

GLOSSARY

Annual Flood Control Zone

The zone surrounding a body of water that is used to store the annual high spring and summer inflows to that body of water.

Deposition

The process of laying down sediments after a transportation process (sedimentation).

Downstream

The direction of current flow that goes from a higher point of potential energy to a lower point of potential energy.

Drawdown

The distance that the water surface of a reservoir is lowered from a given elevation as water is released from the reservoir. Also refers to the act of lowering reservoir levels.

Drought

Extended periods of unusually low precipitation.

Endangered

A plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range because its habitat is threatened with destruction, modification, or curtailment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service designates endangered species.

Erosion

The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, gravity, or other geological activities.

Fledgling

An immature bird.

Flood Control Zone

The capacity of a reservoir to store annual spring flood runoff as well as infrequent extremely high flood events.

Habitat

The environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population, or community.

Intrasystem Regulation

Regulation for water release within a system of dams.

Levee

A dike or embankment that protects land from flooding.

Mainstem Reservoir System

A portion of the Missouri River from its headwaters to Gavins Point Dam that includes the six large dams and their reservoirs.

Master Manual

Describes the operation of the reservoir system including the Water Control Plan, which prescribes operation policy for the multiple project purposes of flood control, hydropower, water supply, water quality, irrigation, navigation, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

Navigation Season

Extensions of time that represent full and minimum navigation service. The length of a normal navigation season in normal inflow is 8 months (April 1 through December 1).

Navigation Service

The release of water from the Mainstem Reservoir System at Gavins Point Dam necessary to maintain 8 to 9 feet of water depth in the navigation channel between Sioux City and St. Louis.

NED Economics

National Economic Development economics evaluates economic efficiency and impact at a national level.

Permanent Pool Level

Provides the minimal water level necessary to allow the hydropower plants to operate and provide reserved space for sediment storage.

Release of Water

The controlled flow of reservoir water allowed to pass downstream of the reservoir dams to allow dams to vary to meet power demands.

Reservoir

An artificial body of surface water retained by a dam.

Riparian

The area including a stream channel, a lake, or wetland, and the adjacent land where the vegetation and microclimate conditions are influenced by perennial and/or intermittent surface water, associated high groundwater, and soils exhibiting wetness characteristics.

Sedimentation

The process of deposition of sediment.

System Storage Zones

Areas that divide the total volume of reservoir storage. The zones are prescribed for flood control, multiple uses, and the permanent pool.

Tailwater

The water released downstream from a powerhouse after it has flowed through the turbines.

Threatened

Legal status afforded to plant or animal species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range, as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Upper Lakes

The three most northern Missouri River reservoirs formed by Fort Peck Dam, Garrison Dam, and Oahe Dam.

Water Control Plan

A detailed plan for operation of the reservoir system that is contained in the Master Manual.

Water Evacuation

The practice of releasing water from a lake, impoundment, or other body of water so that water does not occur in annual flood control zones. This is usually done at the beginning of each year's flood season to reduce the chances of flooding.

Wetlands

Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

ACRONYMS

\$millions/year – millions of dollars per year

Basin – Missouri River Basin

Corps – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

CWCP – Current Water Control Plan

DEIS – draft environmental impact statement

EIS – environmental impact statement

FEIS – final environmental impact statement

kcfs – thousands cubic feet per second

MAF – million acre-feet

MAPP – Mid-continent Area Power Pool

Master Manual – Missouri River Master Water Control Manual

NED – National Economic Development

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

RM – river mile