

Water Resources
Development Act of 2007

2003 Biological Opinion

MRRIC

Provide Recommendations

The Corps' Current
Missouri River
Mitigation and
Recovery Plan

**The Corps' Study of
the Missouri River
and its Tributaries**

Missouri River species
recovery work by
USFWS and basin
agencies



Presentation Objectives

- The relationship between the Study and existing Corps programs, commitments, and legal mandates
- The Corps' planning process
- The next steps for outlining the Study planning process
- Answer your questions
- Obtain your input





Your Input

1. How can we best communicate with you on the MRERP?
- 2a. What are the most important issues for MRRIC to weigh in on during the MRERP process?
- 2b. How would you like to engage on these issues?



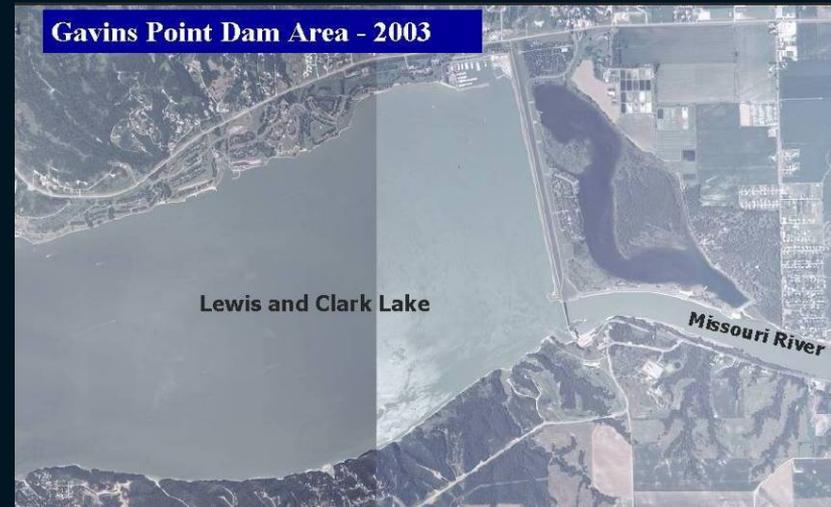
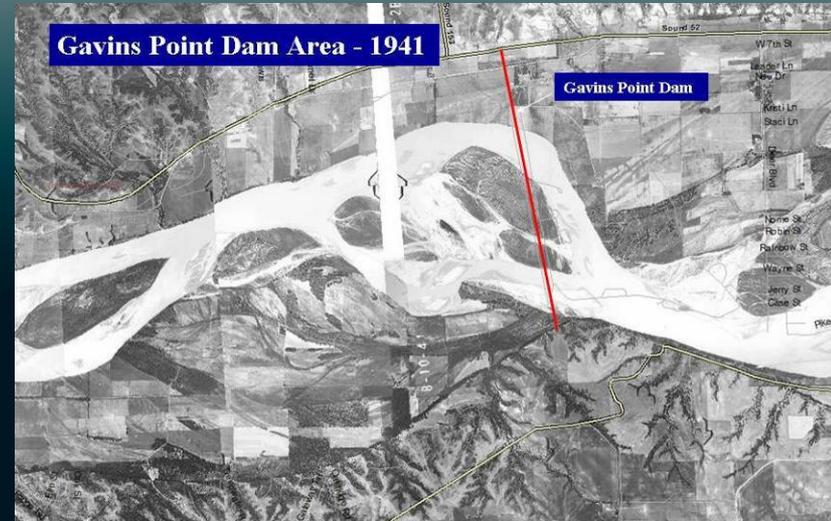


Context and Scale

The Missouri River Challenge

- Nearly three million acres of natural habitat altered
- Nonnative fish dominate many reaches
- 51 of 67 native fish species listed as rare or decreasing within their ranges
- Production of key food sources for native fish reduced by approximately 70%

-- National Research Council, 2002

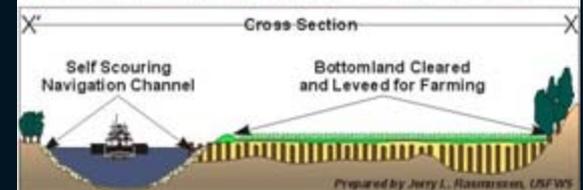
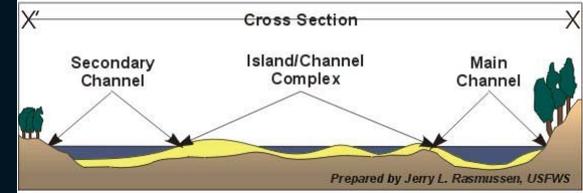




Context and Scale

The Missouri River Challenge

- 80% reduction in piping plover habitat -- *2000 BiOp*
- Under current management practices, cottonwood forest will essentially be lost as a significant community on remnant floodplain in less than a century -- *Galat et al, 2005*
- Missouri is one of the most regulated rivers in the US -- *Galat et al, 2005*





Context and Scale

The Missouri River Challenge

To meet restoration needs of the river, the Corps complies with a variety of mandates and authorities including:

- Biological Opinion
- Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project, Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project
- Section 1135
- Section 206
- Section 514
- Section 33
- Flood Control Acts
- Missouri River National Recreational River



Currently, many of these programs and their related activities are conducted independently.

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan/ EIS Programs and Authorities



Fort Peck Dam Project

Garrison Dam Project

Section 33

Oahe Lake Project

Section 33

Big Bend Dam Project

Section 431

Fort Randall Dam Project

Section 33

Gavins Point Dam Project

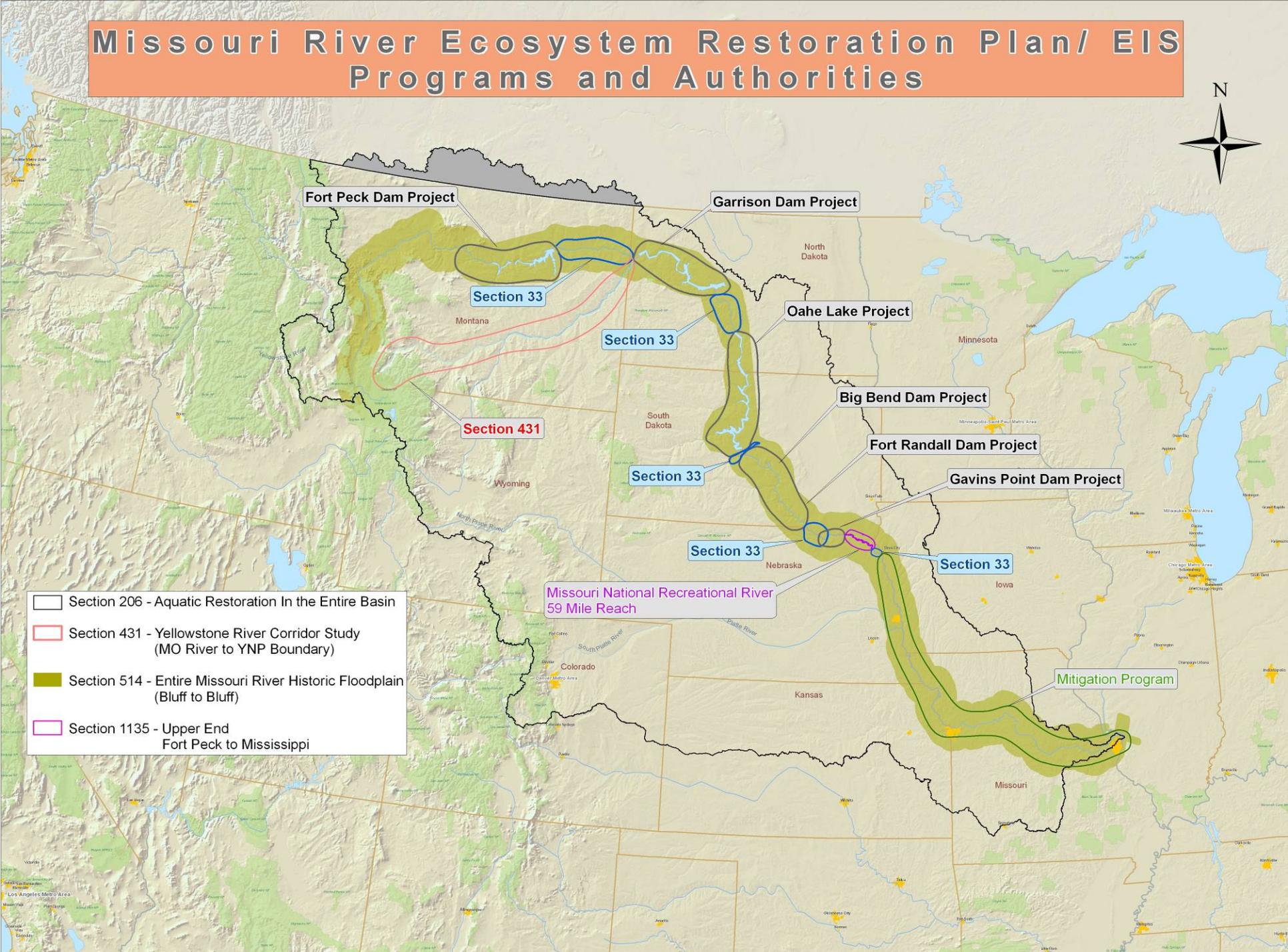
Section 33

Section 33

Missouri National Recreational River
59 Mile Reach

Mitigation Program

- Section 206 - Aquatic Restoration In the Entire Basin
- Section 431 - Yellowstone River Corridor Study (MO River to YNP Boundary)
- Section 514 - Entire Missouri River Historic Floodplain (Bluff to Bluff)
- Section 1135 - Upper End Fort Peck to Mississippi





Context and Scale

The Missouri River Challenge

Plus:

- New 2007 WRDA authorities
- Authorities of other Federal agencies, Tribes, and states



Context and Scale

The Missouri River Challenge

Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Identifies program goals and general management prescriptions.

Clearly describes specific resource conditions to be achieved and identify the kinds of management that can be used to achieve those conditions.

Ensures that the basic foundation for decision-making has been developed in consultation with interested stakeholders.

Implementation Plans

Identifies long-term performance goals.

Describes more specifically how parts of a larger program should be implemented.

Site-specific Plans

Evaluates specific projects based on annual work plans.

Describes means for implementing on-the-ground projects.

Example:
Emergent
Sandbar Habitat
PEIS

Missouri River
Fish and Wildlife
Mitigation EIS

Example: Site-specific
EAs for individual
projects



WRDA 2007 – Study 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).



The Corps' Role

The Corps shall conduct a study in consultation with MRRIC and must ensure that:

- Army civil works regulations/processes are followed
- Federal laws including NEPA are met
- The study is legally defensible
- Government to government consultation with Tribes is conducted
- Entities with jurisdiction by law are consulted



The Corps' Planning Process

- 1983 Principles and Guidelines, pursuant to:
 - Section 103 Water Resources Planning Act of 1965
 - Studies of Federal water resource development agencies
 - 6 major steps
 - Problems and Opportunities
 - Inventory and Forecast
 - Formulate Alternative Plans
 - Evaluate Effects of Alternative Plans
 - Comparison of Alternatives
 - Select Plan
- NEPA, essentially same as Principles & Guidelines process



Plan Engagement — Requirements





WRDA 2007 Study

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**Missouri River Ecosystem
Restoration Plan**



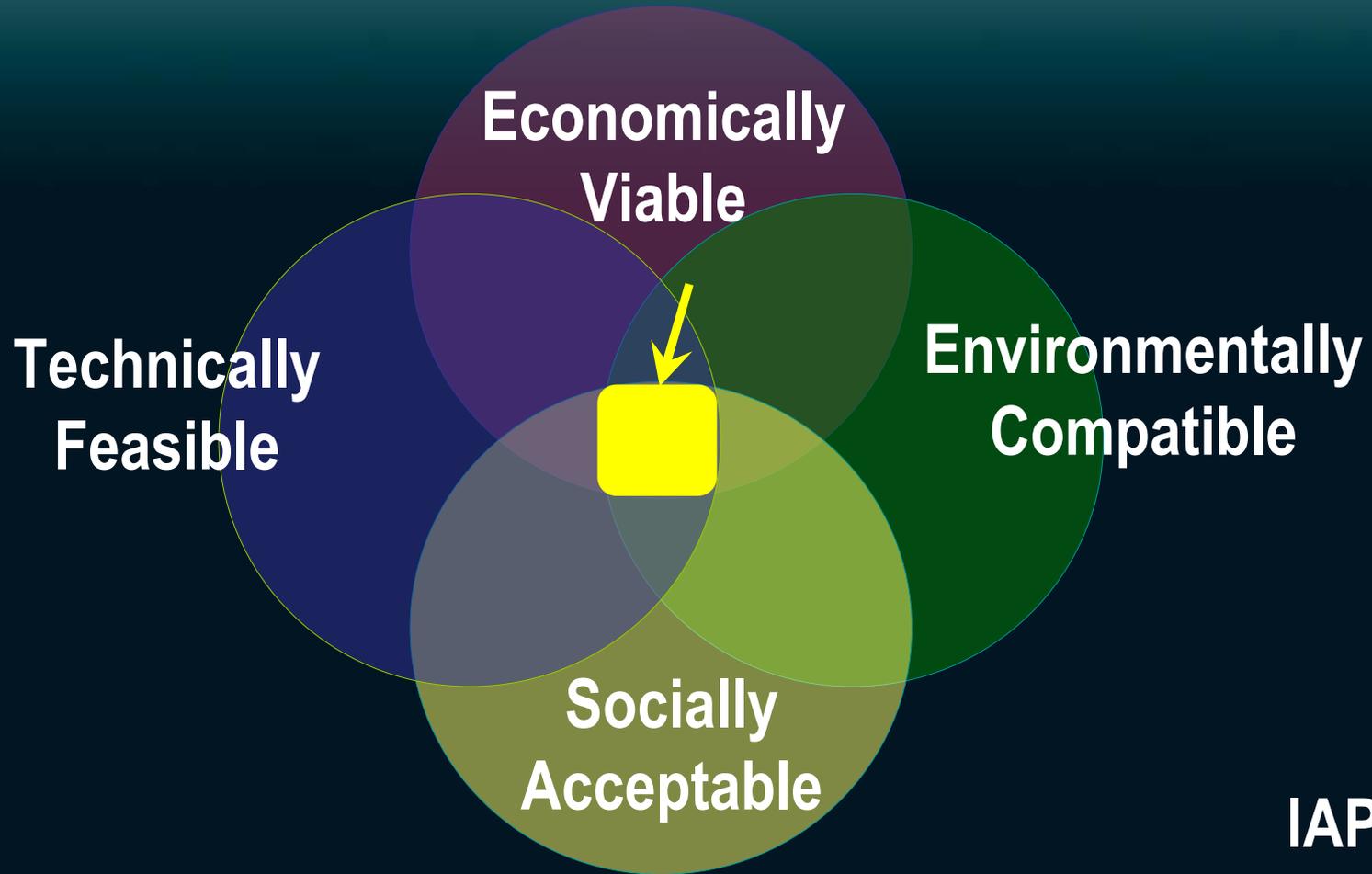
Proposed Ecosystem Restoration Plan Intent

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 GOAL: Sustainable Decisions





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 Roadmap—Where are we?

**Through
Fall 09**

**Initiate
Planning**

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



**Fall 09 -
Winter 10**

**Study
the Affected
Environment**

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

2010- 2013

**Consider
Alternatives**

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

2016

**Select
the Plan**

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



Next Steps

Initiate Planning

- 1) Develop Partnerships and Prepare for the Study
 - a. Formally identify Cooperating Agencies and develop engagement methods
 - b. Develop engagement methods with MRRIC
 - c. Identify Tribal consultation opportunities
 - d. Prepare for first round of public scoping
 - e. Publish Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS
- 2) Establish Study Rationale and Focus



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.





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Questions?



www.MRERP.org