

Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC)



*Working together throughout the basin
towards practical solutions for endangered
species recovery and ecosystem restoration*

First steps.....

- MRRIC Planning Group
 - Developing a recommended Charter for MRRIC

- Responding to direction from Congress
 - Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

Presentation Outline

- What is MRRIC?
- MRRIC Planning Group
- Charter Development Process
- The Draft Charter
- Your Role

Origins of the concept for MRRIC

- ❑ Endangered Species Act consultation between USACE and USFWS during review of Master Manual
- ❑ 2002 NRC Report – “The Missouri River Ecosystem: Exploring the Prospects for Recovery”
- ❑ USACE’s 2003 Biological Assessment for Master Manual
- ❑ USFWS’s 2003 Amended Biological Opinion
- ❑ USACE’s 2004 Record of Decision on revised Master Manual

Initial Vision for MRRIC

- ❑ Provide basin-wide forum for collaboration on recovery activities
- ❑ Ensure consideration of public values in recovery decisions
- ❑ Participation by broad range of basin tribes, states, stakeholders, and federal agencies
- ❑ Provide consensus-based recommendations to management entities in the basin
- ❑ Play critical role in Adaptive Management

MRRIC Charter Development Process

- April 2006: MRRIC Situation Assessment
- MRRIC Federal Working Group proposes “Framework for Establishing MRRIC”
- Four ways to participate in developing MRRIC Charter: Drafting Team, Review Panel (together comprising MRRIC Planning Group), Public Workshops, Public Comment
- Recruit, appoint and select members of MRRIC Planning Group
- Spring 2007: MRRIC Planning Group convenes to develop recommended Charter for MRRIC

MRRIC Planning Group

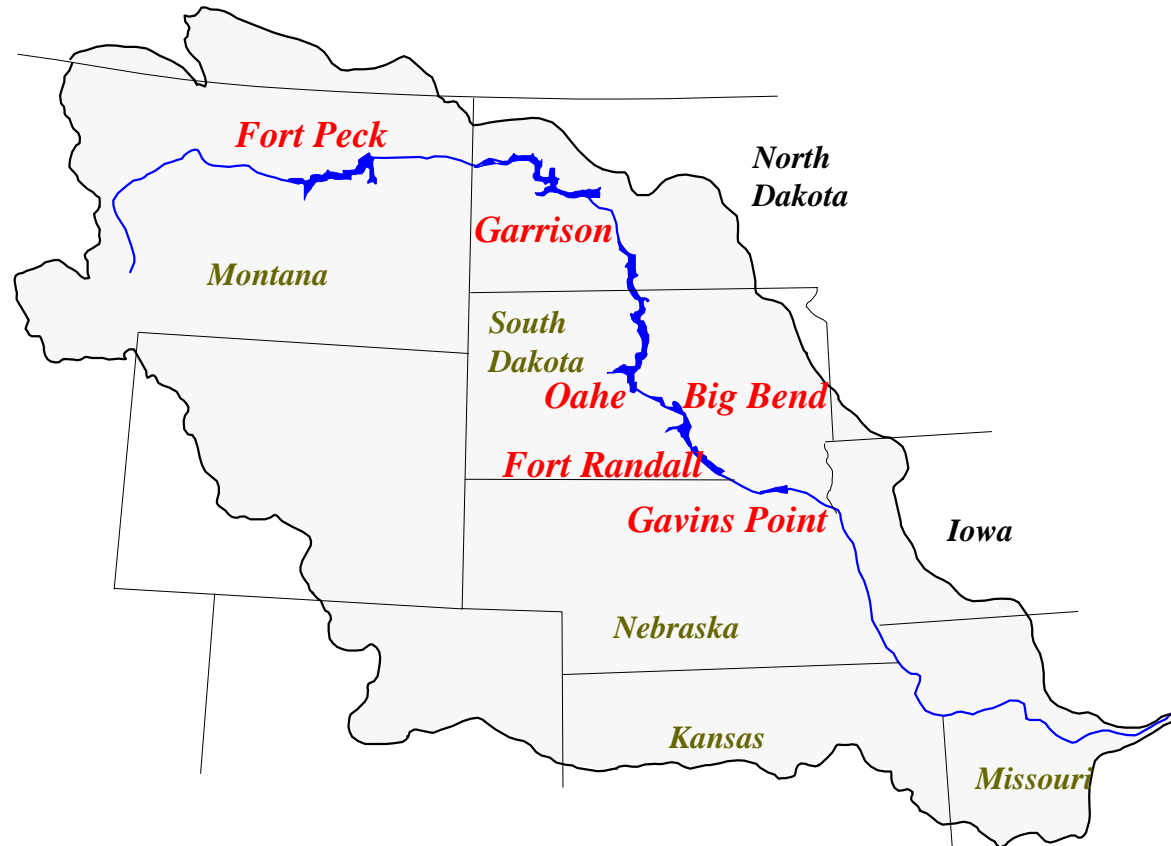
- Drafting Team and Review Panel
 - Drafting Team works collaboratively to develop consensus recommendation on Charter for MRRIC
 - Review Panel provides feedback to Drafting Team on preliminary draft version of Charter
- Members Include:
 - Stakeholder interest representatives
 - State representatives
 - Tribal representatives
 - Impartial Co-Chairs
 - Federal Working Group representatives (advisory role)

Stakeholder Interests

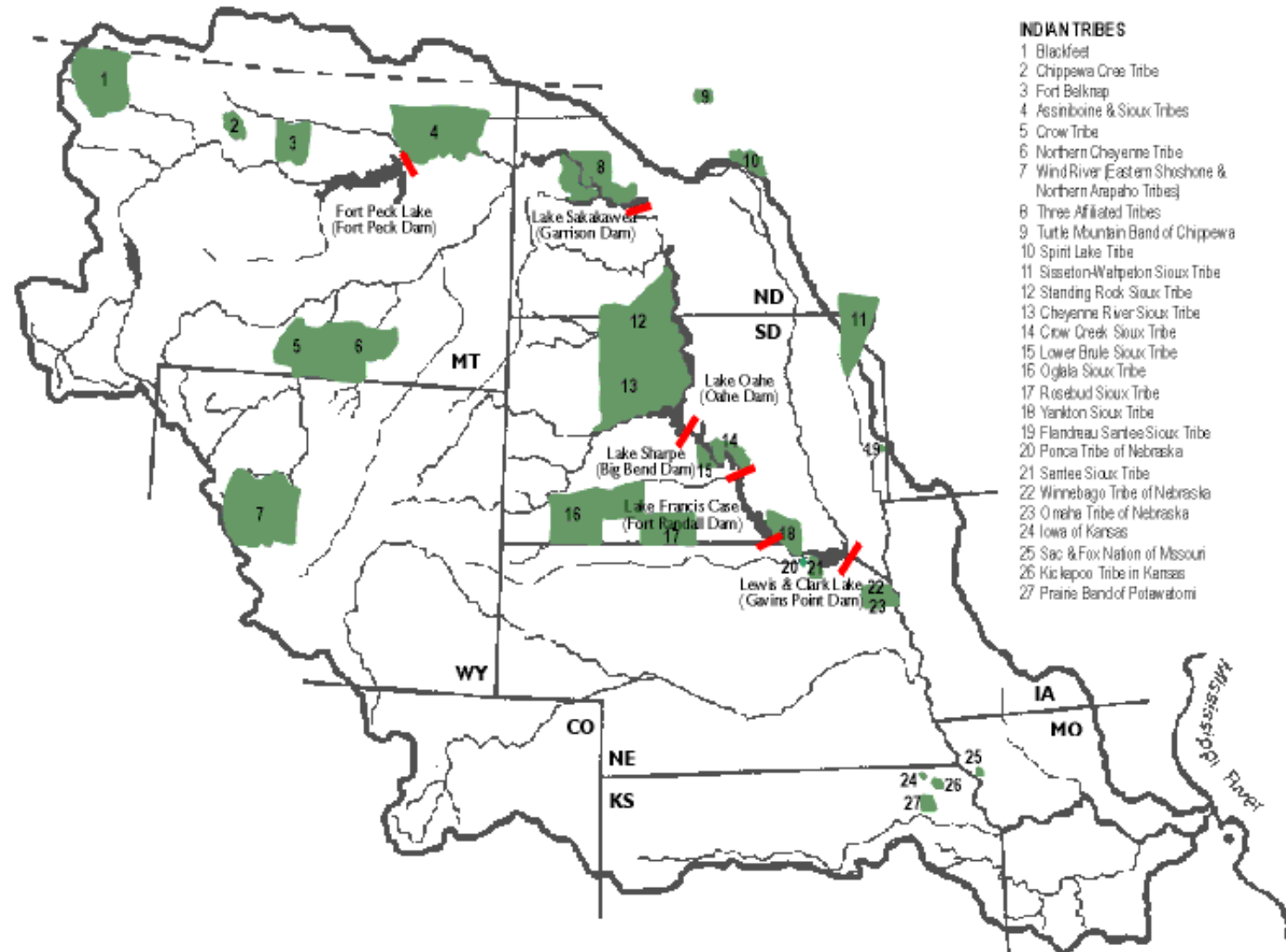
- ❑ Agriculture
- ❑ Environmental and Conservation
- ❑ Fish and Wildlife
- ❑ Flood Control
- ❑ Irrigation
- ❑ Local Government
- ❑ Navigation
- ❑ Power Supply
- ❑ Recreation
- ❑ Water Quality
- ❑ Water Supply

States

- ❑ Iowa
- ❑ Kansas
- ❑ Missouri
- ❑ Montana
- ❑ Nebraska
- ❑ North Dakota
- ❑ South Dakota
- ❑ Wyoming



Indian Tribes



Federal Agencies



Planning Group Meetings

- ❑ March 28-29, Omaha, NE: Facilitation Team Interviews
- ❑ April 25, Kansas City, MO: Co-Chairs endorsement; Facilitation Team Selection
- ❑ June 19-20, Bloomington, MN: Operating Procedures for Planning Group
- ❑ July 19-20, Omaha, NE: Drafting Team meeting to develop Charter
- ❑ August 27-28, Billings, MT: Drafting Team meeting to develop Charter
- ❑ September 25-26, Minneapolis, MN: Drafting Team meeting to develop Charter
- ❑ October 17-18, Kansas City, MO: Full Planning Group meeting (Drafting Team and Review Panel) to review preliminary draft Charter
- ❑ October 22 – November 21: Public Comment Period for draft MRRIC Charter
- ❑ **November 8, Omaha, NE: Public Workshop**
- ❑ November 28-29, Denver, CO: Full Planning Group meeting (Drafting Team and Review Panel) to review and incorporate Public Comments
- ❑ January 23-24, St. Louis, MO: Drafting Team meeting to finalize recommendation

Draft Charter Elements

- Preamble
- Purpose and Scope
- Convening Authority
- Definitions
- Charter Amendment

Draft Charter Elements

(see Draft MRRIC Charter Outline v24)

- ❑ Membership and Representation of Interests
- ❑ Dispute Resolution Process
- ❑ General MRRIC Operations
- ❑ Interactions Outside MRRIC

Preamble

MRRIC will strive to provide an essential collaborative forum for the basin to come together and participate in developing a shared vision and comprehensive plan for Missouri River recovery and then to help guide the prioritization, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of recovery actions.

Purpose and Scope

- Provide recommendations and guidance
- Recommendations will
 - Ensure local stakeholder interests are recognized
 - Identify impacts
 - Benefit multiple uses
 - Avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse impacts
- Safeguards federal requirements for tribal consultation, trust responsibilities, and treaty rights

Convening Authority

- Anticipate to be convened under the authority of Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (pending final approval)

Definitions and Charter Amendment

- Glossary of relevant terms and acronyms (see pg. 2 of 15)
- Process to change the charter (see pg. 3 of 15)

Membership and Representation of Interests

- Two Draft Proposals regarding Federal participation
 - Draft Proposal 1 (see pg. 3 of 15)
 - Draft Proposal 2 (see pg. 4 of 15)

Key issues:

- Number of Lead Agency vs. Participating Agency members
- Number of Federal Agency representatives (per agency)
- Whether MRRIC or Participating Agencies determine when agencies can participate as Lead Agency
- Whether Lead Federal Agencies would present a single federal position

Membership and Representation of Interests

- ❑ Eight eligible States (see pg. 4 of 15)
- ❑ Twenty-eight eligible Tribes (see pg. 5 of 15)
- ❑ Up to twenty-eight stakeholder members (see pg. 6 of 15)

Membership and Representation of Interests

- Membership Selection Process
- Terms of Office, Replacement and Attendance
- Roles and Responsibilities—Governance and Leadership
- Staffing

Dispute Resolution

- The process to deal with questions or concerns about conduct of MRRIC members

General MRRIC Operations

- ❑ Operating Procedures and Guidelines
- ❑ Meetings
- ❑ Communications, Record Keeping, Documents and Reports
- ❑ Consensus and Decision Making
 - Goal to reach consensus on all substantive issues
 - Only make recommendations where there is consensus
 - Federal agencies do not participate in consensus
 - “Consensus” means all members can support or live with action or recommendation
- ❑ Reports, Work Plans and Proposals
- ❑ Budget and Finance

Interactions Outside MRRIC

- Web Site
- Annual Conference

Your feedback, please....

- Is the DRAFT Charter understandable?
- Is it reasonable?
- Is it implementable?

Feedback Process

- ❑ Please visit tables to discuss your thoughts and ideas about the DRAFT Charter with Planning Group members
- ❑ Survey forms for submitting written comments are available to fill out
- ❑ Laptop computers available to submit comments online
- ❑ To learn more and to provide your feedback online please visit our web site:

<http://missouririver.ecr.gov>