

# Missouri River

## RECOVERY PROGRAM

### **MRRP Receives 2007 Recovery Champion Award!**

The Missouri River Recovery Program is one of 16 recipients of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *2007 National Recovery Champion Award*. The Recovery Champion Award recognizes outstanding contributions of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and their partners toward efforts aimed at recovering threatened and endangered species in the United States.

The press release from USFWS says, "Recovery of the endangered least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon are one step closer due to the commitment, partnership, and leadership provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Missouri River Endangered Species Office in Yankton, South Dakota. Casey Kruse and his staff have worked to develop and implement one of the most comprehensive and geographically challenging endangered species monitoring and recovery programs in the nation."

"The Recovery Champion award not only recognizes the exceptional conservation accomplishments of the honorees, it also provides the public with a unique opportunity to learn about endangered species conservation," said USFWS Director H. Dale Hall. "These Recovery Champions are extraordinary conservationists dedicated to protecting and restoring our nation's wildlife and ensuring that future generations of Americans enjoy the natural treasures we experience today."

Additional information can be found at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Champion Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/champions/index.html>.

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### **Spring Pulse Update**

A new spring pulse began March 25 at midnight and ran through March 31. This pulse affected river stages from Gavins Point Dam to Kansas City. Releases from several Kansas City District dams were reduced to offset the increased releases from Gavins Point Dam.

In addition, monitoring of crop impacts due to higher groundwater levels and impeded drainage was established for all spring rises on the Missouri River, whether created or natural, during the mid-March through June timeframe.

UPDATE



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### **Annual Operating Plan Public Meetings**

Public meetings for the Spring 2008 Annual Operating Plan have been scheduled for the following dates and locations:

<u>April 15</u>	<u>April 16</u>	<u>April 17</u>
<b>Jefferson City, MO</b> 1:00 p.m. Capitol Plaza 415 McCarty Street Jefferson City, MO	<b>Nebraska City, NE</b> 11:00 a.m. Lewis & Clark Center 100 Valmont Drive Nebraska City, NE	<b>Bismarck, ND</b> 12:00 p.m. Doublewood Inn 1400 E. Interchange Ave. Bismarck, ND
<b>Kansas City, MO</b> 6:00 p.m. Embassy Suites KCI 7460 NW Tiffany Springs Pkwy Kansas City, MO	<b>Fort Peck, MT</b> 7:00 p.m. Fort Peck Interpretive Center Lower Yellowstone Road Fort Peck, MT	<b>Pierre, SD</b> 6:00 p.m. Best Western Ramkota Hotel 920 West Sioux Ave. Pierre, SD

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### **Emergent Sandbar Habitat Program Annual Meeting**

The Emergent Sandbar Habitat Program Development Team annual meeting was held on April 1-2 in Yankton. The meeting was attended by 34 people representing a variety of federal, state and Corps offices. Meeting attendees engaged in constructive discussions and interactions on topics including vegetation management, predator management, Fiscal Year 09 and 10 projects, ESH Programmatic EIS and the status of the Real Estate program.

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### **Media at Mulberry Bend**

A media day is planned for April 8 featuring current sandbar construction. Media will meet Corps representatives at 10:00 am at the Mulberry Bend Overlook near Vermillion, South Dakota. Media will be escorted to the backwater and sandbar areas at river mile 777.7 and will take a boat tour around river mile 775.

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### **MRRP Researcher Recognized**

MRRP-funded researcher Dan Catlin has been named “outstanding doctoral student” at Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources. Dan is a PhD candidate at Virginia Tech and has been leading the comparison study of piping plovers and their use of constructed sandbars versus natural sandbars. Well done, Dan!