

## **Notice of the Third Meeting of The Plenary Group and Public Workshop to develop A Proposal for a Spring Rise on the Missouri River**

The public is invited to attend a meeting on the development of a proposal for the criteria for a “Spring Rise” from Gavins Point Dam on the Missouri River. The third and final Missouri River Spring Rise Plenary Group meeting will be held July 26-28 at the National Park Service Mid-West Regional Office, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, Nebraska. The Plenary Group session on the first day, July 26, will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The group will meet on the second day, July 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On the third day, July 28, the Plenary Group will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Plenary Group meeting will focus on the proposal options for a Spring Rise and include comment periods for the public to provide input to the Plenary Group. It will also include reports from the Hydrology and Water Quality; Pallid Sturgeon/Fish and Wildlife; Historic, Cultural and Burial Sites; and the Socio-Economic Technical Working Groups. These four working groups will meet on July 20-21, prior to the third Plenary Group meeting, to complete their work.

On the second day of the Plenary Group meeting, July 27, a Public Workshop session will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The workshop will provide a forum where members of the public will have the opportunity to provide input, ask questions, and interact with members of the Plenary Group and Technical Working Groups. Workshop participants will be able to provide feedback on the Spring Rise proposal options.

A Spring Rise is a significant increase in flows in the early part of a water year that are generally designed to accomplish specific goals, some of which include shifting sedimentation to create new channels, pools, sandbars, and islands, which provide habitat for the Pallid Sturgeon; providing and transporting nutrients; and eliminating problematic plant life on river banks. A Spring Rise would be undertaken to comply with the 2003 Amended Biological Opinion published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”), and in an operating partnership on this effort by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the FWS.

The Missouri River Spring Rise Plenary Group is the central deliberating body of basin stakeholders for building a process to develop a Spring Rise proposal to be submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers by August and implementation in March 2006. The group is made up of approximately 50 representatives of federal agencies, tribes, states, and a wide range of interest groups. The goal of the planning effort is to involve basin stakeholders in the development of a proposal that complies with the Biological Opinion of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, while limiting negative effects on both upstream and downstream river users. The Plenary Group’s first meeting was held June 1-2 in St. Joseph, Missouri. Its second meeting was held June 29-30 in Bismarck, North Dakota.

All meetings will be facilitated by a team assembled and managed by CDR Associates, an independent collaborative decision making and conflict management firm, which is a contractor of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. Information on the Spring Rise process is available at:

<http://missouririver.ecr.gov>