



# Nebraska Stakeholder Brief

by MORAST Representatives

Papio-Missouri NRD Office

July 27, 2009

Gene Zuerlein, NGPC

# MRERP

## Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



Partnering in the Development of the Plan

*One River ■ One Vision*



# Presentation Objectives

- Explain the role of a cooperating agency
- Provide you with enough information to decide whether to be a cooperating agency
- Explain how to join the process
- Discuss why this is so important





# Proposed Ecosystem Restoration Plan Intent

To restore ecosystem functions, mitigate habitat losses, and recover native fish and wildlife, while seeking balance with social, economic, and cultural values for future generations.





# Plan Authorization

## Water Resources Development Act 2007

**SEC. 5018. MISSOURI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, MITIGATION, RECOVERY, AND RESTORATION, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND WYOMING.**

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee to be established under subsection (b)(1), shall conduct a study of the Missouri River and its tributaries to determine actions required—

(A) to mitigate losses of aquatic and terrestrial habitat;

(B) to recover federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) to restore the ecosystem to prevent further declines among other native species.

(2) **FUNDING.**—The study to be conducted under paragraph (1) shall be funded using amounts made available to carry out the Missouri River recovery and mitigation plan authorized by section 601(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4143).

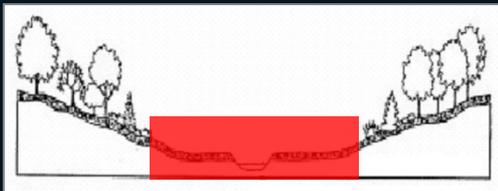
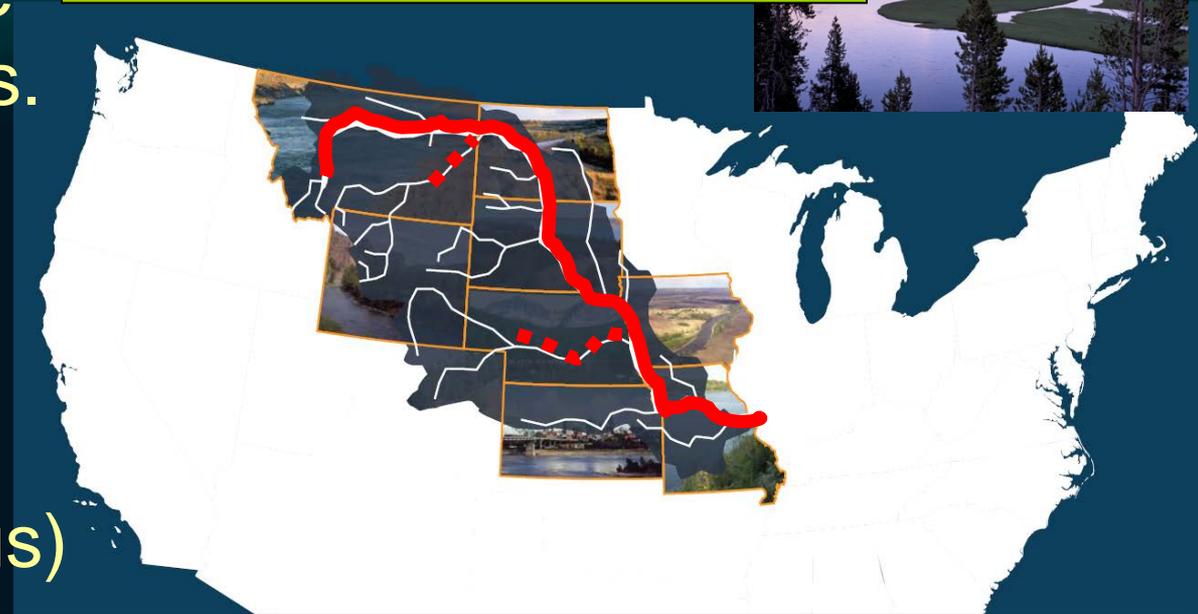


## Plan Scope

- Long-term, large scale strategy vs. short-term, site specific actions
- Mainstem & tributaries (ecological nexus)

**Missouri River**  
*(primary focus)*

- Main stem and valley/floodplain
- Three Forks, MT to St. Louis, MO

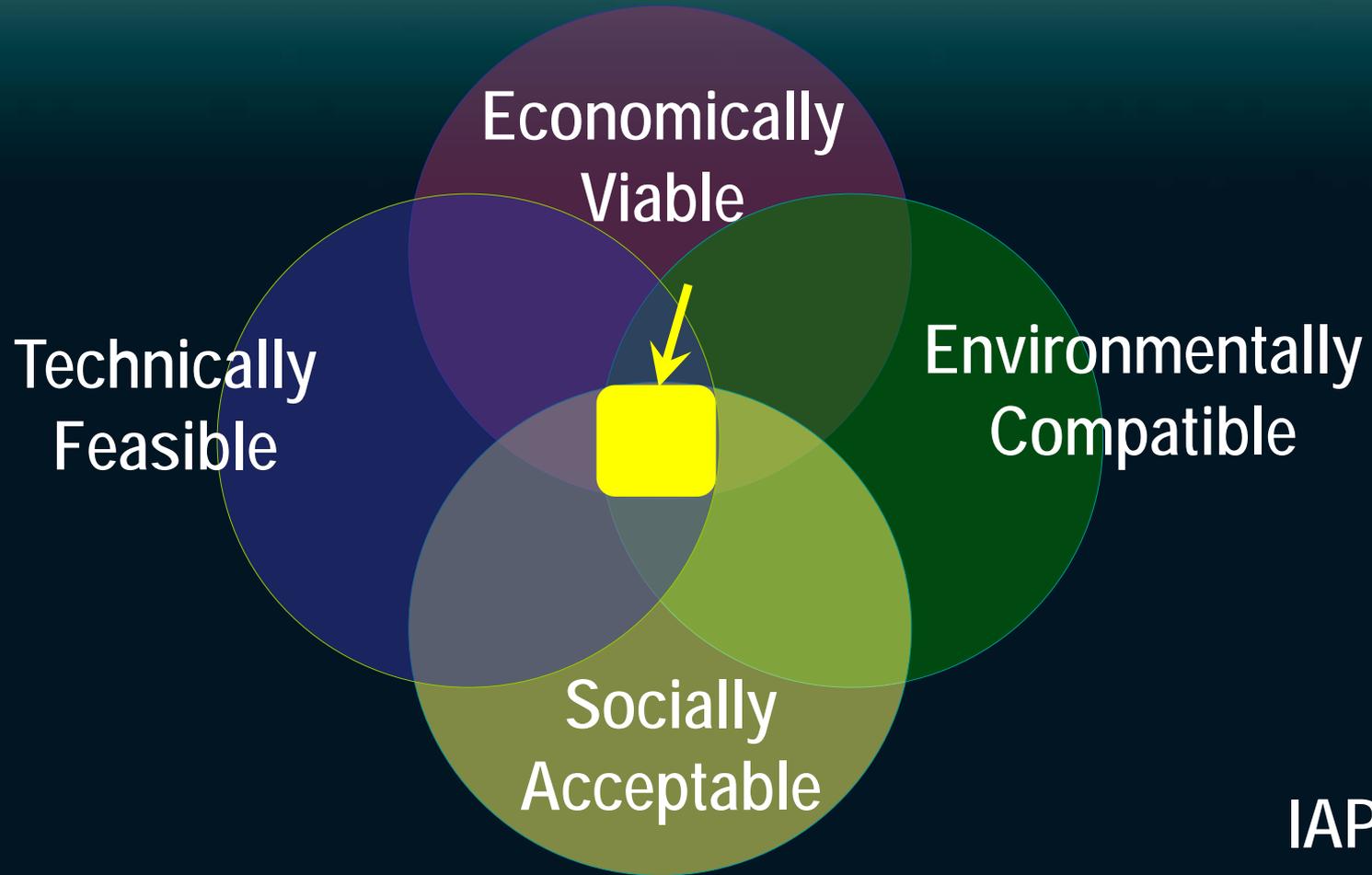


**Tributaries, Blufflands and Upland Areas**  
*(progressively added as necessary)*

- Whole or part
- Where instrumental to Missouri River target resources



# PLAN GOAL: Sustainable Decisions



IAP2



# Plan Roadmap—Where are we?

## Initiate Planning

- 1) Develop Partnerships and Prepare for the Study
- 2) Establish Study Rationale and Focus



## Study the Affected Environment

- 3) Assess Resource Conditions
- 4) Evaluate Future Issues and Situation

## Consider Alternatives

- 5) Formulate Restoration and Adaptive Management Alternatives
- 6) Compare Impacts of Alternatives
- 7) Consider Preferred Alternative

## Select the Plan

- 8) Publish Draft MRERP-EIS for Public Review
- 9) Revise MRERP-EIS
- 10) Publish Final MRERP-EIS and Record of Decision



# Plan Participants

**Cooperating  
Agencies**

**Missouri River  
Recovery  
Implementation  
Committee**

**Federal  
Agencies**

**Tribes**

**Public**

**States**



# Plan Participants—The Public



- Public service responsibilities
- NEPA requires that “[a]gencies shall make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures”

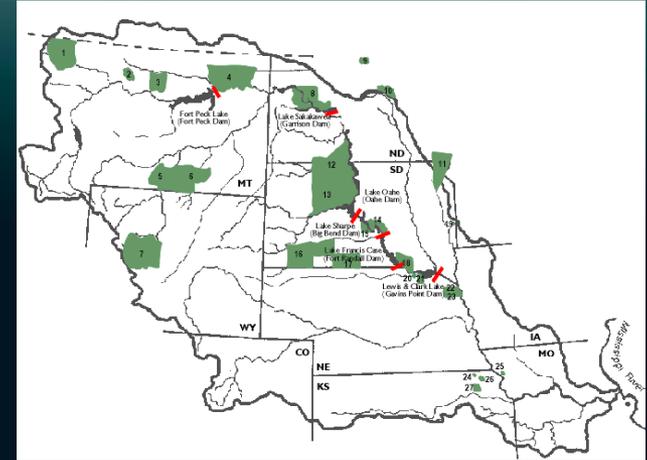
Public

Missouri River Ecosystem  
Restoration Plan



## Plan Participants—Tribes

- Federal trust responsibilities
- Tribal sovereignty
- Tribal resources within the basin
- Government-to-Government Consultation



Tribes

Missouri River Ecosystem  
Restoration Plan



## Plan Participants—MRRIC

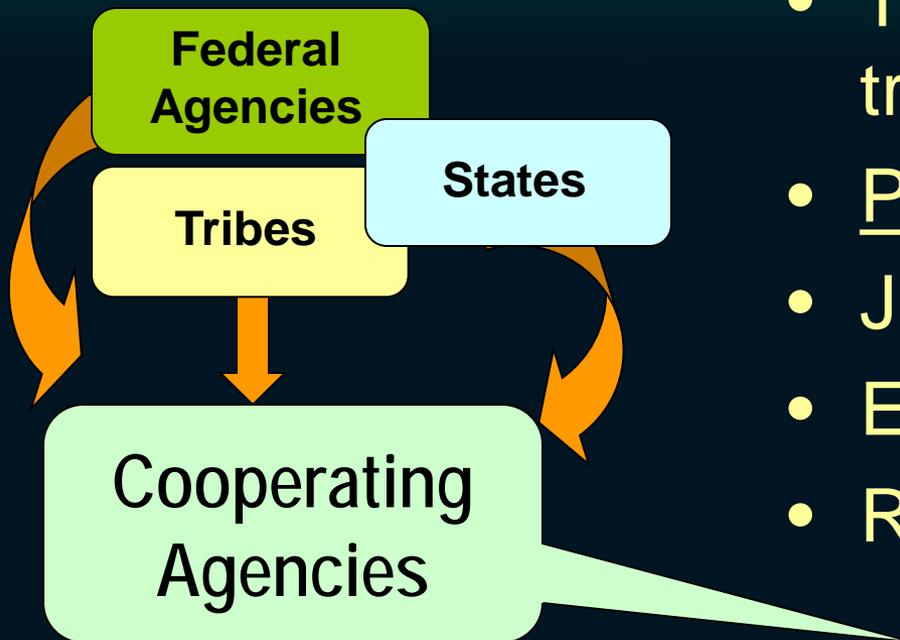
- Collaborative, multi-stakeholder forum
- Provides “consultation” regarding MREERP and “guidance” to the Recovery Program actions (WRDA)
- Anticipated to provide guidance to many agencies

MRRIC

Missouri River Ecosystem  
Restoration Plan



# Plan Participants—Agencies with Jurisdiction, Authority, Special Expertise



- Typically federal, state, and tribal governments
- Public trust responsibility
- Jurisdiction
- Expertise and resources
- Regulatory requirements

Missouri River Ecosystem  
Restoration Plan



# Plan Participation—Technical Teams

**Technical Team**  
Subject Area – e.g.  
Water Quality

**Cooperating  
Agencies**

**Technical Team**  
Subject Area – e.g.  
Cottonwood Forest

**MRRIC**

**Technical Team**  
Subject Area – e.g.  
Hydropower



# Plan Participation—Opportunities





# Plan Roadmap—Where are we?

**Initiate**  
Planning

**Develop Partnerships and Prepare for Planning**



*Projected Completion: December 2008*

**Study**  
the Affected  
Environment

**Consider**  
Alternatives

**Formulate**  
the Plan



# Cooperating Agency Team—Who?

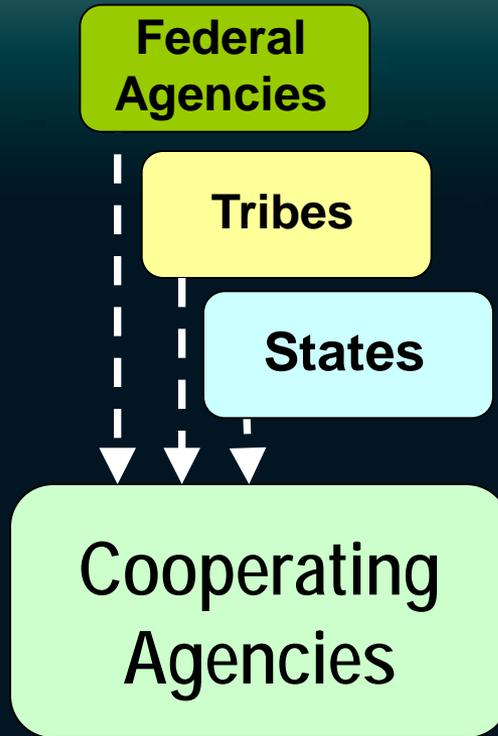
- “Jurisdiction by law” - agency authority to approve, veto, or finance all or part of the proposal; OR
- “Special expertise” - statutory responsibility, agency mission, or related program experience.

Cooperating  
Agencies

Missouri River Ecosystem  
Restoration Plan



# Cooperating Agency Team— Who Participates?



Per NEPA regulations  
Cooperating Agencies can  
include:

- State government or agencies
- Tribal governments or agencies
- Local government or agencies of similar qualifications as States

Missouri River Ecosystem  
Restoration Plan



# Cooperating Agency Team— Why Participate?

- Define and shape the desired future condition.
- Develop more sustainable and system-wide approaches to restoration.
- Fulfill your agencies public trust responsibilities.
- Integrate existing efforts.





# Cooperating Agency Team—Why Participate?

- The Missouri River ecosystem is of extraordinary importance and value.
- Its health directly impacts the resources for which many of us are responsible for managing.
- Participation will result in shaping how decisions are made for the future of the Missouri River ecosystem and those resources.





# Benefits to Cooperating Agencies

“Working collaboratively really challenges people, pushes them to think bigger and more broadly, creatively and longer term....Also allows leveraging of resources.”

- Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program

“Instead of being reactive to an EIS or permit, a Cooperating Agency is more involved in proposing on the ground activities.”

- Everglades Restoration Plan



# Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

***Pick Your POC*** Governor Heineman November 24, 2008

- Employee of the agency (State, Tribe, or Federal Agency)
- Management and/or ecological knowledge of the Missouri River
- Understanding of agency mission, structure, institutional function
- Capacity to access expertise from agency and management of the agency



# Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

## ***Your POC's Role***

- Participate on the Cooperating Agency Team
- Bring agency technical expertise to the table (suggest technical team members)
- Communicate MRERP activities back to agency
- Serve as the voice of the agency in regard to MRERP decisions
- Recommend sustainable decisions in coordination with State, Tribe, or Federal Agency policies and guidelines



# Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

## *Your POC's Time and Commitment*

- Attend quarterly (approximate) Cooperating Agency Team meetings and between-meeting conference calls. Some travel required.
- Contribute to and review MRERP assessments, analyses, and outputs.
- Communicate with and coordinate within agency.





# Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

## ***Other Agency Roles***

### Alternate to Point of Contact:

- Steps in to fill POC role in POC absence
- May accompany POC to regular meetings and calls

### Technical Team Members:

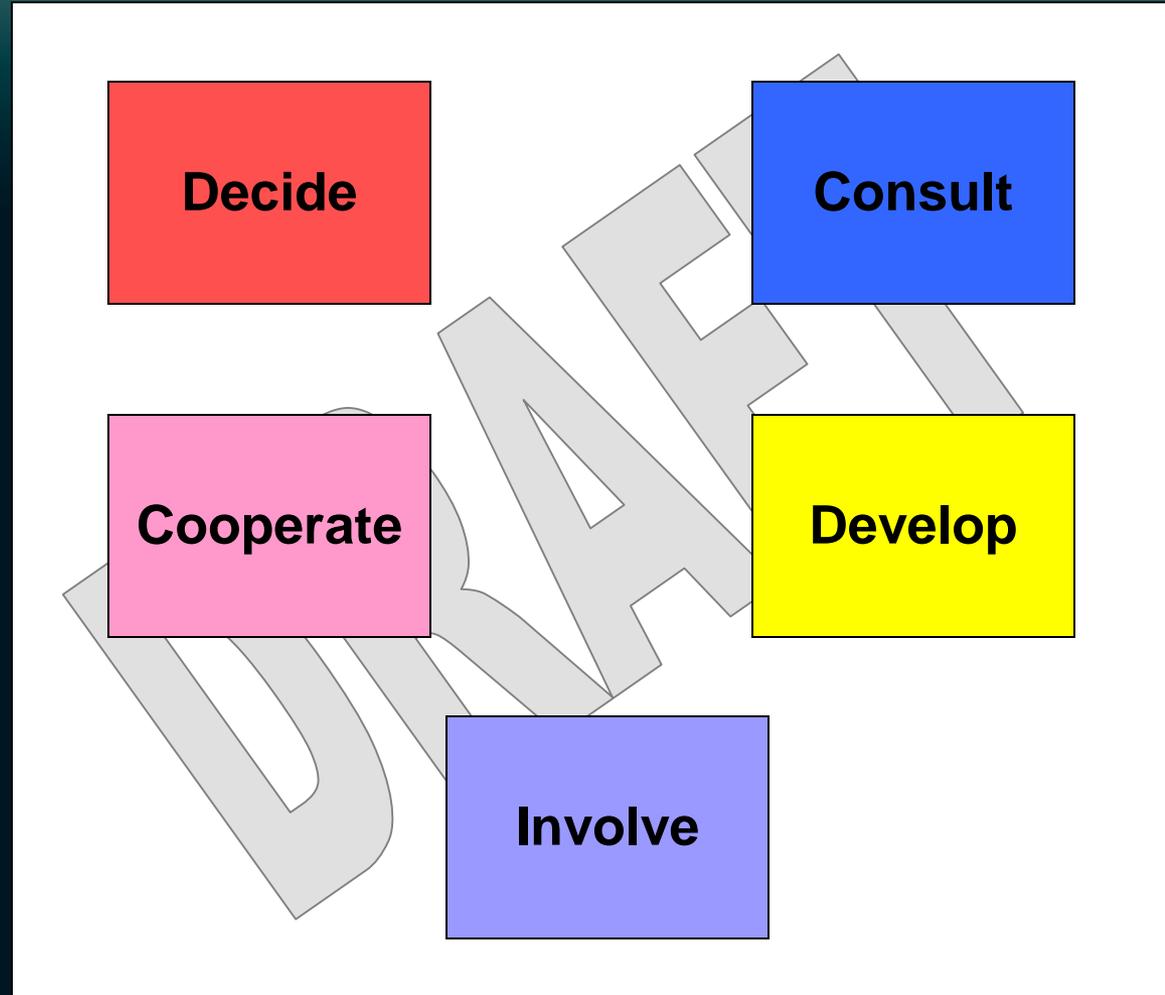
- Identified by POC
- Attend technical team meetings and contribute to technical team outputs separate and apart from CAT meetings



# Plan Participation—Levels of Engagement

How will participants contribute to the study and planning process?

How will the USACE interact with the participants?





# Plan Participation—Levels of Engagement

<b>Plan Roadmap: 10 Step Planning Process</b>	<b>USACE</b>	<b>MRRIC</b>	<b>Tribes</b>	<b>Cooperating Agencies</b>	<b>Tech Teams</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Initiate Planning (light blue-involve, yellow-develop, dark blue-consult, pink-cooperate)</b>						
Step 1. Develop Partnerships and Prepare for Study	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Pink	Grey	Grey
Step 2. Establish Study Rationale and Focus	Yellow, Red	Blue	Blue	Pink	Grey	Grey
<b>Study the Affected Environment</b>						
Step 3. Assess Resource Conditions	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Pink	Yellow	Purple
Step 4. Evaluate Future Issues and Situation Analysis	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Pink	Yellow	Grey
<b>Consider Alternatives</b>						
Step 5. Formulate Restoration and Adaptive Mgt Alts.	Yellow, Red	Blue	Blue	Pink	Yellow	Purple
Step 6. Compare Impacts of Alternatives	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Pink	Yellow	Grey
Step 7. Consider Preferred Alternative	Yellow, Red	Blue	Blue	Pink	Grey	Grey
<b>Finalize the Plan (red-decide)</b>						
Step 8. Publish Draft MRERP-EIS	Yellow, Red	Blue	Blue	Pink	Grey	Purple
Step 9. Reassess MRERP-EIS	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Pink	Yellow	Grey
Step 10. Publish Final MRERP-EIS and Record of Decision	Yellow, Red	Blue	Blue	Pink	Grey	Purple



# Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

## Your POC's Level of Commitment

**Initiate  
Planning**

**Dec 08** Cooperators sign LOU

**Jan 09** Initiate first Cooperating Agency Team meeting

**Study  
the Affected  
Environment**

**Jan 09—Spring 10**

*Quarterly* Cooperating Team meetings and  
between meeting conference calls

**Consider  
Alternatives**

**2010—2012**

Formulate Restoration and Adaptive  
Management Alternatives

**Select  
the Plan**

**2014 - 2016**

USACE Publish FINAL EIS and Signed Record  
of Decision



## Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

Informational meetings for potential cooperators 2008

**Havre, MT – Sept. 9**

**10 AM – 2 PM**

Best Western Great Northern Inn  
1345 1st St  
Havre, MT 59501-3803

**Chamberlain, SD – Sept. 30**

**10 AM – 2 PM**

Cedar Shore Resort  
1500 Shoreline Drive  
Oacoma, SD 57365

**Cheyenne, WY – Aug. 28**

**1 PM – 4 PM**

Plains Hotel  
1600 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

**Bismarck, ND – Sept. 16**

**10 AM – 2 PM**

United Tribes Technical College  
3315 University Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58504

**Omaha, NE – Oct. 14**

**10 AM – 2 PM**

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge  
1434 316th Lane  
Missouri Valley, IA 51555-7033

**Kansas City, KS – Oct.. 7**

**10 AM – 2 PM**

US EPA Region 7  
901 N. 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101



# MRRERP Points of Contact

- **USACE**

- Randy Sellers, [randy.p.sellers@usace.army.mil](mailto:randy.p.sellers@usace.army.mil),  
phone 402.995.2689
- Jennifer Switzer, [jennifer.l.switzer@usace.army.mil](mailto:jennifer.l.switzer@usace.army.mil),  
phone 816.389.3062

- **USFWS**

- Wayne Nelson-Stastny, [wayne\\_nelsonstastny@fws.gov](mailto:wayne_nelsonstastny@fws.gov),  
phone 402.667.2884



# Questions?



[www.MRERP.org](http://www.MRERP.org)