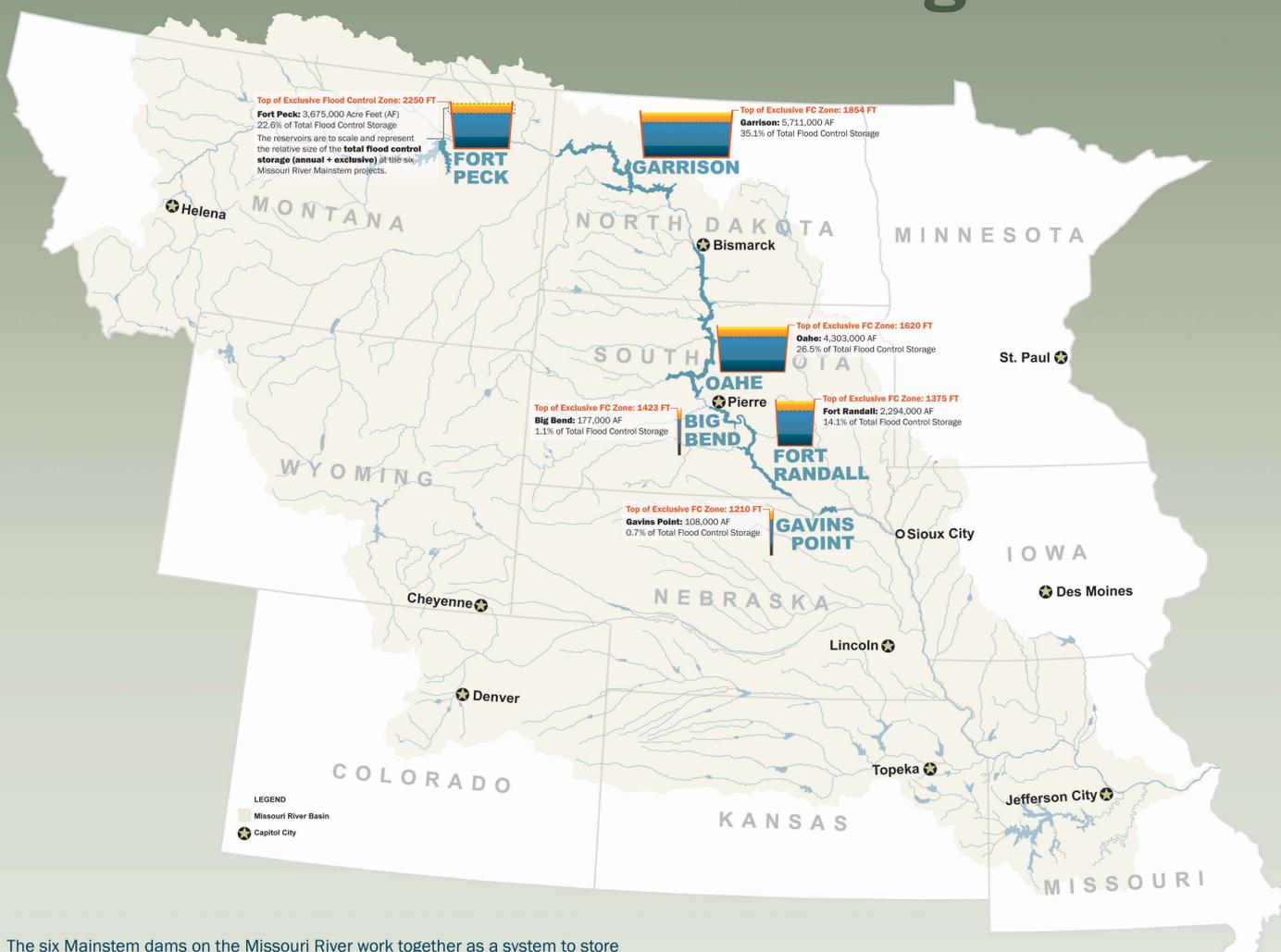




US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG

Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System

Capacity & Purpose How the Dams Work Together

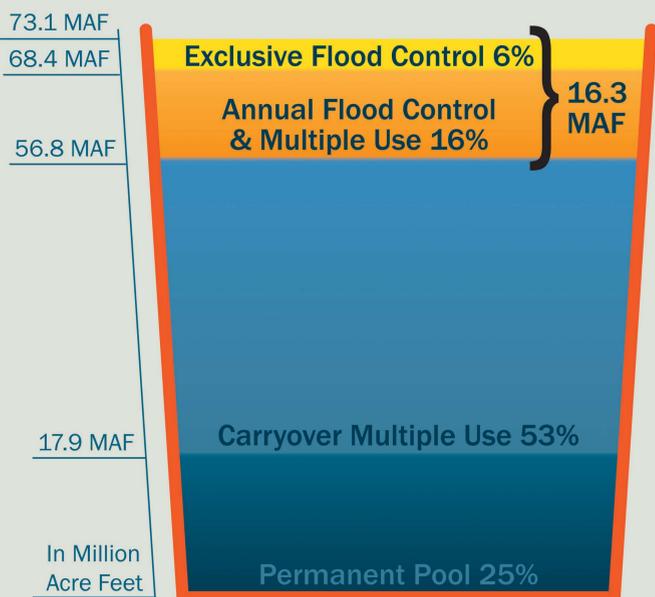


The six Mainstem dams on the Missouri River work together as a system to store water from the hundreds of tributaries that flow into the Missouri River, from mountain and plains snowmelt runoff and from rainfall. The Mainstem dams vary greatly in their storage capacity. Above you can see the dams' size relative to one another and their location in the Missouri River Basin.

The six Mainstem dams, working together as a system, are Congressionally authorized to store water for eight purposes. Storage in the reservoir system is divided into four operating zones. As a whole system, the six Mainstem dams can hold 73.1 million acre feet of water.

To prepare for the next runoff season, the Corps must evacuate water from the flood control zones of all six dams by the end of the previous year. This means that water stored in the Fort Peck reservoir will eventually travel the length of the system, be released from Gavins Point and continue to St. Louis where the Missouri River meets the Mississippi River.

System Zones & Allocations of the Total Storage Capacity



Congressionally Authorized Purposes of the Missouri River Mainstem System

- Flood Control
- Navigation
- Irrigation
- Hydropower
- Water Quality Control
- Water Supply
- Recreation
- Fish and Wildlife

Types of Missouri River Basin Runoff: What Adds Water to the System?



Fort Peck



Garrison



Oahe



Big Bend



Fort Randall



Gavins Point

