



Tribal Resources

This Fact Sheet provides a brief overview of a specific topic important to the Master Water Control Manual Review and Update Study process. Information contained in this Fact Sheet is summarized from technical reports and the preliminary Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Summary

The Missouri River is an important cultural, ecological and economic resource to the 28 Tribes in the basin. The Tribes, tribal members and the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition have expressed concerns that Tribal issues should be given more specific consideration in the Master Water Control Manual Review and Update Study (Master Manual Study). The Tribal Appendix to the preliminary RDEIS provides a chronological record of Master Manual Study comments submitted to date. These comments address the following topics: recognition of Indian water rights, impacts to water supply and water quality, environmental degradation, hydropower benefits, impacts to cultural resources, lack of consultation on a government-to-government basis, and trust responsibilities. The livelihood and quality of life of Tribes residing in the basin are affected directly and indirectly by Mainstem Reservoir System operations.

Existing Environment

There are twenty-eight Tribes located within the Missouri River basin. Thirteen Indian reservations are located directly on the Mainstem Reservoir System and the Lower River, while others are dispersed within tributary stream basins.

The Missouri River basin tribes located in Montana include the Blackfeet Tribe on the Blackfeet Reservation, the Chippewa-Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys Reservation, the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes located on the Fort Belknap Reservation, the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, the Crow Tribe of the Crow Reservation, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho occupy the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming.

The Fort Berthold Reservation, home of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara) is segmented by Lake Sakakawea in west central North Dakota. Other tribes located in North Dakota, but outside the Missouri River drainage basin include the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe straddles the North Dakota/South Dakota State line along the western shore of Lake Oahe. The middle basin of the Missouri River in South Dakota is also home to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on the western shore of Lake Oahe, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe on the western shore of Lake Sharpe, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe on the eastern shore of Lake Sharpe and the Yankton Sioux Tribe along the eastern shore of Lake Francis Case. The Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Reservation are located west of the Missouri River while the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribes and Flandreau are located to the east of the Missouri River.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Santee Sioux Tribe are located along the southern shore of Lewis and Clark Lake. The lower basin Tribes include the Winnebago Tribe and Omaha Tribe both located along the banks of the Missouri River in southeastern Nebraska and western Iowa. The Iowa Indian Reservation is located on the western shore of the Missouri River, split evenly in southeastern Nebraska and northeastern Kansas. The Sac and Fox Indian Reservation lies in northeastern Kansas, as do the reservations of the Kickapoo Tribe and the Prairie Band of Potawatomi.



Comparison of the Alternatives

Changes in storage regimes and river flows could potentially lead to changes in sedimentation and erosion patterns which could affect storage and channel capacities, shoreline erosion, historic properties, water quality, water supply, recreation areas and flooding potential in affected areas. The eight representative alternatives have different effects on several important economic uses and environmental resources and are analyzed and presented in the Study documents. The relative importance of the impacts to these resources and uses may vary among the Tribes in the basin. For example, while alternative C44 has the

greatest adverse impacts on historic properties compared with the CWCP, it provides a positive effect on recreation, coldwater fish habitat in lakes, and water supply. Alternatives C18 and M66 have the least impacts on historic properties relative to the CWCP. In consultation with the Tribes, the Corps strives to gain a better understanding of what alternative or combination of alternatives may best meet all of the needs of the Tribes in the basin.

Tribal Reservations on the Missouri River

