



News Release

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Northwestern Division
Public Affairs Office

1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Contact: Paul Johnston
(402) 995-2416
Jody Farhat
(402) 996-3840

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paul.t.johnston@usace.army.mil

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Corps cancels March Pulse; Missouri River too high

OMAHA – The pulse of water into the Missouri River scheduled this month to benefit the endangered pallid sturgeon has been cancelled.

The melt of the extensive plains snowpack in eastern South Dakota, eastern Nebraska and western Iowa has raised river levels well above the flow limits, eliminating the two-day pulse that was scheduled to begin next week.

Tributary streams in eastern South Dakota are well above flood stage and are forecast to continue climbing. The magnitude of the March pulse was to be 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) minus the flow on the James River just above its confluence with the Missouri River upstream of Sioux City. Today's flow on the James River is more than 20,000 cfs and is expected to continue to rise through the weekend.

The Missouri River is above flood stage from the Platte River in Nebraska to the Mississippi River and flows are not forecast to fall below the downstream flow limits for several weeks.

“The flow limits are safeguards to reduce or eliminate the pulse to ensure that it does not cause downstream flooding of agricultural land along the river,” said Jody Farhat, Chief of the Water Management office here. “The stream gauge information we are receiving coupled with forecasts from the National Weather Service indicate that our most prudent action is to eliminate the pulse in March.”

A pulse is also schedule to be conducted in May. River conditions will be evaluated after May 1 to make a determination on the feasibility and timing of the pulse.

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View daily and forecasted reservoir and river information on the Water Management section of the Northwestern Division homepage at <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc>