

US Army Corps
of Engineers

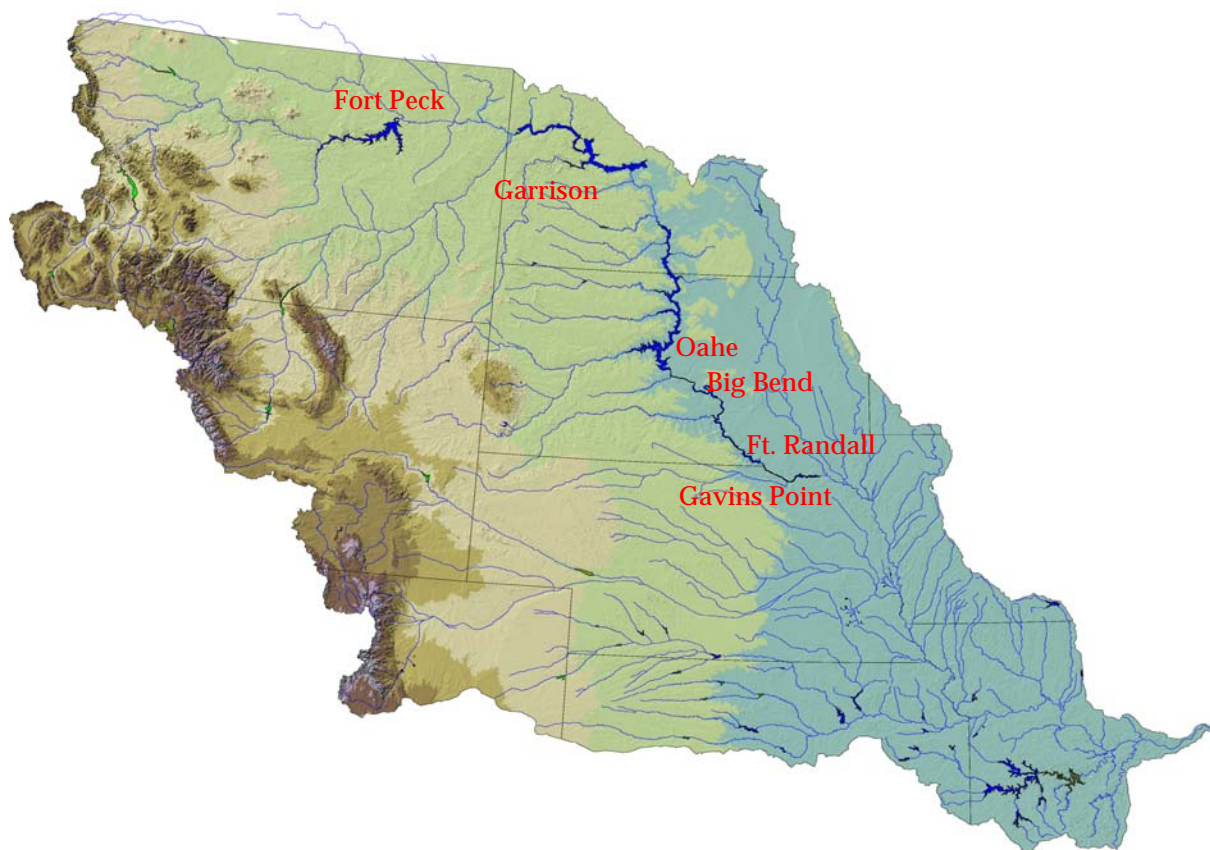
Final

AOP

2011-2012

*Northwestern Division
Missouri River Basin
Water Management Division*

*Missouri River Mainstem System
2011-2012 Annual Operating Plan*



*Annual Operating Plan Process
59 Years Serving the Missouri River Basin*

January 2012



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION
PO BOX 2870
PORTLAND OR 97208-2870

JAN 4 2012

Division Commander

Dear Stakeholders and Concerned Citizens:

The historic Missouri River Flood of 2011 has severely impacted many communities, homeowners, farmers and businesses. As we move forward in 2012, the Corps of Engineers (Corps) is committed to working with other agencies and stakeholders to best prepare the system for the 2012 runoff season and reduce flood risk throughout the Basin. The operation of the reservoir system must be based on good data, science and engineering, and with consideration of ongoing critical repairs, other downstream impacts as well as the other authorized purposes. The recently released report of the independent external review panel provided recommendations to improve the operation of the reservoir system, some of which will be implemented and others that will require further analysis for possible future implementation, subject to the availability of funding.

This Annual Operating Plan (AOP) presents pertinent information and plans for the regulation of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System through December 2012 under widely varying water supply conditions. The AOP is not intended to be a forecast for the coming year; rather it examines a range of potential runoff scenarios which span 80 percent of the historic record. The AOP provides a framework for the development of detailed monthly, weekly, and daily regulation schedules for the mainstem reservoir system's six individual dams during the upcoming year to serve its eight Congressionally-authorized project purposes. Actual real-time regulation of the system is done using the best information and tools available and is adjusted to respond to changing conditions on the ground.

A draft of this AOP was made available to the public in September 2011. Eight public meetings and workshops were held across the basin in late October and early November. As a result of input received at the meetings, a more flexible posture was adopted as 2011 flood water was evacuated from the dams in late fall and early winter. We are committed to maintaining an aggressive release schedule throughout the winter and spring if it appears that 2012 will be another high runoff year. In addition, the Corps will communicate more frequently and more broadly as the 2012 season unfolds. Twice monthly conference calls will be conducted to continue coordination with Federal, state, county and local officials, Tribes, emergency management officials, independent experts and the press to discuss conditions on the ground and current Corps' reservoir release plans and forecasts.

We realize that the benefits provided by the reservoir system are vitally important to the Nation and the people who live and work in the Basin. Flood control is our primary focus; the system is vulnerable in its present state and time is short to effect repairs. The Corps' top priority is to reduce flood risk by repairing the components of the flood risk management system to the extent possible against the constraints of time, weather and funding, and to ensure the reservoir system is ready for the 2012 runoff season. We believe the plan outlined in this report will result in appropriate balance of benefits and risks provided to all of the people who rely on the reservoir system. Thank you for your interest in the regulation of the mainstem reservoir system.

Sincerely,

John R. McMahon
Brigadier General, US Army
Division Commander

MISSOURI RIVER MAINSTEM RESERVOIR SYSTEM

Annual Operating Plan 2011 - 2012

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ABBREVIATIONS

AOP	- annual operating plan
ACHP	- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AF	- acre-feet
B	- Billion
BiOp	- Biological Opinion
BOR	- Bureau of Reclamation
cfs	- cubic feet per second
Corps	- Corps of Engineers
CY	- calendar year (January 1 to December 31)
elev	- elevation
ESA	- Endangered Species Act
ft	- feet
FTT	- Flow-to-Target
FY	- fiscal year (October 1 to September 30)
GWh	- gigawatt hour
ISAP	- Independent Science Advisory Panel
KAF	- 1,000 acre-feet
kcfs	- 1,000 cubic feet per second
kW	- kilowatt
kWh	- kilowatt hour
MAF	- million acre-feet
MRNRC	- Missouri River Natural Resources Committee
msl	- mean sea level
MW	- megawatt
MWh	- megawatt hour
NEPA	- National Environmental Policy Act
plover	- piping plover
PA	- Programmatic Agreement
P-S MBP	- Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program
RCC	- Reservoir Control Center
RM	- river mile
RPA	- Reasonable and Prudent Alternative
SHPO	- State Historic Preservation Officers
SR	- Steady Release
System	- Missouri River Mainstem System
tern	- interior least tern
T&E	- Threatened and Endangered
THPO	- Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
USFWS	- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WY	- water year
yr	- year

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Acre-foot (AF, ac-ft) is the quantity of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot and is equivalent to 43,560 cubic feet or 325,850 gallons.

Cubic foot per second (cfs) is the rate of discharge representing a volume of 1 cubic foot passing a given point during 1 second and is equivalent to approximately 7.48 gallons per second or 448.8 gallons per minute. The volume of water represented by a flow of 1 cubic foot per second for 24 hours is equivalent to 86,400 cubic feet, approximately 1.983 acre-feet, or 646,272 gallons.

Discharge is the volume of water (or more broadly, volume of fluid plus suspended sediment) that passes a given point within a given period of time.

Drainage area of a stream at a specific location is that area, measured in a horizontal plane, enclosed by a topographic divide from which direct surface runoff from precipitation normally drains by gravity into the river above the specified point. Figures of drainage area given herein include all closed basins, or noncontributing areas, within the area unless otherwise noted.

Drainage basin is a part of the surface of the earth that is occupied by drainage system, which consists of a surface stream or body of impounded surface water together with all tributary surface streams and bodies of impounded water.

Gaging station is a particular site on a stream, canal, lake, or reservoir where systematic observations of hydrologic data are obtained.

Runoff in inches shows the depth to which the drainage area would be covered if all the runoff for a given time period were uniformly distributed on it.

Streamflow is the discharge that occurs in a natural channel. Although the term "discharge" can be applied to the flow of a canal, the word "streamflow" uniquely describes the discharge in a surface stream course. The term "streamflow" is more general than "runoff" as streamflow may be applied to discharge whether or not it is affected by diversion or regulation.

MISSOURI RIVER MAINSTEM RESERVOIR SYSTEM

Annual Operating Plan 2011 - 2012

I. FOREWORD

The historic flood of 2011 was unprecedented in both magnitude and duration and has severely impacted many communities, homeowners, farmers and businesses in the Missouri River basin. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is committed to working with stakeholders throughout the region to best prepare the basin for the 2012 runoff season. Basin citizens and their elected officials have legitimately called for the preeminence of flood control. The system is vulnerable and many repairs will not be completed prior to the start of the 2012 runoff season. As a result, the Corps will maintain a flexible posture through the fall and winter as the remaining flood water is evacuated from the system. In particular, if conditions throughout the winter indicate that 2012 will be another high runoff year, the Corps will begin early evacuation of water from the system to provide additional storage to the extent that weather and downstream conditions allow. In addition, the Corps will communicate more broadly and frequently as the 2012 runoff season unfolds. Beginning in January the Corps will hold twice monthly conference calls with Federal, state, county and local officials, Tribes, emergency management officials, independent experts and the media to discuss conditions on the ground and the current release plans and forecasts. Recordings of the conference calls will be made available to the public through the Corps' website.

As part of post-flood assessment efforts, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division, enlisted the assistance of experts in meteorology, hydrology, streamflow forecasting and reservoir system operations to review, analyze and assess the Corps' operation of the six mainstem dams along the Missouri River leading up to, and during the flood of 2011. The panel began its independent review on 4 October 2011 and submitted its findings to the Corps on 19 December 2011. The report is available on the Corps' website.

The panel reviewed and assessed a number of questions, including whether water management decisions made during the flood of 2011 were appropriate and in alignment with the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System Master Water Control Manual (Master Manual), the water control plan that guides the operation of the Missouri River. The team also looked at whether the Corps could have prevented or reduced the impact of flooding by taking other management actions leading up to the flood, whether long-term regulation forecasts properly accounted for the runoff into the mainstem system, whether climate change played a role in this year's record runoff and

the role floodplain development played in the operation of the reservoir system proper to and during this year's flood event.

The panel's report also included recommendations for improvement, many of which can be implemented immediately; others may require detailed analysis and implementation could require a formal stakeholder process. In particular, the Corps has already begun to implement several of the recommendations including plans to update hydrologic studies and to review the flood control storage allocation. The Corps will also collaborate with other Federal, state and local agencies and our field offices to improve runoff forecasts, particularly as it relates to plains snowpack. This will require a collaborative effort to improve both data collection (i.e. plains snowpack water equivalent, soil moisture and frost depth) and hydrologic modeling. The Missouri River Flood Task Force may serve an excellent venue to accomplish this effort. The Corps will also improve our outreach efforts through earlier and more frequent communication including the twice monthly conference calls which are scheduled to begin in January 2012.

This Annual Operating Plan (AOP) presents pertinent information and plans for regulating the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System (System) through December 2012 under widely varying water supply conditions. It is important to note that the AOP is not intended to be a forecast for the coming year; rather it examines a range of potential runoff scenarios which span 80 percent of the historic record. There is still a 10 percent chance that runoff will be higher than shown in the AOP and a 10 percent chance that it will be lower. The studies included in the AOP provide an array of reservoir levels and releases that may be expected under the various runoff scenarios. It also indicates how the reservoir system will be regulated to serve the Congressionally authorized project purposes; to fulfill the Corps' responsibilities to Native American Tribes; and to comply with environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The AOP provides a framework for the development of detailed monthly, weekly, and daily regulation schedules for the System's six individual dams during the coming year. Actual real-time regulation of the system is done using the best information and tools available and is adjusted to respond to changing conditions on the ground. As the runoff season unfolds, there is a possibility that real-time regulation plans will indicate runoff volumes, reservoir levels and releases outside those anticipated in this report. Should that occur, the Corps will appreciably increase its communication and outreach efforts to convey that information to stakeholders throughout the basin so that other Federal, state and local agencies, Tribes, communities, and local residents can take appropriate actions.

Regulation of the system is directed by the Missouri River Basin Water Management Division, Northwestern Division, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) located in Omaha, Nebraska. A map of the Missouri River basin is shown on *Plate 1*

and the summary of engineering data for the six individual mainstem projects and System is shown on *Plate 2*.

This plan may require adjustments such as when substantial departures from expected runoff occur; to meet emergencies including short-term intrasystem adjustments to protect human health and safety, during periods of extended drought to maintain minimum river or reservoir levels to keep intakes operational, and adjustments in reservoir releases or reservoir levels to prevent loss of historic and cultural properties; or to meet the provisions of applicable laws, including the ESA. These adjustments would be made to the extent possible after evaluating impacts to all System uses, would generally be short term in nature and would continue only until the issue is resolved.

This document provides the plan for future regulation of the System. Other documents that may be of interest include the "System Description and Regulation" report dated November 2007 or the "Summary of Actual Calendar Year 2010 Regulation," dated September 2011. Both reports are currently available at the "Reports and Publications" link on our web site at: www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc, or you may contact the Missouri River Basin Water Management Division at 1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 365, Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4909, phone (402) 996-3841 for copies. The "Summary of Actual Calendar Year 2011 Regulation" will be available at the same site in late spring or early summer of 2012.

II. BACKGROUND AND AOP PROCESS

Beginning in 1953, projected System reservoir regulation for the year ahead was developed annually as a basis for advance coordination with the various interested Federal, State, and local agencies and private citizens. Also beginning in 1953, a coordinating committee was organized to make recommendations on each upcoming year's System regulation. The Coordinating Committee on Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir Operations held meetings semiannually until 1981 and provided recommendations to the Corps. In 1982, the Committee was dissolved because it did not conform to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Since 1982, to continue providing a forum for public participation, one or more open public meetings are held semiannually in the spring and fall. The fall public meetings are conducted to take public input on the Draft AOP, which typically is published in mid-September each year. The spring meetings are conducted to update the public on the current hydrologic conditions and projected System regulation for the remainder of the year as it relates to implementing the Final AOP.

Under the terms of Stipulation 18 of the March 2004 "Programmatic Agreement for the Operation and Management of the Missouri River Main Stem System for Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended" (PA) the Corps has agreed to consult/meet with the affected Tribes and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO's), State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO's), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and other parties on the Draft AOP. The purpose of this consultation/meeting is to determine whether operational changes are likely to cause changes to the nature, location or severity of adverse effects to historic properties or to the types of historic properties affected and whether amendments to the Corps Cultural Resources Management Plans and Five-Year Plan are warranted in order to better address such effects to historic properties. During 2006 the Corps worked with the affected Tribes to establish processes for consultation on AOP's under 36 CFR Part 800, the PA, and Executive Order 13175. The process consists of a series of informational meetings with the Tribes and/or government-to-government consultation with Tribes, as requested. A letter, dated September 22, 2011, was sent to the Tribes offering consultation on the 2011-2012 AOP. Meeting times and locations of the eight fall public meetings were also provided. Separate meetings will be scheduled for all Tribes requesting government-to-government consultation. All tribes, whether signatory to the PA or not, may request government-to-government consultation on this and all future AOP's. In addition, the Tribes have reserved water rights to the Missouri River and its major tributaries. In no way does this AOP attempt to define, regulate or quantify water rights or any other rights that the Tribes are entitled to by law or treaty.

The 2011 spring public meetings were held at the following locations and dates: April 12 at Nebraska City, Nebraska, and Fort Peck, Montana; April 13 at Bismarck, North Dakota and Pierre, South Dakota; April 14 at Jefferson City, Missouri and Kansas

City, Missouri. The attendees were given an update regarding the outlook for 2011 runoff and projected System regulation for the remainder of 2011. Eight fall public meetings, which included both an afternoon open house and a traditional evening public meeting, were held on the Draft 2011-2012 AOP at the following locations: October 24 in Omaha, Nebraska; October 25 in St. Joseph, Missouri; October 26 in Overland Park, Kansas; October 27 in Jefferson City, Missouri; October 31 in Glasgow, Montana; November 1 in Bismarck, North Dakota; November 2 in Pierre, South Dakota; and November 3 in Sioux City, Iowa. In the spring of 2012, public meetings will be held to discuss the basin's hydrologic conditions and the effects those conditions are expected to have on the implementation of the Final 2011-2012 AOP.

III. MAINSTEM MASTER MANUAL AND ESA CONSULTATIONS

The System is comprised of six dam and reservoir projects authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935 and the Flood Control Act of 1944. Section 9 of the 1944 Flood Control Act authorized the System to be operated for the purposes of flood control, navigation, irrigation, hydropower, water supply, water quality control, recreation and fish and wildlife. In addition, operation of the System must also comply with other applicable Federal statutory and regulatory requirements, including the ESA. The System is regulated using guidelines published in the Master Manual. The Master Manual presents the water control plan and operational objectives for the integrated regulation of the System. Annual water management plans (Annual Operating Plans) are prepared each year, based on the water control criteria contained in the Master Manual, in order to detail reservoir regulation of the System for the current operating year.

First published in 1960 and subsequently revised during the 1970s, the Master Manual was revised in March 2004 to include more stringent drought conservation measures. The 2003 Amendment to the 2000 Biological Opinion (2003 Amended BiOp) presented the USFWS' opinion that the regulation of the System would jeopardize the continued existence of the endangered pallid sturgeon. The USFWS provided a Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) to avoid jeopardy to the pallid sturgeon that included a provision for the Corps to develop a plan to implement a bimodal 'spring pulse' from Gavins Point Dam. Working with the USFWS, Tribes, states and basin stakeholders, the Corps developed technical criteria for the bimodal spring pulse releases. In March 2006 the Master Manual was revised to include technical criteria for a spring pulse. Neither the 2004 nor the 2006 revisions to the Master Manual changed the volume of storage in the system reserved for flood risk reduction or the manner in which it is regulated. The Corps does not store water in the reservoirs specifically for the endangered species and the Master Manual storage allocations were not altered to facilitate the spring pulses. In years when water is released for endangered species, reservoir storage levels are not adjusted.

Current regulation of the System in accordance with the Master Manual to serve authorized project purposes is dependent on successful implementation of the 2003 Amended BiOp. Implementation of the RPA elements is accomplished through the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) which includes the following elements: habitat construction including emergent sandbar habitat and shallow water habitat, flow modifications, propagation/hatchery support, research, monitoring and evaluation, and adaptive management. Simply put, the Corps must comply with environmental laws including the ESA, and the MRRP is the vehicle used to accomplish this. This AOP identifies flow modifications at Garrison, Fort Randall and Gavins Point for the benefit of the interior least tern and the piping plover while maintaining flood control and navigation as primary authorized purposes.

The 2011 flood event was unprecedented in both magnitude and duration along much of Missouri River resulting in significant damage to the projects, levees and other infrastructure. The Corps is in the initial phases of inspection, repair and restoration of this important infrastructure and it is unlikely that all repairs will be completed prior to the 2012 runoff season.

In addition, although a full assessment cannot be completed until the water levels recede, it is likely that the flood has also had a significant impact on the Missouri River ecosystem including emergent sandbar habitat utilized by the terns and plovers, and riverine habitat utilized by the pallid sturgeon. We expect emergent sandbar habitat to be abundant next year, as it was following the 1997 flood event; however riverine habitat impacts are generally unknown at this time. The river experienced a natural rise of near historic proportions in 2011, therefore we believe the efforts of the Missouri River Recovery Program should be focused on capturing the impact of the historic flood event rather than monitoring and analyzing a much smaller managed spring pulse in 2012.

Based on discussions with the USFWS regarding the above factors, and the ongoing review of the Gavins Point spring pulse by the Independent Science Advisory Panel (ISAP) which may inform the future direction of the spring pulse, this AOP does not include spring pulses from Gavins Point dam.

With regard to summer releases to minimize take of the interior least tern and piping plover, based on the historic runoff experienced this year, we anticipate an abundance of high, secure nesting habitat for the two bird species. This expectation is based on the observed habitat following the previous runoff of record in 1997. The proposed summer release pattern to be included in the AOP will be a steady release or a steady release flow-to-target pattern provided nests are at a sufficient elevation so as not to be inundated.

The Corps will continue to work closely with the USFWS to ensure the AOP will meet the intent of the 2003 Amended BiOp and result in management actions that support the continued existence of these species on the river.

Additional information on other efforts undertaken through the Missouri River Recovery Program to meet the requirements of the 2003 Amended BiOp can be found in the Annual Report on the Biological Opinion which can be found on the "MRRP Documents" page of the Recovery Program website at: www.moriverrecovery.org.

IV. FUTURE RUNOFF: AUGUST 2011 - DECEMBER 2012

Runoff into the six System reservoirs is typically low and relatively stable during the August-to-February period. The August 1 calendar year runoff forecast is normally used as input to the Basic reservoir regulation simulation in the AOP studies for the period August 2011 to February 2012. Due to the on-going flood evacuation and much higher than normal August runoff, this year's AOP studies use the September 1 calendar year runoff forecast as input to the Basic simulation. The September 1 runoff forecast for 2011 was 61.0 million acre-feet (MAF). Two other runoff scenarios based on the September 1 runoff forecast were developed for the same period. These are the Upper Basic and Lower Basic simulations, which are based on 120 percent and 80 percent of the September through February runoff forecast, respectively.

Simulations for the March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013 time period use five statistically derived inflow scenarios based on an analysis of historic water supply. The report detailing the development of these inflow scenarios was updated in July 2008 to include 9 additional years of inflow data that now extends from 1898 to 2006. This report will be updated during 2012 to include runoff data from 2007 through 2011. The updated analysis will incorporate the current series of wet years including 2010, which was the fourth wettest year on record, and 2011, which was the wettest year on record. Using statistically derived inflow scenarios for the AOP provides a good range of simulation for dry, average, and wet conditions, and eliminates the need to forecast future precipitation months in advance, which is very difficult. In contrast, real-time regulation of the System is based on all available and relevant hydrometeorological information including, but not limited to observed runoff volumes, National Weather Service short and long-range outlooks, plains and mountain snowpack data, observed base flows, soil moisture and frost depths.

The five statistically derived inflows used in the AOP are identified as the Upper Decile, Upper Quartile, Median, Lower Quartile and Lower Decile runoff conditions. Upper Decile runoff (34.3 MAF) has a 1 in 10 chance of being exceeded, Upper Quartile (30.3 MAF) has a 1 in 4 chance of being exceeded, and Median (24.4 MAF) has a 1 in 2 chance of being exceeded. Lower Quartile runoff (19.3 MAF) has a 1 in 4 chance of the

occurrence of less runoff, and Lower Decile (16.2 MAF) has a 1 in 10 chance of the occurrence of less runoff. There is still a 20 percent chance that a runoff condition may occur that has not been simulated; i.e., a 10 percent chance runoff could be lower than Lower Decile and a 10 percent chance runoff could be greater than Upper Decile.

The Upper Decile and Upper Quartile simulations extend from the end of the Upper Basic simulation through February 2013. Likewise, the Median simulation extends from the end of the Basic simulation, and the Lower Quartile and Lower Decile simulations extend from the end of the Lower Basic simulation through February 2013.

The estimated natural flow at Sioux City, the corresponding post-1949 water use effects, and the net flow available above Sioux City are shown in *Table I*, where water supply conditions are quantified for the period September 2011 through February 2013. The natural water supply for calendar year (CY) 2010 totaled 38.7 MAF.

TABLE I
NATURAL AND NET RUNOFF AT SIOUX CITY
(Volumes in 1,000 Acre-Feet)

	<u>Natural</u> ^{1/}	<u>Post-1949 Depletions</u>	<u>Net</u> ^{2/}
September 2011 through February 2012 (Basic Runoff Scenario)			
Basic	7,300	1,400	8,700
Upper Basic (120%)	8,800	1,400	10,200
Lower Basic (80%)	5,800	1,400	7,200
Runoff Year March 2012 through February 2013 (Statistical Analysis of Past Records)			
Upper Decile	34,300	-2,500	31,800
Upper Quartile	30,300	-2,500	27,800
Median	24,400	-2,600	21,800
Lower Quartile	19,300	-2,500	16,800
Lower Decile	16,200	-2,400	13,800

^{1/} The word “Natural” is used to designate runoff adjusted to the 1949 level of basin development, except that regulation and evaporation effects of the Fort Peck reservoir have also been eliminated during its period of regulation prior to 1949.

^{2/} The word “Net” represents the total runoff after deduction of the post-1949 irrigation, upstream storage, and other use effects.

V. ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN FOR 2011-2012

A. General. The Missouri River basin experienced a historic flood in 2011 with record runoff into the reservoir system, currently forecast to total 60.8 million acre-feet (MAF). Record pool elevations were set at three projects: Fort Peck, Oahe and Fort Randall; surcharge storage was utilized at Fort Peck and Garrison; spillways at Garrison and Big Bend that had never been used before were opened, and releases from all projects reached rates more than twice the previous records with catastrophic results from Montana to Missouri. The flood caused widespread damages from Montana to Missouri and caused many to question the validity of the Master Manual with regard to flood control. A risk analysis was conducted to determine the best way to prepare the basin for the 2012 runoff season. A number of options were considered, including several that provided more than 16.3 MAF of flood control storage as called for in the Master Manual. The selected drawdown strategy was designed to evacuate stored flood water as quickly as possible to allow people to get back into their homes, farms and businesses to begin the process of recovery, and to allow inspection and repair of infrastructure including the dams and levees to ensure they are ready for the 2012 season. Due to the risk imposed by the sustained high releases necessary to provide additional flood control storage, and the associated delay in the recovery process, the selected plan does not draw down system storage below the base of the Annual Flood Control and Multiple Use zone. However, a more flexible posture will be taken as water is evacuated during the fall and early winter, and if it appears that 2012 will be another high runoff year the corps will aggressively release water during the winter and spring as weather permits and repair work allows. This year's decision does not preclude changes in flood control storage in the future. The Corps will conduct an extensive review to assess the operation of the reservoir system, its effects, and where improvements or adjustments may be warranted. Given the 2011 record runoff, and the fact that this record runoff exceeded the design capacity of the system by over 20 percent, the Corps will conduct an analysis to determine how additional flood control storage may improve flood risk reduction for storms greater than the current design storm, including runoff volumes equal to and greater than the 2011 event. The study is intended to inform the path forward and will include a limited investigation of the potential impacts on other authorized purposes if such a change was made. Given the complexity of the issue and impacts on other authorized purposes, further studies might be recommended. This and other information, such as results of the external peer review of the 2011 system operation and a lower basin coincident frequency analysis, will be used to determine whether a Master Manual revision and/or reallocation study should be considered.

The anticipated regulation described in this AOP is designed to meet the regulation objectives presented in the current Master Manual. While some aspects of System and individual project regulation are clearly defined by technical criteria in the Master Manual, for example navigation service level and season length, others such as

minimum releases for irrigation and water supply in the reaches between the reservoirs are based on regulation experience and will be adjusted as needed to respond to changing conditions. Consideration has been given to all of the authorized project purposes, to historic and cultural resources and to the needs of threatened and endangered (T&E) species. The “System Description and Regulation” report provides a concise summary of the primary aspects of System regulation and should be referred to for further information. For ease of use, a summary of the frequently used technical criteria included in the Master Manual is presented on *Plate 3*.

The plan relies on a wealth of regulation experience. Reservoir regulation experience available for preparation of the 2011-2012 AOP includes 13 years of regulation at Fort Peck (1940) as the sole Mainstem project, plus 58 years of System experience as Fort Randall (1953), Garrison (1955), Gavins Point (1955), Oahe (1962), and Big Bend (1964) were brought progressively into System regulation. This regulation experience includes lessons learned during two major droughts of six and eight years (1987-1992 and 2000-2007) that have occurred since the System filled in 1967. It also includes the high runoff period from 1993 - 1999 during which five of the seven years experienced runoff greater than Upper Quartile including the previous record runoff of 49.0 MAF in 1997, and the record runoff of 2011, forecast to be 60.8 MAF. In addition to the long period of actual System reservoir regulation experience, many background regulation studies for the completed System are available for reference.

B. 2011-2012 AOP Simulations. AOP simulations for the five runoff scenarios are shown in the final section of this AOP as studies 4 through 8. As previously stated, the simulations use five statistically derived runoff scenarios and reflect 80 percent of the historic annual runoff volumes (between Upper and Lower Decile). The simulations provide information for planning purposes on a range of future reservoir levels and release rates, and are not meant to represent a particular forecast. The simulations shown use a monthly time-step, and thus do not provide the level of detail necessary to address specific flood control regulations. Detailed routing of specific flood flows is accomplished using forecast models which incorporate real time information including observed and forecasted precipitation, and these situations are handled individually during real-time regulation.

The AOP studies, in summary, provide the following: the full flood control capacity of the reservoir system will be available at the start of the runoff season and use of the exclusive flood control zone is not anticipated under any of the five runoff scenarios covered in the AOP; full service flow support throughout a full length navigation season under all runoff scenarios; lower than normal winter releases for Lower Quartile and Lower Decile runoff, normal winter releases under Median runoff, and above normal winter releases for Upper Decile and Upper Quartile runoff; a steady release-flow to target regulation during the tern and plover nesting season for Median and

below runoff and nearly steady releases for Upper Quartile and Upper Decile runoff though flood water evacuation is required; emphasis on Fort Peck and Oahe for a steady to rising reservoir level during the forage fish spawn; and reservoir releases and pool levels sufficient to keep all intakes operational under all runoff scenarios. While likely not the case for the 2011-2012 runoff year, water conservation measures will be implemented if runoff conditions indicate that it would be appropriate including cycling releases from Gavins Point during the early part of the nesting season, only supporting flow targets in reaches being used by commercial navigation, and utilization of the Kansas River projects authorized for Missouri River navigation flow support. Additional details about the studies are provided in the following paragraphs. Results of the simulations are shown in *Plate 4* and *Plate 5* for the System storage and the Fort Peck, Garrison and Oahe pool elevations.

Under all runoff scenarios modeled for the AOP, the full flood control capacity of the system is available at the start of the 2012 runoff season and all 2012 runoff is evacuated prior to the start of the 2013 runoff season. Although the March 1 and May 1 System storage is above the Gavins Point spring pulse precludes of 40.0 MAF, as discussed in Chapter III, spring pulses will not be conducted in 2012. The Corps will continue to work closely with the USFWS to ensure the AOP will meet the intent of the 2003 Amended BiOp and comply with the ESA.

The March 15 and July 1 System storage checks were used to determine the level of flow support for navigation and other downstream purposes as well as the navigation season length in 2012. Full service navigation flows or more are provided for all runoff conditions throughout the navigation season. Application of the July 1 System storage check (see *Plate 3*) indicate that a full length navigation season would be provided for Median and lower runoff conditions. The upper two runoff scenarios provide a 10-day extension to the navigation season. Upper Quartile and Upper Decile simulations reach the desired 56.8 MAF System storage level on March 1, 2013. Storage is below the base of the annual flood control zone for median and lower runoff conditions.

For modeling purposes in this AOP, the Steady Release – Flow to Target (SR-FTT) regulation scenario for Gavins Point dam is shown during the 2012 tern and plover nesting season for Median and lower runoff conditions. For these simulations, the monthly average May release used in the simulations was determined by using the long-term average release (see *Plate 3*) based on the service level for the first third of the month, followed by cycling between the May and July table values for the remainder of the month to reflect an every third day peaking cycle from Gavins Point. The modeled June release was set equal to the long-term average release for July (see *Plate 3*) based on the service level for the first half of the navigation season. The long-term average releases (see *Plate 3*) were used for July and August to indicate flowing to target. The Upper Quartile and Upper Decile runoff simulations follow the Master Manual, with much above normal runoff requiring release increases early in the year to

evacuate floodwater from the reservoirs. Although these modeled Gavins Point releases represent our best estimate of required releases during 2012, actual releases will be based on hydrologic conditions and the availability of habitat at that time. To the extent reasonably possible, measures to minimize incidental take of the protected species will be utilized. These may include not meeting flow targets in reaches without commercial navigation and utilizing the Kansas River tributary reservoirs for navigation flow support when appropriate. It may also be necessary to cycle releases for flood control regulation during the T&E species' nesting season.

The long-term average Gavins Point releases to meet target flows were used in the AOP studies for navigation support during the spring and fall months with the exception of Upper Quartile and Upper Decile. Under those two runoff scenarios, releases were based on flood water evacuation. Based on the September 1 storage checks and flood evacuation criteria, modeled Gavins Point winter releases ranged from 20,000 cfs to 24,000 cfs during the 2011-2012 winter season depending on the runoff scenario, and from 12,000 cfs to 20,000 cfs during the 2012-2013 winter season depending on the runoff scenario. Releases above these ranges will be made in real-time operations during the winter of 2011-2012 to aggressively evacuate water from the system if conditions indicate that 2012 will be another high runoff year. Gavins Point releases will be increased to meet downstream water supply requirements in critical reaches, to the extent reasonably possible, if downstream incremental runoff is low.

The Gavins Point releases shown in this and previous AOPs are estimates based on historic averages and experience. Adjustments are made as necessary in real-time based on hydrologic conditions.

Intrasystem releases are adjusted to best serve the multiple purposes of the projects with special emphasis placed on regulation for non-listed fisheries starting in early April and for T&E bird species beginning in early May and continuing through August. As part of the overall plan to rotate emphasis among the upper three reservoirs during low runoff years, Fort Peck and Oahe are scheduled to be favored during the 2012 forage fish spawn while also attempting to maintain rising water levels at Garrison. The Median, Upper Quartile, and Upper Decile simulations show that it is possible to provide steady-to-rising pool levels in each of the three large upper reservoirs during the spring forage fish spawn period. Releases in the Lower Quartile and Lower Decile simulations are adjusted to maintain steady-to-rising pool levels at Fort Peck and Oahe. The Lower Quartile and Lower Decile simulations show the Garrison pool dropping during April and May.

Two additional modified reservoir regulation plans, the Fort Peck "mini-test" and unbalancing the upper three reservoirs, have been discussed in previous AOPs, but have not been implemented in recent years. Due to the large variability of reservoir levels in recent years, the unbalancing of the three reservoirs to benefit reservoir

fisheries and the endangered interior least tern and threatened piping plover will not be implemented 2012. Additionally, experience has shown that storing water in the annual flood control zone, particularly at Oahe, as the current criteria requires in order to implement unbalancing is undesirable due to flood control impacts. The Corps will work with each of the appropriate state agencies in 2012 to determine a modified version of unbalancing that may be implemented in future AOP's that does not adversely impact flood control. For the purposes of this AOP, the upper three reservoirs are shown in a balanced condition for all runoff scenarios. This balancing is computed based on the percent of the carryover multiple-use pool. With regard to the Fort Peck mini-test, a priority for pallid sturgeon recovery has been placed on the Lower Yellowstone Project at Intake, Montana. The Fort Peck mini-test and full test flows will be deferred until the efficacy of the Lower Yellowstone Project has been assessed. The groundbreaking for this project took place in August 2010.

Actual System regulation from January 1 through August 31, 2011 and the simulated regulating plans for each project through CY 2012 using the five runoff scenarios described on Page 4 are presented on *Plate 6* through *Plate 11*, inclusive. Big Bend regulation is omitted since storage at that project is relatively constant and average monthly releases are essentially the same as those at Oahe. These plates also show, on a condensed scale, actual regulation since 1953.

Plate 12 illustrates for Fort Peck, Garrison, Oahe, and Gavins Point the actual releases (Regulated Flow) as well as the Missouri River flows that would have resulted if the reservoirs were not in place (Unregulated Flow) during the period January 2010 through July 2011. Regulation of the reservoir system in 2011 reduced peak flows by approximately 40,000 to 60,000 cfs at Fort Peck and by approximately 80,000 to 100,000 cfs downstream of the Yellowstone River to the mouth near St. Louis. *Plate 13* presents past and simulated gross average monthly power generation and gross peaking capability for the System.

C. Regulation Plan for the Balance of the 2011 Navigation Season and Fall of 2011. The regulation of the System for the period of August through November 2011 is presented in the following paragraphs.

Fort Peck Dam. As part of the continued evacuation of record runoff into the system in 2011, releases from Fort Peck were 30,000 cfs at the start of August, and then dropped to 25,000 cfs in mid-August. Releases were held at 25,000 cfs through late September when they were lowered to 20,000 cfs and eventually reached 9,000 cfs at the beginning of October. Average releases for August and September were 26,600 cfs and 23,000 cfs, respectively. Releases were held steady at 9,000 cfs from early October through early November and then increased to 10,000 cfs. The Fort Peck pool continued to drop quickly in September before slowing down in October and ending November near

2237.1 feet msl. A record high Fort Peck pool elevation of 2252.3 feet msl was set on June 15, 2.3 feet above the top of exclusive flood control pool. The previous record high pool elevation was 2251.6 feet msl set in July 1975.

Garrison Dam. Releases started August at 110,000 cfs and were gradually reduced to 65,000 cfs during the month. Releases continued to drop throughout September and ended the month at 26,000 cfs. Average releases for August and September were 91,100 cfs and 43,400 cfs, respectively. Releases were held steady at 26,000 cfs from October through early November, and then increased to 28,500 cfs to continue the evacuation of water from the annual flood control and multiple use zone. Releases were reduced in early December in anticipation of the December freeze-in downstream of Garrison between Washburn and Bismarck, North Dakota. The Garrison pool continued dropping quickly in September before slowing down in late September and then steadily dropping through the fall, ending at 1839.8 feet msl at the end of November. The Garrison pool elevation peaked at 1854.6 feet msl on July 1, 0.6 feet above the top of exclusive flood control pool. This was the second highest recorded pool elevation on record. The record high pool elevation was 1854.8 feet msl set in July 1975.

Oahe Dam. Releases started the month of August at 135,000 cfs and were gradually reduced to 80,000 cfs during the month. Releases continued to drop throughout September reaching 40,000 cfs near the end of the month. The monthly average release was 117,100 cfs in August and 67,300 cfs in September. October and November releases averaged 27,800 cfs and 36,300 cfs, respectively, to continue the evacuation of the record runoff stored in Oahe and to accommodate the fall drawdown of the Fort Randall pool. The Oahe pool ended November at elevation 1607.4 feet msl. A record high Oahe pool elevation of 1619.7 feet msl was set on June 26, within 0.3 foot of the top of exclusive flood control pool. The previous record high pool elevation was 1618.7 feet msl set in June 1995 and 1996.

Big Bend Dam. Releases parallel those from Oahe. Big Bend generally fluctuates between 1420.0 feet msl and 1421.0 feet msl for weekly cycling during high power load periods.

Fort Randall Dam. Releases started the month of August at 147,000 cfs and gradually dropped to 86,000 cfs by the end of the month; averaging 133,000 cfs. Average releases were 80,000 cfs in September, 39,300 cfs in October, and 36,300 cfs in November to continue the evacuation of flood water, to facilitate the annual drawdown of Fort Randall and to back up the releases from Gavins Point Dam. Fort Randall reservoir peaked at a record elevation of 1374.0 ft msl on July 11 (previous record pool of 1372.2 occurred in May 1997). Releases during the late summer and fall were focused on evacuating the record volume of water stored in the system and completing the annual fall drawdown of the reservoir for winter hydropower generation. Releases will

be reduced after the navigation season ends in early December to the level required to back up Gavins Point winter releases.

Gavins Point Dam. Releases were reduced from 155,000 cfs to 150,000 cfs on August 1, held at that rate through mid-August, and then gradually reduced to 90,000 cfs by the end of the month. The 90,000 cfs release rate was held until mid-September. Releases were reduced 5,000 cfs every other day until reaching 60,000 cfs and then reduced 5,000 cfs each day down to 40,000 cfs in early October. Releases were held at 40,000 cfs one week longer than initially planned as part of the Corps flexible release posture. These releases were above the level required for full service navigation levels to evacuate water from the reservoir system. A full length navigation season, plus a 10-day extension, was provided in 2011 in accordance with the technical criteria for the July 1 System storage check presented in the Master Manual. In accordance with the Missouri River Master Manual, during years of greater than normal water supply, the navigation season is extended as both an additional evacuation measure and to provide an increased benefit to navigation while striving to reach the base of the annual flood control zone by March 1 the following season. The last day of flow support for the commercial navigation season ranged from December 1 at Sioux City to December 10 at the mouth near St. Louis. Releases were reduced by approximately 3,000 cfs per day in early December until they reached 22,000 cfs. Releases will be maintained at that rate until colder weather moves into the basin at which time releases will be reduced to the winter release rate of 20,000 cfs. The 40,000 cfs release rate was extended through December 7, and higher winter releases may be adopted as repair work permits and conditions allow in order to evacuate additional water from the system. The Gavins Point pool level was raised 1.5 feet to elevation 1207.5 feet msl in September. The pool level will remain near that elevation during the fall and winter months.

D. Regulation Plan for Winter 2010-2011. The September 1 System storage check is used to determine the winter release rate from Gavins Point dam. A winter release of 12,000 cfs is scheduled if System storage is less than 55 MAF on September 1; 17,000 cfs is scheduled when System storage is above 58 MAF; and the release is prorated for System storages between 55 and 58 MAF. A modification to the winter release rate from Gavins Point dam may occur when the evacuation of System flood control storage cannot be accomplished by providing a full-service navigation season with a 10-day extension of the navigation season. With an excess annual water supply, the winter season Gavins Point release may be scheduled at a rate of up to 25,000 cfs to continue to evacuate the remaining excess water in System flood control storage. The planned winter System release for 2011-2012 is 20,000 cfs. It is anticipated that this year's winter release will be adequate to complete evacuation of stored flood waters and serve all downstream water intakes. Winter releases will remain flexible to allow evacuation of additional water as weather permits and repair work allows. In addition, an aggressive winter release schedule will be implemented if conditions indicate that 2012 will be another high runoff year.

Fort Peck Dam. Releases are expected to average 11,000 cfs in December and 12,000 cfs in January and February to serve winter power loads and to draw down the lake to the base of the annual flood control pool. The Fort Peck pool level is expected to decline about 3.1 feet from elevation 2237.1 feet msl at the end of November to near elevation 2234.0 feet msl by March 1.

Garrison Dam. Releases are scheduled to be 19,000 cfs in December increasing to 24,000 cfs for January and 26,000 cfs for February to serve winter power loads and to drawdown the reservoir to slightly below the base of the annual flood control pool. The December release rate will likely be reduced prior to the time of freeze-in to prevent ice induced flooding at the time of freeze-in. These temporary reductions in the releases may be scheduled to prevent exceedence of a 13-foot stage at the Bismarck gage. Flood stage is 16 feet. The Garrison pool level is expected to decline about 3.2 feet from elevation 1839.8 feet msl at the end of November to near elevation 1836.6 feet msl by March 1, 0.9 foot below the base of the annual flood control storage zone.

Oahe Dam. Releases for the winter season will provide backup for the Fort Randall and Gavins Point releases plus refill the recapture space available in the Fort Randall reservoir consistent with anticipated winter power loads. Monthly average releases may vary substantially with fluctuations in power loads occasioned by weather conditions but, in general, are expected to average about 23,600 cfs. Daily releases will vary widely to best meet power loads. Peak hourly releases, as well as daily energy generation, will be constrained to prevent urban flooding in the Pierre and Fort Pierre areas if severe ice problems develop downstream of Oahe Dam. This potential reduction is coordinated with the Western Area Power Administration. The Oahe pool level is expected to slowly decline from 1607.1 feet msl at the end of November to 1605.9 feet msl at the end of December. The pool will stay steady during January before starting to rise to elevation 1606.7 feet msl, slightly under the base of the annual flood control storage zone, by the beginning of March.

Big Bend Dam. The Big Bend pool level will be maintained in the normal 1420.0 to 1421.0 feet msl range during the winter.

Fort Randall Dam. Releases will average about 18,000 cfs during the winter season to support Gavins Point winter releases. The Fort Randall pool level is expected to rise from its fall drawdown elevation of 1337.5 feet msl in early December to near elevation 1350.0 feet msl, the seasonal base of flood control, by March 1. However, if the plains snowpack flood potential downstream of Oahe Dam is quite low, the Fort Randall pool level will be raised to near 1353.0 feet msl by March 1. It is likely that a pool level as high as 1355.0 feet msl could be reached by the end of the winter period on March 31 if runoff conditions permit. The Fort Randall pool level above the White River delta near Chamberlain, South Dakota will remain at a higher elevation than the pool level below

the delta from early October through December, due to the damming effect of this delta area.

Gavins Point Dam. Gavins Point winter releases are discussed in the first paragraph of this section. The Gavins Point pool level will be near elevation 1207.5 feet msl until late February when it will be lowered to elevation 1206.0 feet msl to create additional capacity to store spring runoff.

System storage for all runoff conditions will be at the base of the annual flood control zone of 56.8 million acre-feet, and possibly lower by March 1, 2012, the beginning of next year's runoff season.

E. Regulation During the 2012 Navigation Season. All five runoff scenarios modeled for this year's AOP follow the technical criteria presented in the current Master Manual for downstream flow support. Beginning in mid-March, Gavins Point releases will be gradually increased to provide navigation flow support at the mouth of the Missouri near St. Louis, MO by April 1, 2012, the normal navigation season opening date. The corresponding dates at upstream locations are Sioux City, March 23; Omaha, March 25; Nebraska City, March 26; and Kansas City, March 28. However, if during the 2012 navigation season there is no commercial navigation scheduled to use the upper reaches of the navigation channel, we will consider eliminating navigation flow support in those reaches to conserve water in the System, provide additional flood control, and/or minimize incidental take of the protected species during the nesting season.

Navigation flow support for the 2012 season will be determined by actual System storage on March 15 and July 1. Runoff scenarios modeled indicate full service flow support at the start of the 2012 navigation season for all runoff scenarios. Following the July 1 System storage check, full service would continue to be provided for all runoff scenarios. The normal 8-month navigation season is provided for Median and lower runoff scenarios as shown in *Table II*. A 10-day extension to the navigation season is provided for the upper two runoff scenarios.

**TABLE II
NAVIGATION SERVICE SUPPORT
FOR THE 2012 SEASON**

	Runoff Scenario (MAF)	System Storage		Flow Level Above or Below Full Service (cfs)		Season Shortening (Days)
		March 15 (MAF)	July 1 (MAF)			
				<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer/Fall</u>	
U.D.	34.3	57.8	65.0	+3.3	+19	0*
U.Q.	30.3	57.6	63.9	0	+12	0*
Med	24.4	57.5	61.6	0	0	0
L.Q.	19.3	57.3	58.4	0	0	0
L.D.	16.2	57.2	57.3	0	0	0

*Includes 10-day extension for Upper Quartile and Upper Decile

As previously stated, the modeled regulation for the 2012 nesting season below Gavins Point dam is Steady Release - Flow-to-Target (SR-FTT). With the expectation of large quantities of high elevation nesting habitat being available, it's possible that the actual regulation will be Flow-to-Target. The nesting situation will be closely monitored and if nesting appears to be taking place at low elevations a SR-FTT release scenario may be implemented. If a SR-FTT release scenario is used, the initial steady release, which has ranged from 18,000 cfs to 27,000 cfs in the five years previous to 2011, will be based on hydrologic conditions and the availability of habitat at that time. Model runs included in this AOP have a Gavins Point release peaking cycle of 2 days down and 1 day up during the last two-thirds of May to keep birds from nesting at low elevations. Gavins Point releases will be adjusted to meet downstream targets as tributary flows recede, but ideally the initial steady release will be sufficient to meet downstream targets until the majority of the birds have nested. The purpose of this regulation is to continue to meet the project purposes while minimizing the loss of nesting T&E species and conserving water in the upper three reservoirs, if required. Gavins Point releases for the Upper Quartile and Upper Decile runoff simulations are much above normal to evacuate flood water from the reservoirs. Releases from Garrison and Fort Randall will follow repetitive daily patterns from early May, at the beginning of the T&E species' nesting season, to the end of the nesting in late August. In addition to the intra-day pattern, Fort Randall releases may also be cycled with 2 days of low releases and 1 day of higher releases during the early part of the nesting season to maintain release flexibility in that reach while minimizing the potential for take.

Gavins Point releases may be quite variable during the 2012 navigation season but are expected to range from 26,000 to 52,000 cfs under the five runoff scenarios modeled. Release reductions necessary to minimize downstream flooding are not reflected in the

monthly averages shown in the simulations but will be implemented as conditions warrant. Reductions in System releases to integrate the use of downstream Missouri River flow support from the Kansas Reservoir System have not been included since they are based on downstream hydrologic conditions. However, this storage will be utilized to the extent possible as a water conservation measure or to minimize incidental take of protected species during the nesting season if conditions indicate it is prudent to do so. Simulated storages and releases for the System and individual reservoirs within the System are shown on *Plate 6* through *Plate 11*. Sufficient storage space exists in the System to control flood inflows under all scenarios simulated for this AOP, however, as experienced in 2011, runoff above or below simulated levels can occur and result in releases beyond those modeled for the AOP. As previously stated, should that occur, the Corps will increase its efforts to convey that information throughout the basin so that state and local agencies, communities, and local residents can take appropriate actions.

F. Regulation Activities for T&E Species and Fish Propagation Enhancement.

The ability to provide steady to rising pool levels in the upper three reservoirs in low runoff years is very dependent on the volume, timing, and distribution of runoff. The reservoir regulation simulations presented in this AOP for the Upper Decile, Upper Quartile, and Median runoff scenarios show that steady to rising pool levels would occur during the spring fish spawn period for the upper three System reservoirs. As part of the overall plan to rotate emphasis among the upper three reservoirs during low runoff years, Fort Peck and Oahe are scheduled to be favored during the 2012 forage fish spawn if runoff is below median. The studies show that inflows are sufficient to maintain steady to rising pools at Fort Peck and Oahe from April through June for the Lower Quartile and Lower Decile runoff scenarios. This will be accomplished by setting releases at Fort Peck and Garrison at a level that would maintain a rising Fort Peck and Oahe pool, but no less than the minimum required for downstream water supply requirements including irrigation. These adjustments may be restricted when the terns and plovers begin nesting in May. Garrison pool levels may fall during both lower runoff scenarios. If the drought re-emerges, emphasis during the fish spawn will be rotated among the upper three reservoirs and may also be adjusted to be opportunistic in regard to runoff potential. The upper three reservoirs will be managed to benefit forage fish to the extent reasonably possible, while continuing to serve the other Congressionally authorized project purposes.

As discussed in the previous section, the 2011-2012 AOP will not include provisions for unbalancing the Fort Peck, Garrison, and Oahe reservoirs to benefit the reservoir fishery and endangered species, but unbalancing will be considered within the carryover multiple use zone in future years.

Fort Peck Dam. The repetitive daily pattern of releases from Fort Peck Dam has not been implemented since the 2004 tern and plover nesting season. This adaptive

management decision was made based on data collected during previous nesting seasons. In recent years, birds in this reach have nested on available high elevation habitat, and thus were not expected to be impacted by the potential range of releases from Fort Peck during the summer. Releases during the 2012 nesting season will not be restricted by the repetitive daily pattern unless habitat conditions or nesting patterns warrant a change.

If flood flows enter the Missouri River below the project during the nesting season, hourly releases will generally be lowered to no less than 3,000 cfs in order to keep traditional riverine fish rearing areas continuously inundated, while helping to lower river stages at downstream nesting sites. In rare instances releases below 3,000 cfs may be scheduled for flood damage reduction. April releases should be adequate for trout spawning below the project.

Maintaining a rising Fort Peck pool level will be dependent upon the daily inflow pattern to the reservoir, but appears possible under all the runoff scenarios. The Fort Peck "mini-test" will not be run pending an evaluation of the results of the Yellowstone River Intake Diversion fish passage structure.

Garrison Dam. As in previous years, releases from Garrison will follow a repetitive daily pattern during the T&E nesting season to limit peak stages below the project for nesting birds. Releases are scheduled to be 1,000 cfs lower in July and early August than the June releases to enhance conditions for the fledging of chicks. High elevation nesting habitat is expected to be abundant below Garrison Dam during the 2012 nesting season.

During 2012, cold-water habitat in Garrison should be adequate for all runoff scenarios.

A rising pool at Garrison during the fish spawn in April and May will be dependent upon the daily inflow pattern to the reservoir but appears possible for all runoff simulations with the exception of the Lower Quartile and Lower Decile.

Oahe Dam. Releases in the spring and summer will back up those from Gavins Point Dam. The pool level should be steady to rising in the spring during the fish spawn for all runoff scenarios.

Fort Randall Dam. To the extent reasonably possible, Fort Randall will be regulated to provide for a pool elevation near 1355 feet msl during the fish spawn period, provided water can be supplied from other reservoirs for downstream uses. The pool will not be drawn down below elevation 1337.5 feet msl in the fall to ensure adequate supply for water intakes. As a measure to minimize take while maintaining the flexibility to increase releases during the nesting season, hourly releases from Fort

Randall will follow a repetitive daily pattern to limit peak stages below the project for nesting birds. Daily average flows may be increased every third day to preserve the capability of increasing releases later in the summer with little or no incidental take if drier downstream conditions occur. If higher daily releases are required later in the nesting season, the daily peaking pattern may be adjusted, reduced or eliminated resulting in a steady release to avoid increased stages at downstream nesting sites. The need to utilize measures to minimize take may be lessened because of the large quantity of nesting habitat expected during the 2012 nesting season. Periods of zero release will be minimized to the extent reasonably possible during the nesting season given daily average releases, real-time hydrologic conditions, and System generating constraints as defined in coordination with Western Area Power Administration.

Gavins Point Dam. March and May spring pulses from Gavins Point Dam for the benefit of the endangered pallid sturgeon will not be implemented under any runoff scenarios in 2012.

It is anticipated that sufficient habitat to provide for successful nesting will be available above the planned release rates for all runoff conditions. This expectation is based on experience from the past record runoff in 1997. Following the 1997 runoff, high elevation nesting habitat was readily available and used successfully by the birds. Flows from Gavins Point Dam may follow the flow-to-target (FTT) release scenario. This scenario limits releases from Gavins Point to those needed to meet downstream targets. The actual release scenario will be evaluated when birds begin nesting in early May. If nests are initiated at a lower elevation which would be inundated later in the summer, a steady release-flow to target release scenario may be instituted. A full description of these release scenarios can be found in the Master Manual. Actual releases will be based on hydrologic conditions and the availability of habitat at that time.

All reasonable measures to minimize the loss of nesting T&E bird species will be used. While not anticipated because of the large quantity of high elevation habitat available, these measures include, but are not limited to, such things as a relatively high initial steady release during the peak of nest initiation, the use of the Kansas River basin reservoirs, moving nests to higher ground when possible, and monitoring nest fledge dates to determine if delaying an increase a few days might allow threatened chicks to fledge. The location of navigation tows and river conditions at intakes would also be monitored to determine if an increase could be temporarily delayed without impact. Cycling releases every third day may be used to conserve water early in the nesting season if extremely dry conditions develop. In addition, cycling may be used during downstream flood control regulation.

The Gavins Point pool will be regulated near 1206.0 feet msl in the spring and early summer, with minor day-to-day variations due to inflows resulting from rainfall

runoff. Several factors can limit the ability to protect nests from inundation in the upper end of the Gavins Point pool. First, because there are greater numbers of T&E bird species nesting below the Gavins Point project, regulation to minimize incidental take usually involves restricting Gavins Point releases, which means that the Gavins Point pool can fluctuate significantly due to increased runoff from rainfall events. Second, rainfall runoff between Fort Randall Dam and Gavins Point Dam can result in relatively rapid pool rises because the Gavins Point project has a smaller storage capacity than the other System reservoirs. And third, the regulation of Gavins Point for downstream flood control may necessitate immediate release reductions to reduce downstream damage. When combined, all these factors make it difficult and sometimes impossible to prevent inundation of nests in the upper end of the Gavins Point reservoir. However, because of the large quantity of habitat expected we do not anticipate nests being inundated. The pool will be increased to elevation 1207.5 feet msl late in August when it is determined that there are no terns or plovers nesting along the reservoir.

G. Regulation Activities for Historic and Cultural Properties. As acknowledged in the 2004 Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Operation and Management of the Missouri River Main Stem System, wave action and fluctuation in the level of the reservoirs results in erosion along the banks of the reservoirs. The Corps will work with the Tribes utilizing 36 CFR Part 800 and the PA to address the exposure of historic and cultural sites. The objective of a programmatic agreement is to deal "...with the potential adverse effects of complex projects or multiple undertakings..." The PA objective was to collaboratively develop a preservation program that would avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse effects along the System reservoirs. All tribes, whether signatory to the PA or not, may request government-to-government consultation on the regulation of the System and the resulting effect on historic and cultural properties and other resources. As a result of the 2011 flood event, there will be impacts to cultural resources. A gradual drawdown of reservoir levels was preferred to avoid or minimize further damage to cultural resource sites. To address impacts, the most effective and comprehensive strategy is a phased approach; site assessment/ Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) survey, increased law enforcement efforts, engineering design, rip rap repair, and new rip rap placement. Although condition assessments will be conducted for all sites affected by flooding, priority will be given to site assessments at occupation sites to determine impacts and check for any NAGPRA-related items. Increased law enforcement will be necessary to detect or prevent, and possibly prosecute individuals for, Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) violations. Engineers will need to collect data and prepare designs to repair existing rip rap and protection for any sites that were newly impacted.

In 2012 reservoir levels are expected to be more normal, but continuing exposure of cultural sites along the shorelines is still possible. Actions to avoid, minimize or

mitigate adverse impacts and expected results of the actions are covered under Chapter VI of this AOP. *Plate 16* shows the locations of the Tribal Reservations.

Fort Peck Dam. Depending on runoff in the Missouri River basin, System regulation during 2012 could result in a Fort Peck pool elevation variation from a high of 2244 feet msl to a low of 2222 feet msl. This is based on the Upper and Lower Decile runoff scenarios (see *Plate 8* and the studies included at the end of this report). Based on a review of existing information, approximately 14 known sites could be affected during this period.

Garrison Dam. Based on the Upper and Lower Decile runoff scenarios (see *Plate 9* and the studies included at the end of this report), Garrison pool elevations could range between 1848 and 1828 feet msl during 2012. Based on a review of existing information, approximately 112 known sites could be affected during this period.

Oahe Dam. At the Oahe reservoir, the System regulation under the Upper and Lower Decile runoff scenarios could result in pool elevations ranging from 1616 to 1594 feet msl (see *Plate 10* and the studies included at the end of this report). Based on a review of existing information, approximately 221 known sites could be affected during this period.

Big Bend Dam. System regulation will be adjusted to maintain the Big Bend pool level in the normal 1420 to 1421 feet msl range during 2012. Short-term increases above 1421 due to local rainfall may also occur. Based on a review of existing information, approximately four known sites could be affected during this period.

Fort Randall Dam. As part of the normal System regulation, the Fort Randall pool elevations will vary between 1350 and 1355 feet msl during the spring and summer of 2012. Short-term increases above 1355 feet msl due to local rainfall may occur. The annual fall drawdown of the reservoir to elevation 1337.5 feet msl will begin prior to the close of the navigation season and will be accomplished by early December. The reservoir will then be refilled during the winter to elevation 1350 feet msl. Based on a review of existing information, approximately seven known sites could be affected during this period.

Gavins Point Dam. System regulation will be adjusted to maintain the Gavins Point pool level in the normal 1206 to 1207.5 feet msl range during 2012. Short-term increases above 1207.5 feet msl may occur due to local rainfall. Based on a review of existing information, no known sites are expected to be affected during this period.

VI. SUMMARY OF RESULTS EXPECTED IN 2012

With regulation of the System in accordance with the 2011-2012 AOP outlined in the preceding pages, the following results can be expected. Table III summarizes the critical decision points throughout the year for all runoff conditions.

Table III
Summary of 2011-2012 AOP Studies

Decision Points	2011-2012 Runoff Condition				
	Upper Decile	Upper Quartile	Median	Lower Quartile	Lower Decile
March 1 System Storage March 23-31 GP Release	56.8 MAF 26.7 kcfs	56.8 MAF 26.7 kcfs	56.8 MAF 26.7 kcfs	56.8 MAF 29.8 kcfs	56.8 MAF 29.8 kcfs
March 15 System Storage Spring Service Level	57.8 MAF full service	57.6 MAF full service	57.5 MAF full service	57.3 MAF full service	57.2 MAF full service
May 1 System Storage May Cycling May GP Release	60.2 MAF None 37.0 kcfs	59.7 MAF 28.0/31.6 kcfs 28.7 kcfs	58.4 MAF 28.0/31.6 kcfs 28.7 kcfs	57.2 MAF 31.3/34.3 kcfs 31.9 kcfs	56.8 MAF 31.3/34.3 kcfs 31.9 kcfs
Fish Spawn Rise (Apr-Jun) FTPK Pool Elev Change GARR Pool Elev Change OAHE Pool Elev Change	+8.5 feet +6.5 feet +6.2 feet	+7.1 feet +5.5 feet +6.6 feet	+4.6 feet +5.1 feet +3.3 feet	+2.6 feet +0.8 feet +0.4 feet	+0.7 feet -1.0 feet +0.1 feet
July 1 System Storage Sum-Fall Service Level (kcfs) Nav Season Length	64.8 MAF Full Service 10 Day extension	63.9 MAF Full Service 10 Day extension	61.6 MAF Full Service 0 Days shortening	58.4 MAF Full Service 0 Days shortening	57.2 MAF Full Service 0 Days shortening
September 1 System Storage Winter 2011-12 GP Release	63.0 MAF 20.0 kcfs	62.4 MAF 20.0 kcfs	60.0 MAF 17.0 kcfs	55.9 MAF 13.5 kcfs	54.1 MAF 12.5 kcfs
February 28 System Storage End-Year Pool Balance Percent Pool	56.8 MAF Balanced 100%	56.8 MAF Balanced 100%	56.2 MAF Balanced 98%	51.2 MAF Balanced 85%	48.8 MAF Balanced 79%

A. Flood Control. Flood control is the only authorized project purpose that requires the availability of empty storage space rather than impounded water. Actual flood events are generally not predictable well in advance; therefore, detailed routing of specific major flood flows is accomplished when floods occur. There is a recurring pattern of high-risk flood periods during each year: a season when snowmelt, ice jams, and protracted heavy rains will almost surely occur with or without generating consequent floods; and a season when these situations are less likely and the flood threat is correspondingly low. The high-risk flood season begins about March 1st and extends through the summer. As a consequence, regulation of the System throughout the fall and winter months is predicated on the achievement of a March 1st System storage level at or below the base of the annual flood control zone. All runoff scenarios studied for this AOP will begin the March 1, 2012 runoff season at the desired 56.8 MAF base of the annual flood control and multiple use zone. Therefore, the entire System flood control zone of 16.3 MAF, 11.6 MAF in the annual flood control and multiple use zone and 4.7 MAF in exclusive flood control zone, will be available to store surplus runoff. In addition, the Corps is committed to maintaining a flexible posture through the fall and winter of 2011-2012 as the remaining flood water is evacuated from the system. In particular, if conditions throughout the winter indicate that 2012 will be another high runoff year, the Corps will begin early evacuation of water from the system to provide additional storage to the extent that weather and downstream conditions allow which may result in additional flood control capacity at the start of the 2012 runoff season.

To the extent practical, the System is regulated to prevent damaging flows originating above or within the System from contributing to flooding in the downstream reaches of the Missouri River. In 2012, the full capacity of the System will be available to significantly reduce peak discharges and store a significant volume of water for all floods that may originate above the System.

The base of the exclusive flood control zone defines the maximum level of storage that will be accumulated for purposes other than flood control. When the exclusive flood control zone at a particular reservoir is encroached upon, the control of subsequent flood inflows becomes the dominant factor. During such periods, releases may substantially exceed the powerplant release capacity with the evacuation rate of any project dependent upon existing flood conditions, the potential for further inflows, and conditions of other reservoirs in the System. Maximum release rates at such times are based upon the Master Manual flood control criteria, the flood control status of the System, and the critical need to preserve the integrity of the dams. Detailed information regarding the adjustments of releases for flood control evacuation and downstream flood control constraints can be found in Chapter 7 of the Master Manual.

Being at the base of the annual flood control and multiple use zone at the start of the next runoff year will also provide full support for all of the other multiple purposes of the System.

Due to release limitations imposed by the formation of downstream ice cover, a major portion of the required flood control space must be evacuated prior to the winter season. Higher releases may be made on occasions when the downstream channel conditions permit. If plains and/or mountain snowpack accumulations are much above normal during the winter of 2011-2012, releases will be adjusted to the extent reasonably possible to evacuate water from the reservoir system early in the runoff season. High releases during the late winter and early spring periods may exacerbate localized flooding if coincident with plains snowmelt or spring rains, and may also contribute to significant ice jam flooding. Therefore, if higher than normal releases are indicated, local conditions will need to be closely monitored. Flexible scheduling of winter releases and aggressive early spring releases may draw actual system storage below 56.8 MAF prior to March 1, 2012. In addition, all 2012 runoff will be evacuated prior to the start of the 2013 runoff season.

B. Water Supply and Water Quality Control. Water supply problems at intakes located in the river reaches both between and below the Mainstem dams and in the reservoirs are related primarily to intake elevations or river access rather than inadequate water supply. In emergency situations, short-term adjustments to protect human health and safety would be considered to keep intakes operational.

Low reservoir levels during the 2000-2007 drought contributed to both intake access and water quality problems for intakes on Garrison and Oahe reservoirs, including several Tribal intakes. A return to higher reservoir elevations has eliminated concern over many of these intakes. If the drought re-emerges, reservoir pool levels and releases may decline renewing the potential for intake access and water quality problems at both river and reservoir intakes. Under the Lower Decile runoff scenario, minimum reservoir levels in 2012 would be at least 22 feet higher than the record lows set in the 2000-2007 drought. Although not below the critical shut-down elevations for any intake, return to lower levels would require extra monitoring to ensure the continued operation of the intakes.

Above normal Gavins Point releases are being scheduled in the winter of 2011-2012. Under the 2011-2012 runoff scenarios, all water supply and water quality requirements on the Missouri River both below Gavins Point Dam and between System reservoirs should be met for all flow conditions studied. Winter releases for 2012-2013 will be determined based on the September 1, 2012 System storage check. As shown in Table III, 2012-2013 winter releases of 20,000 cfs would be made for a Upper Decile and Upper Quartile runoff scenarios; 17,000 cfs under a Median runoff scenario; 13,500 cfs under Lower Quartile, and 12,500 cfs under Lower Decile runoff scenarios, respectively.

Should the 2011-2012 runoff be in the Lower Quartile or Lower Decile range, planned winter release rates may be less than required for downstream water supply intakes without sufficient incremental tributary flows below the System. Should that occur, releases may need to be set higher to ensure that downstream water supply intakes are operable. However, we believe the minimum winter release of 12,000 cfs presented in the Master Manual represents a reasonable long-term goal for water intake operability and for owners to strive for as they make improvements to their facilities. It may be necessary at times to increase Gavins Point releases to provide adequate downstream flows during periods when excessive river ice formation is forecast or if ice jams or blockages form which temporarily restrict flow. Based on past experiences, these events are expected to occur infrequently and be of short duration.

During non-navigation periods in the spring and fall from 2004 through 2007, System releases were scheduled as low as 9,000 cfs provided that enough downstream tributary flow existed to allow for continued operation of downstream water intakes. If a non-navigation year would occur in the future, summer releases (May thru August) could average around 18,000 cfs from the System. However, it should be noted that System releases will be set at levels that meet the operational requirements of all water intakes to the extent reasonably possible. Problems have occurred at several downstream intakes in the past, however in all cases the problems have been associated with access to the river or reservoir rather than insufficient water supply. In addition, the low summer release rate would likely result in higher water temperatures in the river, which could impact a power plant's ability to meet their thermal discharge permits. Again, it should be noted that System releases will be set at levels that allow the downstream power plant to meet their thermal discharge permit requirements to the extent reasonably possible. This may mean that actual System releases in the hottest part of the summer period may be set well above the 18,000 cfs level. The Corps continues to encourage intake operators throughout the System and along the lower river reach to make necessary modifications to their intakes to allow efficient operation over the widest possible range of hydrologic conditions. While the current level of System storage should allow adequate access for all intakes for those intake operators whom had issues or difficulty with access during the past drought years, adjustments should continue to be made during this more normal release period to improve access and flexibility when drought returns to the basin.

C. Irrigation. Scheduled releases from the System reservoirs will be sufficient to meet the volumes of flow required for irrigation diversions from the Missouri River. Some access problems may be experienced, however, if Lower Quartile or Lower Decile runoff conditions return. Below Fort Peck, localized dredging may once again be required in the vicinity of irrigation intakes in order to maintain access to the water if releases are low next summer. Tributary irrigation water usage is fully accounted for in the estimates of water supply.

D. Navigation. Service to navigation in 2012 will be at full service flow support from the beginning of the navigation season through the July 1 storage check for all runoff scenarios. In addition, all runoff scenarios indicate at least full service and a full navigation season based on the July 1 storage check. Although the AOP simulations provide a comparison of typical flow support under varying runoff conditions, the actual rate of flow support for the 2012 navigation season will be based on actual System storage on March 15 and July 1, 2012.

The lower three runoff simulations show a normal 8-month navigation season length and full service flows during 2012. The upper two runoff scenarios indicate a 10-day extension to the navigation season and flows above full service navigation flow support. The anticipated service level and season length for all runoff conditions simulated are shown in *Table II*.

E. Power. *Table IV and Table V* give the estimated monthly System load requirements and hydropower supply of the Eastern Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program (P-S MBP), from September 2011 through December 2012. Estimates of monthly peak demands and energy include customer requirements for firm, short-term firm, summer firm, peaking, and various other types of power sales, System losses, and the effects of diversity. Also included in the estimated requirements are deliveries of power to the Western Division, P-S MBP, to help meet its firm power commitments. Under median runoff, annual generation in 2012 is estimated to be 9.9 million MWh, 106 percent of average.

F. Recreation, Fish and Wildlife. The regulation of the System will continue to provide recreation and fish and wildlife opportunities in the project areas and along the Missouri River as well as other benefits of a managed system. Recreation access is expected to be at normal levels in 2012. If Lower Quartile or Lower Decile runoff were to occur in 2012, boat ramps that were lowered and low water ramps that were constructed during the two recent drought periods will provide adequate reservoir access. Special regulation adjustments incorporating specific objectives for these purposes will be made to the extent reasonably possible. Overall conditions should be favorable for the many visitors who enjoy the camping, boating, fishing, hunting, swimming, picnicking, and other recreational activities associated with the System reservoirs.

The effects of the simulated System regulation during 2012 on fish and wildlife are included in Chapter V, Section F, entitled, "Regulation Activities for T&E Species and Fish Propagation Enhancement."

G. Historic and Cultural Properties. As mentioned in Chapter V of this AOP, the regulation of the System during 2011 and 2012 will expose cultural sites due to erosion from the normal fluctuation of pool elevations. The Corps will work with the

Tribes utilizing 36 CFR Part 800 and the PA to address the exposure of these sites. The objective of a programmatic agreement is to deal "...with the potential adverse effects of complex projects or multiple undertakings..." The PA objective was to collaboratively develop a preservation program that would avoid, minimize and/or mitigate the adverse affects of the System operation. All tribes, whether signatory to the PA or not, may request government-to-government consultation on the regulation of the System and the resulting effect on historic and cultural properties and other resources.

The planned preservation program for this AOP is outlined by multiple stipulations in the PA. One of the stipulations, or program components, is the Five-Year Plan. This plan outlines how the Corps will accomplish its responsibilities under the PA and the National Historic Preservation Act. The "Draft Five Year Plan, dated July 2011" (see <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/CR/>) is currently being implemented. The plan includes inventory, testing and evaluation, mitigation and other specific activities that will allow the Corps to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate the adverse effects to cultural sites on Corps lands within the System. Many of the actions listed in the plan are within the elevation ranges that will occur with the implementation of the Master Manual criteria in 2011 and 2012. Two critical components of the Five-Year Plan that are applicable to this AOP are monitoring and mitigation, which will be briefly discussed in the following paragraphs.

First, a collaboratively developed plan, entitled "Draft Monitoring and Enforcement Plan, dated April 2005" (see <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/CR/>) is in place. This monitoring plan outlines the sites that require monitoring and specifies a frequency for monitoring. The Corps is strategically monitoring sites, including those sites within the potential operating pool elevations, to document the effects of the implementation of the 2011-2012 AOP. Specific sites are identified in the draft Monitoring and Enforcement Plan for the monitoring team, comprised of Corps rangers and Tribal monitors, to visit and document impacts. This focused monitoring is resulting in more accurate data on the current impacts to sites along the river plus it is assisting with the identification of sites for mitigation. The most recent training for the monitoring teams was held in August 2011.

Second, mitigation or protection of sites that are being adversely impacted continues. During the reporting period for the 2010 Annual Report by the Corps on the implementation of the Programmatic Agreement eight sites were either completed, started, or in the design phase. The annual report is available at <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/CR/>. In addition the Corps awarded a contract to develop an erosion model that will compare modeling data against actual erosion data, collected by the monitoring team, to assist in the prioritization of sites for protection. Work on the erosion model was completed in June 2011.

TABLE IV
PEAKING CAPABILITY AND SALES
 (1,000 kW at plant)

2011	Estimated Committed Sales*	Expected C of E Capability					Expected Bureau Capability**					Expected Total System Capability				
		120%	Basic	80%			120%	Basic	80%			120%	Basic	80%		
Sep	2004	2253	2348	2351			202	202	202			2455	2550	2553		
Oct	1879	2344	2343	2346			202	202	202			2546	2545	2548		
Nov	1990	2303	2296	2308			201	201	201			2504	2497	2509		
Dec	2119	2296	2293	2300			198	198	198			2494	2491	2498		
<u>2012</u>																
Jan	2132	2314	2313	2317			195	199	195			2509	2512	2512		
Feb	2117	2320	2320	2320			193	195	193			2513	2515	2513		
		<u>U.D.</u>	<u>U.Q.</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>L.Q.</u>	<u>L.D.</u>	<u>U.D.</u>	<u>U.Q.</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>L.Q.</u>	<u>L.D.</u>	<u>U.D.</u>	<u>U.Q.</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>L.Q.</u>	<u>L.D.</u>
Mar	2050	2329	2329	2324	2319	2318	192	192	192	192	192	2521	2521	2516	2511	2510
Apr	1918	2353	2346	2331	2315	2311	189	189	189	190	190	2542	2535	2520	2505	2501
May	1878	2370	2365	2338	2314	2308	189	189	190	193	192	2559	2554	2528	2507	2500
Jun	2080	2397	2394	2371	2326	2315	201	201	202	198	196	2598	2595	2573	2524	2511
Jul	2195	2388	2386	2367	2316	2299	202	202	202	195	201	2590	2588	2569	2511	2500
Aug	2198	2374	2373	2357	2295	2274	208	207	208	202	200	2582	2580	2565	2497	2474
Sep	2003	2365	2366	2339	2280	2256	208	208	209	205	200	2573	2574	2548	2485	2456
Oct	1877	2331	2335	2319	2256	2231	208	208	210	206	200	2539	2543	2529	2462	2431
Nov	1988	2292	2297	2284	2218	2192	206	206	207	205	199	2498	2503	2491	2423	2391
Dec	2117	2247	2252	2245	2181	2153	202	203	204	201	197	2449	2455	2449	2382	2350

* Estimated sales, including system reserves. Power in addition to hydro production needed for these load requirements will be obtained from other power systems by interchange or purchase.

** Total output of Canyon Ferry and 1/2 of the output of Yellowtail powerplant.

TABLE V
ENERGY GENERATION AND SALES
 (Million kWh at plant)

2011	Estimated Committed Sales*	Expected C of E Generation					Expected Bureau Generation **					Expected Total System Generation				
		120%	Basic	80%			120%	Basic	80%			120%	Basic	80%		
Sep	736	1560	1562	1550			110	107	95			1670	1669	1645		
Oct	737	1198	969	755			102	96	85			1300	1065	840		
Nov	805	1202	1007	791			81	80	76			1283	1087	867		
Dec	915	870	812	723			83	82	78			953	894	801		
<u>2012</u>																
Jan	929	910	809	784			83	82	76			993	891	860		
Feb	898	831	741	719			77	76	70			908	817	789		
		<u>U.D.</u>	<u>U.Q.</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>L.Q.</u>	<u>L.D.</u>	<u>U.D.</u>	<u>U.Q.</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>L.Q.</u>	<u>L.D.</u>	<u>U.D.</u>	<u>U.Q.</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>L.Q.</u>	<u>L.D.</u>
Mar	814	666	663	669	719	724	82	82	80	73	73	748	745	749	792	797
Apr	769	777	743	750	874	877	91	91	76	50	50	868	834	826	924	927
May	712	1075	920	908	1017	1015	121	114	94	53	53	1196	1034	1002	1070	1068
Jun	769	1280	1175	948	1020	1025	140	130	111	55	55	1420	1305	1059	1075	1080
Jul	845	1447	1306	1022	1064	1048	144	120	101	58	58	1591	1426	1123	1122	1106
Aug	861	1447	1304	1059	1060	1044	108	103	84	53	55	1555	1407	1143	1113	1099
Sep	736	1354	1204	913	926	914	96	90	73	51	53	1450	1294	986	977	967
Oct	737	1236	1081	742	762	752	86	83	72	51	53	1322	1164	814	813	805
Nov	803	1190	1052	664	663	646	86	82	81	65	49	1276	1134	745	728	695
Dec	914	<u>848</u>	<u>808</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>598</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>936</u>	<u>892</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>612</u>
CY TOT		13061	11997	9891	10206	10109	1202	1139	1015	722	696	14263	13136	10906	10928	10805

* Estimated sales including system reserves and losses. Power in addition to hydro production needed for these load requirements will be obtained from other systems by interchange or purchase.

** Total output Canyon Ferry and 1/2 output of Yellowtail powerplant.

Results expected from the proposed monitoring and mitigation actions include more accurate horizontal and vertical data on existing cultural sites, detailed impact data, proactive protection and preservation of sites. The effects of the simulated System regulation during 2011-2012 on cultural sites are included in the Chapter V, section G., entitled, "Regulation Activities for Historic and Cultural Properties."

H. System Storage. If September 1, 2011 Basic runoff forecast verifies, System storage will decline to 57.1 MAF by the close of CY 2011. This would be 23.2 MAF higher than the all-time record low storage of 33.9 MAF set on February 9, 2007 and near last year's end-of-year storage of 57.0 MAF. This end-of-year storage is 4.5 MAF more than the 1967 to 2010 average. The lowest storage during the 1988-1992 drought was 40.8 MAF in January 1991, and the record low storage was set during the 2000-2007 drought at 33.9 MAF in February 2007. The end-of-year System storages have ranged from a maximum of 60.9 MAF, in 1975, to the 2006 minimum of 34.4 MAF. Forecasted System storage on December 31, 2012 is presented in *Table VI* for the runoff scenarios simulated.

I. Summary of Water Use by Functions. Anticipated water use in CY 2011, under the regulation plan with the Basic forecast of water supply is shown in *Table VII*. Under the reservoir regulation simulations in this AOP, estimated water use in CY 2012 also is shown in *Table VII*. Actual water use data for CY 2010 are included for information and comparison.

**TABLE VI
ANTICIPATED DECEMBER 31, 2012 SYSTEM STORAGE**

Water Supply Condition	Total (12/31/12)	Carryover Storage Remaining 1/	Unfilled Carryover Storage 2/	Total Change CY 2011
(Volumes in 1,000 Acre-Feet)				
Upper Decile	57,000	38,900	0	100
Upper Quartile	57,100	38,900	0	200
Median	56,400	38,500	400	-700
Lower Quartile	51,300	33,400	5,500	-6,200
Lower Decile	49,100	31,200	7,700	-8,400

1/ Net usable storage above 17.9 MAF System minimum pool level established for power, recreation, irrigation diversions, and other purposes.

2/ System base of annual flood control zone containing 56.8 MAF.

TABLE VII
MISSOURI RIVER MAINSTEM SYSTEM
WATER USE FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2010, 2011, AND 2012 ABOVE SIOUX CITY, IOWA
in Million Acre-Feet (MAF)

	CY 2010 Actual	CY 2011 Basic Simulation	Simulations for Calendar Year 2012					
			Upper Decile	Upper Quartile	Median	Lower Quartile	Lower Decile	
Upstream Depletions (1)								
Irrigation, Tributary Reservoir Evaporation & Other Uses	2.4	2.6						
Tributary Reservoir Storage Change	<u>-0.1</u>	<u>0.2</u>						
Total Upstream Depletions	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.1	
System Reservoir Evaporation (2)	3.1	2.7	1.2	1.2	1.8	2.1	2.0	
Sioux City Flows								
Navigation Season								
Unregulated Flood Inflows Between Gavins Point & Sioux City (3)	0.8	0.8						
Navigation Service Requirement (4)	15.3	15.7	17.1	16.6	15.9	16.3	16.0	
Supplementary Releases								
T&E Species (5)	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	
Flood Evacuation (6)	10.0	34.6	8.4	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Non-navigation Season								
Flows	3.5	3.8	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.3	
Flood Evacuation Releases (7)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	
System Storage Change	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>-0.4</u>	<u>-0.2</u>	<u>-0.8</u>	<u>-6.2</u>	<u>-8.4</u>	
Total	38.7	61.0	34.3	30.3	24.4	19.3	16.2	
Project Releases								
Fort Peck	4.1	13.3	8.6	8.0	6.7	6.6	6.6	
Garrison	13.2	36.7	20.9	19.4	15.9	16.0	15.5	
Oahe	17.2	41.5	24.6	21.9	17.6	18.8	18.9	
Big Bend	16.6	40.9	24.5	21.8	17.6	18.9	19.0	
Fort Randall	19.2	44.4	25.9	22.9	18.9	19.1	19.2	
Gavins Point	21.7	46.5	28.1	24.8	19.6	20.3	20.2	

- (1) Tributary uses above the 1949 level of development including agricultural depletions and tributary storage effects.
- (2) Net evaporation is shown for 2012.
- (3) Incremental inflows to reach which exceed those usable in support of navigation at the target level, even if Gavins Point releases were held to as low as 6,000 cfs.
- (4) Estimated requirement for downstream water supply and water quality is approximately 6.0 MAF.
- (5) Increased releases required for endangered species regulation.
- (6) Includes flood control releases for flood control storage evacuation and releases used to extend the navigation season beyond the normal December 1 closing date at the mouth of the Missouri River.
- (7) Releases for flood control storage evacuation in excess of a 17,000 cfs Gavins Point release.

VII. TENTATIVE PROJECTION OF REGULATION THROUGH FEBRUARY 2018

The 5-year extensions to the AOP (March 2013 to March 2018) have been prepared to serve as a guide for the Western Area Power Administration's marketing activities and to provide data to allow basin interests to conduct long-term planning. Three runoff conditions are modeled in the extension studies: Median, Lower Quartile, and Lower Decile.

The full 16.3 MAF of flood control capacity or more was available at the start of each runoff season. The navigation service level and season length criteria described in *Plate 3* were applied to the extensions. The March 15 and July 1 System storage checks shown in *Plate 3* were used to determine the flow support for navigation and other downstream uses and the navigation season length. A steady release - flow to target (SR-FTT) regulation with cycling in May was modeled during the T&E bird species' nesting season. The Gavins Point releases to meet navigation target flows, as shown in *Plate 3* and as computed by the March 15 and July 1 System storage checks, were used prior to and following the nesting season. The September 1 System storage check was used to determine the winter System release. Navigation service support and season length, magnitudes of March and May spring pulses, March 1 reservoir unbalancing, end of year System storage, and the winter release rate for the extensions are shown on *Table VII*. The criteria considered as each year of the extensions was modeled are listed, along with the results, in *Tables VIII through X* for the Median, Lower Quartile, and Lower Decile extension studies, respectively.

A. Median Runoff. Studies 9 through 13 present the results of simulating Median runoff (24.4 MAF) from March 2013 through February 2018. The March 1, 2013 System storage would be 56.2 MAF and would drop to 53.4 MAF by March 1, 2018, 3.4 MAF below the desired March 1 storage of 56.8 MAF, the base of the annual flood control and multiple use pool. The navigation service level would range from full service to 100 cfs below full service for the study period of 2013 to 2017. There would be full navigation seasons for the study period of 2013 through 2017. Winter releases would range from 17,000 cfs in the winter of 2013-2014 to 14,500 cfs in winter 2017-2018. March and May spring pulses would occur each year, with the magnitude of the May pulse ranging from 10,000 cfs in 2013 to 10,100 cfs in 2017. The May pulses in the study period of 2013 to 2017 would be limited in order to not exceed downstream flow limits during the pulse. For the entire study period, the carryover multiple use storage in Fort Peck, Garrison, and Oahe was balanced on March 1 each year.

TABLE VIII
NAVIGATION SERVICE SUPPORT, SPRING PULSES, UNBALANCING
AOP EXTENSION STUDIES

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
MEDIAN					
Annual Runoff Volume (MAF)	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4
Spring Pulse					
March (kcfs)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
May (kcfs)	10.0*	10.0*	10.0*	10.0*	10.1*
Flow Level Below Full Service					
Spring (kcfs)	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full-0.1
Summer/Fall (kcfs)	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Season Length	8 months	8 months	8 months	8 months	8 months
Reservoir Unbalancing (ft)					
Fort Peck	0	0	0	0	0
Garrison	0	0	0	0	0
Oahe	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 31 Storage (MAF)	55.7	54.9	54.2	53.6	53.3
Winter Release (kcfs)	17.0	17.0	16.5	15.2	14.5
Special Information					
LOWER QUARTILE					
Annual Runoff Volume (MAF)	19.7	20.7	21.5	22.8	24.4
Spring Pulse					
March (kcfs)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
May (kcfs)	11.8	11.9	12.2	13.2	14.6
Flow Level Below Full Service					
Spring (kcfs)	Full-2.7	Full-6.0	Full-6.0	Full-6.0	Full-6.0
Summer/Fall (kcfs)	Full-3.3	Full-5.4	Full-6.0	Full-5.7	Full-4.3
Season Length	8 mnths	8 mnths-3 days	8 mnths-7 days	8 mnths-4 days	8 mnths
Reservoir Unbalancing (ft)					
Fort Peck	0	0	0	0	0
Garrison	0	0	0	0	0
Oahe	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 31 Storage (MAF)	47.6	46.3	46.1	46.6	48.0
Winter Release (kcfs)	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
LOWER DECILE					
Annual Runoff Volume (MAF)	16.8	17.1	18.7	19.2	19.4
Spring Pulse					
March (kcfs)	5.0	5.0	5.0	0	0
May (kcfs)	11.0	10.1	9.5	9.2	0
Flow Level Below Full Service					
Spring (kcfs)	Full-5.5	Full-6.0	Full-6.0	Full-6.0	Full-6.0
Summer/Fall (kcfs)	Full-5.9	Full-6.0	Full-6.0	Full-6.0	Full-6.0
Season Length	8 mnths-6 days	8 mnths-30 days	8 mnths-30 days	8 mnths-30 days	8 mnths-30 days
Reservoir Unbalancing (ft)					
Fort Peck	0	0	0	0	0
Garrison	0	0	0	0	0
Oahe	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 31 Storage (MAF)	44.4	41.2	39.4	38.3	37.5
Winter Release (kcfs)	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5

* Limited by Downstream Flood-Control Limits.

Table IX

Median Extension Studies - Criteria Considered in the Modeling Process

Study Number	Units	Criteria	9	10	11	12	13
			2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
March 1 Storage	MAF	40	56.2	55.0	54.8	54.1	53.6
- March Spring Pulse?	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
March 15 Storage	MAF	31/49/54.5	57.0	56.2	55.5	54.8	54.4
- Service Level	N/A or kcfs	No Sea/Min/Full Thresholds	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full -0.1
- 3rd Period March GP Q	kcfs		28.9	28.9	28.9	28.9	28.8
- April Gavins Point Q	kcfs		26.7	26.7	26.7	26.7	26.6
May 1 Storage	MAF	40	57.9	57.1	56.4	55.7	55.3
- May Spring Pulse?	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
- Pulse Magnitude*	kcfs		16.0 (10)	16.0 (10)	16.0 (10)	16.0 (10)	16.0 (10.1)
- Gavins Point Cycling Qs	kcfs		28.0/31.6	28.0/31.6	28.0/31.6	28.0/31.6	27.9/31.5
- May Gavins Point Q	kcfs		30.7	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.6
- June Gavins Point Q	kcfs		31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.5
July 1 Storage	MAF	50.5/57	60.9	60.2	59.4	58.7	58.3
- Service Level	N/A	Min/Full Thresholds	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
- July Gavins Point Q	kcfs		31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6
- Aug Gavins Point Q	kcfs		33.2	33.2	33.2	33.2	33.2
- Sept Gavins Point Q	kcfs		32.6	32.6	32.6	32.6	32.6
July 1 Storage	MAF	36.5/41&46.8/51.5	60.9	60.2	59.4	58.7	58.3
- Season Length Shortening	days	61/31&31/0 Thresholds	0	0	0	0	0
- Oct Gavins Point Q	kcfs		32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
- Nov Gavins Point Q	kcfs		28.2	28.2	28.2	28.0	28.0
September 1 Storage	MAF	55/58	59.3	58.5	57.7	56.9	56.5
- Winter Gavins Point Q	kcfs	12/17 Thresholds	17.0	17.0	16.5	15.2	14.5
End-of-Year Reservoir Storage	MAF		55.5	54.8	54.1	53.6	53.4
- Percent Full	N/A		96%	95%	93%	91%	91%
Balance/Unbalance	N/A	Bal <2227/1827/1600 ft msl	Balanced	Balanced	Balanced	Balanced	Balanced
Peck Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garr Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oahe Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Favored Reservoir - Fish Spawn	N/A		GA	FP/OA	GA	FP/OA	GA

* Pulse magnitudes are the calculated magnitude per technical criteria and simulated magnitude due to the downstream flow limits

Table X

Lower Quartile Extension Studies - Criteria Considered in the Modeling Process

Study Number	Units	Criteria	14 2013-2014	15 2014-2015	16 2015-2016	17 2016-2017	18 2017-2018
March 1 Storage	MAF	40	51.2	47.7	46.6	46.3	47.0
- March Spring Pulse?	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
March 15 Storage	MAF	31/49/54.5	52.0	48.5	47.5	47.3	48.1
- Service Level	N/A or kcfs	No Sea/Min/Full Thresholds	Full - 2.7	Min Service	Min Service	Min Service	Min Service
- 3rd Period March GP Q	kcfs		29.3	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0
- April Gavins Point Q	kcfs		27.1	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8
May 1 Storage	MAF	40	52.1	49.1	48.2	48.3	49.3
- May Spring Pulse?	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
- Pulse Magnitude*	kcfs		11.8	11.9	12.2	13.2	14.6
- Gavins Point Cycling Qs	kcfs		28.6/31.6	25.3/28.3	25.3/28.3	25.3/28.3	25.3/28.3
- May Gavins Point Q	kcfs		31.6	28.2	28.2	28.6	29.1
- June Gavins Point Q	kcfs		31.6	28.3	28.3	28.3	28.3
July 1 Storage	MAF	50.5/57	53.4	51.1	50.4	50.8	52.3
- Service Level	N/A	Min/Full Thresholds	Full - 3.3	Full - 5.4	Min Service	Full - 5.7	Full - 4.3
- July Gavins Point Q	kcfs		31.0	28.9	28.3	28.6	30.0
- Aug Gavins Point Q	kcfs		30.7	28.6	28.0	28.3	29.7
- Sept Gavins Point Q	kcfs		30.2	28.1	27.5	27.8	29.2
July 1 Storage	MAF	36.5/41&46.8/51.5	53.4	51.1	50.4	50.8	52.3
- Season Length Shortening	days	61/31&31/0 Thresholds	0	3	7	4	0
- Oct Gavins Point Q	kcfs		29.8	27.7	27.1	27.4	28.8
- Nov Gavins Point Q	kcfs		24.9	21.7	19.6	21.0	24.0
September 1 Storage	MAF	55/58	51.2	49.4	48.8	49.3	50.8
- Winter Gavins Point Q	kcfs	12/17 Thresholds	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
End-of-Year Reservoir Storage	MAF		47.7	46.6	46.3	47.0	48.4
- Percent Full	N/A		75%	73%	72%	74%	77%
Balance/Unbalance	N/A	Bal <2227/1827/1600 ft msl	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
Peck Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garr Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oahe Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Favored Reservoir - Fish Spawn	N/A		GA	FP/OA	GA	FP/OA	GA

* Pulse magnitudes are the calculated magnitude per technical criteria and simulated magnitude due to the downstream flow limits

Table XI

Lower Decile Extension Studies - Criteria Considered in the Modeling Process

Study Number	Units	Criteria	19	20	21	22	23
			2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
March 1 Storage	MAF	40	48.8	44.3	41.2	39.5	38.4
- March Spring Pulse?	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
March 15 Storage	MAF	31/49/54.5	49.5	45.0	42.0	40.4	39.3
- Service Level	N/A or kcfs	No Sea/Min/Full Thresholds	Full - 5.5	Min Service	Min Service	Min Service	Min Service
- 3rd Period March GP Q	kcfs		26.5	26.0	26.0	23.8	23.8
- April Gavins Point Q	kcfs		24.3	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8
May 1 Storage	MAF	40	49.6	45.2	42.4	41.0	39.8
- May Spring Pulse?	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
- Pulse Magnitude	kcfs		11.0	10.1	9.5	9.2	0.0
- Gavins Point Cycling Qs	kcfs		25.8/28.8	25.3/28.3	25.3/28.3	25.3/28.3	25.3/28.3
- May Gavins Point Q	kcfs		28.7	27.9	27.8	27.8	25.9
- June Gavins Point Q	kcfs		28.8	28.3	28.3	28.3	28.3
July 1 Storage	MAF	50.5/57	50.6	46.1	43.9	42.6	41.7
- Service Level	N/A	Min/Full Thresholds	Full - 5.9	Min Service	Min Service	Min Service	Min Service
- July Gavins Point Q	kcfs		28.4	28.3	28.3	28.3	28.3
- Aug Gavins Point Q	kcfs		28.1	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.0
- Sept Gavins Point Q	kcfs		27.6	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
July 1 Storage	MAF	36.5/41&46.8/51.5	50.6	46.1	43.9	42.6	41.7
- Season Length Shortening	days	61/31&31/0 Thresholds	6	30	30	30	30
- Oct Gavins Point Q	kcfs		27.2	23.9	23.9	23.9	23.9
- Nov Gavins Point Q	kcfs		19.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
September 1 Storage	MAF	55/58	47.9	43.6	41.6	40.3	39.4
- Winter Gavins Point Q	kcfs	12/17 Thresholds	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
End-of-Year Reservoir Storage	MAF		44.3	41.2	39.5	38.4	37.7
- Percent Full	N/A		66%	58%	54%	51%	49%
Balance/Unbalance	N/A	Bal <2227/1827/1600 ft msl	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
Peck Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garr Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oahe Rise 3/31-5/31	N/A		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Favored Reservoir - Fish Spawn	N/A		GA	FP/OA	GA	FP/OA	GA

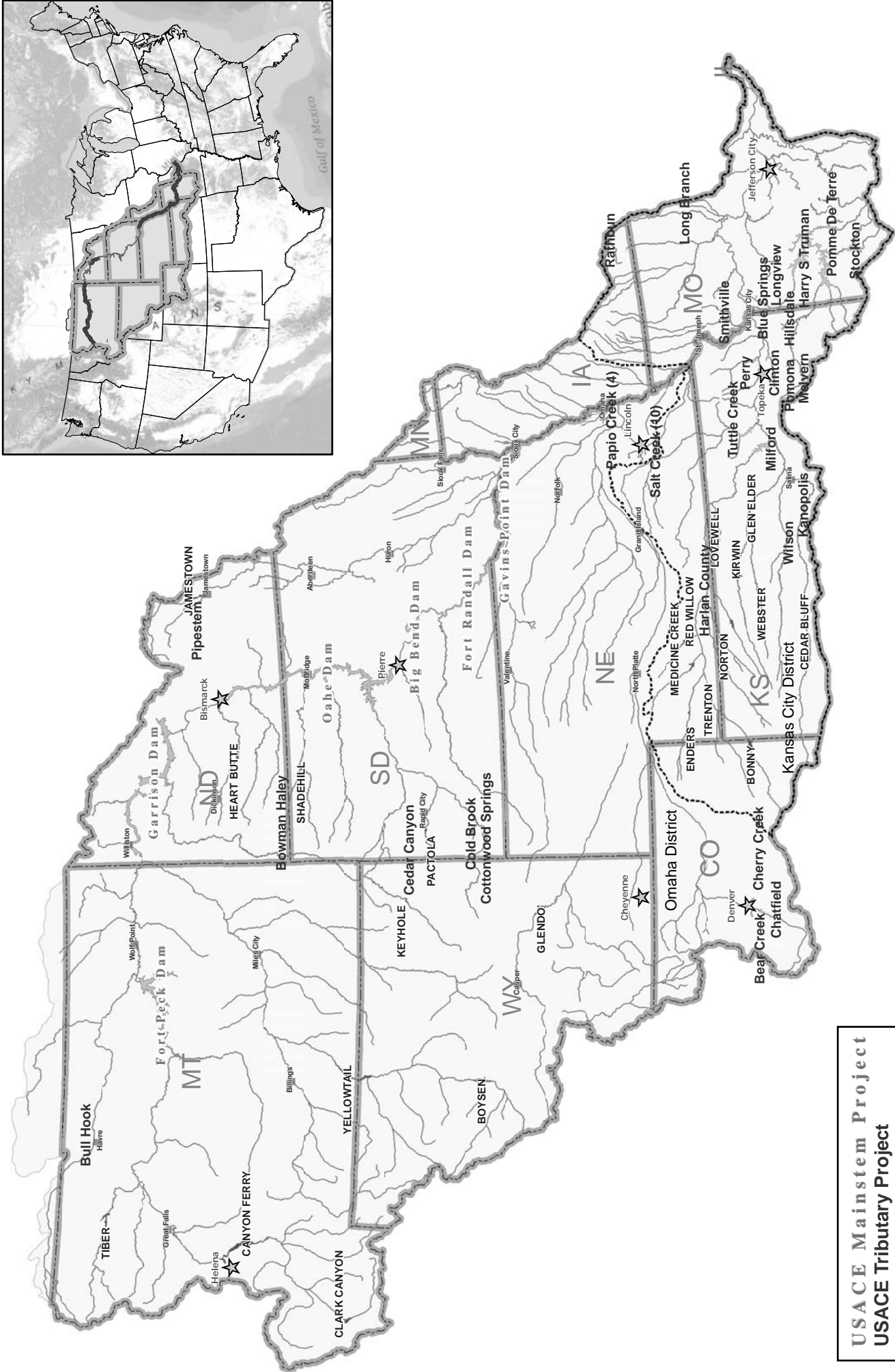
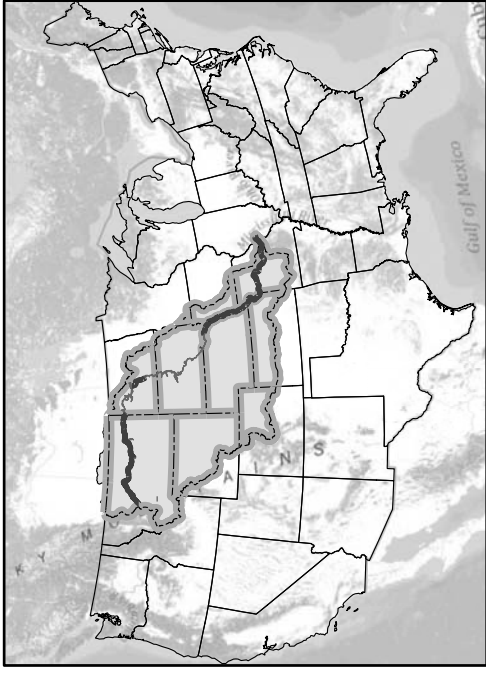
* Pulse magnitudes are the calculated magnitude per technical criteria and simulated magnitude due to the downstream flow limits

B. Lower Quartile Runoff. Studies 14 through 18 show the results of Lower Quartile runoff extensions. System storage on March 1, 2013 would be 51.2 MAF and fall to 48.4 MAF by March 1, 2018. Navigation service levels would range between 2,700 cfs below full service to minimum service for the simulation period 2013 to 2017. The navigation season is shortened no days in 2013, 3 days in 2014, 7 days in 2015, 4 days in 2016, and no shortening in 2017. A 12,500-cfs average winter release is shown for the entire study period. Spring pulses would occur every March and May from 2013 through 2017. Under Lower Quartile runoff, the carryover multiple use storage in the upper three reservoirs would be balanced each March 1.

C. Lower Decile Runoff. Studies 19 through 23 show the results of Lower Decile runoff extensions. System storage would be 48.8 MAF on March 1, 2013 and gradually decrease to 37.7 MAF on March 1, 2018. Navigation service levels would be 5,500 cfs below full service at the start of the 2013 season and then drop to 5,900 cfs below full service for the second half of the season. All remaining extension years would have minimum navigation service levels throughout the season. The navigation season would be shortened 6 days in 2013 and 30 days in 2014 through 2017. There are March spring pulses in 2013, 2014, and 2015, May spring pulses in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, and the intrasystem storage is balanced each March 1 for the entire study period.

Plate 14 presents System storage, Gavins Point releases, and System peaking capability for Median, Lower Quartile, and Lower Decile runoff for the period 2013 through February 2018. Peak power, or peaking capability, is the amount of power available when all powerplants are operating at maximum.

Plate 15 presents reservoir pool elevations for Fort Peck, Garrison, Oahe, and Fort Randall for Median, Lower Quartile, and Lower Decile runoff for the period 2013 through February 2018.



USACE Mainstem Project
USACE Tributary Project
USBR SECTION 7 PROJECT
 ☆ State Capitol
 - - - - - District Boundary

Missouri River Basin
 U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION
 CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA, NEBRASKA
 AUGUST 2011

PLATE 1. Missouri River Basin Map.

Summary of Engineering Data -- Missouri River Mainstem System

Item No.	Subject	Fort Peck Dam - Fort Peck Lake	Garrison Dam - Lake Sakakawea	Oahe Dam - Lake Oahe
1	Location of Dam	Near Glasgow, Montana	Near Garrison, ND	Near Pierre, SD
2	River Mile - 1960 Mileage	Mile 1771.5	Mile 1389.9	Mile 1072.3
3	Total & incremental drainage areas in square miles	57,500	181,400 (2) 123,900	243,490 (1) 62,090
4	Approximate length of full reservoir (in valley miles)	134, ending near Zortman, MT	178, ending near Trenton, ND	231, ending near Bismarck, ND
5	Shoreline in miles (3)	1520 (elevation 2234)	1340 (elevation 1837.5)	2250 (elevation 1607.5)
6	Average total & incremental inflow in cfs	10,200	25,600 15,400	28,900 3,300
7	Max. discharge of record near damsite in cfs	137,000 (June 1953)	348,000 (April 1952)	440,000 (April 1952)
8	Construction started - calendar yr.	1933	1946	1948
9	In operation (4) calendar yr.	1940	1955	1962
Dam and Embankment				
10	Top of dam, elevation in feet msl	2280.5	1875	1660
11	Length of dam in feet	21,026 (excluding spillway)	11,300 (including spillway)	9,300 (excluding spillway)
12	Damming height in feet (5)	220	180	200
13	Maximum height in feet (5)	250.5	210	245
14	Max. base width, total & w/o berms in feet	3500, 2700	3400, 2050	3500, 1500
15	Abutment formations (under dam & embankment)	Bearpaw shale and glacial fill	Fort Union clay shale	Pierre shale
16	Type of fill	Hydraulic & rolled earth fill	Rolled earth filled	Rolled earth fill & shale berms
17	Fill quantity, cubic yards	125,628,000	66,500,000	55,000,000 & 37,000,000
18	Volume of concrete, cubic yards	1,200,000	1,500,000	1,045,000
19	Date of closure	24 June 1937	15 April 1953	3 August 1958
Spillway Data				
20	Location	Right bank - remote	Left bank - adjacent	Right bank - remote
21	Crest elevation in feet msl	2225	1825	1596.5
22	Width (including piers) in feet	820 gated	1336 gated	456 gated
23	No., size and type of gates	16 - 40' x 25' vertical lift gates	28 - 40' x 29' Tainter	8 - 50' x 23.5' Tainter
24	Design discharge capacity, cfs	275,000 at elev 2253.3	827,000 at elev 1858.5	304,000 at elev 1644.4
25	Discharge capacity at maximum operating pool in cfs	230,000	660,000	80,000
Reservoir Data (6)				
26	Max. operating pool elev. & area	2250 msl 241,000 acres	1854 msl 380,000 acres	1620 msl 374,000 acres
27	Max. normal op. pool elev. & area	2246 msl 234,000 acres	1850 msl 364,000 acres	1617 msl 360,000 acres
28	Base flood control elev & area	2234 msl 210,000 acres	1837.5 msl 307,000 acres	1607.5 msl 312,000 acres
29	Min. operating pool elev. & area	2160 msl 89,000 acres	1775 msl 128,000 acres	1540 msl 117,000 acres
Storage allocation & capacity				
30	Exclusive flood control	2250-2246 971,000 a.f.	1854-1850 1,489,000 a.f.	1620-1617 1,102,000 a.f.
31	Flood control & multiple use	2246-2234 2,704,000 a.f.	1850-1837.5 4,222,000 a.f.	1617-1607.5 3,201,000 a.f.
32	Carryover multiple use	2234-2160 10,700,000 a.f.	1837.5-1775 13,130,000 a.f.	1607.5-1540 13,461,000 a.f.
33	Permanent	2160-2030 4,088,000 a.f.	1775-1673 4,980,000 a.f.	1540-1415 5,373,000 a.f.
34	Gross	2250-2030 18,463,000 a.f.	1854-1673 23,821,000 a.f.	1620-1415 23,137,000 a.f.
35	Reservoir filling initiated	November 1937	December 1953	August 1958
36	Initially reached min. operating pool	27 May 1942	7 August 1955	3 April 1962
37	Estimated annual sediment inflow	17,700 a.f. 1030 yrs.	25,900 a.f. 920 yrs.	19,800 a.f. 1170 yrs.
Outlet Works Data				
38	Location	Right bank	Right Bank	Right Bank
39	Number and size of conduits	2 - 24' 8" diameter (nos. 3 & 4)	1 - 26' dia. and 2 - 22' dia.	6 - 19.75' dia. upstream, 18.25' dia. downstream
40	Length of conduits in feet (8)	No. 3 - 6,615, No. 4 - 7,240	1529	3496 to 3659
41	No., size, and type of service gates	1 - 28' dia. cylindrical gate 6 ports, 7.6' x 8.5' high (net opening) in each control shaft	1 - 18' x 24.5' Tainter gate per conduit for fine regulation	1 - 13' x 22' per conduit, vertical lift, 4 cable suspension and 2 hydraulic suspension (fine regulation)
42	Entrance invert elevation (msl)	2095	1672	1425
43	Avg. discharge capacity per conduit & total	Elev. 2250 22,500 cfs - 45,000 cfs	Elev. 1854 30,400 cfs - 98,000 cfs	Elev. 1620 18,500 cfs - 111,000 cfs
44	Present tailwater elevation (ft msl)	2032-2036 5,000 - 35,000 cfs	1670-1680 15,000- 60,000 cfs	1423-1428 20,000-55,000 cfs
Power Facilities and Data				
45	Avg. gross head available in feet (14)	194	161	174
46	Number and size of conduits	No. 1-24'8" dia., No. 2-22'4" dia.	5 - 29' dia., 25' penstocks	7 - 24' dia., imbedded penstocks
47	Length of conduits in feet (8)	No. 1 - 5,653, No. 2 - 6,355	1829	From 3,280 to 4,005
48	Surge tanks	PH#1: 3-40' dia., PH#2: 2-65' dia.	65' dia. - 2 per penstock	70' dia., 2 per penstock
49	No., type and speed of turbines	5 Francis, PH#1-2: 128.5 rpm, 1-164 rpm , PH#2-2: 128.6 rpm	5 Francis, 90 rpm	7 Francis, 100 rpm
50	Discharge cap. at rated head in cfs	PH#1, units 1&3 170', 2-140' 8,800 cfs, PH#2-4&5 170'-7,200 cfs	150' 41,000 cfs	185' 54,000 cfs
51	Generator nameplate rating in kW	1&3: 43,500; 2: 18,250; 4&5: 40,000	3 - 121,600, 2 - 109,250	112,290
52	Plant capacity in kW	185,250	583,300	786,030
53	Dependable capacity in kW (9)	181,000	388,000	534,000
54	Avg. annual energy, million kWh (12)	1,043	2,245	2,618
55	Initial generation, first and last unit	July 1943 - June 1961	January 1956 - October 1960	April 1962 - June 1963
56	Estimated cost September 1999 completed project (13)	\$158,428,000	\$305,274,000	\$346,521,000

Summary of Engineering Data -- Missouri River Mainstem System

Big Bend Dam - Lake Sharpe		Fort Randall Dam - Lake Francis Case		Gavins Point Dam - Lewis & Clark Lake		Total	Item No.	Remarks
21 miles upstream Chamberlain, SD		Near Lake Andes, SD		Near Yankton, SD			1	(1) Includes 4,280 square miles of non-contributing areas. (2) Includes 1,350 square miles of non-contributing areas. (3) With pool at base of flood control. (4) Storage first available for regulation of flows. (5) Damming height is height from low water to maximum operating pool. Maximum height is from average streambed to top of dam. (6) Based on latest available storage data. (7) River regulation is attained by flows over low-crested spillway and through turbines. (8) Length from upstream face of outlet or to spiral case. (9) Based on 8th year (1961) of drought drawdown (From study 8-83-1985). (10) Affected by level of Lake Francis case. Applicable to pool at elevation 1350. (11) Spillway crest. (12) 1967-2010 Average (13) Source: Annual Report on Civil Works Activities of the Corps of Engineers. Extract Report Fiscal Year 1999. (14) Based on Study 8-83-1985
Mile 987.4		Mile 880.0		Mile 811.1			2	
249,330 (1)	5,840	263,480 (1)	14,150	279,480 (1)	16,000		3	
80, ending near Pierre, SD		107, ending at Big Bend Dam		25, ending near Niobrara, NE		755 miles	4	
200 (elevation 1420)		540 (elevation 1350)		90 (elevation 1204.5)		5,940 miles	5	
28,900		30,000	1,100	32,000	2,000		6	
440,000 (April 1952)		447,000 (April 1952)		480,000 (April 1952)			7	
1959		1946		1952			8	
1964		1953		1955			9	
1440		1395		1234			10	
10,570 (including spillway)		10,700 (including spillway)		8,700 (including spillway)		71,596	11	
78		140		45		863 feet	12	
95		165		74			13	
1200, 700		4300, 1250		850, 450			14	
Pierre shale & Niobrara chalk		Niobrara chalk		Niobrara chalk & Carlile shale			15	
Rolled earth, shale, chalk fill		Rolled earth fill & chalk berms		Rolled earth & chalk fill			16	
17,000,000		28,000,000 & 22,000,000		7,000,000		358,128,000 cu. yds	17	
540,000		961,000		308,000		5,554,000 cu. yds.	18	
24 July 1963		20 July 1952		31 July 1955			19	
Left bank - adjacent		Left bank - adjacent		Right bank - adjacent			20	
1385		1346		1180			21	
376 gated		1000 gated		664 gated			22	
8 - 40' x 38' Tainter		21 - 40' x 29' Tainter		14 - 40' x 30' Tainter			23	
390,000 at elev 1433.6		633,000 at elev 1379.8		584,000 at elev 1221.4			24	
270,000		508,000		345,000			25	
1423 msl	61,000 acres	1375 msl	102,000 acres	1210 msl	30,000 acres	1,188,000 acres	26	
1422 msl	60,000 acres	1365 msl	95,000 acres	1208 msl	27,000 acres	1,140,000 acres	27	
1420 msl	57,000 acres	1350 msl	77,000 acres	1204.5 msl	23,000 acres	986,000 acres	28	
1415 msl	51,000 acres	1320 msl	38,000 acres	1204.5 msl	23,000 acres	446,000 acres	29	
1423-1422	60,000 a.f.	1375-1365	985,000 a.f.	1210-1208	57,000 a.f.	4,664,000 a.f.	30	
1422-1420	117,000 a.f.	1365-1350	1,309,000 a.f.	1208-1204.5	86,000 a.f.	11,639,000 a.f.	31	
		1350-1320	1,607,000 a.f.			38,898,000 a.f.	32	
1420-1345	1,621,000 a.f.	1320-1240	1,517,000 a.f.	1204.5-1160	307,000 a.f.	17,886,000 a.f.	33	
1423-1345	1,798,000 a.f.	1375-1240	5,418,000 a.f.	1210-1160	450,000 a.f.	73,087,000 a.f.	34	
November 1963		January 1953		August 1955			35	
25 March 1964		24 November 1953		22 December 1955			36	
5,300 a.f.	430 yrs.	18,400 a.f.	250 yrs.	2,600 a.f.	180 yrs.	89,700 a.f.	37	
None (7)		Left Bank		None (7)			38	
		4 - 22' diameter					39	
		1013					40	
		2 - 11' x 23' per conduit, vertical lift, cable suspension					41	
1385 (11)		1229		1180 (11)			42	
		Elev 1375					43	
		32,000 cfs - 128,000 cfs						
1351-1355(10)	25,000-100,000 cfs	1228-1239	5,000-60,000 cfs	1155-1163	15,000-60,000 cfs		44	
70		117		48		764 feet	45	
None: direct intake		8 - 28' dia., 22' penstocks		None: direct intake			46	
		1,074				55,083	47	
None		59' dia, 2 per alternate penstock		None			48	
8 Fixed blade, 81.8 rpm		8 Francis, 85.7 rpm		3 Kaplan, 75 rpm		36 units	49	
67'	103,000 cfs	112'	44,500 cfs	48'	36,000 cfs		50	
3 - 67,276, 5 - 58,500		40,000		44,100			51	
494,320		320,000		132,300		2,501,200 kw	52	
497,000		293,000		74,000		1,967,000 kw	53	
969		1,729		727		9,331 million kWh	54	
October 1964 - July 1966		March 1954 - January 1956		September 1956 - January 1957		July 1943 - July 1966	55	
	\$107,498,000		\$199,066,000		\$49,617,000		\$1,166,404,000	56

Plate 3 Summary of Master Manual Technical Criteria

NAVIGATION TARGET FLOWS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Minimum Service (kcfs)</u>	<u>Full Service (kcfs)</u>
Sioux City	25	31
Omaha	25	31
Nebraska City	31	37
Kansas City	35	41

RELATION OF SYSTEM STORAGE TO NAVIGATION SERVICE LEVEL

<u>Date</u>	<u>System Storage (MAF)</u>	<u>Navigation Service Level</u>
March 15	54.5 or more	35,000 cfs (full-service)
March 15	49.0 to 31	29,000 cfs (minimum-service)
March 15	31.0 or less	No navigation service
July 1	57.0 or more	35,000 cfs (full-service)
July 1	50.5 or less	29,000 cfs (minimum-service)

RELATION OF SYSTEM STORAGE TO NAVIGATION SEASON LENGTH

<u>Date</u>	<u>System Storage (MAF)</u>	<u>Final Day of Navigation Support at Mouth of the Missouri River</u>
July 1	51.5 or more	November 30 (8-month season)
July 1	46.8 through 41.0	October 31 (7-month season)
July 1	36.5 or less	September 30 (6-month season)

GAVINS POINT RELEASES NEEDED TO MEET TARGET FLOWS

		1950 to 1996 Data (kcfs)							
		<u>Median, Upper Quartile, Upper Decile Runoff</u>							
		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Full Service		26.7	28.0	27.9	31.6	33.2	32.6	32.0	31.1
Minimum Service		20.7	22.0	21.9	25.6	27.2	26.6	26.0	25.1
		<u>Lower Quartile, Lower Decile Runoff</u>							
		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Full Service		29.8	31.3	31.2	34.3	34.0	33.5	33.1	31.2
Minimum Service		23.8	25.3	25.2	28.3	28.0	27.5	27.1	25.2

RESERVOIR UNBALANCING SCHEDULE

Year	Fort Peck		Garrison		Oahe	
	March 1	Rest of Year	March 1	Rest of Year	March 1	Rest of Year
1	High	Float	Low	Hold Peak	Raise & hold during spawn	Float
2	Raise & hold during spawn	Float	High	Float	Low	Hold peak
3	Low	Hold peak	Raise & hold during spawn	Float	High	Float

Notes: **Float year:** Normal regulation, then unbalance 1 foot during low pool years or 3 feet when System storage is near 57.0 MAF on March 1.

Low year: Begin low, then hold peak the remainder of the year.

High year: Begin high, raise and hold pool during spawn, then float.

MRNRC RECOMMENDED RESERVOIR ELEVATION GUIDELINES FOR UNBALANCING

	Fort Peck	Garrison	Oahe
Implement unbalancing if March 1 pool is above this level.	2234 feet msl	1837.5 feet msl	1607.5 feet msl
Implement unbalancing if March 1 pool level is in this range and the pool is expected to raise more than 3 feet after March 1.	2227-2234 feet msl	1827-1837.5 feet msl	1600-1607.5 feet msl
Scheduling Criteria	Avoid pool level decline during spawn period which ranges from April 15 - May 30	Schedule after spawn period of April 20 - May 20	Schedule after spawn period of April 8 - May 15

Plate 3 (cont'd)
Summary of Master Manual Technical Criteria

**TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR SPRING PULSES
FROM GAVINS POINT DAM**

Criteria Applicable to Both the March and May Spring Pulses

Flood Control Constraints	No change from current levels
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Criteria Applicable to the March Spring Pulse

Drought Preclude	40.0 MAF or below measured on March 1.
Drought Proration of Pulse Magnitude*	None, 5 kcfs added to navigation releases, but no greater than 35 kcfs.
Initiation of Pulse	Extend the stepped System release increases that precede the beginning of the navigation season.
Rate of Rise before Peak	Approximately 5 kcfs for 1 day.
Duration of Peak	Two days.
Rate of Fall after Peak	Drop over 5 days to navigation target release.

Criteria Applicable to Time Period Between the Bimodal Pulses

Release	Existing Master Manual Criteria
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Criteria Applicable to the May Spring Pulse

Drought Preclude	40.0 MAF or below measured on May 1.
Proration of Pulse Magnitude Based On System Storage*	Prorated from 16 kcfs based on a May 1 System Storage check; 100% at 54.5 MAF; straight line interpolation to 75% at 40.0 MAF.
Proration of Pulse Magnitude Based On Projected Runoff*	After the proration of the spring pulse magnitude for System Storage, the resultant magnitude would be further adjusted either up or down based on the May CY runoff forecast; 100% for Median; straight-line interpolation to 125% at Upper Quartile runoff; 125% for runoff above Upper Quartile; straight-line interpolation to 75% at Lower Quartile runoff; 75% for runoff below Lower Quartile.
Initiation of Pulse	Between May 1 to May 19, depending on Missouri River water temperature immediately below Gavins Point Dam. If possible, pulse will be initiated after the second daily occurrence of a 16 degree Celsius water temperature; however, the decision will be informed by the potential for 'take' of Threatened and Endangered bird species.
Rate of Rise before Peak	Approximately 6 kcfs per day.
Duration of Peak	Two days.
Rate of Fall after Peak	Approximately 30% drop over 2 days followed by a proportional reduction in releases back to the existing Master Manual criteria over an 8-day period.

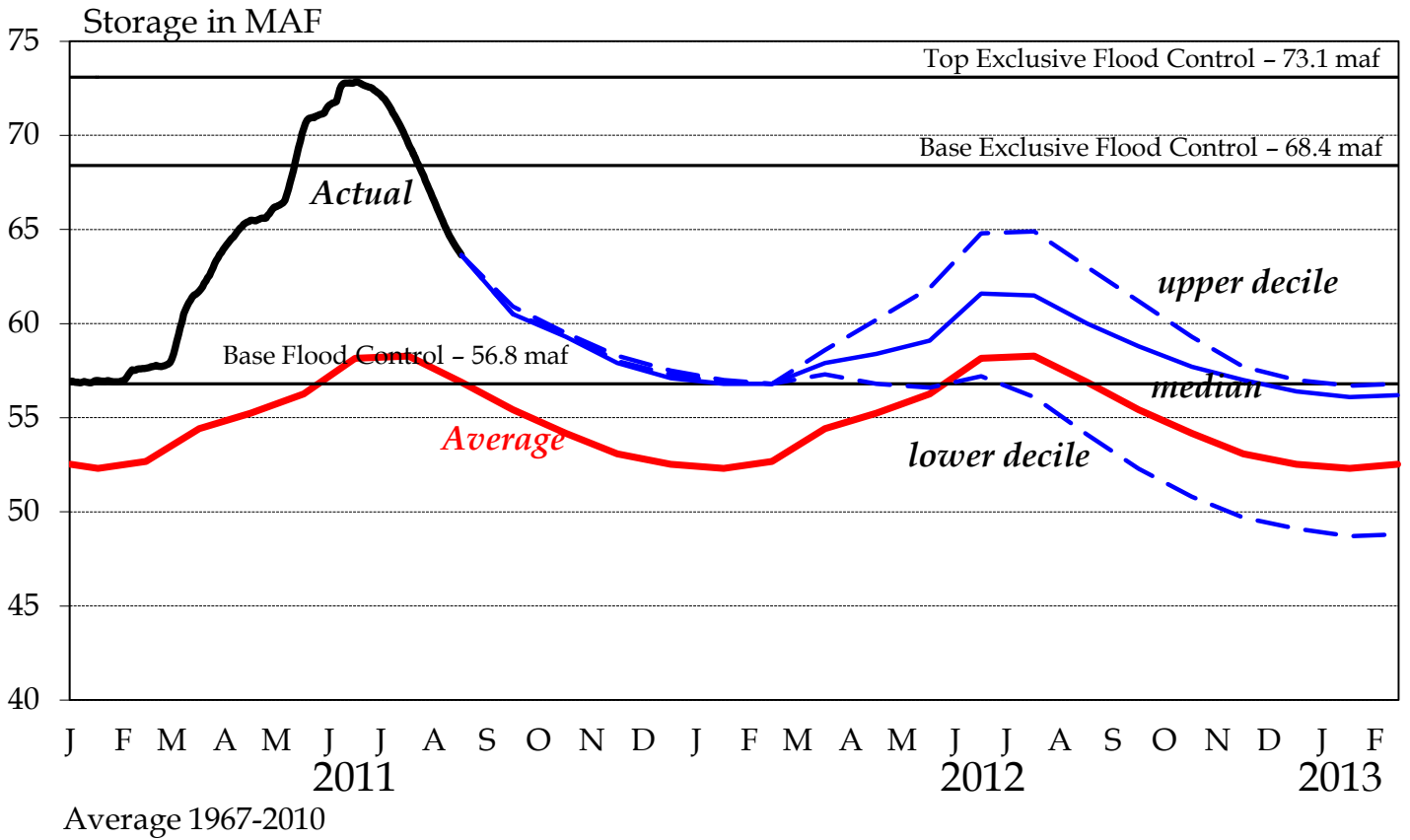
Spring Pulse Downstream Flow Limits

Omaha	41,000 cfs
Nebraska City	47,000 cfs
Kansas City	71,000 cfs

* Spring pulse magnitudes will be determined by taking the difference between pre-pulse Gavins Point releases and the peak pulse Missouri River flows measured just downstream of the mouth of the James River.

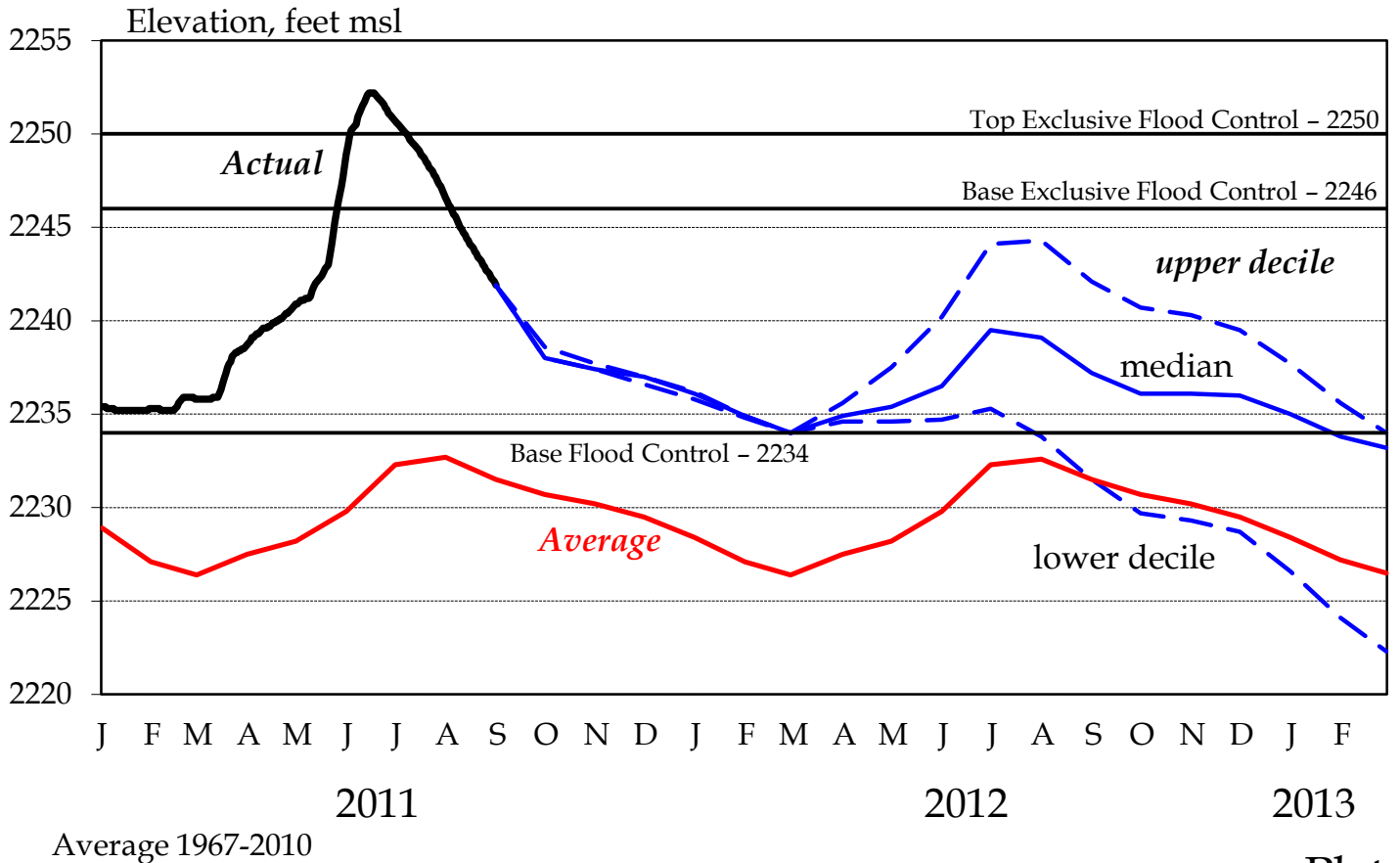
System Storage

2011-2012 AOP



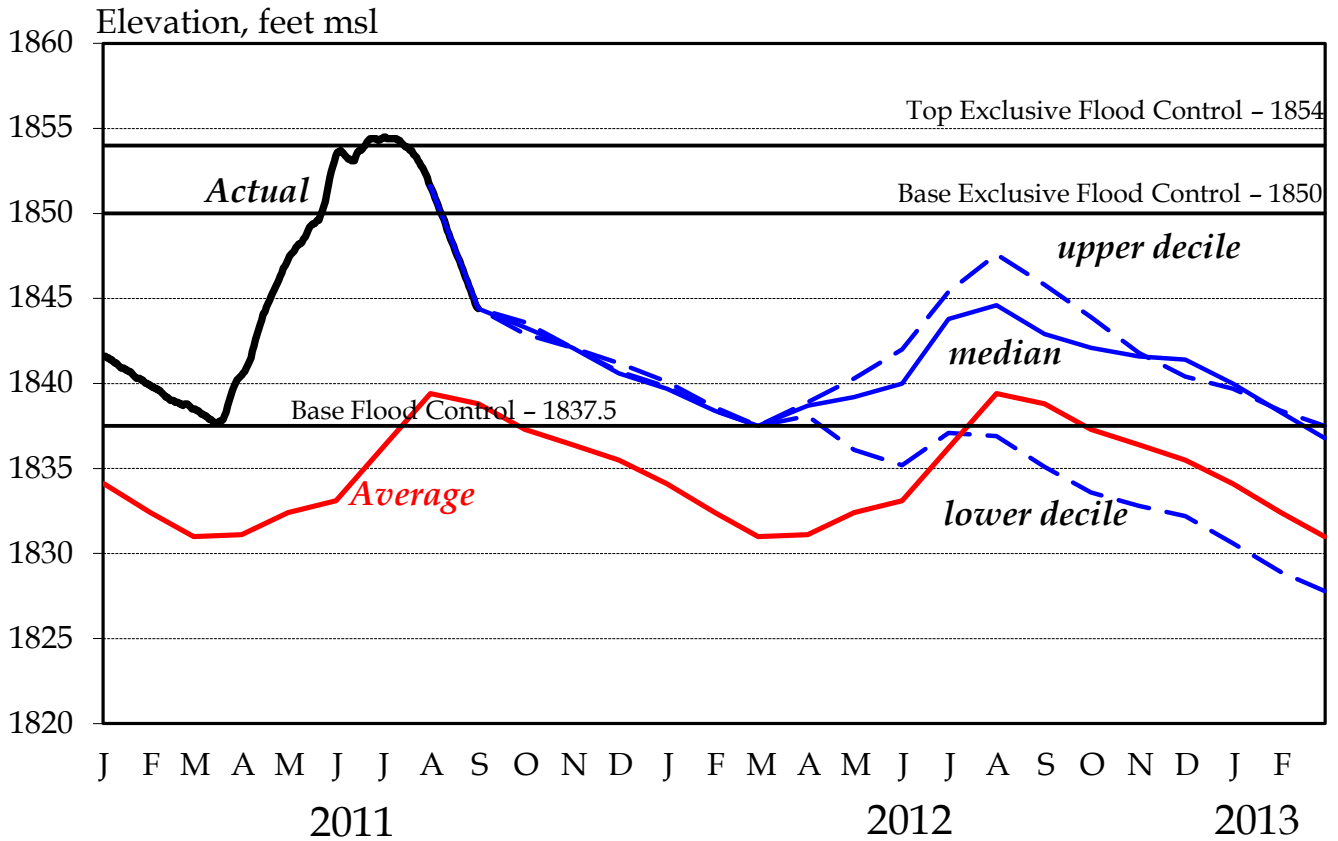
Fort Peck

2011-2012 AOP



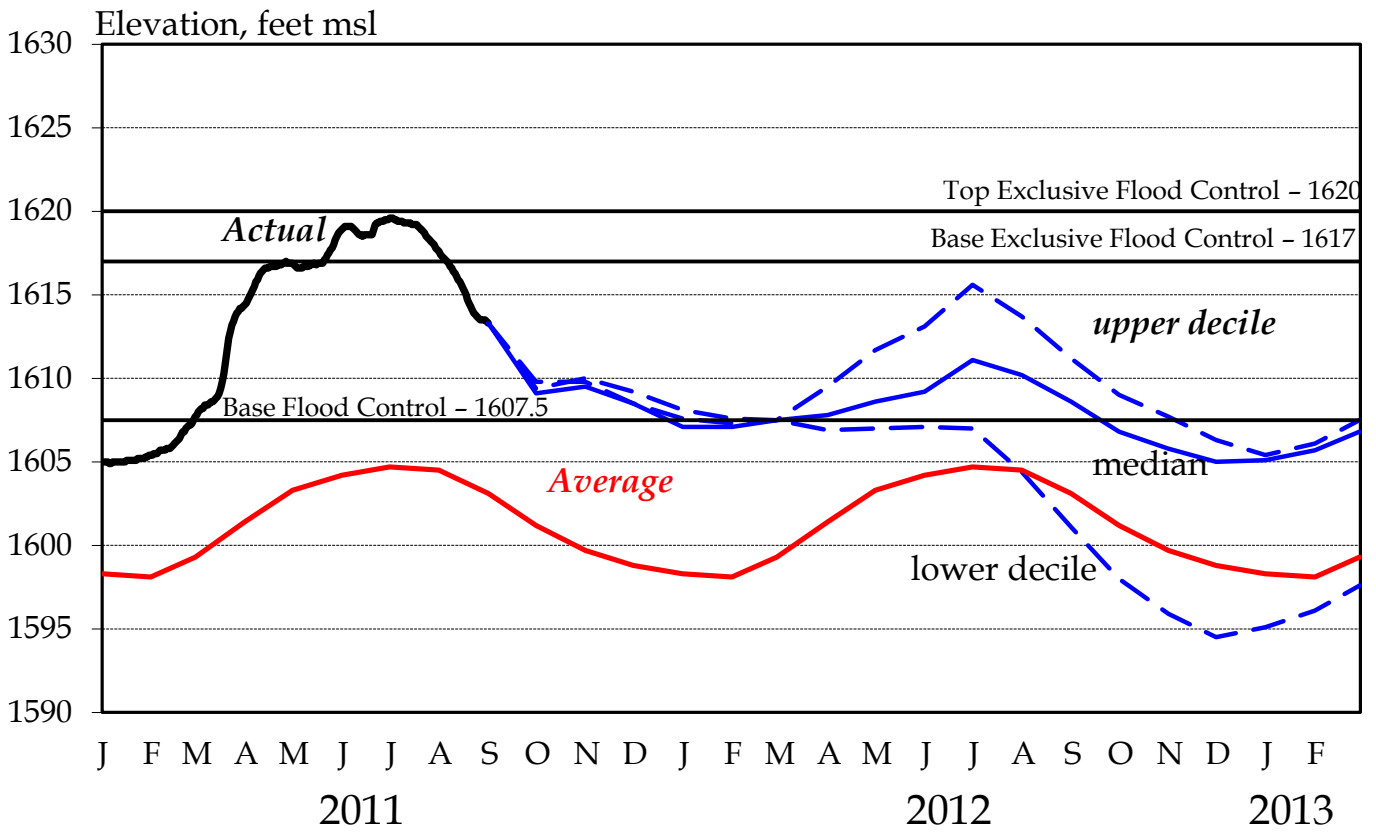
Garrison

2011-2012 AOP

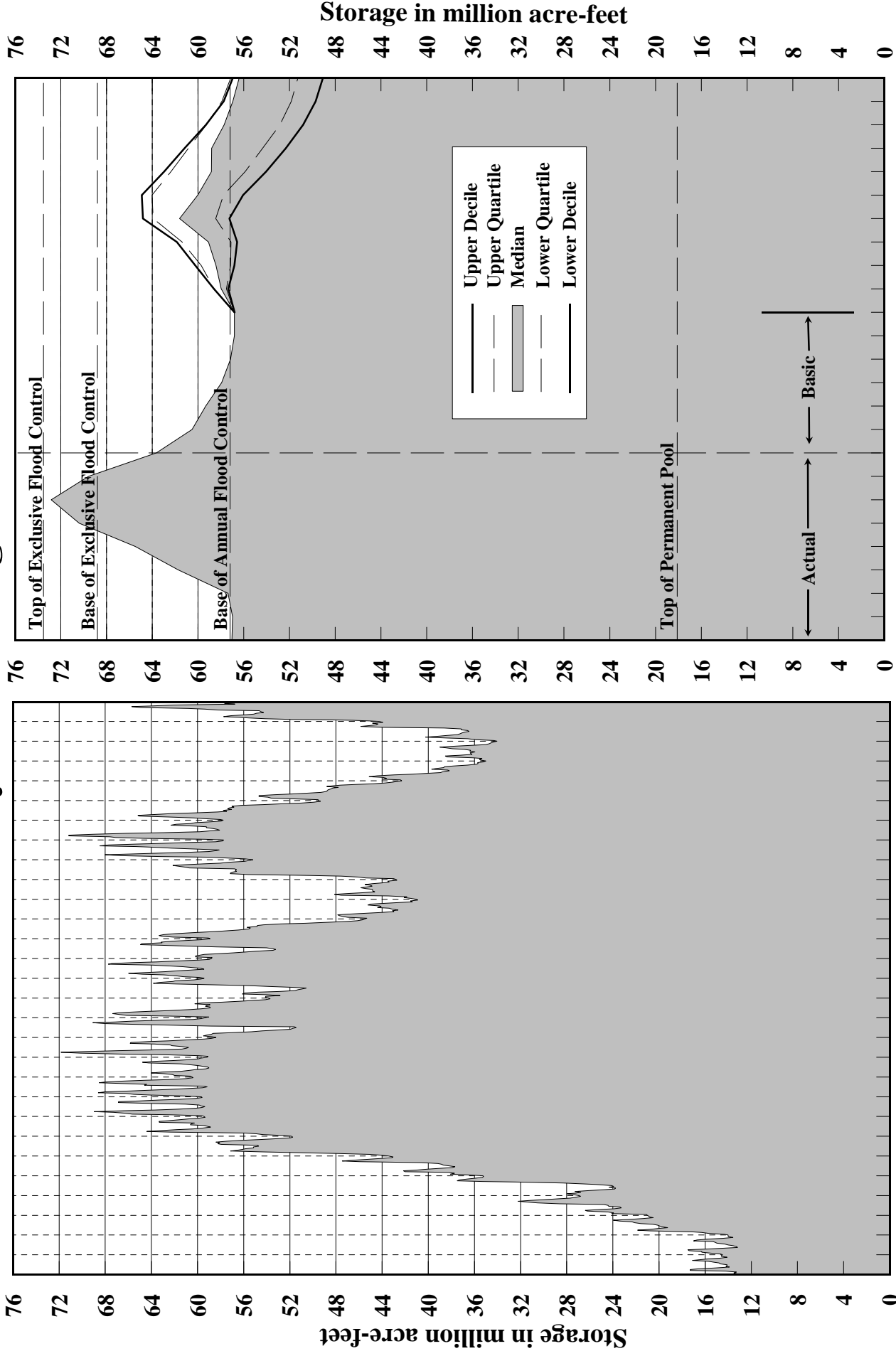


Oahe

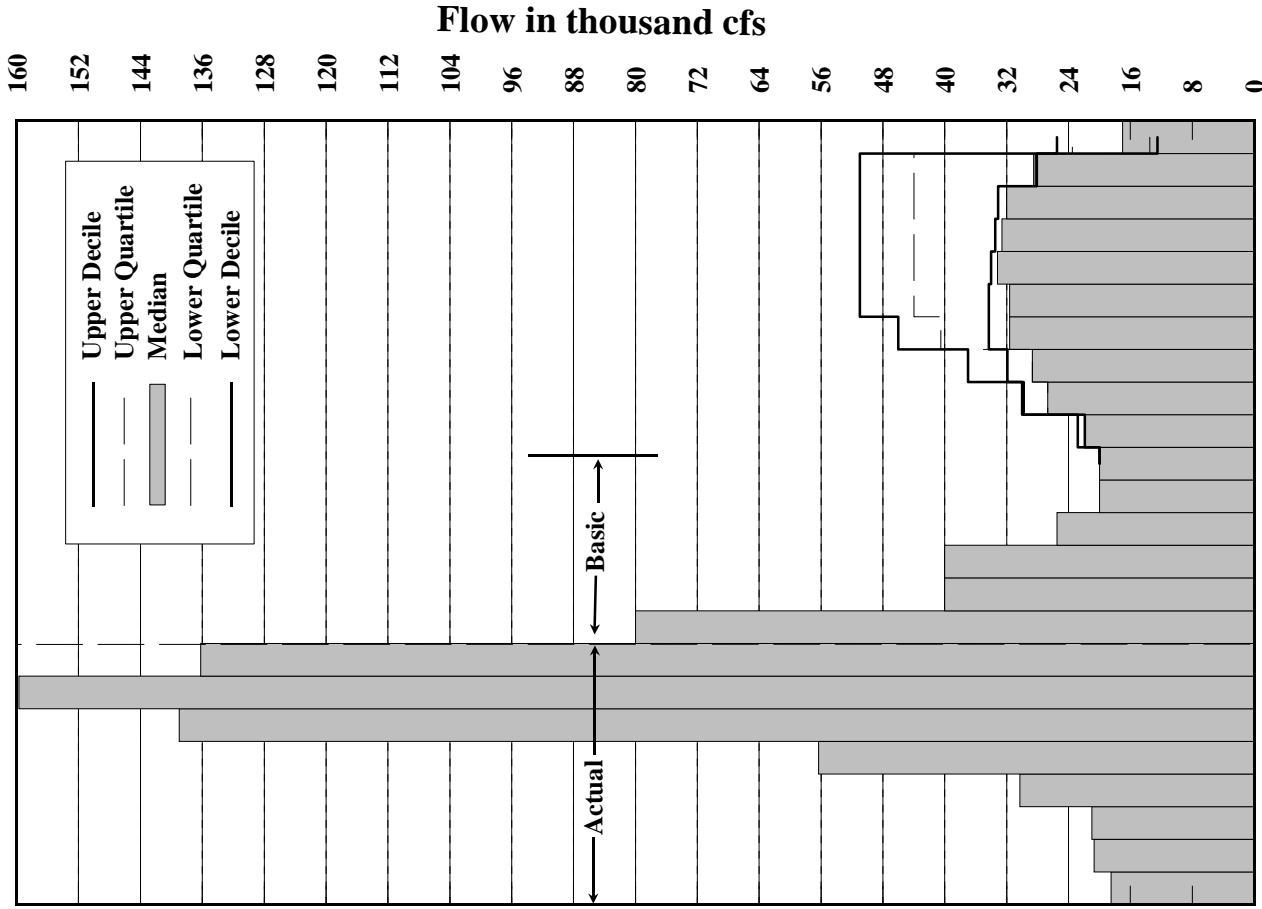
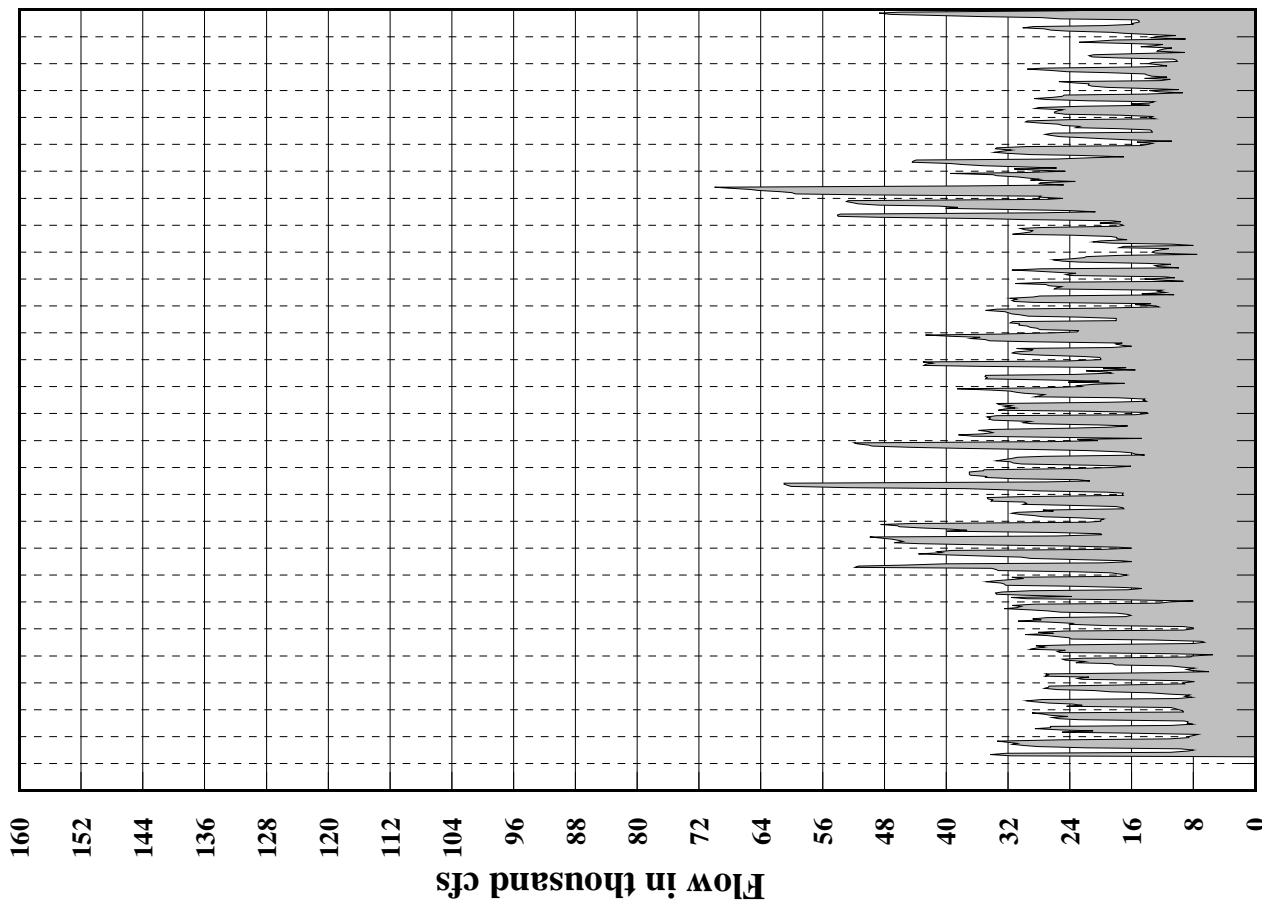
2011-2012 AOP



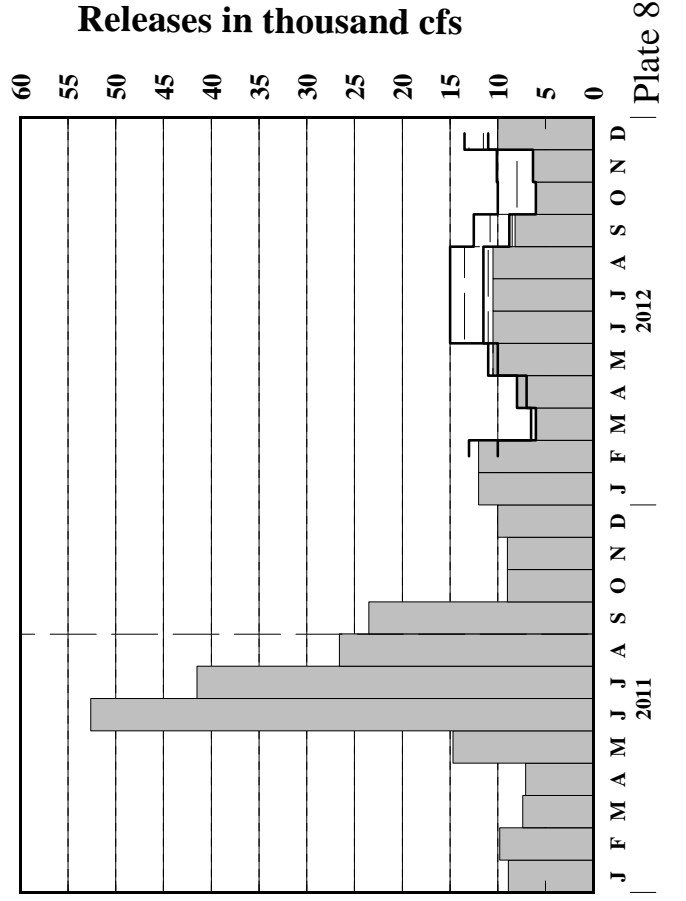
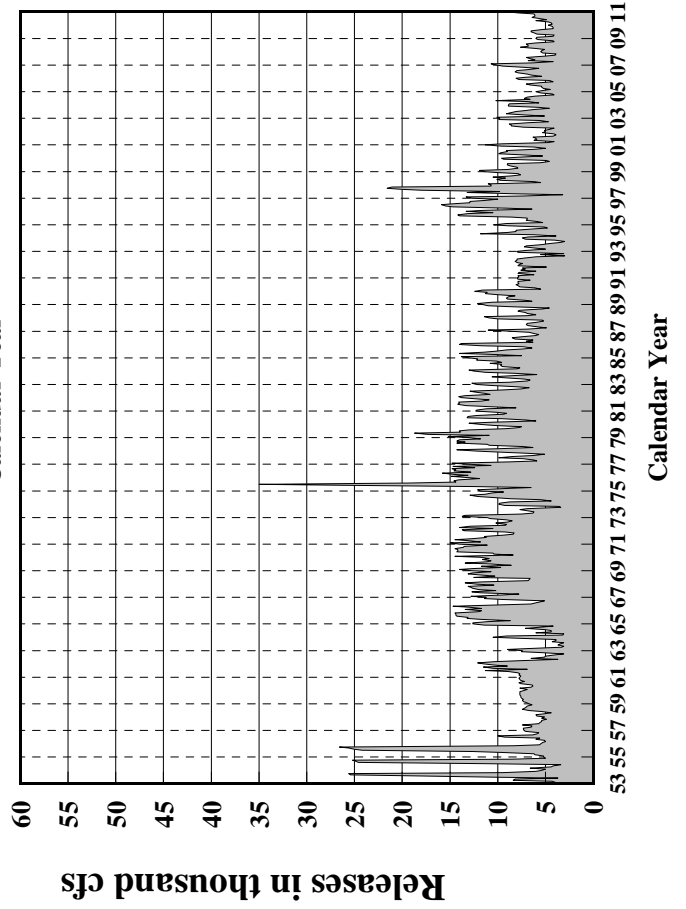
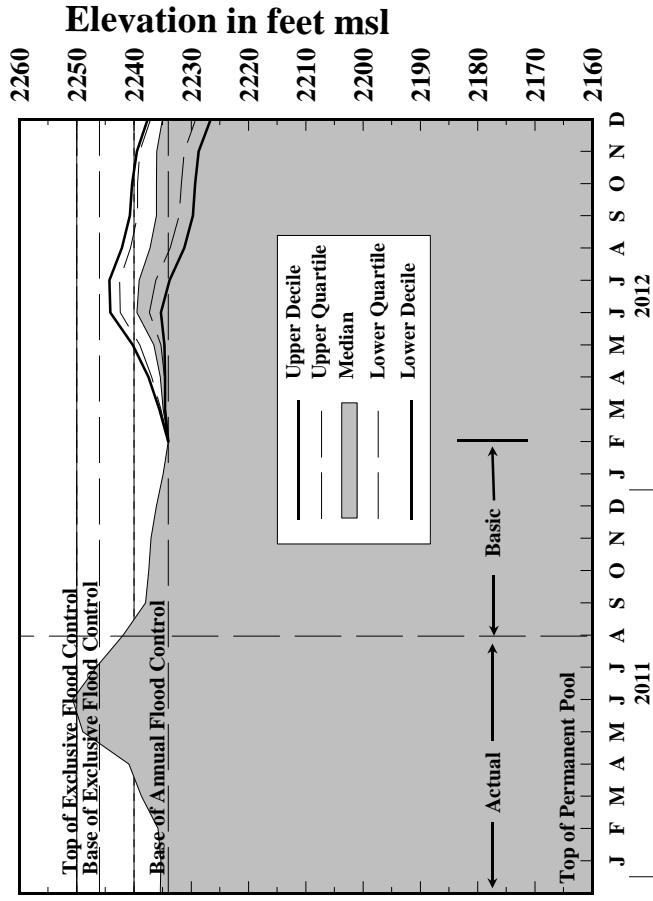
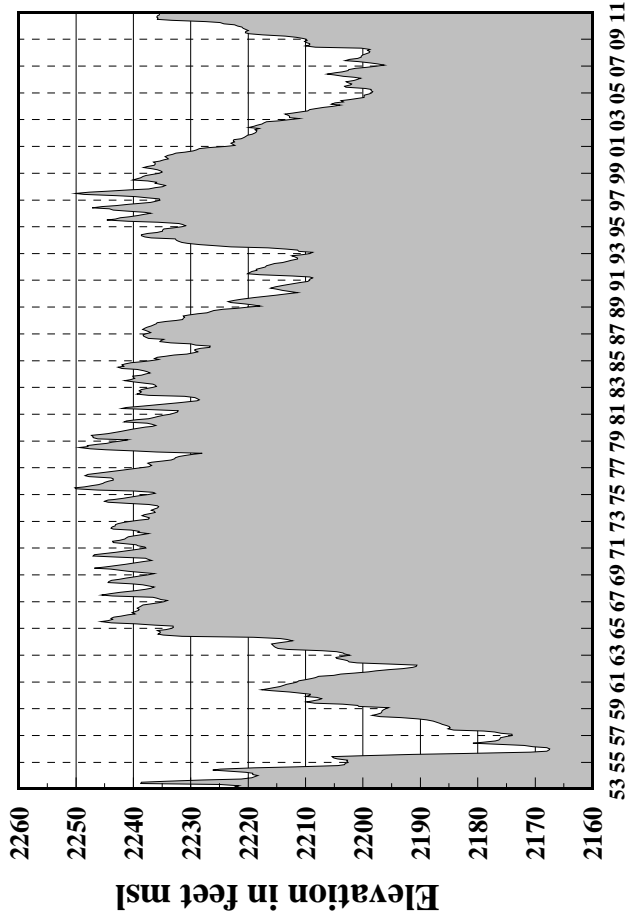
System Storage



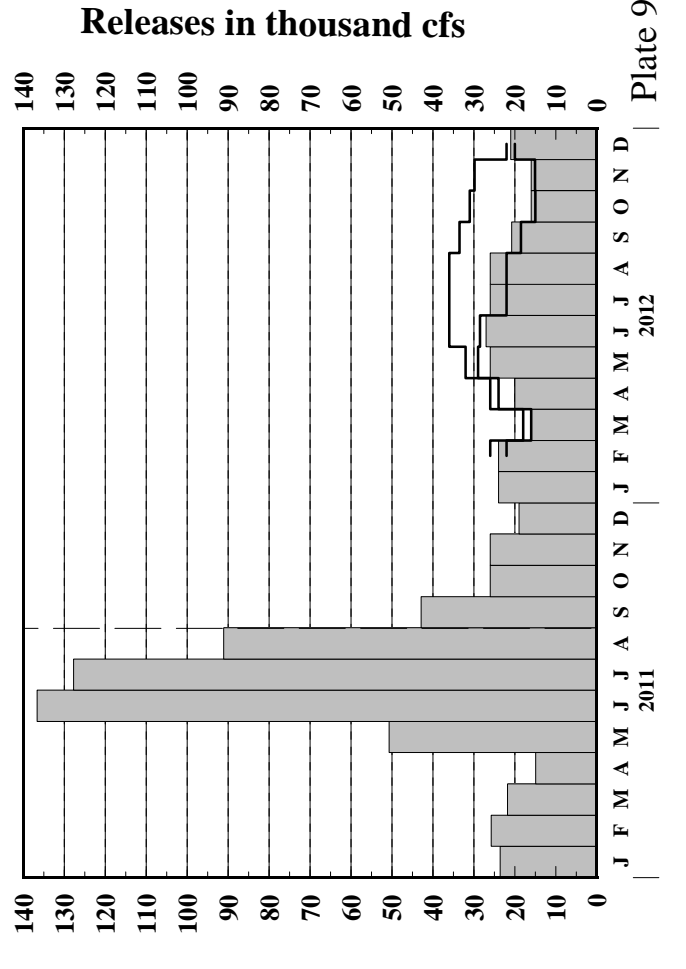
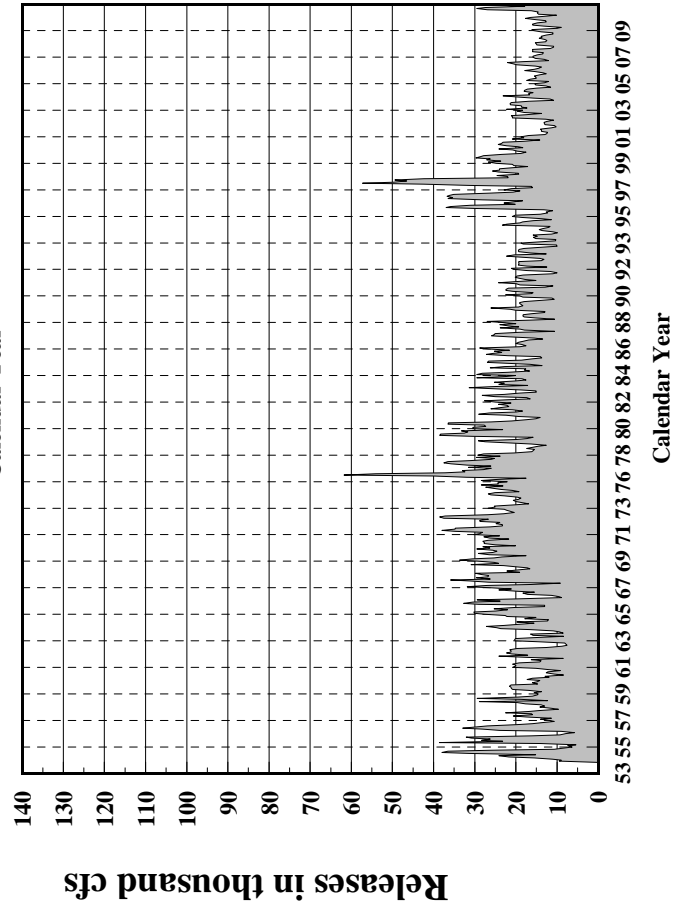
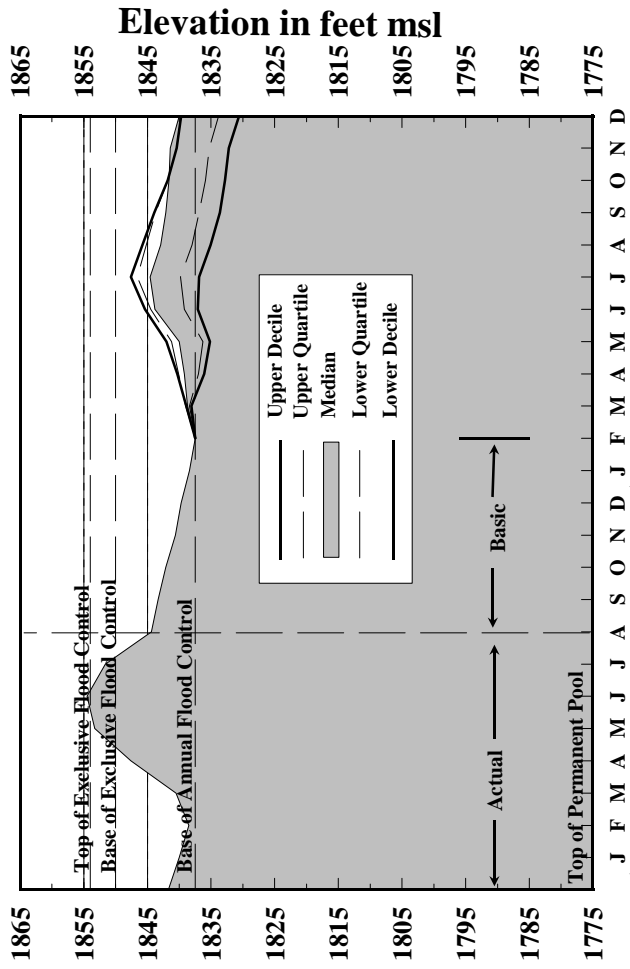
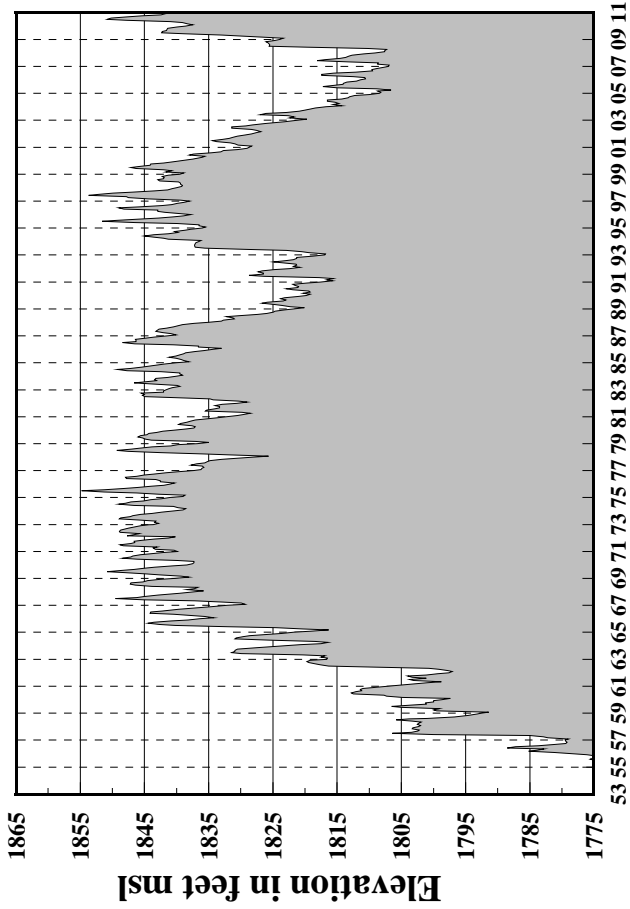
Gavins Point Releases



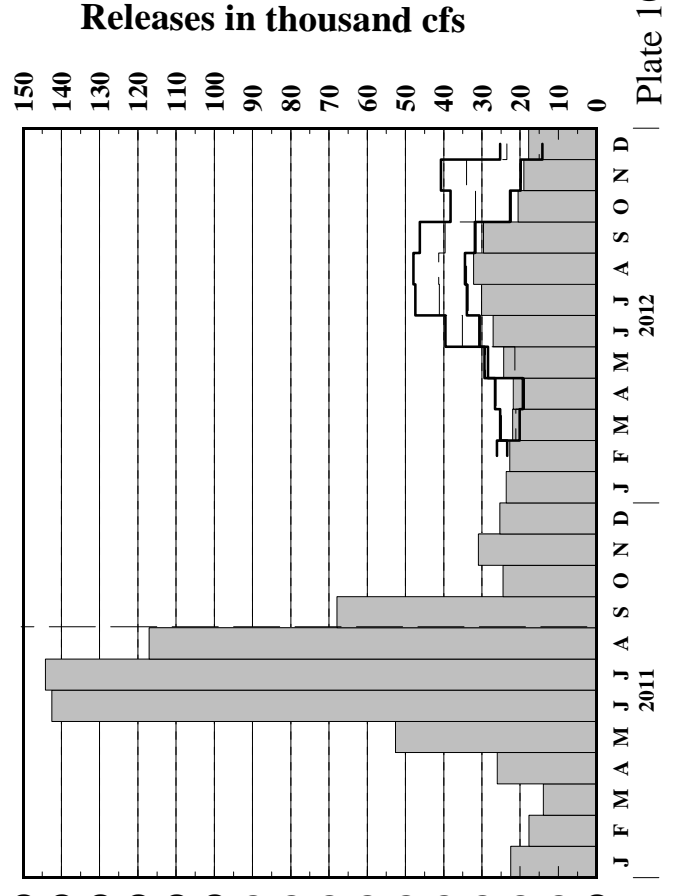
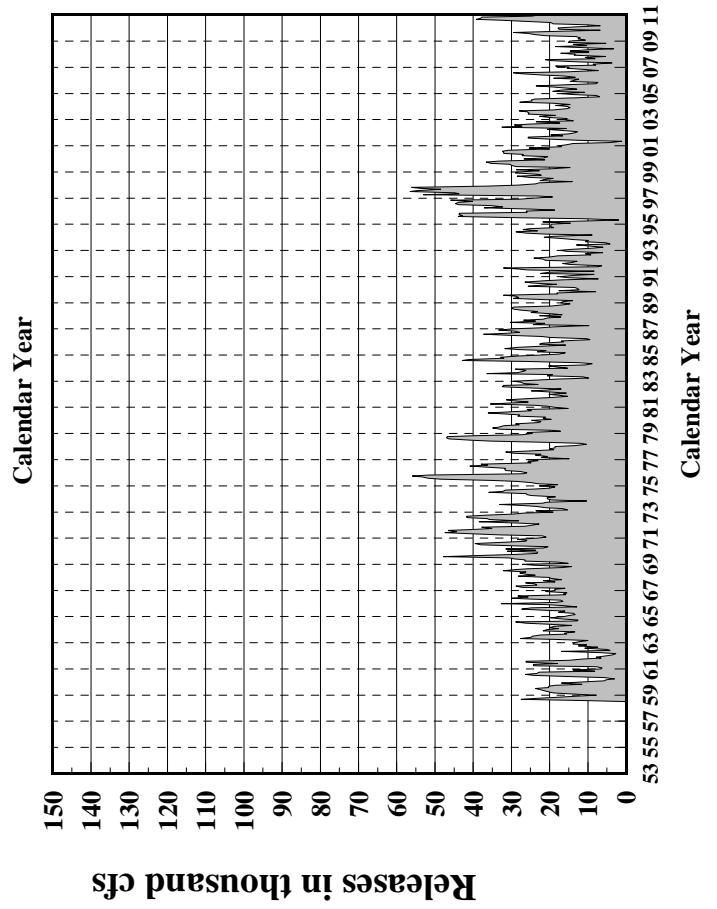
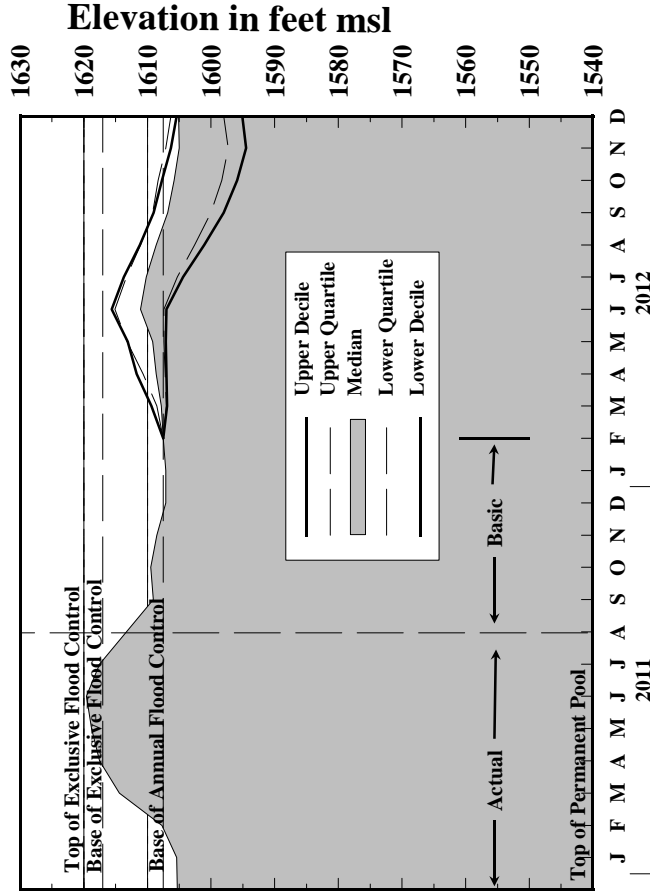
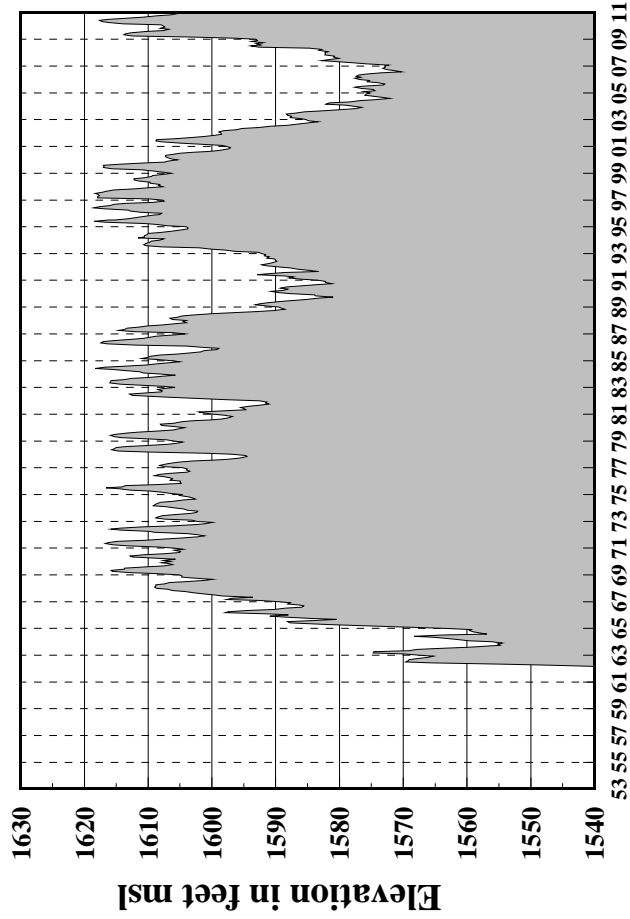
Fort Peck Elevations and Releases



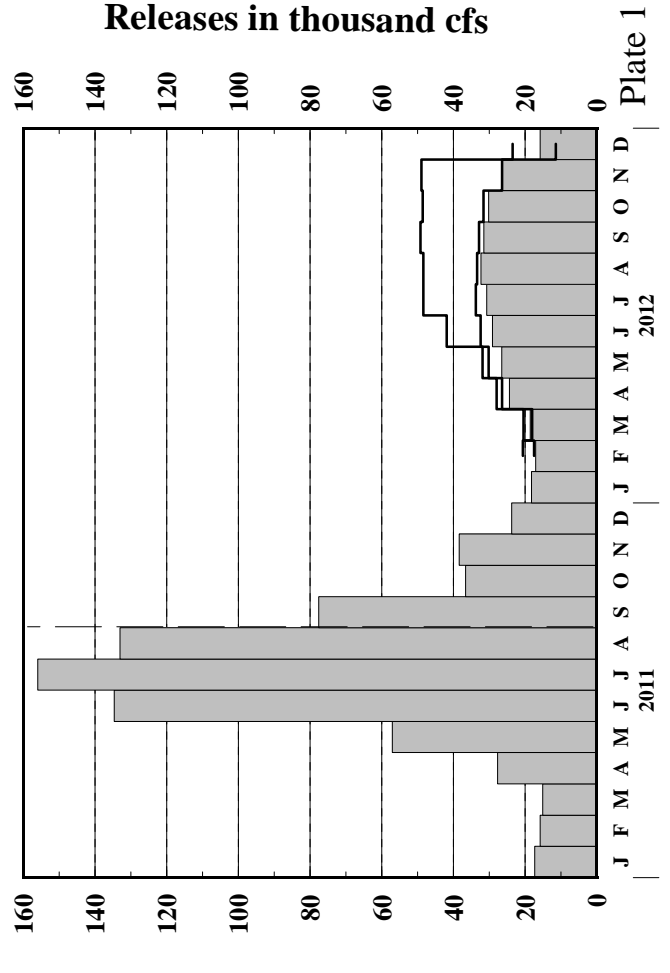
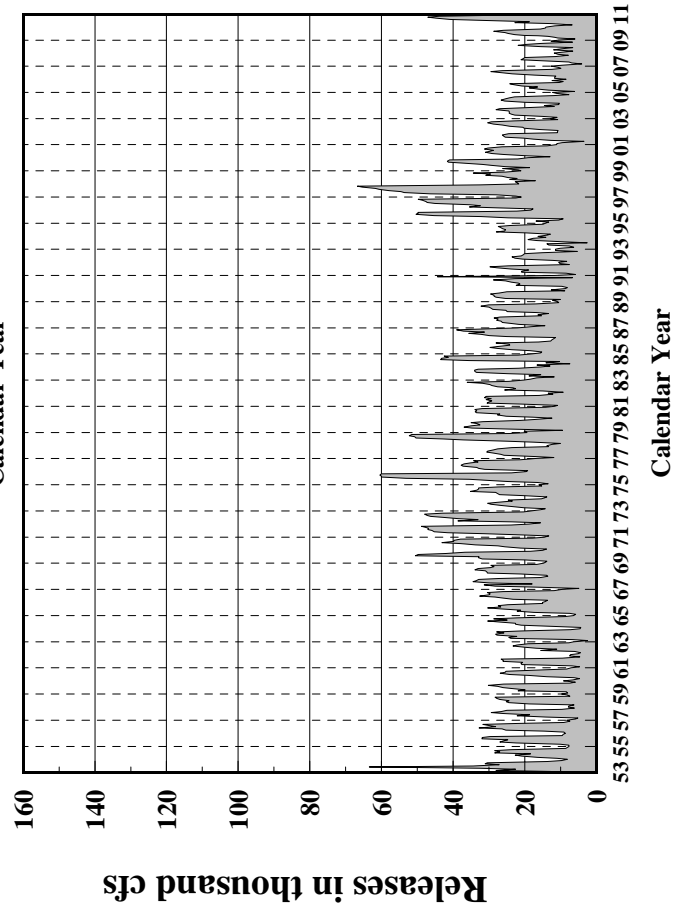
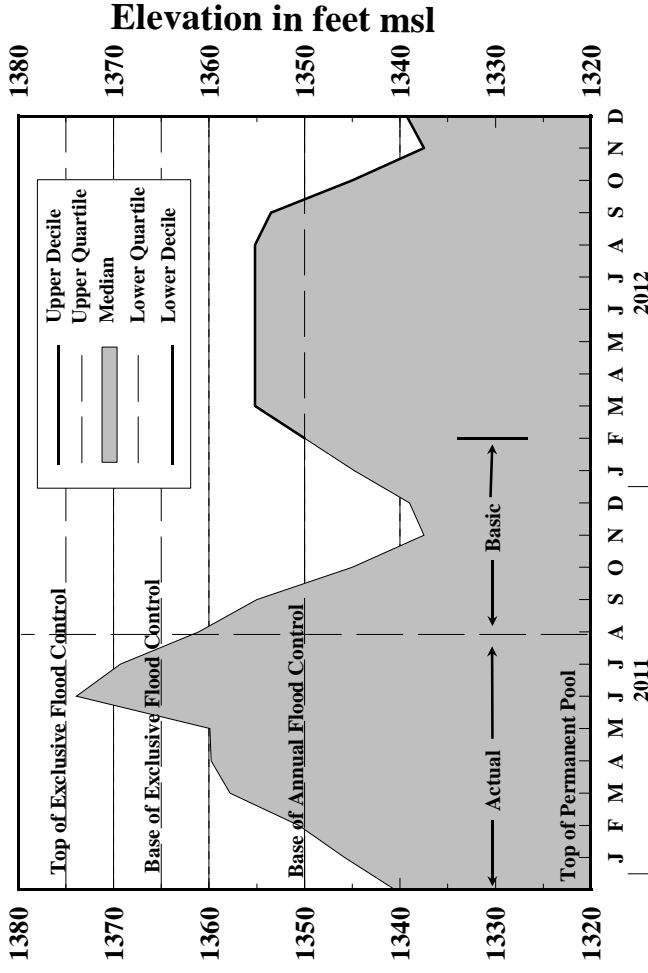
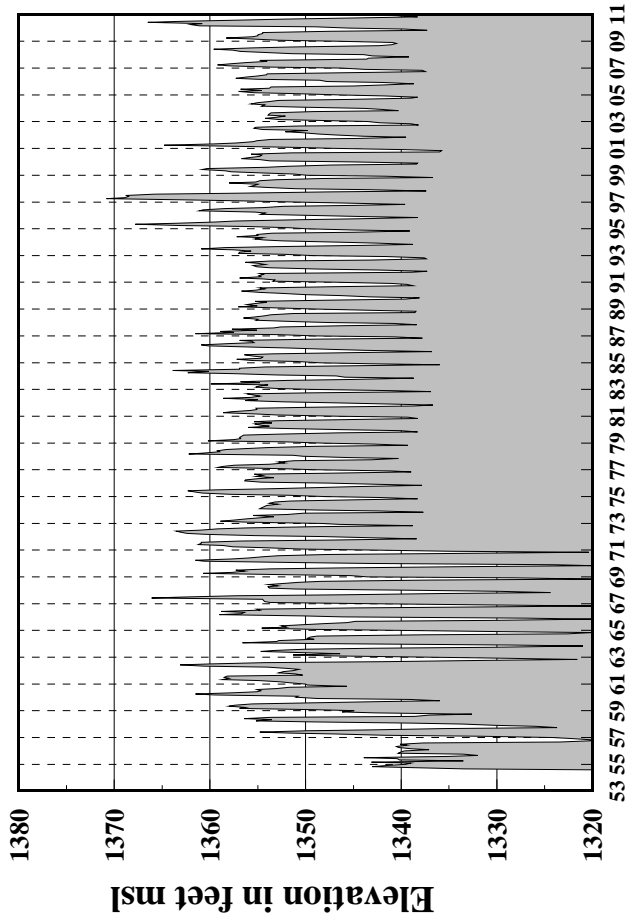
Garrison Elevations and Releases



Oahe Elevations and Releases

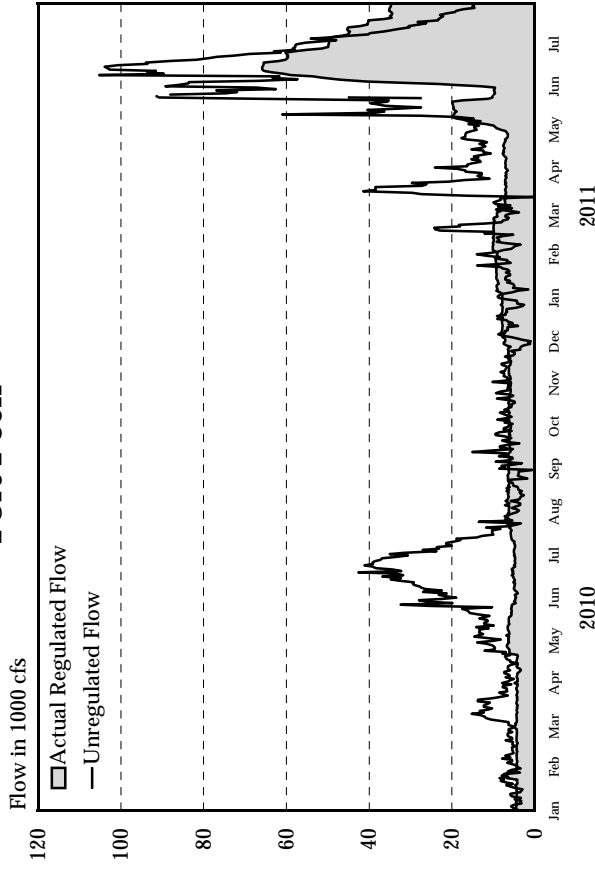


Fort Randall Elevations and Releases

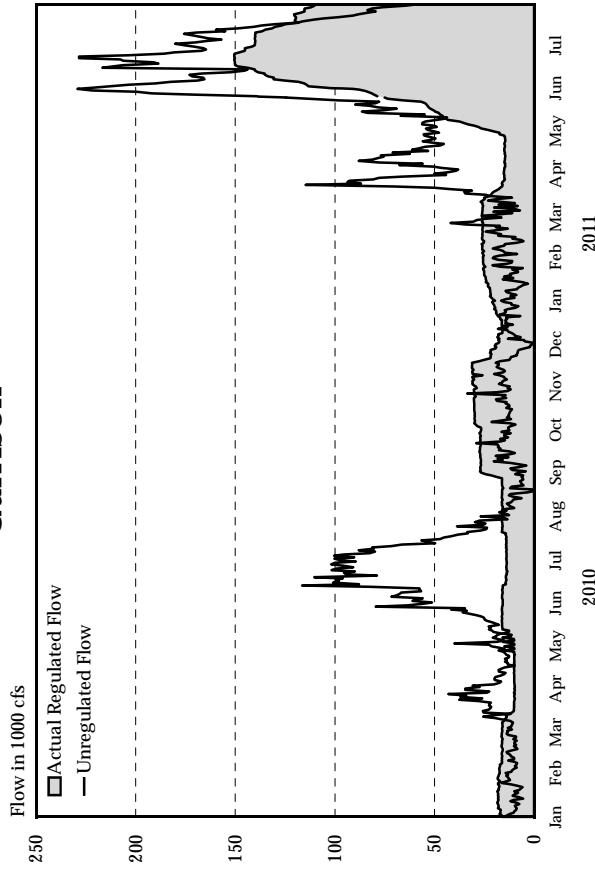


Reservoir Release and Unregulated Flow

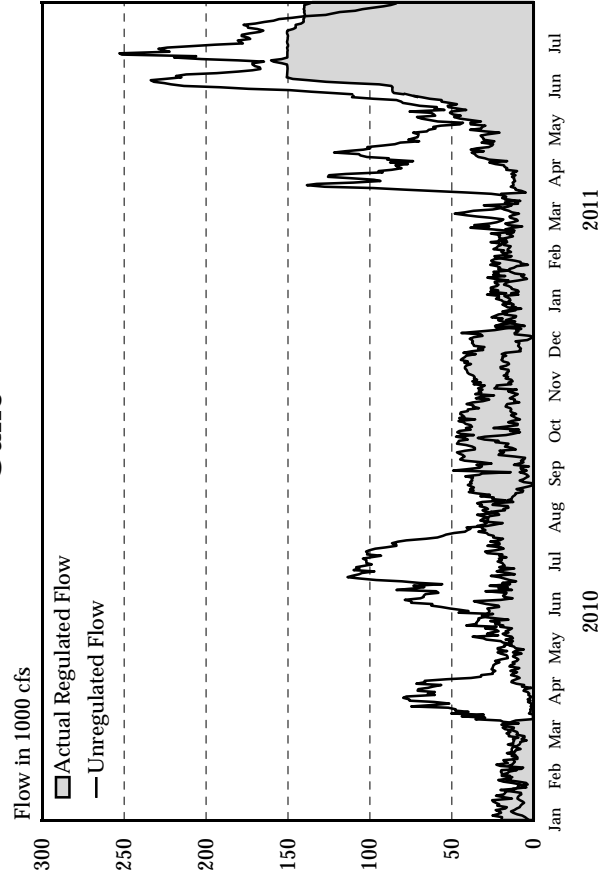
Fort Peck



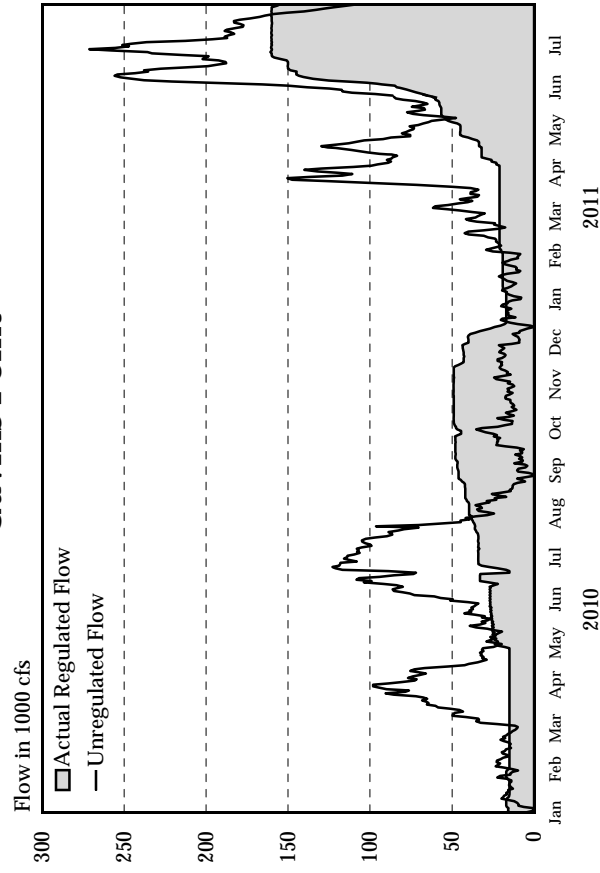
Garrison



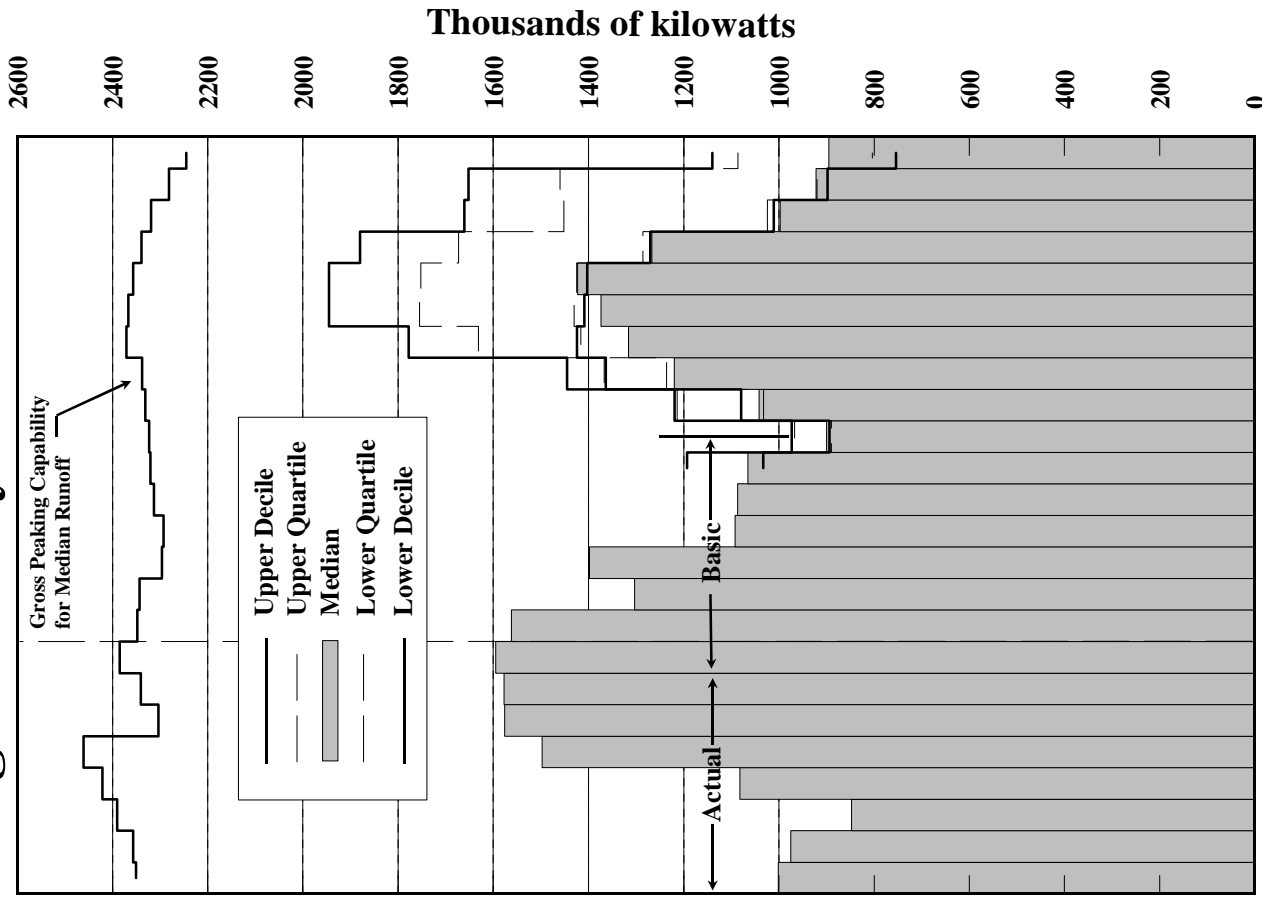
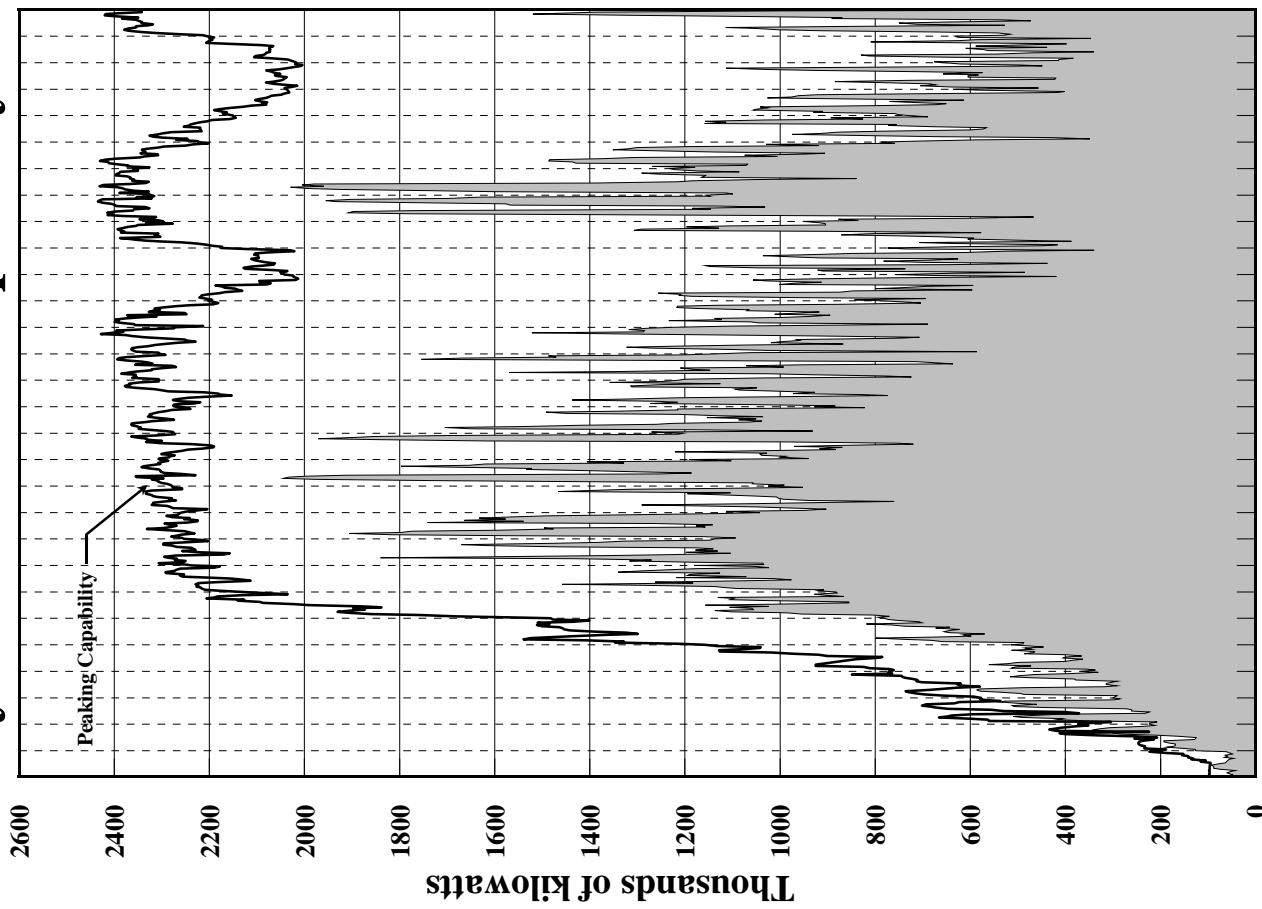
Oahe



Gavins Point

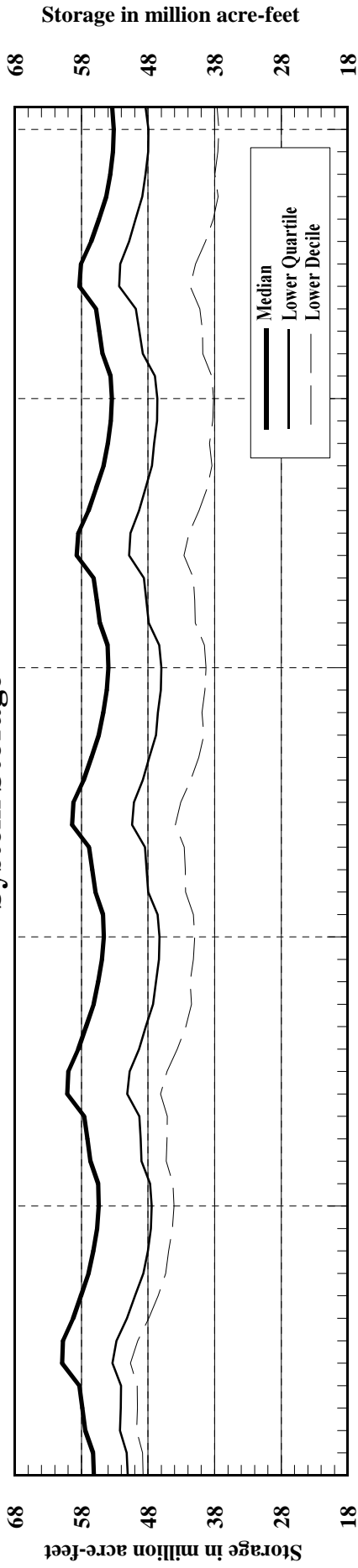


System Gross Capability and Average Monthly Generation

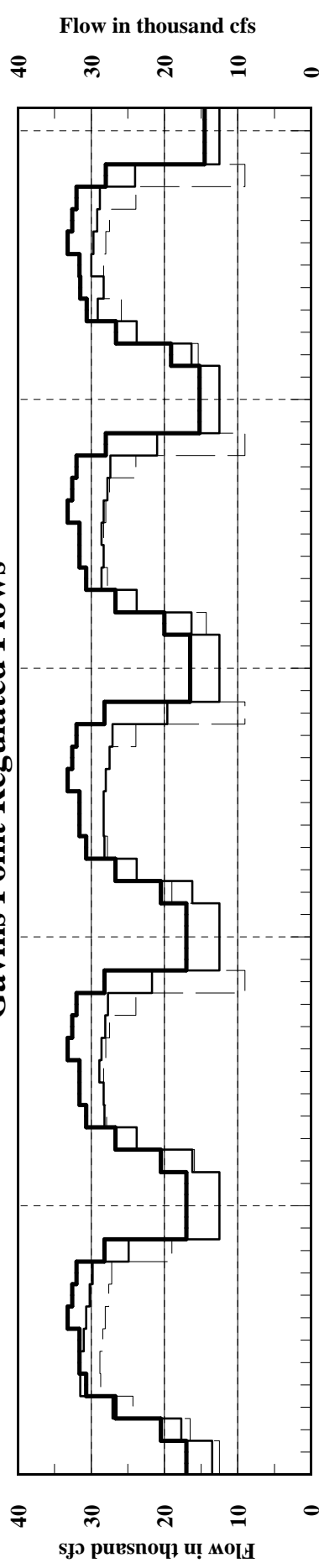


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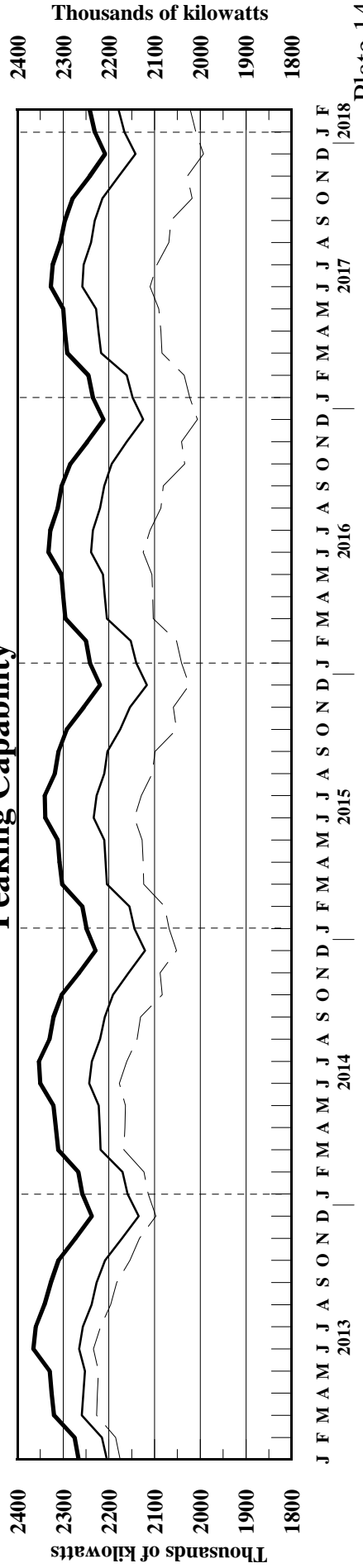
Tentative Five Year Extensions of 2011-2012 AOP System Storage



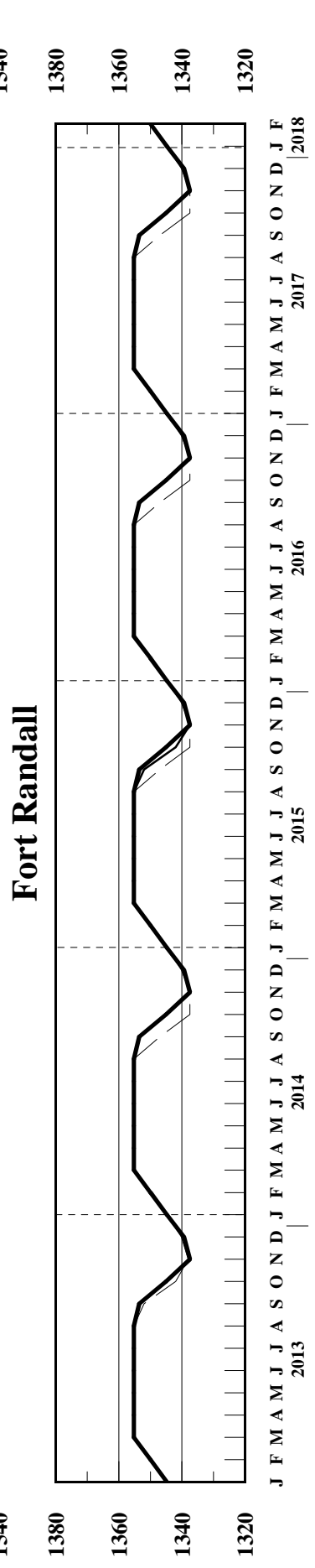
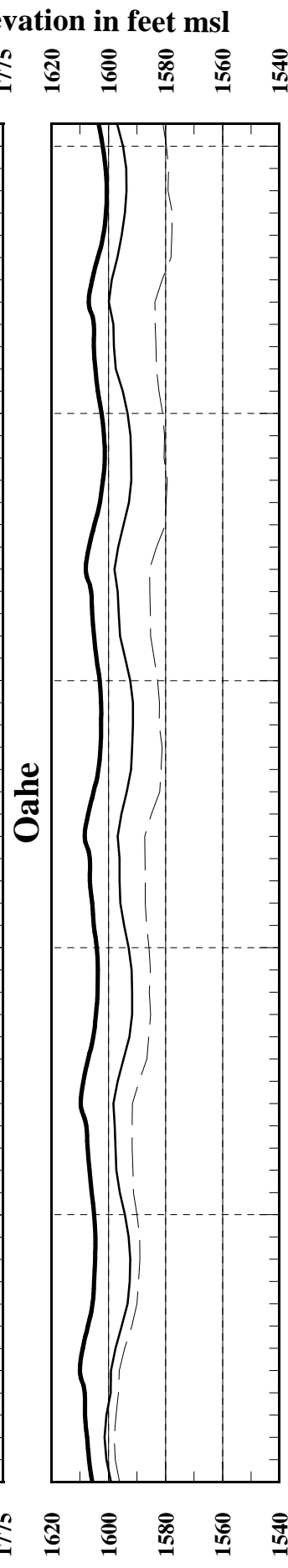
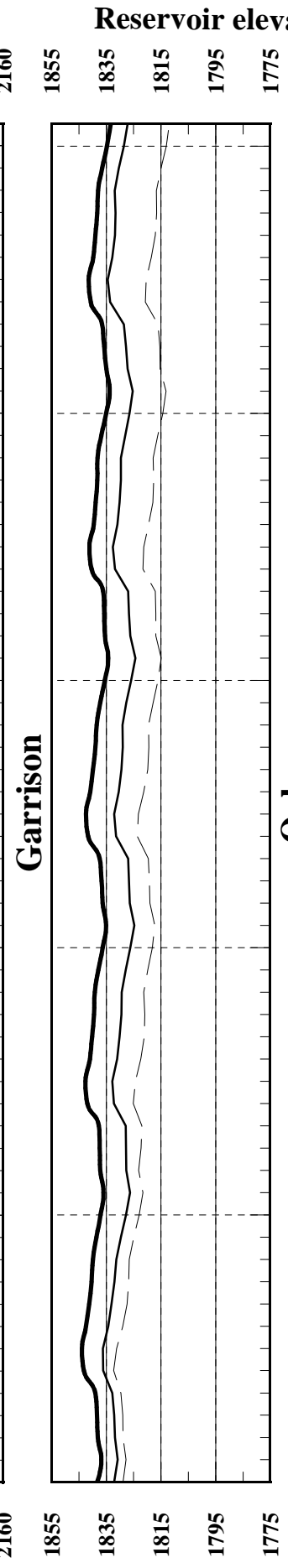
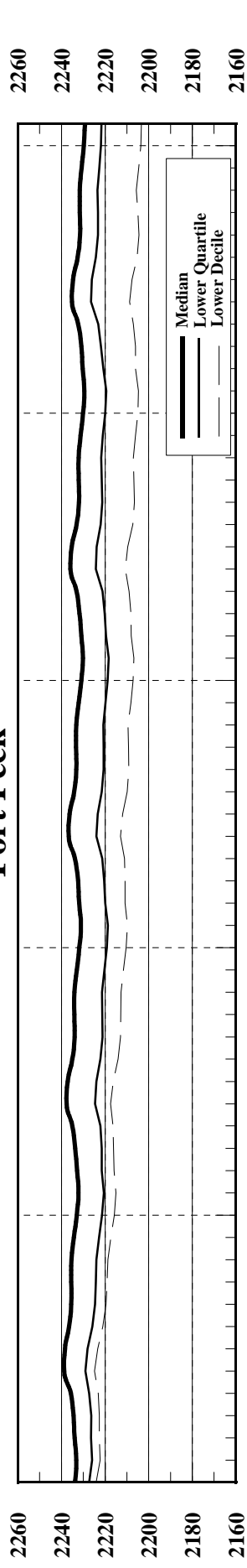
Gavins Point Regulated Flows



Peaking Capability



Tentative Five Year Extensions of 2011-2012 AOP Fort Peck



VALUES IN 1000 AF EXCEPT AS INDICATED

STUDY NO 4

Table with columns for time periods (28FEB12, INI-SUM, 15MAR, 22MAR, 31MAR, 30APR, 31MAY, 30JUN, 31JUL, 31AUG, 30SEP, 31OCT, 15NOV, 22NOV, 30NOV, 31DEC, 31JAN, 28FEB) and rows for various metrics (NAT INFLOW, DEPLETION, EVAPORATION, MOD INFLOW, RELEASE, STOR CHANGE, STORAGE, ELEV FTMSL, DISCH KCFS, POWER, AVE POWER MW, PEAK POW MW, ENERGY GWH) for different stations (FORT PECK, GARRISON, OAHE, BIG BEND, FORT RANDALL, GAVINS POINT, SIOUX CITY).

TIME OF STUDY 13:49:44

Table with columns for months (INI-SUM, 15MAR, 22MAR, 31MAR, 30APR, 31MAY, 30JUN, 31JUL, 31AUG, 30SEP, 31OCT, 15NOV, 22NOV, 30NOV, 31DEC, 31JAN, 28FEB) and rows for various categories (e.g., --FORT PECK--, --GARRISON--, --OAHE--, --BIG BEND--, --FORT RANDALL--, --GAVINS POINT--, --TOTAL--). Each row contains values for these months and an average power MW, peak power MW, and energy GWh.

Table with columns for months (15MAR to 28FEB) and rows for various categories: --FORT PECK--, --GARRISON--, --OAHE--, --BIG BEND--, --FORT RANDALL--, --GAVINS POINT--, --GAVINS POINT - SIOUX CITY--, and --TOTAL--. Each row contains numerical values for each month.