

MRRIC Newsletter



Contribute to the Framework for Establishing MRRIC

Open Houses on the *Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee* will be held throughout the basin. Please attend an Open House near you!

- Bismarck, ND, Sep 19
Doublewood Inn
1400 Interchange Avenue
1-4 pm
- Pierre, SD, Sep 20
Chamber of Commerce
801 W. Dakota Avenue
4-7 pm
- Kansas City, KS, Sep 28
USEPA Region 7
901 North Fifth Street
1-4 pm
- Columbia, MO, Sep 29
USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center
Richard Schoettger Conference Building, 1-4 pm
- Omaha, NE, Oct 2
National Park Service
601 Riverfront Drive
1-4 pm
- Billings, MT Oct 5
Hampton Inn
5110 Southgate Drive
1-4 pm

The *Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee* was released for review on August 31, 2006. The *Proposed Framework* is a "starting point" from which the *Final Framework* will emerge through tribal and public participation.

The MRRIC Federal Working Group (FWG), a team of representatives from the federal agencies with programs that affect the Missouri River, has launched the *Proposed Framework* for the purpose of generating discussion within the Missouri River basin.

A key proposal in the *Framework* is the formation of a MRRIC Planning Committee, made up of representatives of the wide range of basin interests, to develop a Charter for the formal MRRIC. Recommendations for composition of, and operating protocols for, the Planning Committee are included in the *Proposed Framework*.

The idea for the Planning Committee, its composition and operating protocols are

proposals. The FWG welcomes all input and ideas to shape the *Framework* to ensure participation is accessible for all interested parties.

A series of "Open House"-type meetings (see sidebar) will be held throughout the basin to convey the key points of the *Proposed Framework* and to gather input and recommendations through tribal and public participation. This participatory process will shape the development of a *Final Framework*, but will only be successful if you join in.

The coming together of the FWG is an unprecedented cooperative effort of a wide variety of federal agencies with varying mandates. That the FWG has joined together to develop the *Proposed Framework* demonstrates the federal agencies' combined commitment to establishing an effective stakeholder collaboration committee to guide Missouri River recovery efforts.

How You Can Contribute

The *Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee* is now available at

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

Please review the framework document carefully and provide your ideas, suggestions, and feedback by e-mail to

Missouri.Water.Management@nwd02.usace.army.mil

or by fax to **402-697-2504**.

Be sure your input is received prior to October 27, 2006!

Learn more about the federal agencies that are participating in the MRRIC Federal Working Group through the Featured Federal Agency column. This is the first of a planned series of informative articles.

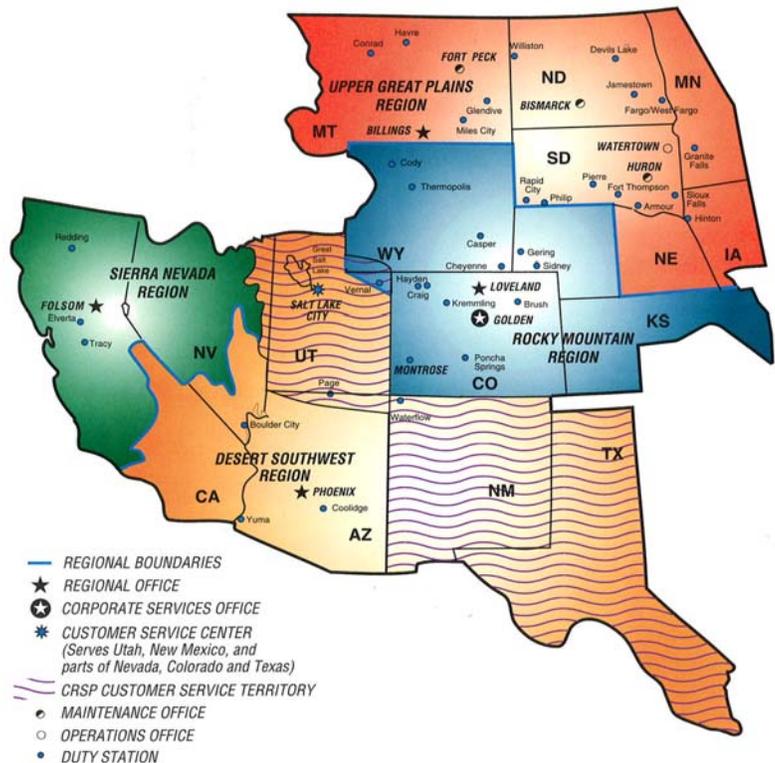
Featured Federal Agency Western Area Power Administration

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) , on the web at www.wapa.gov, was established by legislation on December 21, 1977, by the Department of Energy Organization Act. Western is one of four Power Marketing Administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy. Western markets and transmits about 10,000 megawatts of power from 56 hydropower plants that are owned and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. State Department's International Boundary and Water Commission. Western markets power in a service area that covers 1.3 million square miles in 15 states. Western's customers include municipalities, co-operations, public utility and irrigation districts, Federal and State agencies, investor owned utilities, and Native American Tribes.

Two Western regions, the Upper Great Plains Region and the Rocky Mountain Region, market power for the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program. The Upper Great Plains Region markets power from dams on the Missouri and Big Horn Rivers and sells and provides transmission for more than 10 million kWh in an average water year. Western's Upper Great Plains Region serves over 300 customers across more than 378,000 square miles with about 7,918 miles of Federal Transmission lines. The Upper Great Plains Regional office is located in Billings, Montana.



Western Area Power Administration
CUSTOMER SERVICE TERRITORIES



Federal Agency Tribal Liaisons or Native American Coordinators:

- ◆ Bureau of Indian Affairs
Darin Larson
605-226-7621
- ◆ Bureau of Reclamation
Terry Zontek
406-247-7606
- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency
Connally Mears
303-312-6343
- ◆ National Park Service
Michael Evans
651-221-1028
- ◆ Natural Resources Conservation Service
Gerry Rouse
509-323-2974
- ◆ US Army Corps of Engineers
Joel Ames Mary Lee Johns
402-221-3988 402-221-4594
- ◆ US Fish & Wildlife Service
David Redhorse
303-236-4575
- ◆ US Geological Survey
Gene Napier
605-594-6088
- ◆ Western Area Power Administration
Chad Bourson
701-391-6016

Focus on Tribal Outreach

Native American Indian tribes have a unique relationship with the federal government. All federally recognized tribes have special rights and privileges that may not be available to other interested groups. They have special legal status as “dependent sovereign nations” and, as such, have a government-to-government relationship with the federal agencies. Federal legislation provides additional protection of religious freedom rights, cultural resources (including human remains), and sacred sites.

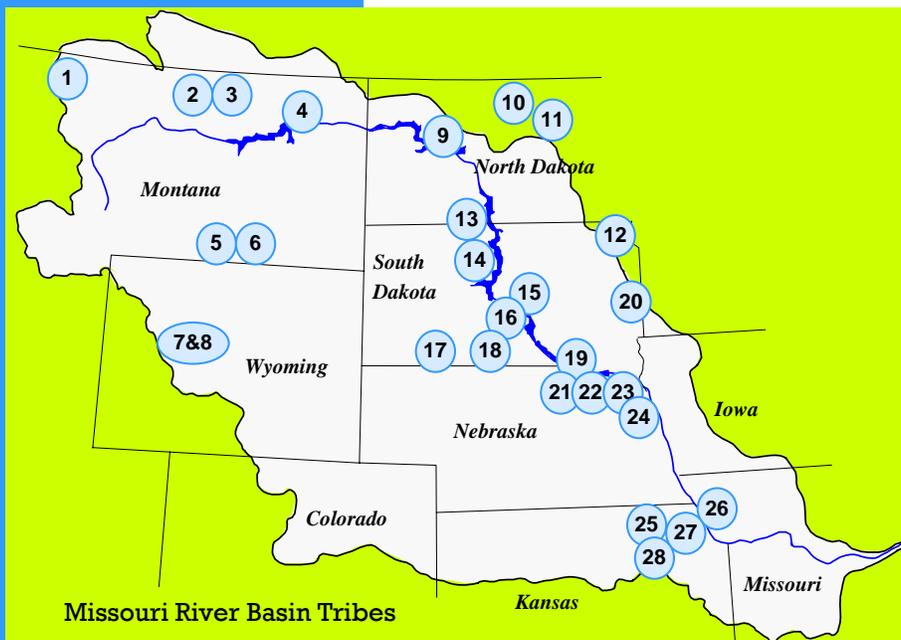
The government-to-government relationship is rooted in tribal sovereignty, dependent nation status, and the federal government’s trust responsibilities to Native American Indian tribes.

Twenty-eight Native American Indian tribes are located within the Missouri River basin. Thirteen tribal reservations or tribal lands are located directly on the mainstem reservoirs, the reaches between the dams, and along the river.

To ensure that any and all Native American

Indian tribes that wish to participate in the establishment of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) are able to do so, the Federal Working Group (FWG) brought together the Tribal Liaisons of the various federal agencies, along with a representative group of tribal members. This unprecedented cooperation of the federal agencies was organized to brainstorm a process that would provide every opportunity for the tribes to tailor the way they would like to participate in the formation of the MRRIC.

As recommended in the **Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee**, all Native American Indian tribes are encouraged to participate on the MRRIC Planning Committee. Each basin tribe has been contacted by an FWG Tribal Liaison. If the tribe requests, meetings will be held with individual tribes in the upcoming months to further explore options for participation. Contact any of the FWG Tribal Liaisons (see sidebar) for more information.



- 1 Blackfeet Tribe
- 2 Chippewa Cree Tribe
- 3 Fort Belknap Indian Community
- 4 Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck
- 5 Crow Tribe
- 6 Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- 7&8 Wind River Reservation (Eastern Shoshone & Northern Arapahoe)
- 9 Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold
- 10 Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
- 11 Spirit Lake Tribe
- 12 Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation
- 13 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- 14 Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- 15 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
- 16 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- 17 Oglala Sioux Tribe
- 18 Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- 19 Yankton Sioux Tribe
- 20 Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
- 21 Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- 22 Santee Sioux Nation
- 23 Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- 24 Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
- 25 Iowa Tribe of Kansas
- 26 Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
- 27 Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas
- 28 Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation

Federal Working Group Agencies

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/index.html>



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Missouri River Coordinator—Mike Olson

3425 Miriam Avenue Phone: 701-250-4481

Bismarck, ND 58501 Fax: 701-355-8550

Web: <http://missouririverfishandwildlife.fws.gov/>



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



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>



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/>



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/>



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/>



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

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