

# MISSOURI RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Navigators Meeting  
February 13, 2019

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*"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."*



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FOUO/FOR DISCUSSION

# MISSOURI RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM

- Endangered Species Act compliance actions in order to continue operation of the Missouri and Kansas River reservoir systems and Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project for their authorized purposes.



- Bank Stabilization and Navigation Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project- WRDA' 86 and WRDA '99



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# BACKGROUND

Missouri River Recovery  
Management Plan (MRRMP)  
Biological Opinion- April 2018

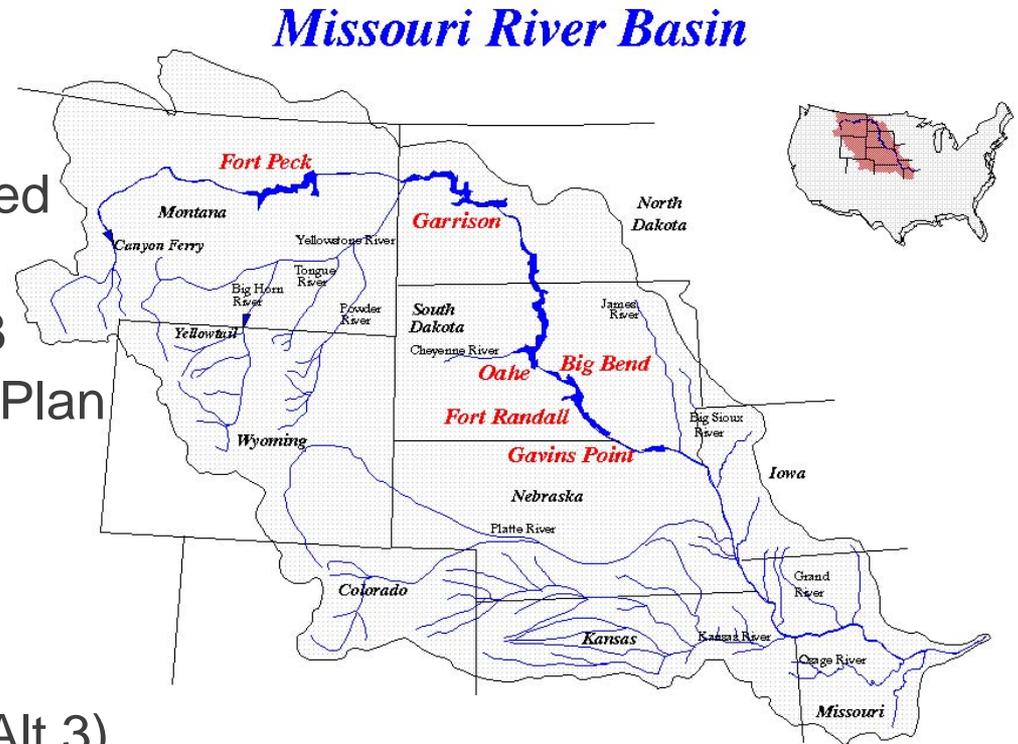
- No-jeopardy if USACE  
Proposed Plan implemented

Final MRRMP/EIS- August 2018

- Recommended Proposed Plan  
(Alt 3)

MRRMP Record of Decision-  
November 2018

- Selected Proposed Plan (Alt 3)  
for implementation



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# PROPOSED PLAN (ALT 3) – BIRD MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Mechanical ESH construction
- Vegetation management, predator control, and human restrictions on ESH
- System Operation to reduce take of birds
- Monitoring and Evaluation



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# PROPOSED PLAN (ALT 3) – PALLID STURGEON MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Test spawning cue at Gavins Point in 9 years, if warranted
- Creation of Interception/Rearing Complexes (IRC)
- Creation of Spawning Habitat
- Hatchery Production and Stocking
- Evaluation and implementation of Fort Peck test flows
- Monitoring and Research



# NEXT STEPS

- Review of draft 2018 ESA Compliance Report with MRRIC at Adaptive Management Workshop- February 25-28
- Revise MRRP Strategic Plan- March 29
- Consider MRRIC Strategic Plan Recommendations- June-Sep
- Develop WRDA '18 IRC Report w/ MRRIC- Feb-May



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# FT PECK TEST FLOWS

## Fish and HC WG Webinar

Tiffany Vanosdall, PM

1 February 2019



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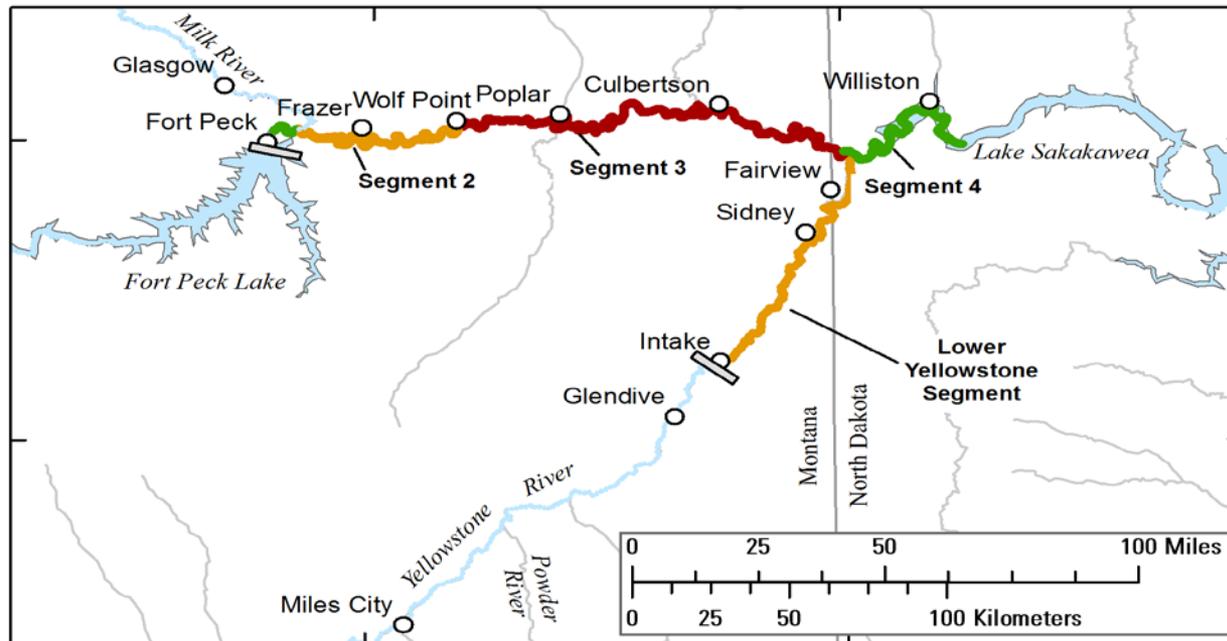
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# PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose: Assess test flows out of Ft Peck Dam related to pallid sturgeon recruitment while accounting for conditions on the Yellowstone River.

- Pursuant to the BiOp, there is a need to prioritize hypotheses related to flows out of Fort Peck Dam....



Source: U.S.G.S. digital basemap data  
Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 15



# FT PECK NEPA FLOWCHART

1 February 2019

**WE ARE HERE** →

DEC 2018 - FEB 2019

**STUDY KICK-OFF**

FEB - MAR 2019

**SCOPING**

MAR - APR 2019

**DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES**

MAY - SEP 2019

**DETAILED ANALYSIS**

NOV 2019 – JAN 2020

**DRAFT EA/EIS WRITTEN & ISSUED**

FEB - MAY 2020

**PUBLIC COMMENT REVIEW & SYNTHESIS**

JUN - SEP 2020

**PREPARE FINAL EA/EIS**

OCT - NOV 2020

**ISSUE FINAL EA/EIS**

NOV- DEC 2020

**FONSI/ROD**

**ENGAGEMENTS**

- 1 Feb – Scoping webinar
- 12 Feb – Navigators Mtg
- 25 Feb – HC Discussion at AM Wkshp
- TBD – Hydropower discussion
- TBD – Fish WG webinar on Alts
- Apr – Webinar on results of scoping
- May – Update at MRRIC Plenary

**45-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION WITH TRIBES**  
(on Draft and Final)



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# SCOPING

Purpose of Scoping: Public comments are invited to assist in identifying the scope of potentially affected environmental, social, and economic issues relevant to the proposed Federal action and determining reasonable alternatives to be considered in the EIS.

Dates: NOI was issued on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Scoping period will run from Feb 8<sup>th</sup>-March 11<sup>th</sup>

Navigators Meeting: 13 Feb

Public Meetings: Feb 19<sup>th</sup> in Ft Peck, MT and Feb 20<sup>th</sup> in Williston, ND

Tribal Meeting: 20 Feb with Ft Peck Tribe. Others Tribes upon request

No specific cooperating agency meetings – working through MRRIC



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# SCOPING

Scoping comments can be provided at the in-person scoping meetings or can be emailed to:

[cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil)

Scoping comments can also be mailed to:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District  
ATTN: CENWO-PM-AC- Fort Peck EIS  
1616 Capitol Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68102



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# OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

- MRRIC Webinar: 1 Feb to discuss plan for scoping
- Meet with MRRIC HC workgroup during AM workshop
- Meet with hydropower stakeholders and Hydropower CX
- MRRIC Fish workgroup to discuss alternative development
- MRRIC April Joint workgroup: discuss results of scoping, alternatives we intend to analyze, analyses we intend to do
- MRRIC May Plenary: results of scoping and workgroup input on potential MRRIC recommendations



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# INTERCEPTION AND REARING COMPLEXES

Pallid Sturgeon Effects Analysis (EA) hypothesized the survival of age-0 pallid sturgeon is limited by:

1. **Interception (I)** of free embryos from the navigation channel into adjacent habitats; and
2. The provision of supportive rearing habitats (**R**) including **food-producing** and **foraging areas**.



# IRC IMPLEMENTATION– PHASED APPROACH

- 12 IRC projects staggered over 7 years
- 8 years of monitoring, including **control sites**
  - Physical monitoring – bathymetric surveys
  - Biological monitoring – fish sampling
- Two projects already **constructed in 2017**:
  - Searcy Bend (RM 178-181)
  - Moberly Bend (RM 297-302)
- Two projects **in design**:
  - St. Albans Bend (RM 52-55)
  - Pelican Bend (RM 11-15)



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# IRC SITE SELECTION AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

## IRC Site Selection

- Adjacent to publicly owned land
- Within the range of RM identified for interception
- Minimize impacts to Human Considerations
- Bends with the most “potential” for an IRC project

## Stakeholder Coordination during site selection and design:

- Navigators
- Tribes
- Agriculture
- Other agencies
- Commercial Dredgers



# IRC REPORT

## WRDA 2018 – Section 1226:

- Report to Congress on the impacts of IRC construction on:
  - Missouri River authorized purposes; and
  - Population recovery of the pallid sturgeon
- No IRC construction until report is submitted
- Coordinating development with MRRIC



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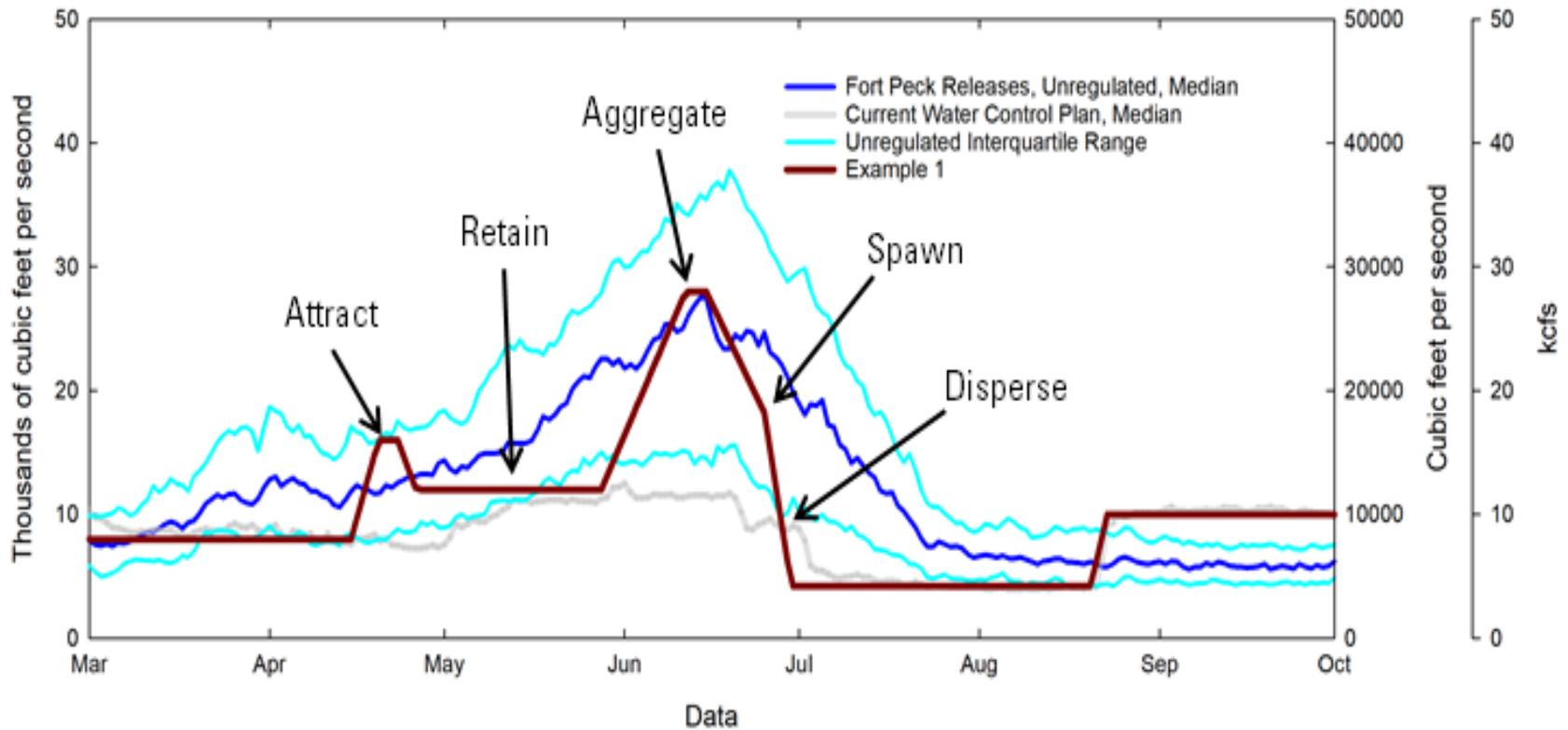
# QUESTIONS



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# TEST HYDROGRAPHS



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