

Planning Group Process to Develop a MRRIC Charter (Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee)

Draft Charter Proposed Definitions v4 December 11, 2007

1) Adaptive Management

a) Option 1 *(This definition was provided by the Federal Working Group)*

A decision process that promotes flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood. Careful monitoring of these outcomes both advances scientific understanding and helps adjust policies or operations as part of an iterative learning process. Adaptive management also recognizes the importance of natural variability in contributing to ecological resilience and productivity. It is not a 'trial and error' process, but rather emphasizes learning while doing. Adaptive management does not represent an end in itself, but rather a means to more effective decisions and enhanced benefits. Its true measure is in how well it helps meet environmental, social, and economic goals, increases scientific knowledge, and reduces tensions among stakeholders.
(Source: Adaptive Management: The US Department of the Interior Technical Guide)

b) Option 2 *(This definition was offered by Pat Cassidy of the Drafting Team)*

The method by which the impacts of incremental changes in river operations are measured and evaluated to determine the best alternatives for the recovery of threatened & endangered species.

2) Plan *(This definition was developed by the facilitation team.)*

Where used in the Charter, this term refers to the Missouri River recovery and mitigation plan referenced in Section 5018 (b)(3)(B) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

3) Mitigation *(These definitions were provided by the Federal Working Group)*

a) Option 1

The restoration, re-establishment, rehabilitation, creation, establishment, enhancement, and / or preservation of natural resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved. (Source: Department of Defense, 33 CFR Part 332)

b) Option 2

Includes: (a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action, (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment, (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of an action, (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments. (Source: Council on Environmental Quality, 40 CFR 1508.20)

4) Recovery *(This definition was provided by the Federal Working Group)*

The process by which the decline of an endangered or threatened species is arrested or reversed and threats removed or reduced so that the species' long-term survival in the wild can be ensured. (Source: USFWS Endangered Species Program)

5) Restoration *(These definitions were provided by the Federal Working Group)*

a) Option 1

Return of natural areas or ecosystems to a close approximation of their conditions prior to disturbance, or to less degraded, more natural conditions. In some instances, a return to pre-disturbance conditions may not be feasible. However, partial restoration may be possible, with significant and valuable improvements made to degraded ecological resources. To fully or partially reestablish the attributes of a naturalistic, functioning, and self-regulating system. (Source: Engineer Pamphlet 1165-2-502: Ecosystem Restoration – Supporting Policy Information)

b) Option 2

Return of natural areas or ecosystems to a close approximation of their conditions/functions prior to disturbance, or to less degraded, more natural condition, including the re-establishment of the general structure and function of the system. (Source: National Research Council: Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems)

6) Stakeholder *(This definition was provided by the Federal Working Group)*

Any organization or individual that has a direct interest in actions or decisions. Their interest may be because they will have a role in implementing the decisions, or because they will be affected by the decision. For the purposes of this Charter, representatives of Federal Agencies, Tribes, and States are not considered stakeholders.

7) Stakeholder Issues *(This definition was developed by the Drafting Team and included in v24 of the draft MRRIC charter)*

This phrase shall encompass the following areas: social and economic, historical and cultural, flood control, irrigation, agriculture, internal drainage, water supply, water quality, navigation, hydropower, thermal power, science, natural resources, conservation and recreation, and any other areas identified by the Committee.

8) Study *(This definition was developed by the facilitation team.)*

Where used in the Charter, this term refers to the study referenced in Section 5018 (a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

9) Substantive Issue *(This definition was developed by the facilitation team, modified by the Drafting Team, and included in v24 of the draft MRRIC charter)*

An issue for which the Committee is considering developing recommendations, and other significant decisions or procedures (i.e. adopting minutes, adopting operating procedures, inviting participating agencies to temporarily become a lead agency, election of chair and vice chair).