

MRRIC Newsletter



See Page 3 for Important Dates!

Planning Group to Develop MRRIC Charter

In response to feedback from basin, four ways to participate now available

Basin Feedback Improves Approach

The feedback provided by many thoughtful commenters on the previous Proposed Framework proved to be extremely helpful and valuable to the Federal Working Group (FWG, see page 4) in improving the approach for establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC).

The Planning Group process will be led by two co-chairs, chosen for their integrity and expertise in helping others develop collaborative solutions. See Page 3 for biographical sketches of the co-chairs.

Broadly Representative Planning Group

A broadly representative Missouri River Recovery Planning Group process will be convened to recommend a consensus-based initial Charter for MRRIC. The Charter will articulate important aspects of MRRIC that will be used to focus and guide its direction and operation.

Four Ways to Participate

The Planning Group process will provide four different ways for interested nongovernmental stakeholders, states, local governments, tribal governments, federal agencies, and the public to participate. These include participating on the Drafting Team, the Review Panel, in Public Workshops, or through submitting Public Comments. Each way of participating has associated with it different time requirements and degrees of commitment to working collaboratively with others to build consensus-based solutions.

Drafting Team

Participation on the Drafting Team will require the greatest time commitment, as well as the greatest personal commitment to working collaboratively with others. As its name implies, the Drafting Team will work together in developing the initial recommended Charter for MRRIC. Drafting Team members will be required to meet monthly, participate in frequent conference calls, and communicate continuously through e-mail or other means.

Review Panel

Participation on the Review Panel will provide an opportunity for those with a strong interest in the development of MRRIC to have a significant role in determining the final recommendations of the Planning Group, without having to make as substantial a time commitment as with the Drafting Team. Participation on the Review Panel may be an appropriate opportunity for those who want to ensure that their most important interests are not jeopardized by the final recommended Charter, but

All Meetings Open to the Public

All meetings of the Drafting Team and Review Panel will be announced and open to the public for observation. An opportunity will be provided at each meeting for public comment.

Basin Tribal Chairmen and State Governors will be asked to designate their personal representatives to engage in the Planning Group process at their desired level of participation.

Public Workshops

Participation in Public Workshops will provide an opportunity for others with a strong interest in MRRIC to have a meaningful voice in helping to shape the Planning Group's final recommendations on the Charter for MRRIC. They will be able to accomplish this with the more limited, but still not insignificant, time commitment involved in attending a half-day workshop held in their geographic region of the basin.

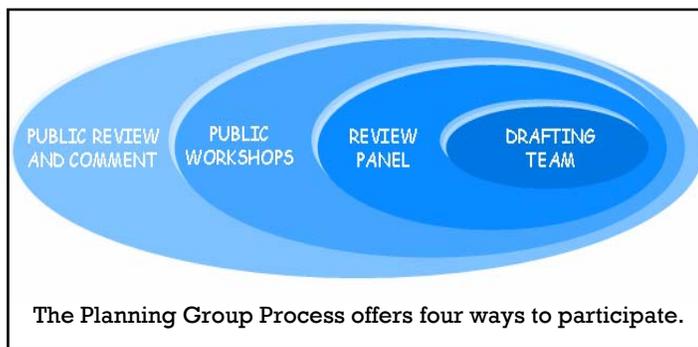
Tribal Outreach

Focused outreach efforts will be made to ensure that non-participating tribes are kept informed of the process and have the opportunity to request further consultation with the federal government consistent with their status as

sovereign governments.

Public Review and Comment

Finally, in-person, email, and web-based outreach efforts will strive to keep all interested members of the public informed about the Planning Group process and the development of an initial recommended Charter for MRRIC. A formal opportunity will be provided for public review and comment on the proposed Charter for MRRIC.



who cannot necessarily devote the considerable time needed to work collaboratively with others in developing joint solutions.

To obtain an application package to be considered for either the Drafting Team or the Review Panel, please contact Pat Lewis at the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, by phone at (520) 901-8538, or e-mail lewis@ecr.gov.

Featured Federal Agency

Bureau of Reclamation

Established by Congress in 1902, the Bureau of Reclamation (<http://www.usbr.gov/>) is best known for the dams, powerplants, and canals it built in the 17 western states. These water projects promoted sustainable economic development and settlement of the West. As they were built, the projects routinely set world records and were recognized for their innovative use of materials and technology. Reclamation has constructed more than 600 dams and reservoirs and 58 powerplants including 34 dams and 17 powerplants on the Missouri River and its tributaries.

Today, Reclamation is the largest wholesaler of water in the country, serving more than 31 million people and providing one out of five Western farmers with irrigation water. The 10

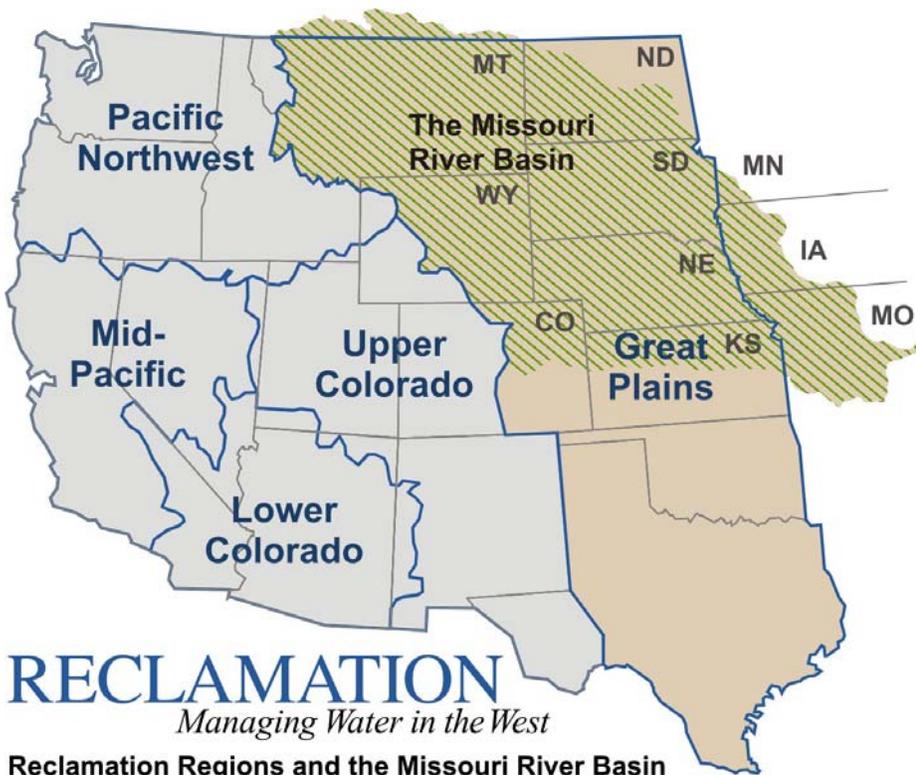
million acres of farmland produces 60% of the nation's vegetables and 25% of its fruits and nuts.

Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States, providing an average of more than 40 billion kilowatt hours each year that serves 6 million homes. The power is marketed by the Bonneville Power Administration and the Western Area Power Administration. Most of Reclamation's irrigation and power projects in the Missouri River Basin were built under the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, which was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944. This legislation was the outgrowth of a request by Congress that Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers combine separate

planning efforts into a comprehensive program for water development throughout the basin.

Beginning in the 1980's several bills were also passed by Congress authorizing Reclamation to design and build water systems that serve rural areas and small communities in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. Some of these rural water projects use water from the Missouri River. Once built, most of them are owned, operated and maintained by local entities.

Reclamation facilities in the basin are managed from a regional office in Billings, Montana, and area offices in Billings; Bismarck, North Dakota; Mills, Wyoming; Loveland, Colorado; and Grand Island, Nebraska.



Plan to Attend

2nd National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

April 22-27, 2007
Hyatt Regency
Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri



<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ncer2007/>

Planning Group Process to be Led by Co-Chairs

The Planning Group process will be led by two Co-Chairs selected by the federal executives of the Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable for their integrity, nonaligned status on Missouri River issues, and their expertise in leading collaborative efforts aimed at developing pragmatic consensus-based solutions in situations with competing interests. The Co-Chairs will be providing assistance to the Planning Group process on an independent basis through the auspices of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. Ms. Cheryl Chapman and Mr. John Thorson have been selected to lead the Planning Group Process.

commercial strategic planning and implementation.

As former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environmental, Ms. Chapman assumed a leadership role in positively integrating environmental planning as a key element of force structure, infrastructure and personnel decision making, working closely with other Federal agencies and states.



cases, adjudicatory matters, and alternative dispute resolution. For a decade, Thorson was Special Master for Arizona's general stream adjudications. He has consulted on water

law issues concerning the Missouri River, Colorado River, Columbia River, San Francisco Bay-Delta, Rio Grande, Red River of the North, Mackenzie River, Big Horn River, among others. Thorson also served as counsel for the Western Governors' Conference and Executive Director, Conference of Western Attorneys General.

From New Mexico, Thorson received his law degree from Boalt Hall, University of California at Berkeley, where he was an editor of the *California Law Review*, and his doctorate in public administration from the University of Southern California (USC). He is a member of the bars of four states and the U.S. Supreme Court bar.

Thorson has served as Chair of the Water Resources Committee and Publications Officer of the ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. He is also co-founder/co-convenor of *Dividing the Waters*, a project for judges involved in complex water litigation.

Thorson has authored or co-authored four books and over fifty articles. He teaches as adjunct faculty at the University of San Francisco School of Law and USC. He served on the Managing the Columbia River Committee of the National Research Council/National Academies of Science.

Thorson's work on the Missouri River does not reflect the opinion of the CPUC.



CHERYL CHAPMAN, P.E.

Cheryl Chapman has over 28 years in the environmental field, holding top management and leadership positions in both the private and government sectors. Ms. Chapman's experience as an engineer, corporate director, elected official and public administrator brings together diverse capabilities and perspectives, which are essential in bringing resolution to challenging projects.

As President of MATRIX Consulting Group, Ms. Chapman provides corporate leadership in environmental programs, including assessment, design, quality assurance, and resource management. Her environmental specialization is the National Environmental Policy Act and its application. She is a Board member and associate of the Spectrum Group of Washington, DC, helping clients with governmental and

Ms. Chapman served as a Pennington County Commissioner for two terms. She founded her own engineering firm, which later merged with one of the country's top 500 engineering and architectural firms, serving as its first female partner.

Ms. Chapman holds B.S. degrees in Civil Engineering and Mathematics from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Ms. Chapman is currently working on a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences with an emphasis on the National Environmental Policy Act at South Dakota State University.



JOHN E. THORSON

John Thorson is Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in San Francisco concentrating on water

Save These Dates!

- ◆ First Meeting of the Drafting Team
March 28 & 29, 2007, Omaha, NE
- ◆ First Joint Meeting of the Drafting Team and Review Panel
April 23—27, 2007, Kansas City, MO (*in conjunction with the 2nd National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration, see box at left*)





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Northwestern Division—Mary Roth
12565 W. Center Road Phone: 402-697-2659
Omaha, NE 68144-3869 Fax: 402-697-2504
Web: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/mrric.html>



Bureau of Indian Affairs

Great Plains Region—Darin Larson
Federal Building
115 4th Avenue S.E. Phone: 605-226-7621
Aberdeen, SD 57401 Fax: 605-226-7358



Bureau of Reclamation

Great Plains Region—Mike Collins
316 N. 26th Street Phone: 406-247-7730
Billings, MT 59101 Fax: 406-247-7680
Web: <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/>



Federal Highway Administration

FHWA Resource Center—Don Cote
12300 W. Dakota Ave. Phone: 720-963-3210
Suite 340 Fax: 720-963-3232
Lakewood, CO 80228
Web: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>



Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Region 8—Jim Berkley
999 18th Street, Suite 300 Phone: 303-312-7102
Denver, CO 80209 Fax: 303-312-6897
Web: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/>
EPA Region 7—Joe Cothorn
901 N. 5th Street Phone: 913-551-7148
Kansas City, KS 66101 Fax: 913-551-8752
Web: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/>



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mountain-Prairie Region 6—Heather McSharry
134 Union Blvd Phone: 303-236-4046
Lakewood, CO 80228 Fax: 303-236-0027
Web: <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/>



U.S. Geological Survey

Central Region—Michael J. Mac
Columbia Environmental Research Center
4200 New Haven Road Phone: 573-876-1900
Columbia, MO 65201 Fax: 573-876-1855
Web: <http://cerc.usgs.gov>



Maritime Administration

Mid-Centent Office—Robert Goodwin
1222 Spruce Street Phone: 314-539-6783
Suite 2.202F Fax: 314-539-6787
St. Louis, MO 63103
Web: <http://www.marad.dot.gov/>



National Park Service

Midwest Region—Sue Jennings
601 Riverfront Drive Phone: 402-661-1848
Omaha, NE 68102 Fax: 402-661-1982
Web: <http://www.nps.gov/mnrr/>



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Nebraska Office—Leroy Stokes
Federal Building Room 152
100 Centennial Mall North Phone: 402-437-4116
Lincoln, NE 68508
Web: <http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/>



Western Area Power Administration

Upper Great Plains Region—Nick Stas
P.O. Box 35800 Phone: 406-247-7405
Billings, MT 59107 Fax: 406-247-7408
Web: <http://www.wapa.gov.ugg>



With the Assistance of:

U.S. Institute for **Environmental Conflict Resolution**
Morris K. Udall Foundation

U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

Senior Program Manager—Mike Eng
130 S. Scott Avenue Phone: 520-901-8542
Tucson, AZ 85701 Fax: 520-901-8543
Web: <http://www.ecr.gov>

**MORE INFORMATION ON MRRIC AND THE PLANNING GROUP PROCESS
CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT:**

<http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/mrric.html>