



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

JUL 1 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL WORKS

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 5018 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 - Missouri River and Tributaries, Mitigation, Recovery, and Restoration, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide implementation guidance for Section 5018 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA 2007).
2. Subsection (a) of Section 5018 of WRDA 2007 directs the Secretary, in consultation with the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC), to conduct a study of the Missouri River and its tributaries to determine actions required to:
 - a) Mitigate losses of aquatic and terrestrial habitat;
 - b) Recover federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act; and,
 - c) Restore the ecosystem to prevent further declines among other native species.
3. The study conducted under Section 5018(a) should identify a single, comprehensive and integrated plan to guide the implementation of programs associated with mitigation, recovery, and restoration activities in the Missouri River Basin. The study shall be conducted in accordance with ER 1105-2-100, and should follow a watershed approach consistent with the geographic scope and complexity of issues within the Missouri River Basin. However, the study should not be a broad multiple-purpose effort; rather, its focus should be on addressing opportunities for mitigation of lost aquatic and terrestrial habitat, recovery of ESA listed species, and restoration of degraded aquatic ecosystems.
4. Funding for Section 5018(a) is to be derived from funds made available to carry out Missouri River recovery and mitigation program as authorized in section 601(a) of WRDA 1986 and as subsequently amended by Section 334 of the WRDA of 1999. The study shall be 100 percent federally funded.
5. Subsection (b) of Section 5018 requires the Secretary of the Army to establish a committee, to be known as the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee, or "MRRIC" to carry out the responsibilities and activities set forth in Section 5018(b)(3). The duties that fall to MRRIC include a duty to provide guidance to the Secretary with respect to the study conducted under subsection (a) as well as the duty to provide recommendations and guidance to the Secretary with respect to the Missouri River recovery and mitigation plan in existence on the date of enactment of the WRDA 2007.

6. Concomitant with this implementation guidance, I approve the attached charter thereby establishing MRRIC. Further, I delegate the authority to implement the attached MRRIC charter, including responsibilities related to administrative and logistical support, and the establishment and implementation of a regional process for the selection and appointment of members of MRRIC, to the Commander, Northwestern Division.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Paul Woodley, Jr." in a cursive style.

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)