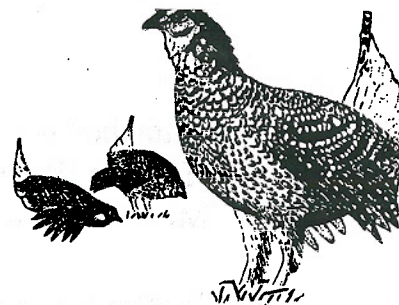




North Dakota Chapter

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1442 • BISMARCK, ND 58502



**PRESENTATION OF MIKE McENROE
NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
July 30, 2008**

Chairman Flakoll and members of the Natural Resources Committee:

For the record my name is Mike McEnroe and I am speaking on behalf of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Our Chapter testified here in October 2007, urging that this Committee request the North Dakota Congressional delegation call for the appropriate studies needed to amend the 1944 Flood Control Act to meet the contemporary needs of the Missouri River Basin.

Senator Dorgan has introduced S. 3258, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2009 (copy attached) that calls for a study to determine if changes to project purposes and existing federal infrastructure on the Missouri River are warranted. In March 2008, the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MORAST), which includes representatives from North Dakota, called for such a study. This study is the necessary first step in the Federal legislative process to change the 1944 Flood Control Act which is based on the water priorities of pre-World War II America.

I am here again today to encourage this Committee and the North Dakota Legislature to become involved and supportive of the study called for in this legislation. North Dakota and the basin states have much to gain by evaluating the contemporary water needs of all eight states within the Missouri River Basin, and making changes to modernize the 1944 Act for sustainable and contemporary management of the Missouri River. North Dakota must have a strong voice in articulating its contemporary and future economic, social, health, environmental, and cultural needs for the Missouri River Basin.

I have attached copies of two recent articles from the April and May 2008 North Dakota Water magazine describing the reasons for changing the '44 Act. Momentum within the Basin is building to support to do just that.

Our Chapter urges this Committee to support the study of the Missouri River's contemporary needs as authorized by S. 3258. This study will take time and effort to ensure that the future needs of both upstream and downstream states are balanced in a fair and sustainable manner.

Substantive changes to the 1944 Act are necessary to provide long-term sustainable benefits to the States. The 17 foot rise in Lake Sakakawea levels since this spring is a superficial event, caused by above average snow pack in the Northern Rockies and downstream flooding in the lower Basin. At best it is only a temporary gain for North Dakota. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' legal requirements to prioritize downstream barge traffic and flood control have not changed. The Corps priorities are still directed by the sixty-plus year old 1944 Flood Control Act. The study that MORAST called for and that Senator Dorgan is proposing is a crucial first step to identify changes to the Act that will modernize how the Missouri River reservoir system is operated. The support of the Natural Resources Committee and the North Dakota Legislature will help to ensure that this study moves forward in a timely and productive manner.

The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society urges this Committee and the North Dakota Legislature to endorse the Missouri River study, and with other states in the Basin, support the modernization of management of the River for the Basin citizens.

Thank you.

S.3258

Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009 (Placed on Calendar in Senate)

CORPS OF ENGINEERS--CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to rivers and harbors, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related purposes.

GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects owned or operated by the Corps; and for miscellaneous investigations and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$166,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of section 101 of this Act, the amounts made available under this paragraph shall be expended as authorized in law for the projects and activities specified in the report and direction specified in the text accompanying this Act.

CONSTRUCTION, GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law, including a portion of the expenses for the modifications authorized by section 104 of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$2,004,500,000, to remain available until expended; of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the

inserting the following:

`(a) Hereafter, the Secretary of the Army may carry out and fund planning studies, watershed surveys and assessments, or technical studies at 100 percent Federal expense to accomplish the purposes of the 2003 Biological Opinion described in section 205(b) of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-447; 118 Stat. 2949) as amended by subsection (b) or any related subsequent biological opinion, and the collaborative program long-term plan. In carrying out a study, survey, or assessment under this subsection, the Secretary of the Army shall consult with Federal, State, tribal and local governmental entities, as well as entities participating in the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program referred to in section 205 of this Act: *Provided* , That the Secretary of the Army may also provide planning and administrative assistance to the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program, which shall not be subject to cost sharing requirements with non-Federal interests.'.

SEC. 107. All budget documents and justification materials for the Corps of Engineers annual budget submission to Congress shall be assembled and presented based on the most recent annual appropriations Act: *Provided* , That new budget proposals for fiscal year 2009 and thereafter, shall not be integrated into the budget justifications submitted to Congress but shall be submitted separately from the budget justifications documents.

SEC. 108. The Secretary is authorized to conduct a study of the Missouri River Projects located within the Missouri River basin at a total cost of \$25,000,000 with the express purpose to review the original project purposes based on the Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended, and other subsequent relevant legislation and judicial rulings to determine if changes to the authorized project purposes and existing Federal water resource infrastructure may be warranted: *Provided*, That this study shall be undertaken at full Federal expense.

SEC. 109. There is authorized to be appropriated an additional \$5,000,000 for the construction of the permanent bridge authorized in section 128(a) of Public Law 108-137.

SEC. 110. Section 101(a)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3663) is amended--

(1) by inserting '(A) IN GENERAL- ' before 'The'; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

'(B) CREDIT TOWARD NON-FEDERAL SHARE- The Secretary shall credit toward the non-Federal share of the project the costs expended by non-Federal interests for the replacement and reconstruction of the Soquel Avenue Bridge, if the Secretary determines that the work is

1944 Flood Control Act Doesn't Make Good on Promises



Photo by Jason Lindsey, courtesy of North Dakota Tourism

This is the first article in a two-part series about amending the 1944 Flood Control Act. This installment will provide background information on the Act, and the promises it made to North Dakota and the other nine Missouri River Basin states.

By Angela Magstadt

The year was 1944. Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, and Judy Garland topped the pop music charts. The average yearly wage was \$2,400. A loaf of bread cost 10 cents and a gallon of gas was 15 cents. More than 60 years later, Flo Rida and T-Pain are number one on the pop charts, the average yearly wage is \$48,201 (2006 data), a loaf of bread costs around \$2, and gas is more than \$3 per gallon. How times have changed...haven't they?

1944 Flood Control Act

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is currently operating the Missouri River using a Master Manual based upon the 1944 Flood Control Act. This legislation was passed with the vision of providing the Missouri River Basin with flood control, low-cost hydropower, navigation, irrigation, municipal water supply, recreation, and wildlife,

as well as a way to employ the servicemen who were returning from serving in World War II.

"It's not surprising that 64 years after passing through Congress, the '44 Flood Control Act doesn't live up to its expected promises. Controversy has surrounded this Act since its formation," says John Cooper, chairman of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST), a regional interstate organization formed to help resolve issues of concern to the states and tribes of the Missouri River Basin.

In the Flood Control Act's infancy, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Corps did not get along with each other because of competition in Congress for funding. So when it came to the formation of this plan, neither agency would back down from what it thought was the best way to control the river. "Reclamation laughed at

the Corps' promise of navigation, and the Corps mocked the thought of irrigating the Great Plains, or what it called 'the northern reaches of the Great American Desert.' They went at each other pretty heavy," Cooper says. "Reclamation argued that minimum rainfall averages should be the basis for water control measures, and the Corps picked the average wet cycles aimed at flooding issues to try to illustrate that they ought to be in control of the ultimate design."

The Pick-Sloan Compromise

As the debate continued in Congress, many people from the Great Plains argued that there was no way these two agencies could compromise to create a plan that would address all these issues, so Congress discussed creating a new agency called the Missouri River Authority to create a unified plan. Neither the Corps nor Reclamation wanted another bureaucratic organization trying to dictate what should happen on the Missouri River, so they figured it was in their best interest to try to compromise.

The plan that resulted from this compromise is now known as the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, named for Colonel Lewis Pick, director of the Corps' Missouri

River office and William Sloan, director of Reclamation's Billings, Mont., office.

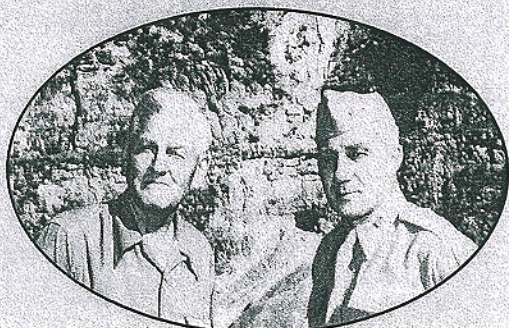
"The 1944 Flood Control Act has a shady past in terms of how we would do business today," Cooper says. "Today we would have to go through a host of environmental studies, cost-benefit ratios, study the power and irrigation needs, and flood control issues. All these issues would have to be put together in one unified plan and it would have to be presented to Congress. Then there would be a series of separate working groups to hash through it. But that isn't how it was done back in the early 1940s. So in essence, we're stuck with a 63-year-old plan that has no promise and no flexibility to address current system needs. It's a big dilemma and it grows more contentious with each passing year of drought in the upper basin."

Flood control

The Act has succeeded in reducing the large floods in the Missouri River Basin. More than \$31 billion in damages have been saved since the construction of the first dam. In 1997 alone, the reservoirs provided more than \$6.8 billion in flood control, primarily for downstream states.

Irrigation

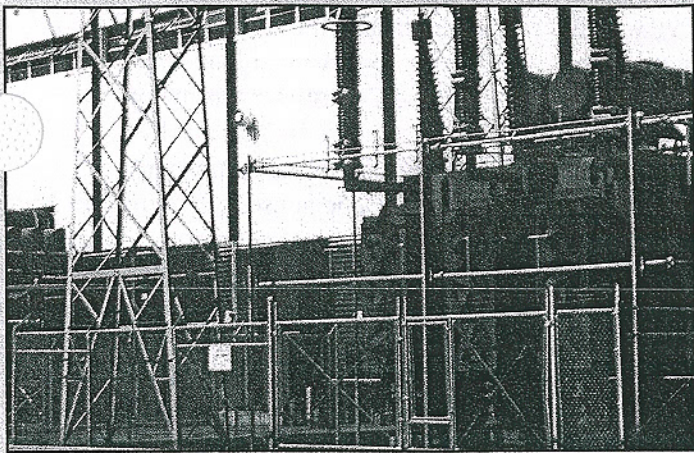
The other goals of the Flood Control Act haven't been the successful story flood control has, however. The Pick-Sloan plan promised the upper basin states 5.3 million acres of irrigation as a repayment of sorts for the lands flooded by the mainstem reservoirs. But the promise of irrigation never materialized, and only about 560,000 total acres have been realized, a majority of which occurred in Nebraska and Kansas, two states that lost no land to the formulation of the reservoirs.



William Sloan and Colonel Lewis Pick



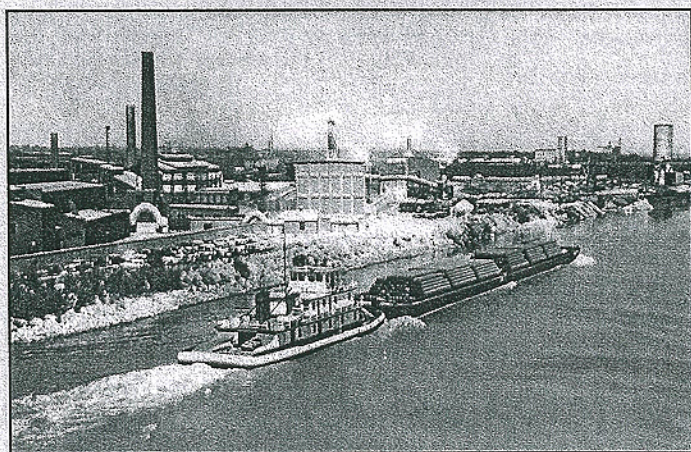
Photo by Will Kincaid



WAPA's rates to its wholesale customers have increased 37 percent in the past four years. This is a result of low water levels behind the dams.

Navigation

Navigation on the Missouri River has never reached the levels of economic impact that were projected in 1944, which was to haul 12 million tons per year. Navigation peaked in 1977 at 3.3 million tons and has decreased since then. In 2006, barges only moved 50,000 tons on the Missouri River, the amount moved daily on the Mississippi River. Cooper points out that in 2007, the upper basin released 5.7 million acre feet of water to the lower basin to support less than 220,000 tons of navigation. "We're burning a lot of water for navigation for no good reason," he says. "We are in the



Navigation on the Missouri River peaked in 1977 at 3.3 million tons, about a quarter of its 1944 projection. Last year, barges hauled less than 220,000 tons, 1.8 percent of its original projection.

ninth consecutive year of drought, and we're still running water like we had it. It doesn't make sense, and it can't last when all three of the upper basin storage reservoirs are at all-time record low levels."

Hydropower

Hydropower, municipal water supply, recreation, and wildlife all are affected by the decreased reservoir levels caused by outdated operational constraints, exacerbated by the current drought. Back when the Flood Control Act was being debated, the upper basin states were promised reduced hydropower rates. Rural electric cooperatives (REC) were in their infancy then, and hydropower was supposed to serve as the foundation of REC use as well as for irrigation development. But because of low water levels on the reservoirs, the Western Area Power

Administration (WAPA), the organization that markets hydropower to

wholesale customers, is having problems meeting firm power demands. According to Cooper, since the reservoirs started seeing substantial impacts of the drought in early 2004, WAPA's rates to wholesale customers have increased 37 percent because of the cost of power that had to be purchased from the open power grid market as low water levels behind the dams cut into hydropower production.

Municipal water supply

The Flood Control Act also promised a dependable municipal water supply for the communities in the

Missouri River Basin. The lack of adaptive management during the drought is affecting that promise, as well. In 2003, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe in southern North Dakota virtually ran out of municipal water when its intake in the upper reaches of Lake Oahe plugged up with silt as water levels fell. This affected some 10,000 residents, and caused the closure of the Fort Yates hospital and school. The Cheyenne River Sioux tribe in South Dakota experienced a similar problem until its water intake was relocated last year.

Recreation

Recreation, a component of the Act that Cooper describes as "almost an afterthought," has become a huge industry, largely surpassing navigation in economic impacts in the Missouri River Basin. Fishermen, hunters, and campers spend a lot of money and time in and around the mainstem reservoirs, and recreation has had significant

"I am certainly not an advocate for frequent changes in law and constitutions. But laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, ... institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times."

~ Thomas Jefferson

impacts to the local economies in these communities. According to a 1998 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, more than 4 million people spend more than 10 million "visitor days" at developed recreation sites along the Missouri River every year. This generates at least \$84.7 million in annual economic benefits. However, current management operations are hampering recreation, and these communities are feeling the negative effects of the low lake levels. In the mid-1990s, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks did an overall visitation and economic impact study of walleye fishing on Lake Oahe, and determined an approximate \$27 million impact. In 2005, after the level of Lake Oahe had fallen some 30 feet, it did the same review to determine the revenue that is being lost because of low lake levels. The study found that about 50 percent of this income is being lost due to low water conditions. While there hasn't been an official study in North Dakota, Greg Power, chief of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's fisheries division, says he wouldn't be surprised if the 2008 season shows a 50 percent reduction from the late '90s when the lakes flowed and the fishing was good.

It was also reported at a recent MoRAST meeting that for the first time, the number one fishery in North Dakota will be Devils Lake, not Lake Sakakawea. Power says this is because water levels on Sakakawea are continuing to decline while the levels on Devils Lake are continuing to rise.

Fish and wildlife

Outdated management of the Missouri River further complicates the recovery of three threatened or endangered species that live in or near the river – the interior least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon.

"Their habitat is so greatly altered, the future of these species is in jeopardy," says Paul Lepisto, the regional conservation coordinator of the Izaak Walton League's Missouri River Initiative. Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League is one of the oldest conservation organizations in America.

Cooper says that when the 1944 Flood Control Act passed, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) didn't exist. The ESA was enacted in 1973, so now the Corps has to be cognizant



The endangered pallid sturgeon.

of the river's ecological health, attempting to restore the populations of threatened and endangered species, as well as prevent additional species from being listed. This

challenge is one the Flood Control Act never anticipated.

"I've worked with the Missouri River in both North Dakota and South Dakota for 35 years and I am very concerned that the 1944 Flood Control Act has major flaws, exacerbated by the continuing drought and by the failures of what was promised for navigation and irrigation as two of the main beneficial uses of the overall project," Cooper says. "The ecological health of the river is now in jeopardy, and we need to change something to address modern-day major issues such as sedimentation, environmental recovery, municipal water supply, and continued hydropower service during drought conditions. The Missouri River ecosystem is in a sad state of affairs and we seem to avoid any opportunity to make meaningful changes."

Need for change

MoRAST is requesting that the Corps do a section 216c study to look at current conditions along the basin and whether or not the current master manual is accomplishing the goals and objectives. "We need to look at the 1944 Flood Control Act and honestly evaluate the changing conditions that have occurred since the Act was passed, and then approach Congress in an effort to make any appropriate changes that will address the needs of the entire basin, taking into account our modern-day priorities.

This would include significant input from the tribes, who were all but ignored when the original Act was passed," Cooper says.

There is a consensus among most

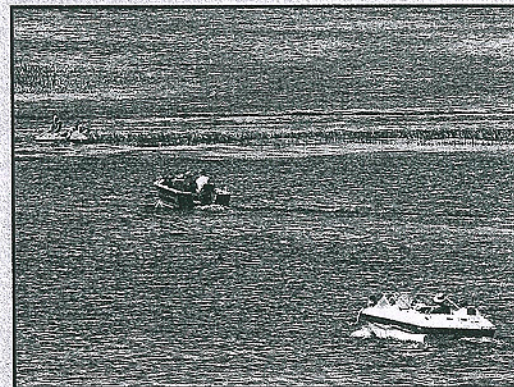


Photo by Will Kincaid

Recreation has largely surpassed navigation in economic impacts in the Missouri River Basin

of the states in the Basin that the current law needs to be changed, but the biggest challenge is getting all affected states and tribes to work together to accomplish this lofty goal. "We all need to look at the big picture," Lepisto says. "We need to pull together as one basin, not upstream versus downstream and get our leaders to see that we need a change for the overall good of the Missouri River Basin and the health of its ecosystem. It is no secret that this will be a difficult task because of all the past bitterness and competition between states, but we need to bury the hatchet. We need to put history behind us to do what is best for the future."

Working Together for the Good of All

Efforts Underway to Amend 1944 Flood Control Act

NDWEF Photo

This is the second article in a two-part series about amending the 1944 Flood Control Act.

By Angela Magstadt

It has been said that we should learn from our past, not live in it. But there are still some laws on the books that many consider to be a bit outdated. For example, Kentucky law requires a person to bathe once a year. In Vermont, women must obtain written permission from their husbands to wear false teeth. And just last year, North Dakota's anti-cohabitation law, one that has been in place since statehood, was repealed. While not as outlandish as these, there is another law that many feel is outdated and in dire need of revision – the 1944 Flood Control Act.

Managing in the present with a plan from the past

In a July 10, 2007, letter to John Paul Woodley, Jr., assistant secretary of the Army (Civil Works), South Dakota Governor M. Michael Rounds said, "The Corps [Engineers] finds itself in the unenviable position of having to operate a reservoir system in the 21st century constrained by the statutory and legal requirements of a

1944 vision. It is an unfortunate reality that the 1944 Flood Control Act ties the Corps to this outdated vision."

Why change?

Currently a group of people who have diverse political viewpoints are backing an effort which has as a lofty goal, to revise this 64-year-old law. Advocates of this change point out that many of the visions authorized by the Act, including irrigation and navigation, have never materialized to the extent they were projected in the early 1940s. Current management does not effectively use river functions or conserve its water. Modernization of the 1944 Flood Control Act would allow the Corps to focus on the areas of use that are contemporary and have even surpassed early projections, including the huge recreation industry that was created with the construction of the Missouri River reservoirs. The goal of a revised law would be to uphold the ecological, economic, and cultural values and focus on flexibility and long-term objectives. The

modernized law would also require that the Corps work with the citizens of the Missouri River Basin to effectively implement practical recommendations regarding the operation of the system to meet its contemporary needs.

"We have worked hard to press the Army Corps of Engineers to implement more and stronger conservation measures, as well as to more fairly balance the array of interests throughout the entire basin," says Gov. John Hoeven. "We have made some progress in that effort, but more remains to be done. Most recently, we have combined our efforts with the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes to ask the Corps to study the 1944 Flood Control Act. The goal would be to determine whether or not changes are needed to the existing congressionally authorized uses, and if so, to bring the Act into conformity with contemporary needs throughout the basin."

Some of the proposed changes would help cure the problems the Basin is facing, including:

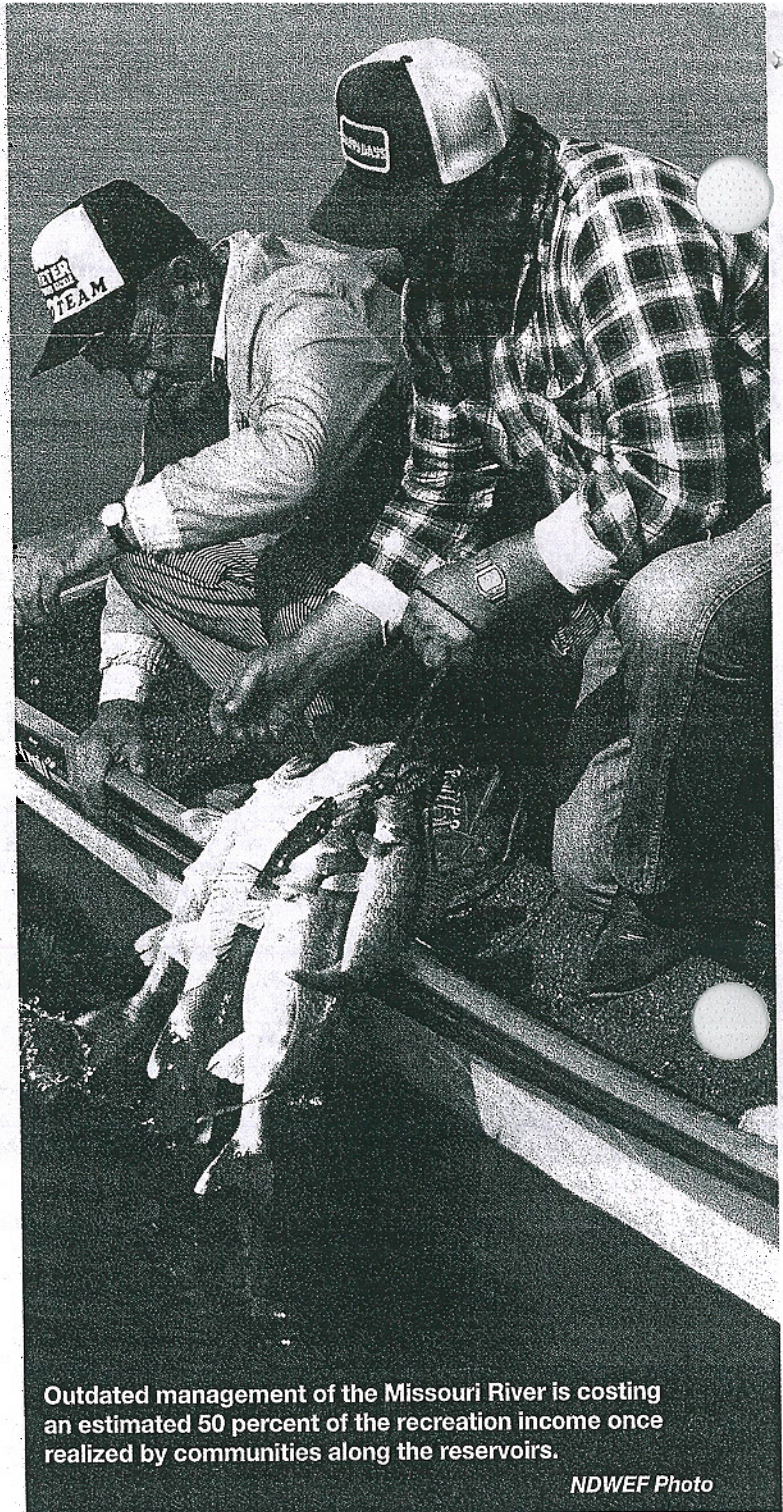
- **Fish and wildlife.** A revised law could establish fish and wildlife restoration and flow enhancement programs to address habitat that was either lost or impacted with the construction and operation of the dams, and navigation channel. It could also establish a biological monitoring system to focus on the entire system's ecological health – not just that of threatened and endangered species.

- **Endangered species.** Millions of dollars have been spent building habitat for endangered species. If the Corps is not constrained by the need to support navigation, much of this habitat could be created naturally, letting the river do the work.

- **Environmental restoration.** Congress currently allocates \$50-\$100 million per year to the ecological restoration of the Missouri River, and the Corps says between \$1 and \$2 billion will be needed over the next 20 years to complete this task. A revised law would use the river's natural ability to improve the Basin's environmental integrity and save taxpayers millions of dollars.

- **Recreation.** Recreation was one of the "indirect" benefits of the proposed Pick-Sloan Plan, but has significantly surpassed the expectations of the original plan. Outdated management of the Missouri River reservoirs is costing an estimated 50 percent of the income once realized by communities along the reservoirs. An amended law could bring this purpose into balance with other uses, thus maintaining the levels in the lakes and offering huge potential for recreation development in the lower Basin.

- **Hydropower efficiency.** A revised law could address contemporary water supply and power production needs, give federal assistance for intake modifications for municipal and power plant needs, and improve efficiency for hydropower operations with higher lake levels.



Outdated management of the Missouri River is costing an estimated 50 percent of the recreation income once realized by communities along the reservoirs.

NDWEF Photo

- **Municipal water supply and irrigation intakes.** Many communities in the Missouri River Basin rely on the river for their drinking water, and many farmers use it for irrigation. Because of the lack of adaptive management during the current drought, thousands of citizens are experiencing problems with their intakes, some to the extent of requiring federal assistance to local communities with water supply infrastructure impacted by the river's operation.

- **Sedimentation.** Every year, some 92,500 acre feet of sediment (10 square miles of mud 14.5 feet deep)



Every year, some 92,500 acre feet of sediment accumulate in deltas above the Missouri River dams. That's the equivalent of 10 square miles of mud 14.5 feet deep.

Photo courtesy of the Missouri River Sedimentation Action Coalition

accumulate in deltas above the Missouri River dams. The sedimentation, which is especially prevalent on the river at Williston, Bismarck, and Pierre, S.D., creates problems for flood control, hydropower, municipal water supply intakes, recreation, and personal property just to name a few. A revised law could authorize work on a solution to move the sediment, which is desperately needed in the Gulf Coast wetlands to protect New Orleans from the next hurricane.

- **Tribal issues.** According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, more than 350,000 acres of land were flooded in seven Indian reservations in North and South Dakota with the construction of the five dams in the states. A revised flood control act could establish a renewed emphasis on addressing impacts to all tribal land and cultural resources caused by the Pick-Sloan project along the Missouri River.

- **Regional climate shifts.** Climate change is causing the amount of snow that accumulates in the mountains to decrease, and since the Missouri River depends on the mountain runoff for much of its water, all uses on the river are affected. This reduction in flow requires modification of the current management. A flexible management plan created by an updated law can adapt to changing conditions to best meet the contemporary needs of the basin.

Benefits to Missouri

Historically, any proposed changes from North Dakota and other upstream states have been met with opposition by the state of Missouri. Those who are promoting the revision of the 1944 Flood Control Act say that downstream states would see a vast improvement in their situations, as well, including:

- **Navigation.** One of the proposed changes could, in exchange for summer flows on the Missouri River, allow the navigation industry to benefit from fall flows on the Mississippi River, which is 100 times larger than on the Missouri.

- **Municipal water supply.** A revised law would provide a guaranteed water supply for the future of large Missouri cities such as St. Louis, Jefferson City, and Kansas City.

- **Ecological restoration,** and its huge potential for recreation development, offer great economic and social benefits for the lower basin. Environmental restoration will also increase diversity of local economies.

- **Active participation.** Like the rest of the Missouri River Basin, downstream states would have an increased voice in how the river is operated.

Working together to make a change

Five out of the eight states the Missouri River significantly affects have passed resolutions to attempt to change the 64-year-old law. And, in February, the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST) took action, requesting that the Corps conduct a study to determine if the Act is meeting the current needs of the Missouri River Basin. If the study finds that it isn't meeting current needs, the Corps can budget for a General Investigation Study, a project specific study, which is cost-shared 50-50 between the Corps and a non-federal sponsor. But because of the scope and breadth of this request, it is likely Congressional authorization would be necessary.

Al Sapa, past-president of the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a leader in the effort to amend the Act, says that when he and other proponents of the change met with North Dakota's Congressional delegation, their advice was to work within the basin and gain support from all sources. "One by one the states and user groups are recognizing how an updated Flood Control Act can result in benefits to all the uses in the Missouri River Basin, and sustain those values for the future. While we still have to make progress politically in Missouri, there is editorial support in many lower basin newspapers," Sapa says.

Another indication that the effort is getting Missouri's attention is that Rep. Kenny Hulshof (R- Mo.) has introduced a House resolution that seeks endorsement of the status quo on navigation, and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) has written the Corps and asked that it view a study of the river management with a skeptical eye.

"Congress is not likely to change a statute of this magnitude without significant evidence that it isn't working," says David Pope, MoRAST's executive director. "And Congress doesn't make changes without a careful review, considering environmental, economic, and social impacts, and probably even an Environmental Impact Statement."

Proponents of changing the Act agree that the only way to be successful in this effort is to work together. "Change is never easy," Pope says, "but we're optimistic something can be done. There is a compelling case for change."

The Missouri River Basin covers one-sixth of the United States. Many of those who are working diligently to change river management in the Missouri River Basin, believe that, through a collaborative process, the citizens of the Missouri River Basin will be able to look back and see the 1944 Flood Control Act as an outdated law that has finally been changed to reflect current and future needs.

NORTH DAKOTA WATER RESOURCE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING AND EXECUTIVE BRIEFING ON GLOBAL WARMING

TUESDAY, JULY 1

7:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING

1:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

***AIRPORT INTERNATIONAL INN
WILLISTON***

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER