the following link: <https://community.apan.org/wg/mrric/m/mrric-documents-2017/202894>)

- The committee reached tentative consensus on the following recommendations:

#### To the USACE:

(Available at the following link: <https://community.apan.org/wg/mrric/m/mrric-documents-2017/202892>)

- MRRIC supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' use of science informed decisions through Adaptive Management to meet the needs of the listed species while minimizing impacts on human uses of the river, utilizing an independent science review process.
- When using the word "channel" in the Final EIS/AMP, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should clarify the definition in the context that it is being used.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should develop criteria for use in the discussion of the Missouri River Recovery Program 5-year Strategic Plan to help inform discussion on how

to prioritize the Missouri River Recovery Program budget. These criteria should be shared at a MRRIC meeting.

- MRRIC affirms and supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' commitment to conduct the supplemental flood risk modeling recommended by the Independent External Peer Review in Panel Comment 39.

To the USACE and USFWS:

(Available at the following link: <https://community.apan.org/wg/mrric/m/mrric-documents-2017/202893>)

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should conduct ongoing discussions with MRRIC of rationales for funding research, monitoring, and evaluation to appropriately support the Integrated Science Program. This should be described in the Adaptive Management Plan.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should provide additional clarification in the Adaptive Management Plan about the information and criteria to be used in deciding either to:
  1. Continue with, but modify, a hypothesis or management strategy; or
  2. Put aside a hypothesis and focus on a different hypothesis or management strategy.
- MRRIC supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's continued funding of and efforts to improve the quality of the pallid sturgeon stocking program. Quality Criteria should include physiological and ecological factors such as overall health of fish when stocked, the ability of newly stocked pallids to adapt to natural river conditions (e.g. feeding, positioning in current, and habitat selection) and grow and perform as well as wild fish. MRRIC also supports U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to preserve and enhance the genetic diversity of local pallid populations.

### Process Decisions

During the meeting, the Committee also approved a number of process recommendations, including:

- Approved MRRIC Consent Agenda: May 2017 meeting summary and Work Group membership.
- Approved new Bird Work Group, Fish Work Group, Human Considerations Work Group, and Plover Habitat Ad Hoc Group charges, membership, and Points of Contact.
- Approved changes to existing Work Group and Ad Hoc Group charges and membership.
- Approved a recommendation encouraging the Chair to assist members with external outreach and communication to increase the awareness of MRRIC's work in the Basin (Available at the following link: <https://community.apan.org/wg/mrric/m/mrric-documents-2017/202897>).
- Approved a recommendation that the Bird, Fish and Human Considerations Work Groups identify key, up-to-date, background information/resources for members joining the work groups due to the technical nature of these work groups (Available at the following link: <https://community.apan.org/wg/mrric/m/mrric-documents-2017/202896>).

### Information Exchange

MRRIC also is a forum for shared learning. During this meeting, MRRIC, agency representatives, and the public learned about:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' anticipated set of activities and associated timeline leading up to the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.
- An overview of comments received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the public comment period for the Missouri River Recover Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact

Statement and Adaptive Management Plan, including information about the geographic spread of comments, a thematic summary of comments submitted by stakeholders across the basin, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' process for reviewing the comments.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed action for the Biological Assessment and related conservation strategies.
- An overview of the purpose, steps, and products of the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Process, including explanations of the Biological Assessment, Biological Opinion, jeopardy determinations, Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives, and incidental take statements. An update on the current Consultation Process and an anticipated timeline of next steps.
- An overview of the anticipated Missouri River Recovery Program 5-year strategic plan development process and the guidance the Recovery Program received regarding the use of additional funds in FY 2017 and the use of the President's Budget in FY 2018.
- An overview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing deliberations regarding how best to incorporate human considerations monitoring into adaptive management decision making, specifically understanding the values and priorities of stakeholders and how to integrate them into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' approach to adaptive management in a legal and meaningful way.
- Updates on Interception Rearing Complex development, including information about site selection, design criteria, monitoring before and after construction, and analysis and decision making.
- The State of Montana's interests, as presented by the State's representative to MRRIC.
- Activities of MRRIC's Work Groups and Ad Hoc Groups since the previous plenary meeting.

#### **Meeting Summary**

When finalized and approved by MRRIC, a summary of this meeting will be posted with other information about previous and upcoming meetings on the MRRIC website:

<http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil>.

## MRRIC Post-Plenary Press Releases



# News Release

For information contact: [mrric@usace.army.mil](mailto:mrric@usace.army.mil)

For Immediate Release

Aug. 10, 2017

### Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee agrees on future role

OMAHA, Neb. - The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) held its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting Aug. 8-10. Maj. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, commander, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and Noreen Walsh, regional director of the Mountain-Prairie Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), spoke to the committee about the importance of MRRIC as a collaborative forum. Members learned about the public comments submitted on the draft Missouri River Recovery Management Plan-Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Adaptive Management (AM) Plan released by the Corps in December 2016. The Corps anticipates completing a biological assessment for the plan in the fall of 2017, and the Service expects to complete its Biological Opinion in early 2018.

The AM Plan serves as the framework for implementing potential actions described in the EIS that support the recovery of three threatened and endangered species (the pallid sturgeon, interior least tern, and piping plover) while maintaining the Missouri River's eight authorized purposes (flood control, navigation, irrigation, hydropower, water supply, water quality, recreation, and fish and wildlife). At its May 2017 meeting, MRRIC agreed on an approach to active engagement in governance of the AM program in the future and approved a restructuring of its work groups to implement the new approach. A key achievement at the August meeting was to establish bird, fish, and human considerations work groups.

"Taking an adaptive management approach is essential for a program at this scale," said MRRIC Chair Gail Bingham. "MRRIC has been working closely with the Corps and the Service for many years to understand the science surrounding the lifecycles of the three species and where important questions remain. Adaptive management provides a structured opportunity to learn from actions taken so that efforts to achieve the objectives of the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) become more successful over time. It is exciting that MRRIC can be involved as a strategic partner in this effort."

MRRIC's Tribal and Communications Work Groups discussed ways to increase the awareness of the MRRP and MRRIC's work among Missouri River Basin Tribes and stakeholder groups. The Corps also presented information about current and future recovery program budget allocations.

MRRIC is a 70-member committee that comprises stakeholders and representatives of tribal, state, and federal governments throughout the Missouri River Basin. MRRIC was authorized by Congress in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act and was established in 2008 by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). It provides recommendations to the Secretary of the Army and other Federal agencies on efforts to recover the three listed species, mitigate habitat loss, and restore the ecosystem to protect other native species. The committee makes decisions by consensus.

The next MRRIC meeting will be Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2017, in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information on MRRIC, please contact the committee chair at [mrric@usace.army.mil](mailto:mrric@usace.army.mil). Additional information on Missouri River recovery efforts is available online at [www.mrric.org](http://www.mrric.org) and [www.moriverrecovery.org](http://www.moriverrecovery.org).





# News Release

For information contact: [mrric@usace.army.mil](mailto:mrric@usace.army.mil)

For Immediate Release  
Aug. 10, 2017

## Tribes work with MRRIC on committee's future role

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MRRIC and the Tribal members welcomed Joni Tobacco, newly-appointed member of the Ogalala Sioux Tribe. Other Tribes were represented by Dr. Andrea Hunter, Osage Nation; Dr. Kelly Morgan, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Alan Kelley, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska; Deb Madison, Fort Peck and Assiniboine and Sioux Tribe; Shannon Wright, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; and Randy Teboe, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

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601 E 12th Street • Kansas City, Missouri 64106 • 816-389-3837 • [MRRIC@usace.army.mil](mailto:MRRIC@usace.army.mil) • [www.MRRIC.org](http://www.MRRIC.org)

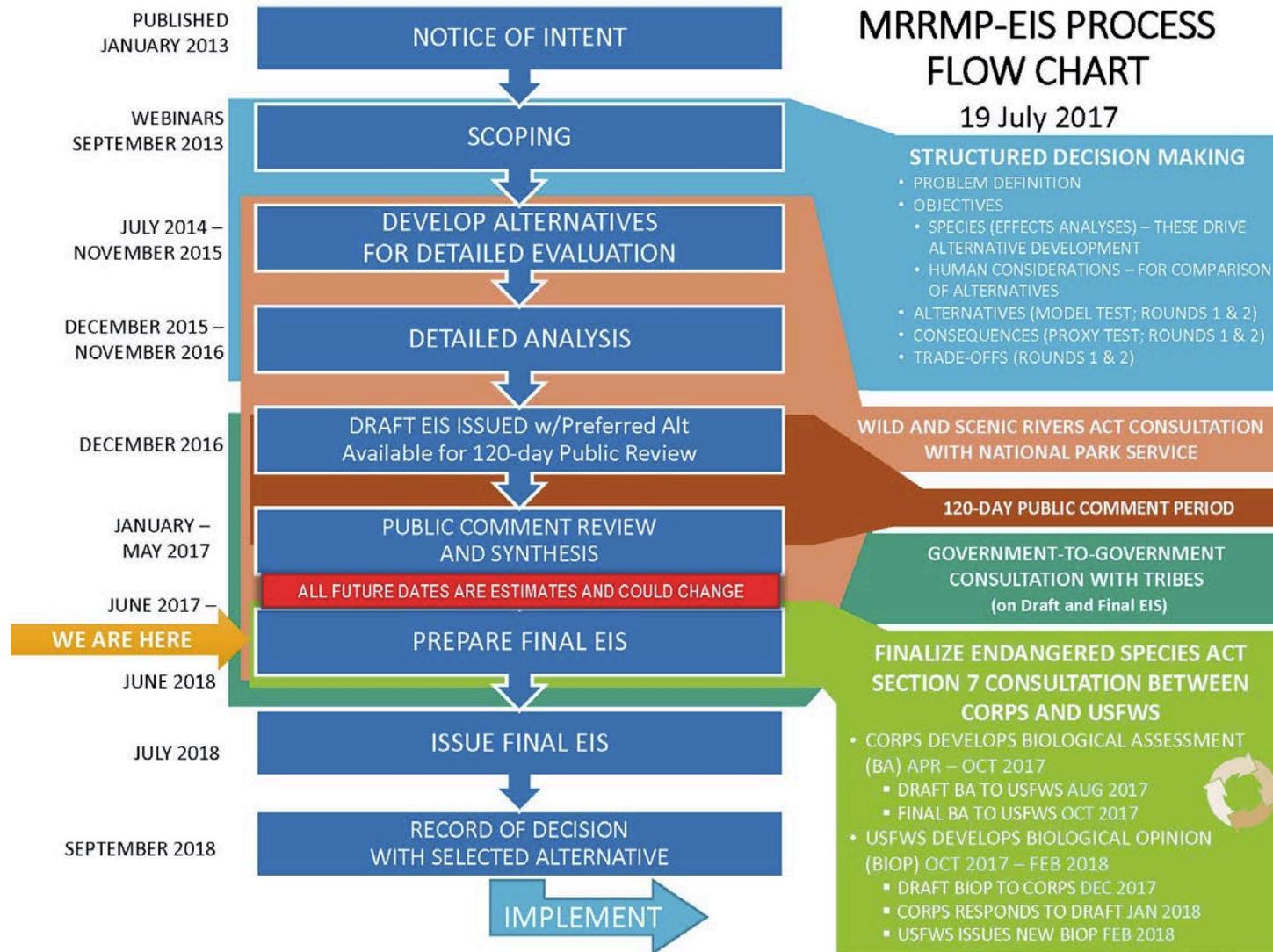
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# Missouri River Recovery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement Process Flow Chart

The following flow chart was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to demonstrate where the MRRMP-EIS is in the overall NEPA process. This chart is updated as appropriate and shared with the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) during each of the Committee's plenary meetings.



# Status of the Species

No new written materials were provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Status of the Species in conjunction with the August 2017 MRRIC plenary meeting. The information below was provided during the May 2017 MRRIC plenary meeting.

## Status of the Interior Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) (endangered) and the Northern Great Plains population of the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (threatened)

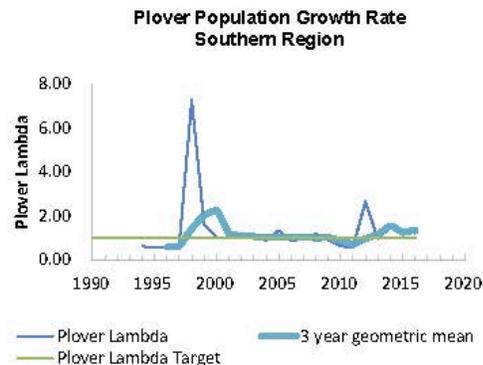
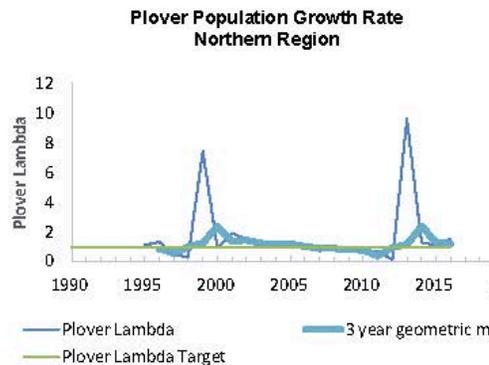
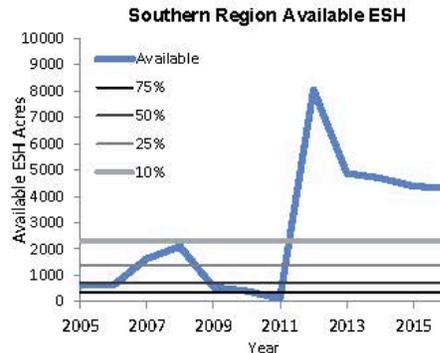
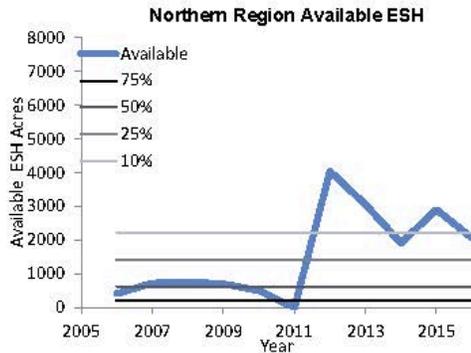


### ESH targets in DEIS/AM Plan

	Acres of Emergent Sandbar Habitat					
	Northern region			Southern region		
	25%ile	Median	97.5%ile	25%ile	Median	97.5%ile
Standardized ESH Acres	200	428	1996	264	782	3907
Available ESH Acres	75%	140	210	470	280	370
	50%	380	630	1000	460	720
Exceeded for Percentage of Years	25%	770	1420	2010	780	1370
	10%	1340	2230	3625	1130	2320
					5275	

**Timeframe:** Median standardized ESH targets (428 acres in the Northern Region; 782 acres in the Southern Region) must be met for 3 out of 4 years. Median available acres must be met or exceeded for the specified percent of years over a running 12-year interval.

- 1) **Standardized ESH (acres)** is the area above water if releases were 31.6 kcfs from Gavins Point Dam, 30.5 kcfs from Fort Randall Dam, and 23.9 kcfs from Garrison Dam.
- 2) **Available ESH (acres)** is the area above water during the maximum July release for each reach for the specified year.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

May 24, 2017

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Fledglings</u>	<u>Fledge Ratio*</u>	<u>Pop. Growth Rate**</u>
Northern Region 2015 and 2016	2015	895	401	0.90	1.53
	2016	965	329	0.68	1.08
Southern Region 2015 and 2016	2015	713	723	2.03	1.35
	2016	867	692	1.60	1.22

\*Fledge Ratio Target:  $\geq 1.14$  chicks fledged per breeding pair

\*\*Growth Rate Target:  $\geq 1.0$

- Although the number of Piping Plover (PIPL) adults increased in 2016 compared to 2015, all other numbers related to survival of 2016 fledglings decreased. There were a large number of chicks lost due to severe thunder and hail storms during the breeding season, as well as a large mortality event in the Van Hook Arm of Lake Sakakawea caused by West Nile Virus, botulism, and potentially microcystin toxins resulting from a blue-green algae bloom.
- Nesting seems to be a little late this year (2016) due to the cool weather. As of 5/17/17, there were 145 plover nests with approximately 50 new nests initiated per day. There are 9 nests with 21 eggs at risk of being flooded in the reservoirs due to the run-off from the tributaries and water being held due to high water conditions in the lower river. Nests may be initiated on low elevation sandbars in those conditions. More nests in the reaches maybe flooded in the next few weeks as the forecast is for more runoff.
- The PIPL Recovery Plan is still in draft. The recovery team is drafting responses to the comments received. As of yet there is no estimated timeframe for a final plan, but the best case scenario is before the end of the calendar year.

### **Status of the Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) (endangered)**

Lower Yellowstone River Pallid Sturgeon Translocation: Ongoing; five sturgeon have been relocated above Intake Dam, one female, two males and two unknown sex; three of these fish have currently moved up into the Powder River; will continue to relocate any fish that arrive at Intake Dam until June 15.

Spring 2017 Pallid Sturgeon Stocking of 2016 Progeny: 5159 age one pallid sturgeon from 14 families were stocked in March/April 2017; 2136 above Fort Peck Reservoir (RPMA 1), 2229 below Fort Peck Dam (RPMA 2), 186 below Fort Randall Dam (RPMA 3), 608 below Gavins Point Dam (RPMA 4).

#### 2017 Broodstock Collection and Spawning:

- Brood stock collections continue in the Upper Basin. Currently 5 brood fish have been captured and are being held at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery.
- 22 wild pallid sturgeon were collected below Gavins Point Dam and brought to Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery. Of these fish, four were determined to be reproductively ready females and five were reproductively ready males.
- 40 wild caught pallid sturgeon from previous annual broodstock collection efforts are housed at Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery. Of these fish, four were determined to be reproductively ready females and eight were reproductively ready males.
- From these fish in reproductively ready condition, seven females and 12 males have been successfully spawned to date.
- No pallid sturgeon production will be undertaken at Miles City State Fish Hatchery in Montana, and at Blind Pony State Fish Hatchery and Neosho National Fish Hatchery in Missouri, until fish health issues are isolated and corrective actions are completed.

#### Other Issues:

- Early life stage mortality: While survival rates of early life stage embryos continue to improve, we continue to experience sporadic and unexplainable die-offs.
- Hermaphroditism was documented this year in a pallid sturgeon at Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery. Not unprecedented in sturgeon populations.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

May 24, 2017



## Upcoming Plenary Meetings & Webinars

### Plenary Meetings and Related Webinars

**October 31 – November 2, 2017: Kansas City, Missouri at the Hilton Kansas City Airport**

#### Potential Plenary Meeting Agenda Items:

- Final consensus on the Common Ground Ad Hoc Group recommendations that reached tentative consensus during the August plenary meeting
- Review and discuss the efforts of the Common Ground Ad Hoc Group, including any additional proposed recommendations for MRRIC's consideration
- The work of the Bird Work Group, Fish Work Group, and Human Considerations Work Groups and associated Teams
- Key takeaways from the Fall Science Meeting
- Review and discuss the activities of other Work Groups and Ad Hoc Groups, including the Common Ground Ad Hoc Group, the Communications Work Group, the Tribal Interests Work Group, and the Membership, Process, and Procedures Ad Hoc Group
- Adaptive Management Governance Planning Ad Hoc Group efforts, including input on the development of a charge to the Independent Science Advisory Panel for the Biological Opinion review
- A presentation on the pallid sturgeon from Aaron Delonay
- Discussion of agencies' updates (which will be provided via pre-meeting webinar)
- Status of the Species Report
- Vice Chair selection
- Session to provide feedback on the MRRIC Chair
- Member interest presentation
- Independent Science Advisory Panel report on its review of the Bird and/or Fish monitoring plans (if available by the plenary meeting)
- Chair's Hour (to include 10 minutes for members to raise issues)
- Work Group breakout sessions as needed

#### Anticipated Pre-Meeting Agency Updates Webinar Topics:

- MRRP update
- Water management
- Yellowstone Intake Project
- Clarification on EPA rating of DEIS

**Additional Anticipated Meetings and Webinars**

- Water Quality Webinar (Date TBD)
- Fall Science Meeting (via webinar; Date TBD)
- Bird, Fish, and Human Considerations Team Meetings (October 30)
- New Member Orientation (Date TBD)





## About the Missouri River Implementation Committee (MRRIC)

### What/Who is MRRIC?

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) is a 70-member committee made up of federal, state, tribal, and stakeholder representatives from throughout the basin. MRRIC serves as a collaborative forum developing a shared vision and comprehensive plan for the restoration of the Missouri River ecosystem. The Committee provides guidance and recommendations to federal, tribal, state, local and private entities in the basin on the current Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) for the river's threatened and endangered species while sustaining the river's many uses. MRRIC was established by Section 5018 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 under the authority of the Secretary of the Army.

MRRIC stakeholders represent a wide range of interests, ensuring that the public's values are considered and incorporated into the restoration plans. Federal agencies do not participate in decisions regarding recommendations from MRRIC, but the federal agencies support and inform the MRRIC. A Federal Working Group of agency representatives has been appointed by the federal executives of the Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable. These agencies advise the MRRIC as the committee considers recommendations.

### What is the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP)?

The MRRP is an effort to replace lost habitat and avoid a finding of jeopardy to threatened and endangered species (pallid sturgeon, least tern, and piping plover) resulting from USACE projects on the Missouri River. These actions are being taken pursuant to the 2000 Biological Opinion, amended in 2003 (BiOp) and various Water Resource Development Acts (WRDA) currently focused on activities which contribute to jeopardy avoidance. For additional information regarding the MRRP, please visit: <http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/f?p=136:1:0::NO>.

Fact sheets on the topics listed below can be found at the following link: <http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/f?p=136:70#FactSheets>.

- Missouri River Recovery Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
- Relationship between the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Alternatives and the Adaptive Management Plan
- Incorporating Human Considerations into MRRP Planning and Decision Making
- Emergent Sandbar Habitat Creation
- Interception-Rearing Complexes on the Lower Missouri River
- Lower Missouri Spring Pallid Sturgeon Flow Release

### MRRIC Charter

On July 1, 2008, then Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., approved the Charter for the MRRIC. Approval of the MRRIC Charter was the culmination of over a year of intense work by the MRRIC Planning Group. The Planning Group was comprised of

representatives of Missouri River basin Tribes, states, and a wide range of stakeholder interests that were asked by the Corps and other federal agencies to develop a Recommended Charter for the MRRIC. MRRIC meets approximately four times per year.

Membership of the MRRIC is comprised of representatives of federal agencies, Tribes, states, and stakeholders from throughout the Missouri River basin. Each federal agency head, tribal chairman and state governor may appoint one representative to the MRRIC. Stakeholder representatives apply for membership by identifying their interest in one of the 16 interest categories. See the next page for the list of the seats available on the MRRIC. More information, including a roster of current members, may be found at [www.mrric.org](http://www.mrric.org).

### Additional Information

For additional information about MRRIC please visit [www.mrric.org](http://www.mrric.org). For questions about MRRIC or for a stakeholder group, please contact Ms. Gail Bingham, Committee Chair ([mrric@usace.army.mil](mailto:mrric@usace.army.mil)).

### MRRIC Members

**Stakeholder Interests:** The Committee has 29 stakeholder seats for members representing 16 non-governmental categories.

- Agriculture
- Conservation Districts
- Environmental/Conservation Organizations
- Fish and Wildlife
- Flood Control
- Hydropower
- Irrigation
- Local Government
- Major Tributaries
- Navigation
- Recreation
- Thermal Power
- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Waterway Industries
- Other "At Large" Interests

**States:** Eight states in the basin are eligible to appoint representatives to the MRRIC.

- Iowa
- Kansas
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Wyoming

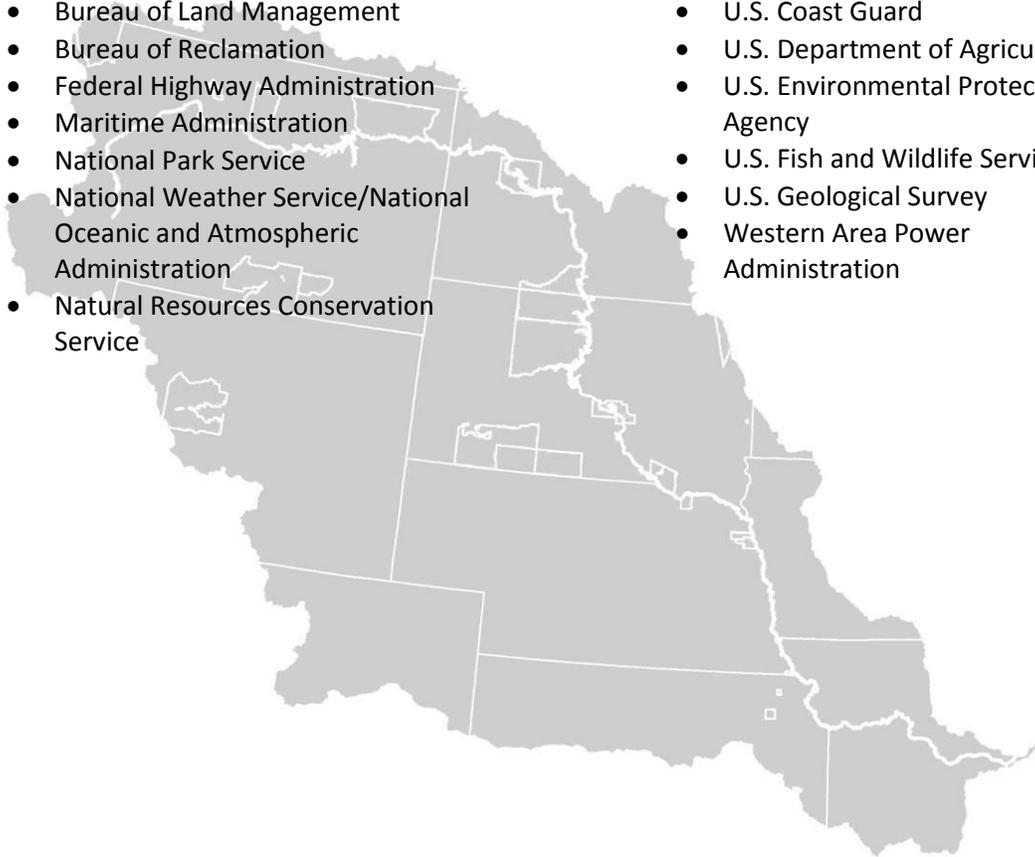
**Tribes:** Twenty-nine American Indian Tribes with historical ties to the basin have a seat reserved for them in the MRRIC.

- Blackfeet Tribe
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's Reservation
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
- Crow Nation
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
- Fort Belknap Indian Community
- Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation
- Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

- Osage Nation
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Prairie Band of Potawatomi of Kansas
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska
- Santee Sioux Nation
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
- Spirit Lake Sioux Nation
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- Three Affiliated Tribes of Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Yankton Sioux Tribe

***Federal Agencies:*** Fifteen federal agencies have appointed representatives to the MRRIC.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Maritime Administration
- National Park Service
- National Weather Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Western Area Power Administration





## Summary of MRRIC's Key Accomplishments

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC or Committee) was established by Congress under Section 5018 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to provide advice to Federal Agencies on the operations of the Missouri River. Since its initial meeting in September 2008, MRRIC has achieved consensus of its diverse membership on nearly 30 substantive recommendations to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Through these recommendations, the Committee has significantly influenced the content of a Missouri River Recovery Management Plan (Plan) that will guide Corps operations of the River for the foreseeable future. The Plan will be released as an Environmental Impact Statement anticipated for completion by the end of calendar year 2017.

MRRIC actions that have informed the Plan include the development of:

- A set of Human Considerations Objectives and Metrics that define a set of uses of the river that must be considered when evaluating potential impacts of management actions;
- A recommendation to use an Adaptive Management strategy that enables a “learning by doing” approach to adapt management actions that benefit the listed species as we learn more about their habitat needs; and
- A governance strategy that specifies a formal role for MRRIC to participate with the federal agencies in the Adaptive Management Plan.

MRRIC recommendations also formed the basis of prescribed management actions to help recover the listed species, such as:

- The formation of an independent panel to review the scientific foundation for an understanding of the Missouri River system and the needs of species, including developing specific review topics that led to a list of seven proposed actions;
- The establishment of an independent socioeconomic review panel to ensure the technical soundness of the evaluations of management alternatives on the Human Considerations; and
- The recommendation to conduct an Effects Analysis that would compile information on the listed species and their habitats learned since the Biological Opinion of 2003. This information also aided in the creation of conceptual ecological models for estimating species responses to management actions.

MRRIC took action on other river issues that were not necessarily part of the Plan, including:

- Development of a “Good Neighbor” policy that addressed local communities’ concerns about activities on Corps’ purchased lands and actively pursued options for using property easements;
- An annual recommendation on the Corps’ Missouri River Recovery Program work plan that included spending priorities; and
- Emphasizing the importance of habitats outside the main river channel for nesting birds.

The dedication of members to using MRRIC as a forum for voicing concerns regarding Missouri River management persisted through the challenges of significant budget reductions and the worst flood in the history of the river. The Committee has succeeded in having many of the concerns of states, tribes and stakeholders addressed in the future Plan.