

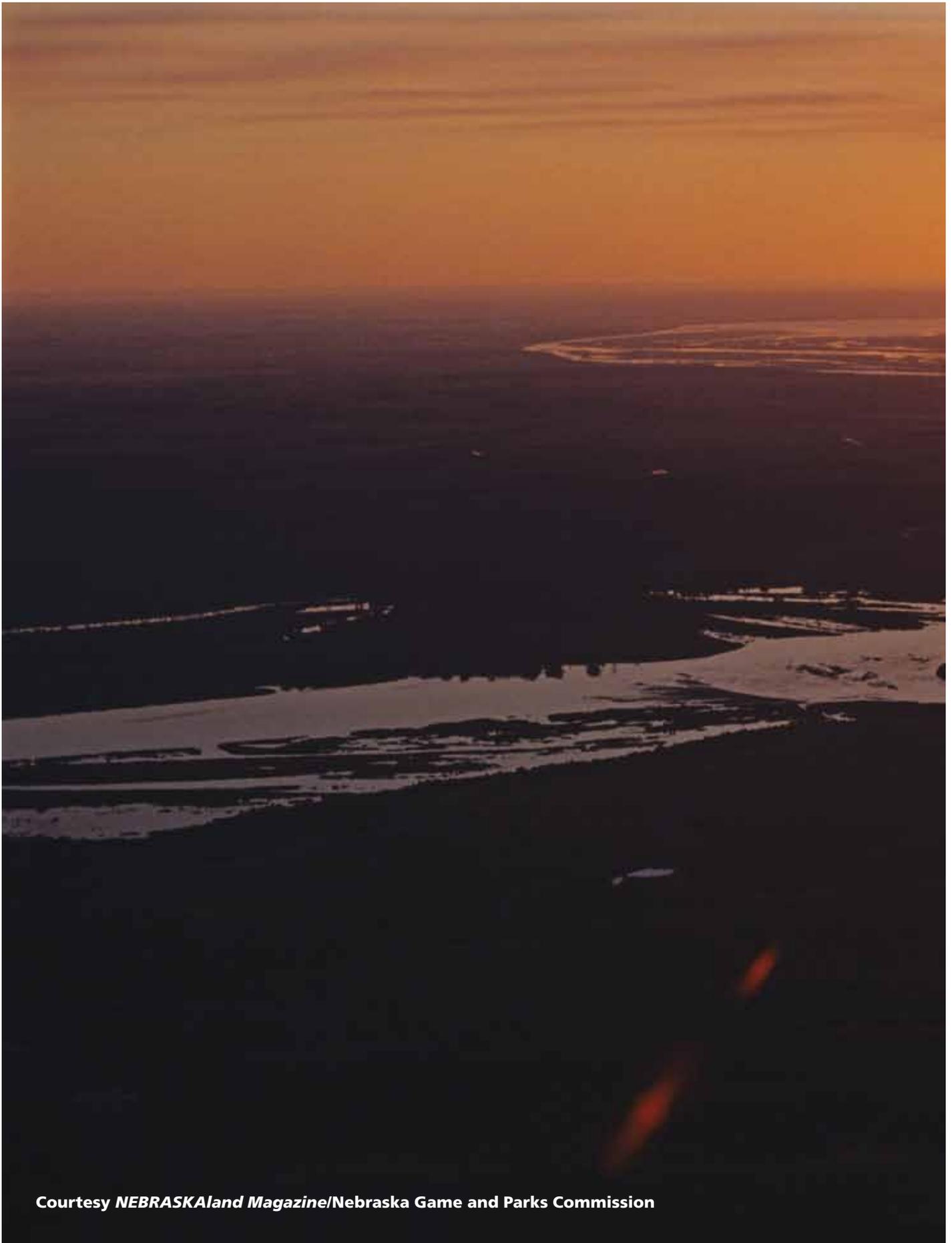


Missouri National Recreational River Long-Range Interpretive Plan



SEPTEMBER 2011





Courtesy *NEBRASKAland Magazine*/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

An aerial photograph of a wide, winding river, likely the Missouri River, during a sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper left quadrant, casting a long, shimmering path of light across the water and the surrounding landscape. The sky is a deep orange, and the river reflects the light, creating a series of bright, curved highlights. The land is dark and silhouetted against the bright sky and water.

**Missouri National
Recreational River
Long-Range Interpretive Plan**

Prepared for

**Task Order No. T1180100024
Interpretive Planning for
the Missouri National Recreational River**

**Prepared under Contract No. C1180070004
with the National Park Service**

**Interpretive Planning Services
Harpers Ferry Center
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425**

By:

**Interpretive Solutions, Inc.
732 Westbourne Road
West Chester, PA 19382**

September 2011



Courtesy *NEBRASKAland Magazine*/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Contents

Executive Summary

Summary	7
Foundation for Planning	9
Comprehensive Interpretive Planning	9
National Park System and National Park Service Mission	10
Establishment of the Missouri National Recreational River	11
Purpose and Priorities	12
Vision Statement for the Division of Interpretation and Education	12
Statements of Significance	13
Primary Interpretive Themes	15
Management Goals	19
Visitation and Demographic Data	20
Audiences	20
Desired Visitor Experiences	21
Opportunities and Challenges	22

Existing Conditions

The Setting	25
Park Partners and Facilities	26
Potential and Existing Interpretive Venues	27
Information and Orientation	42
The Interpretive Experience	42
Curriculum-Based Education Program	44
Personnel	45

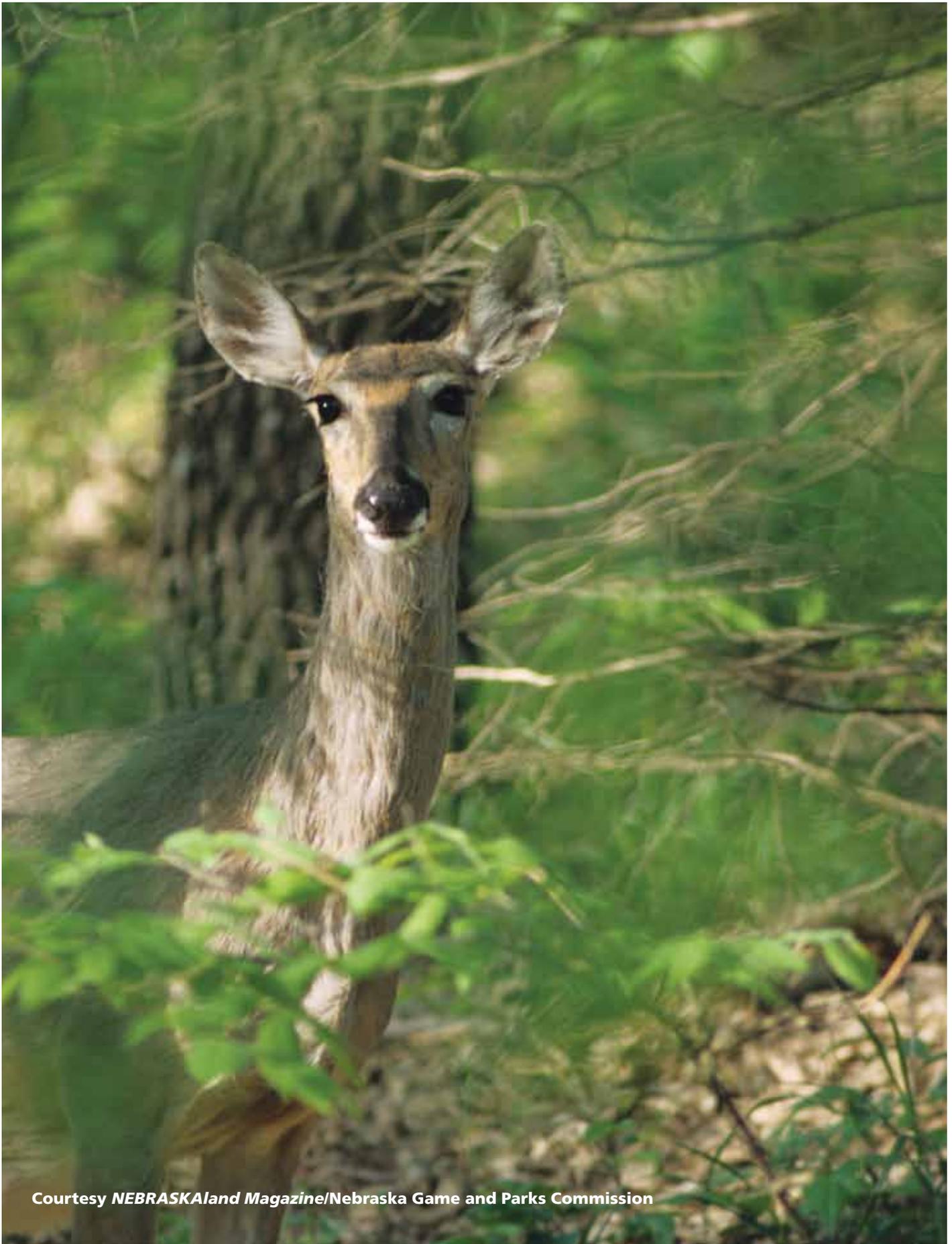
Recommendations

Top Priority Recommendations	47
Reinforcing the NPS Presence	48
Recommendations by Type	52
Personal Services	52
Traditional Interpretive Media	55
Digital Interpretive Media and Park Website	57
Visitor Contact Opportunities	59
The Corridor Concept: A “Missouri River Recreational and Heritage Corridor”	61
Implementation Summary	63

Glossary

Appendix A: Draft Education Strategic Plan for the Missouri National Recreational River’s Curriculum-Based Education Program	81
---	----

Appendix B: The Planning Team	83
--------------------------------------	----

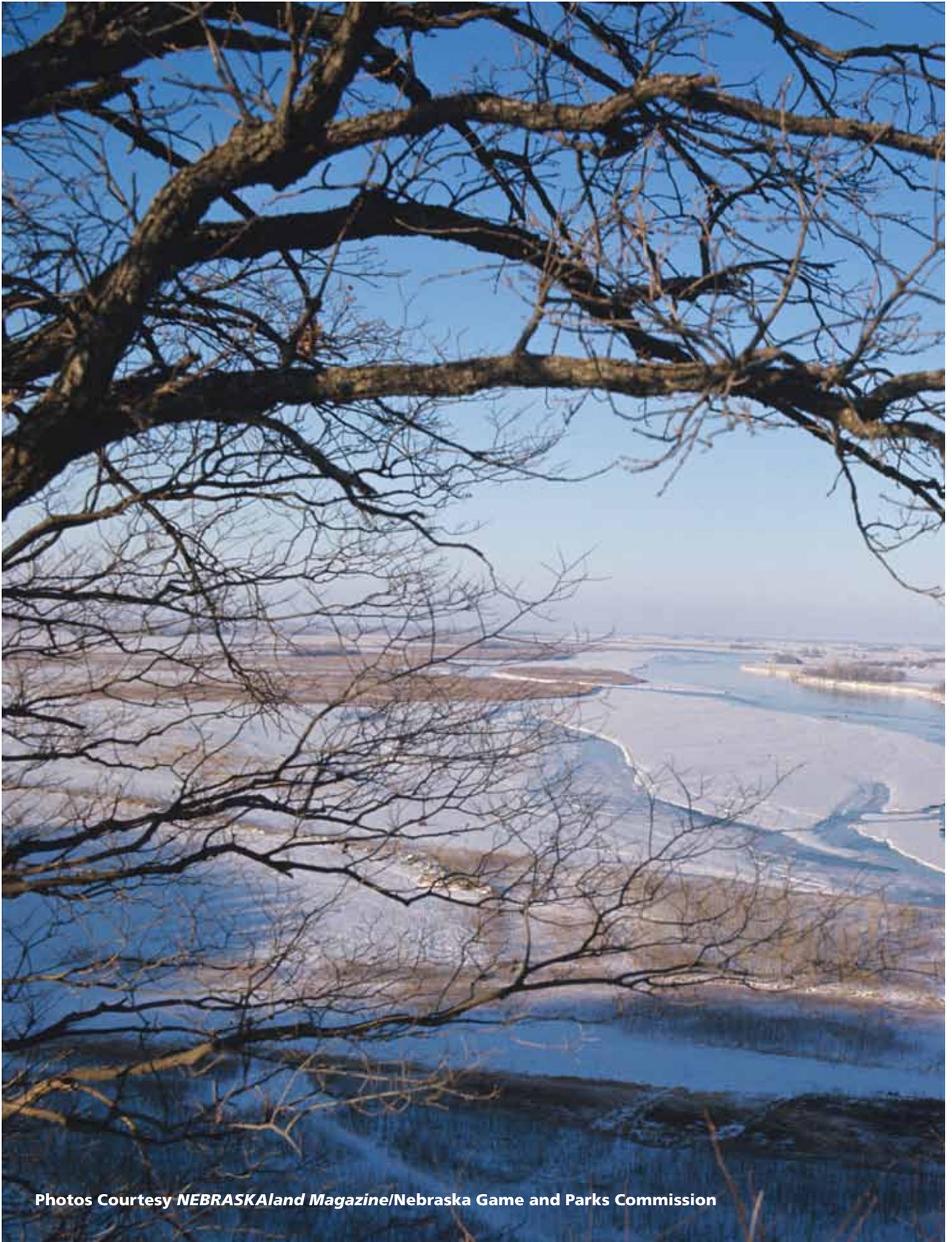


Courtesy *NEBRASKAland Magazine*/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

This long-range interpretive plan for the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) recommends programs and initiatives that will meet a number of the park's management goals. The MNRR is a non-traditional type of national park unit within the National Park System. It is managed through partnerships with multiple federal, state, local, and tribal agencies and private landowners with the common mission to preserve, protect, and enhance the River's outstandingly remarkable scenic, scientific, natural, cultural, and historic resource values and recreational opportunities.

The long-range interpretive plan recommends:

- Programs that will engage youth, convey multiple perspectives, and provide new interpretive opportunities in addition to evaluating and enhancing existing programming.
- Interpretive media for anticipated National Park Service (NPS) land acquisitions that build on existing partnerships to provide and promote recreational opportunities on the river.
- Programs and strategies to reinforce the National Park Service presence and identity or brand. Management of the MNRR is shared with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP); Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC); and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Because the NPS owns very little real estate along the river, it has been hard for visitors and even area residents to understand the agency's role in interpreting and managing the river. The plan recommends steps to strengthen NPS visibility in the MNRR Corridor, including:
 - ♦ Creating a Friends group
 - ♦ Developing a group of Action Volunteers
 - ♦ Reaching out to the corridor communities via programming, meetings, and news media
 - ♦ Developing a Mobile Ranger Station to bring interpretation to locations up and down the river
 - ♦ Seeking a dedicated NPS visitor contact station or, alternatively, developing an interpretive media piece interpreting the NPS role on the MNRR that could be presented at all partner visitor or welcome centers, as well as on public television stations and the park's website
 - ♦ Development of a "Missouri River Recreational and Heritage Corridor" concept, which would bring together partners—all of whom share a common purpose—working in concert to promote and develop the MNRR region as a corridor, addressing branding, joint marketing, partnership programs, and grant opportunities.



Photos Courtesy *NEBRASKA*land Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



Comprehensive Interpretive Planning

The National Park Service (NPS) has adopted a unified planning approach for interpretation and education. This approach combines planning for interpretive media, personal interpretive services, and curriculum-based education programs. The Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) is the basic planning document for interpretation and was formally adopted as part of NPS guidelines in 1995. Responsibility for creating the CIP lies with each park's superintendent.

What is a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan?

The CIP process helps parks make choices. It provides guidance to park staff by clarifying objectives, identifying audiences, and recommending the best mix of interpretive media and personal services through which to convey park themes.

Although the CIP as defined in Director's Order No. 6 is composed of specific elements, good planning is customized to meet each park's needs and situation. The CIP is not a recipe. Rather, it is a guide to effective, goal-driven planning. While it considers past interpretive programming, it is primarily a forward-looking document that concentrates on actions needed to create or sustain a vigorous and effective interpretive program for the future. All CIPs have three components: the Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP), a series of Annual Implementation Plans (AIP), and an Interpretive Database (ID).



What is a Long-Range Interpretive Plan?

The heart of the CIP is the Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP). The LRIP defines the overall vision and long-term (7-10 years) interpretive goals of the park. The LRIP defines realistic strategies and actions that work toward achievement of a park's interpretive goals. The Long-Range Interpretive Plan features two phases. One, the Foundation phase, articulates significance, themes, and target audiences. The Foundation Document addresses those elements of the plan and includes a review of existing conditions.

The second phase of the LRIP process recommends interpretive services, media, and partnerships for the site, looking ahead to the next seven to ten years. A Team Draft articulates those elements and, after review, the Long-Range Interpretive Plan is finalized.

The Annual Implementation Plan and Interpretive Database

The LRIP is a critical part of the CIP, but it does not stand alone. Actions in the LRIP are divided into annual, achievable steps and reproduced in the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), the second component of the CIP. The AIP simplifies the park's annual planning process by planning for implementation based on the actions outlined in the LRIP. The third component of the CIP is the Interpretive Database (ID), an ongoing compilation of information, reports, bibliographies, plans, and inventories

that document the park's history and the process of developing the LRIP.

National Park System and National Park Service Mission

The National Park System is composed of nearly 400 different units located in 49 states and multiple U.S. Territories such as American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and others. The National Park System contains protected areas with many different names or designations (national park, national monument, national historic site, national battlefield, national wild and scenic rivers, and several others) that all share the common mission of preserving, protecting unimpaired, and teaching about our nationally significant natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. They are the special places that tell the compelling stories of our collective American heritage.

The National Park Service Mission comes from the Organic Act of 1916:

“... purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

For more information about the National Park System, please visit our website, www.nps.gov.

Establishment of the Missouri National Recreational River

The Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) was created by two acts of Congress that amended the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The 59-mile stretch from just below Gavins Point Dam to Ponca State Park was designated in 1978 by Public Law 95-625. In 1991, Congress enlarged the MNRR via Public Law 102-50, which added the 39 miles from just below Fort Randall Dam to Running Water, the lower 20 miles of the Niobrara River where it flows into the Missouri River, and the lower 8 miles of Verdigre Creek.

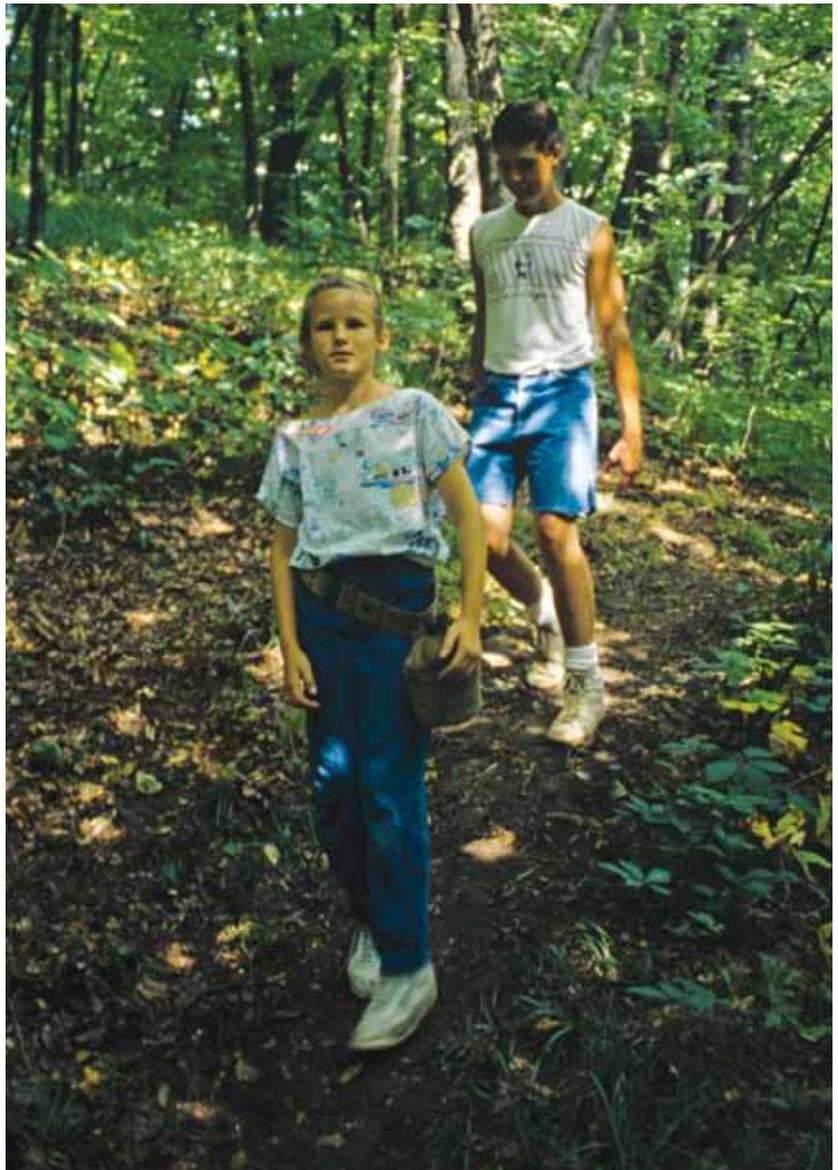
The “Recreational River” designation refers to the amount of development along the banks of these stretches of the Missouri and the relative ease of accessing the river. Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a virtually untouched and inaccessible, undammed river is designated “Wild;” a river that is undammed with relatively little shoreline development and accessible in some locations by trails or roads is designated “Scenic;” and a river with significant development along its banks and easily accessed by roads or railroad is designated “Recreational.” Due to agricultural, residential, and recreational activities along the river, as well as the presence of dams, the MNRR is designated a Recreational River.

In 1997, the National Park Service combined the four river segments into a single unit, called the

MNRR. The MNRR is managed through a collaborative effort between the NPS and the USACE. Several other agencies, including the USFWS, NGPC, and SDGFP also manage properties within the MNRR corridor. Because much of the 70,000+ acres within the boundary is privately owned, local units of government retain primary responsibility for land use controls. Thus, management of this nationally significant resource is very much a partnership effort.

Hiking in Niobrara State Park

Courtesy NEBRASKAland Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



Park Purpose and Priorities

Park purpose statements describe the specific purposes for which a site was set aside. They provide the context within which interpretation and education take place.

The purpose of the MNRR is “to conserve and promote unimpaired for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations the publically accessible corridor, relatively free-flowing character, water quality, and the cultural, historical, fish and wildlife, and recreational values of the Missouri National Recreational River.”

During a recent Core Operations Evaluation (September 2009), priorities were identified that are essential to achieving the park’s purpose. These priorities represent the essential focal points to which park resources should be applied:

- Preserve and protect the relatively free-flowing condition of these stretches of the Missouri River and the water quality of the area.
- Preserve and protect the unique natural and cultural landscapes and scenic viewsheds associated with the MNRR corridor.
- Protect and maintain the ecology of the area, including the geology, habitats, vegetation, fish, and wildlife.
- Provide for appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Provide information and orientation to visitors through formal and

informal interpretive programs, non-personal services, outreach, and curriculum-based education opportunities.

- Work with partners to manage and protect natural and cultural resources.
- Ensure safety and protection of park employees and visitors.

Vision Statement for the Division of Interpretation and Education

By 2021, the Missouri National Recreational River will be widely recognized by local residents as well as visitors from around the region and the nation as a unit of the National Park System that offers a range of quality interpretive, educational, and premier water- and land-based outdoor recreational opportunities for all stakeholders in an exceptionally scenic setting along America’s longest river.



Field above Lynch, NE

NPS Photo

Statements of Significance

Park significance statements describe what is distinctive about the combined resources of the river. Statements can reflect natural, cultural, scientific, recreational, and inspirational values, as well as other aspects. These statements summarize the importance of the park to the nation's natural and cultural heritage.

Ecosystem/Free-flowing River

- Although the MNRR has been extensively impacted by human activity, it is among the few remaining segments of the Missouri that still exhibit some characteristics of a natural, unaltered, unimpounded river. It features a section of the river meandering in an older, wider river valley not found on the other undammed, unchannelized segments of the Missouri River. The large river environment is rare on the Great Plains.
- The MNRR's complex ecosystem features are shaped by dynamic natural processes, including shifting, meandering, braiding, and the creation and scouring away of chutes and sandbars, providing unique opportunities for the study of river dynamics and its resulting diverse habitats, which include bluffs, islands, riparian forests, bottomlands, wetlands, and prairie.
- As the last relatively free-flowing remnants of America's longest river, the Missouri National Recreational River is protected as a unit of the National Park System so all people have the opportunity to experience its outstandingly remarkable values and learn the stories carried in its currents.

Piping Plover

Courtesy NEBRASKAland Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Mandan women picking berries, c. 1908

Photo by Edward S. Curtis, courtesy Library of Congress

Recreation

- The MNRR provides an outstanding array of recreational opportunities, including wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, boating, and paddling in an exceptionally scenic setting.
- The MNRR’s spectacular and diverse scenery includes bottomlands, forests, islands, chalky bluffs, wetlands, hills, and sand dunes that provide not only remarkable beauty, but also a striking contrast to the rolling Great Plains environment that surrounds it.



Fish and Wildlife

- The MNRR provides critical habitat for three federally-designated threatened and endangered species – the piping plover (threatened), pallid sturgeon (endangered), and interior least tern – (endangered) and more than half of the additional threatened and endangered species listed by the states of Nebraska and South Dakota.
- The MNRR provides recreational hunting and fishing opportunities that draw visitors from distant cities and states.

Culture

- The area now designated as the Missouri National Recreational River reflects a long-standing, ongoing, multi-layered human history as a past and present travel corridor; homeland to the Ponca, Yankton Nakota, Santee Dakota, and other American Indians’ living cultures; as a route for European-American exploration and commerce; and as a critical pathway for the settlement of the West. This rich and long human history has the potential to enrich visitors’ understanding of past and present diverse and varied American cultures.



Primary Interpretive Themes

Primary interpretive themes embody the most important ideas or concepts to be communicated to the public about the river. They convey the significance of the resource, and highlight the links between tangible elements, intangible meanings, and universal concepts that are inherent in the park's resources. The themes connect resources to larger processes, systems, ideas, and values, and emphasize the relevance of river stories. They define the core content of the educational experiences the park offers, and serve as the building blocks upon which interpretive services and educational programs are based.

Ecosystem/Free-Flowing River

Whereas the Missouri River was once a wild, meandering force for change cutting through the heart of America, the MNRR now protects rare stretches of this national treasure, which creates a landscape for healthy biodiversity, for the uplifting and inspiration of humanity, and to provide unique opportunities for the study of river dynamics and the resulting diverse habitats.

Potential storylines that could be interpreted under this theme include:

- The pre-development Missouri River exemplified one of North America's most diverse ecosystems with abundant braided channels, riparian lands, chutes, sloughs, sandbars, and backwater areas that were representative of a large river ecosystem.

- The Missouri River watershed drains one-sixth of the area of the United States. The water quality of the MNRR depends on effects upstream and affects the water supply and all domestic, industrial, and agricultural use downriver before flowing into the Gulf of Mexico and global water systems.
- The Missouri River changes over different scales of time, with some changes occurring rapidly and others taking eons. Its changes illustrate a complex geological past. Through natural erosion and deposition, shallow areas can quickly become deep while others fill in with transported sediment, landforms can be repositioned unpredictably, and the river's course can literally change overnight.
- The geologic record found in the rocks, fossils, and sediments of the Missouri National Recreational River can also provide insights into past and ongoing local and global climate change and how resident species and the environment have responded to these changes.
- The Missouri National Recreational River provides unique opportunities for highly accessible river education and research as a dynamic living classroom. Opportunities abound to learn about the creation and transformation of landforms over time and to implement restoration and recovery efforts through partnership and volunteer projects.

Recreation

A network of interdependent partners provides a broad backdrop for a diversity of nature- and water-based activities that promote opportunities for visitors to escape daily life and engage in solitary, contemplative, and/or social recreational experiences at a variety of skill levels that will inspire, refresh, and invigorate them.

Potential storylines that could be interpreted under this theme include:

- The Missouri National Recreational River offers a rich variety of opportunities for visitors to recreate on its resources in a responsible, safe, and sustainable manner.
- While enjoying a variety of outdoor activities along the Missouri National Recreational River, visitors can still see some landscapes along the river that have remained recognizable over the centuries.

Fish and Wildlife

The diversity of both abundant and rare species found at MNRR reflects the river's complex ecosystems. These ecosystems are important not only for their biologic survival and ours, but also provide opportunities for research, recreation, appreciation, and lifelong learning not available elsewhere.

Potential storylines that could be interpreted under this theme include:

- The Missouri National Recreational River includes a wide variety of ecosystems that provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants. These

habitats are critical to maintaining biological diversity and understanding how species have adapted to environmental and climatic change over time. The NPS preserves vestiges of these habitats that have remained intact for centuries.

- All species and habitats have been impacted by regulation of the river's water and sediment levels. Habitat restoration and active management of fish and wildlife is sometimes necessary to ensure the long-term survival of habitats and species and to maintain a healthy coexistence with humanity.
- Visitors play an important role in wildlife management as they engage in consumptive recreational activities.
- MNRR staff work with partners and stakeholders to protect a number of threatened and endangered species that rely on the river as their home.
- Non-native and invasive species present a new threat and challenge to the ecosystem and the mission of the NPS and the MNRR.

Culture

In addition to its rich, multi-layered 10,000 years of human history, the Missouri National Recreational River region is a living example of the ways in which people continue to struggle to balance the legal and cultural rights of individuals and communities with their impacts on the river's natural processes. It also provides us with a place of reflection to consider where we ourselves stand in this delicate balance.



Potential storylines that could be interpreted under this theme include:

AMERICAN INDIANS

- The American Indians’ heritage on the Missouri River is ancient, contemporary, and integral to the landscape. Much can be learned by studying traditional uses along the river as well as the treaties and agreements made between these groups of people and the federal government.
- Ponca Chief Standing Bear’s desire to return to his tribe’s ancestral homeland resulted in an 1878

landmark Supreme Court decision affirming that Indians are persons under the U.S. Constitution; this legal precedent still affects tribal law today.

EXPLORATION

- Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery Expedition explored the newly purchased Louisiana Territory (which expanded the United States by one-third) by traveling up this section of the Missouri River, searching for a through water route across the continent. On this epic journey, they also met the region’s

Fishing program

NPS photo

native residents and discovered, described, illustrated, and named many of the country's native flora and fauna, some never before seen or heard of by America's relative newcomers.

- The Missouri River waterway led European-Americans westward seeking opportunities for adventure, exploration, conquest, trade, settlement, and commerce.

SETTLEMENT

- Westward Expansion led new settlers to these segments of the Missouri River, resulting in the creation of the state of Nebraska in 1867 and the Dakota Territory in 1861 with Yankton as its Territorial Capital.
- Various ethnic settlements' farms and agricultural use have helped preserve much of today's Missouri National Recreational River landscapes.
- The Missouri River facilitated settlement of the region by providing a means of transportation, a source of water, and plentiful fish and game to those who made their homes here.

RIVER MANAGEMENT

- To control seasonal floods and provide better transportation, people in the 20th century transformed the Missouri River and its landscapes through construction of dams and levees, which led to increased environmental awareness and, eventually, the creation of the Missouri National Recreational

River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Today, there are multiple perspectives regarding past and future river development and adaptive management strategies.

- Changes to the Missouri River floodplain as a result of dams, channelization, and bank stabilization built in response to public desire of the times have resulted in significant changes to plant and animal communities, including threatened and endangered species. Human communities, such as the Village of Niobrara, Nebraska, have relocated to avoid the river's changing course and resulting rise in water levels.
- The U.S. Army has a long-lasting and continuing role along these stretches of the Missouri River, from western exploration and the establishment of Fort Randall through today's activities by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- The Missouri River requires thoughtful, cooperative, and adaptive management to function in a manner resembling its natural state. Everyone can contribute to stewardship of the river.
- The NPS partners with many federal, tribal, state, municipal, educational, and non-profit organizations and private landowners to accomplish its river management goals.



Management Goals

These goals describe management's intent in offering interpretive and educational programs and services. The goals include:

- Creating an open and transparent planning process
- Increasing support for and fostering awareness of the resource protection and preservation mission of the National Park Service, especially in regard to the outstandingly remarkable values of the river as identified in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act enabling legislation
- Sharing perspectives and engaging in dialogue with members of the MNRR's diverse publics and user groups
- Engaging landowners and other members of the public as supportive partners in the development of interpretation and education programs
- Exploring new ways of partnering with organizations whose missions intersect with those of the MNRR
- Providing increased public access to MNRR's features and facilities
- Fostering stewardship, conservation, and preservation ethics among visitors as well as local residents
- Conveying past, current, and future cultural stories with the river as their connector

Camping in Niobrara State Park

Courtesy NEBRASKAland Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Visitation and Demographic Data

Since the park has multiple entry points along the river, it is difficult to track annual attendance accurately. Figures include the number of visitors to the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center, an electric eye count of visitors to the Ponca State Park MNRR Resource and Education Center, and traffic counters at four locations in and near the park. Visitation has increased in the last three years, from 167,960 in 2006 to 186,313 in 2009. Attendance is highest in the summer months. In 2009, the busiest month was August, with 53,661 visitors. As might be expected, December and January are the least attended months.

Little substantive data has been collected as to the nature and demographics of visitors to the MNRR. A Visitor Services Project study through the University of Idaho was originally scheduled for summer of 2011, but has been delayed to 2012 because of flooding and closure of the river to recreation for safety. This study will provide some insight about the park's visitors and what services and programming are of interest to them. Most of the audience is thought to be recreational and local or regional in nature.

Audiences

The basis for categorizing audience segments for the Interpretation and Education Program lies in whether or not a particular audience requires communication in a way that is distinct from that of a general park audience or comes to the park for specific purposes

or activities. Factors to consider include the life experiences of the individual or group, level of education, learning styles, language, cultural traditions, time available for interaction, and others.

Audience segments at Missouri National Recreational River include:

- **LOCAL RESIDENTS:** These are the people who live near the river and, perhaps, tend to take it and its features and assets for granted.
- **RECREATIONAL USERS:** This audience may overlap with some of the others, but includes visitors who come specifically for recreation: to fish, paddle, hunt, camp, and hike, but not necessarily for interpretive services or programming.
- **GENERAL PUBLIC:** This includes “typical” adult and family visitors on an average day, including tourists and visitors from around the nation and the world.
- **CURRICULUM-BASED VISITORS, i.e., TEACHERS AND STUDENTS:** This audience comes to support specific learning goals.
- **ONLINE VIRTUAL AUDIENCE:** This audience visits via the park website and social and other electronic media.

Visitors with disabilities are not called out as a separate audience because interpretive programs and media are designed according to universal design standards that provide access for nearly all visitors.

Desired Visitor Experiences

Statements of desired visitor experiences describe how the river's Interpretation and Education Program facilitates intellectual, inspirational, emotional, and physical opportunities for visitors. These statements describe what visitors would like to learn, feel, do, or experience when visiting the park (either in person or virtually) that align with the NPS Mission and the purposes for which the MNRR was established.

Park staff, stakeholders, and members of the public offered the following as being most critical to the visitor experience:

ECOSYSTEM/FREE-FLOWING RIVER

Visitors want to be inspired. They want to:

- Contemplate their spiritual place in an ecosystem that includes a last vestige of the way the Missouri, one of the great rivers of the world, flowed when it was truly wild and free.
- Experience nature on a relatively “free-flowing” river that looks much as it might have before human alteration.
- See environments not commonly seen elsewhere.
- Become stewards of the river and park resources through proactive participation in activities.

RECREATION Visitors want to be able to enjoy features of the river and surrounding landscapes. They want to:

- Be oriented to recreational activities and locations.
- Experience the natural landscape quietly and peacefully, uninterrupted by elements of the bustling, hectic, everyday world.
- Physically exercise in nature.
- Take photographs.

- Hike through riparian areas.
- Hunt and fish.
- Participate in physical challenges not commonly available elsewhere.
- Take a powerboat out on the river.
- Paddle on the river via kayak or canoe.
- Experience nature in immersive ways not available in urban environments.
- Enjoy clean water.
- Spend quality time with friends and family as well as enjoy opportunities for solitude.

FISH AND WILDLIFE Visitors love wildlife. They want to:

- View wildlife species in their natural habitats, including birds.
- Learn about ecosystems and the plants and animals that live here.
- Photograph wildlife.
- Help protect threatened and endangered species.
- Develop and hone their skills through interactive and consumptive recreational opportunities such as hunting and fishing.

CULTURE Visitors want to gain historical perspective. They want to:

- Follow the Lewis and Clark Expedition's trail and Corps of Discovery experience.
- Learn about American Indians and other area ethnic cultures.
- Learn about riverboats and their crews, fur traders and trappers, homesteaders, river managers, and other people with past (and present) connections to the river.
- Explore and create their own personal history with the river.

Opportunities and Challenges

This section includes influences and opportunities both inside and outside the park, resource-based issues, and internal issues that affect interpretation and education. Collectively, it reflects the perspectives of the Missouri National Recreational River's upper management, staff, partners, stakeholders, and members of the public.

“The river does not belong to us;
we belong to the river.”

-- COMMENT BY A TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE MISSOURI RIVER RECOVERY
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (MRRIC)

Opportunities

- The LRIP presents an opportunity to conceptualize and market the MNRR as a “recreational and heritage corridor” that is shared and promoted by all participating partners, across agency, organization, state, and county, through well-coordinated, corridor-wide initiatives, perhaps with the help of local Convention and Visitors Bureaus, creating a regional, “Ponca to Pickstown” recreational and heritage experience.
- There is an opportunity for the MNRR to model ways of preserving the river for future generations while acknowledging and respecting private property rights, and to demonstrate that people can work *with* the natural world instead of trying to “conquer” it.
- The close association with Lewis and Clark Lake State Recreation

Area strengthens the MNRR’s “recreational” brand and provides a contrasting mission of conservation.

- The LRIP provides opportunities to plan more innovative programs and events that will bring people to the river and raise awareness that these reaches are part of the National Park System, someplace special, managed by the National Park Service.
- It provides opportunities to offer more recreational and educational experiences, for families and learners of all ages, but particularly school age and Gen Y (twenty-something) audiences.
- There is an opportunity to help people understand how they can participate in protecting native, threatened, and endangered species.
- There is an opportunity to create a cultural identity for the corridor that includes the stories of Native cultures, past and present, as well as agricultural and other local cultures.
- There is an opportunity to provide wilderness-type experiences in the midst of the MNRR’s agricultural setting.
- There is an opportunity to give a voice to the river, birds and other wildlife, local farmers and land owners, and others whose views of the MNRR and its uses may differ from those of visitors to the area.
- The NPS and two sections of the river that make up the MNRR have the unique opportunity to speak for and provide a contrast to other

reaches of the river that have been irretrievably altered.

- There is a need to educate the nation about the role of the Missouri River in the development of America.
- Interpretive programming and media can illustrate the power of conservation partnerships and serve as a model for other agencies and organizations.

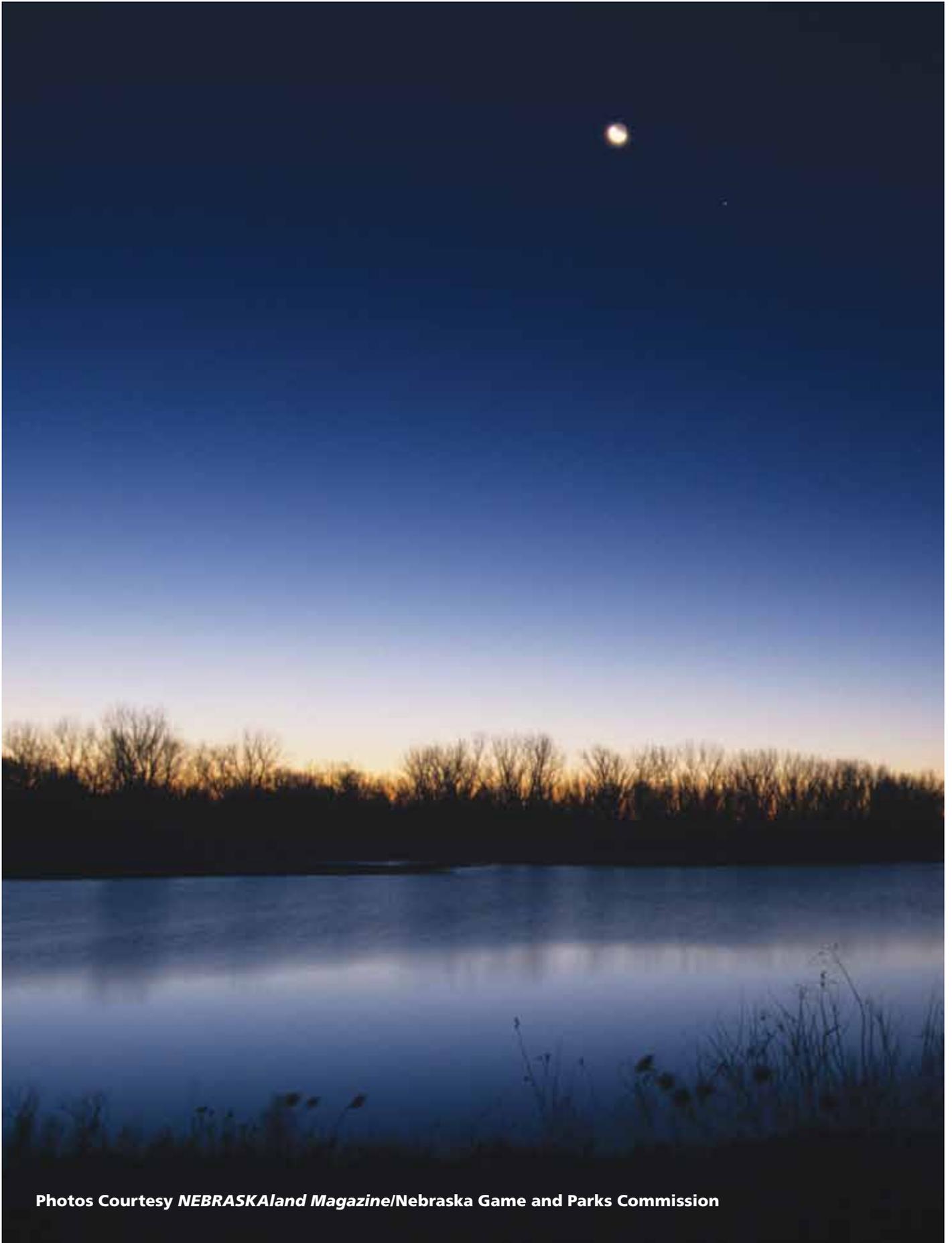
Challenges

- The name “Missouri National Recreational River” is confusing. It is not clear to members of the public what “Recreational River” means, and even long-time area residents are not fully aware that the MNR is a unit of the National Park System. This is partly due to multiple managing partners and partly because the NPS currently owns relatively little land other than the Bow Creek Recreation Area and Mulberry Bend Overlook tracts, which total less than 300 acres. Addressing this challenge should be the top priority of the LRIP.
- Other than the MNR website, the National Park Service does not currently have a venue of its own from which it can promote and interpret the MNR. However, the NPS will explore opportunities to create one as they are presented.
- There is tension between National Park Service river management regulations and the desire of private individuals to develop and protect their private property along the river.
- There is a need for a comprehensive map of the river for paddlers and

other river users that shows mile markers, campgrounds, access points, restrooms, and other visitor amenities.

Additional challenges were identified by partners and stakeholders that are outside the scope and purview of an LRIP, such as infrastructure and access. However, the planning team has chosen to capture them in this document because, if addressed and implemented, they will potentially have associated interpretive programming and media needs and opportunities. These include a need for:

- More communication with and listening to landowners’ perspectives about access, permissions, restrictions, sandbar management, bank stabilization, unfunded programs, how to encourage respect for land owners/ownership, and other similar issues.
- More access points: not just boat ramps, but other ways for multiple audiences to access, enjoy, and observe the river, including land access, such as trails, observation areas, and picnic grounds. More access to the river will lead to more involvement and support from the public.
- Primitive camping areas along the river for paddlers that would allow for longer, more manageable, immersive river trips.
- Recreational use of the river that is sustainable over generations. It is a challenge to balance the need for more access with the prevention of harmful use or excessive development.



Photos Courtesy *NEBRASKAland Magazine*/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

The Setting

The MNRR consists of two units, separated by the Lewis and Clark Lake, a reservoir managed by the USACE with shoreline recreational facilities owned and operated by the States of South Dakota and Nebraska. The 39-Mile District runs downriver from just below Fort Randall Dam near Pickstown to Running Water, South Dakota, above the reservoir. It also includes the last eight miles of Verdigre Creek and the lower 20 miles of the Niobrara River where they join then flow into the mainstem Missouri River. The 59-Mile District extends from just below Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, South Dakota, downriver to Ponca State Park in Nebraska. The NPS shares management on the river with the USACE, USFWS, NGPC, and SDGFP.

The park's new headquarters building is located near the river in Yankton, SD, leased through the General Services Administration. The headquarters building has a small lobby area that could be converted to a visitor contact station in the future, but the park currently has no public venue of its own at which to greet the public, no friends' group, a very limited cooperating association agreement with Jefferson National Parks Association (single title proceeds), and no facility of its own from which to offer educational, safety, and retail items. In addition, the NPS currently owns relatively little land along the river, approximately 250-300 acres. As a result, people in the area are not widely aware of the presence of the NPS, and those who are do not clearly understand the NPS' role in managing the river.



**Rose-breasted
Grosbeak**

Park Partners and Facilities

Interpretive services in the MNRR corridor are provided by the NPS in partnership with other agencies that have a role in managing recreational facilities and interpreting resources along the MNRR. Visitors to the MNRR encounter many of the wide variety of recreational activities and heritage experiences that are available between Ponca State Park and Fort Randall Dam. From one end to the other, there are almost fifty different specific locations on or along the river that provide opportunities for recreation and interpretation, from popular, heavily used venues, to those less well known. While visitors are enjoying this rich recreational and educational environment, they may not be fully aware of the complex network of organizations and agencies that work together to facilitate activities and experiences at multiple locations.

These entities include:

- Boy Scouts of America (BSA)*
- City of Elk Point, South Dakota
- City of Springfield, South Dakota: Terrace Park*
- City of Vermillion, South Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation
- City of Yankton, South Dakota Parks and Recreation Department*
- Clay County (SD) *
- Corps of Discovery Welcome Center (private non-profit)*
- Dakota Territorial Museum
- Federal Highways Administration
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail*

- Missouri-Niobrara River Confluence
- National Field Archery Association
- Nebraska and South Dakota state heritage and tourism organizations
- Nebraska and South Dakota State Departments of Transportation (DOTs)
- Nebraska Department of Roads Enhancement Program
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC)*
- Niobrara State Park*
- Niobrara National Scenic River*
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska*
- Private vendors, campgrounds, outfitters, and concessionaires
- Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
- Scenic byways
- South Dakota Arts Council
- South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP)*
- South Dakota Department of Tourism
- Spirit Mound Historic Trust*
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*
- University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- University of South Dakota's Missouri River Institute*
- Yankton Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitor Bureau Visitor Center*
- Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota*

* Indicates existing NPS partnership

In total, MNRR partners operate seven different visitor or welcome centers along or near the river. MNRR interpretive staff participates in providing some level of interpretive services or media at several of them. These partners and facilities include (listed roughly from south to north):

- NGPC's Ponca State Park's MNRR Resource and Education Center;
- The Yankton Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center;
- The non-profit Corps of Discovery Welcome Center;
- The USACE's Lewis and Clark Visitor Center near Gavins Point Dam;
- SDGFP's Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area;
- NGPC's Niobrara State Park;
- USACE's Fort Randall Dam Visitor Center

The only specifically designated NPS facility is the headquarters building in Yankton, South Dakota. It is open to the public for official business.

The NPS shares interpretive space in three of the above existing venues. At the USACE's Lewis and Clark Visitor Center at Gavins Point Dam, there is a small space in a corner of one area of the visitor center allocated for a trade show-style exhibit on the MNRR, and a small number of items in the Jefferson National Parks Association sales area reference the National Park Service. NPS Park Rangers help to staff the facility and provide interpretation and education programs there.

The Yankton Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center distributes information about all visitor services, activities, and attractions in the Yankton area. It issues a weekly newsletter listing area events including those of the MNRR. A section of its modest exhibit space is set aside for the MNRR (a wall and 1-2 exhibit cases).

The NPS helped design and fund exhibits in the NGPC's Ponca State Park's MNRR Resource and Education Center that interpret the river's human history and ecology. This is by far the most extensive MNRR interpretive media presence in any of the corridor visitor centers.

Potential and Existing Interpretive Venues

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SOUTH

DAKOTA'S TERRACE PARK The park includes an overlook that provides an outstanding opportunity to interpret glaciation and dynamic river geology via wayside exhibits. Because the flow rate of the river is slowed as it approaches Gavins Point Dam, the river has deposited a great deal of sediment there, creating an ever-increasing delta.

View of the Missouri River delta from Terrace Park

Interpretive Solutions photo





Leave No Trace program

NPS Photo

CITY OF YANKTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S RIVERSIDE PARK

Annual multi-agency and partner events that take place in Riverside Park in which the MNRR participates include the Missouri River Watershed Education Festival, River Clean-Up, and Clean Boat campaigns (at multiple locations) each May and Riverboat Days, a city-wide festival held each August. There are several NPS wayside exhibits located along the walking and biking trails in Riverside Park and outside the Dakota Territorial Capitol Building replica.

DAKOTA TERRITORIAL CAPITOL BUILDING

This two-story structure is presently used for special events, including meetings, weddings, private parties, and similar activities. Owned by the City of Yankton, the Replica is a re-creation of the original capitol building, built for the state's centennial and located in beautiful, well-kept Riverside Park, which is right on the Missouri River just a few blocks from MNRR headquarters. Unfortunately, though, only the first floor is fully accessible.

THE HISTORIC MERIDIAN BRIDGE connects historic downtown Yankton with the Nebraska shoreline across the Missouri River. It is scheduled to re-open in fall 2011 as a pedestrian and biking trail. This, along with a new low-impact trail on the Nebraska side of the river, will connect Yankton and Green Island and provide additional recreational opportunities along the Missouri National Recreational River.

TRAILS in Yankton include Paddlewheel Point and the Auld-Brokaw Trail. The trail to Paddlewheel Point starts just outside the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center to the southeast. It also connects to the trails through Yankton's Riverside Park and just beyond the Meridian Bridge to the west, and the Auld-Brokaw Trail. The Auld-Brokaw Trail winds to the northwest along Marne Creek then through Yankton for several miles. Other than some plant identification markers, the Paddlewheel Point trail is not interpreted nor is the Auld-Brokaw Trail.

There is potential for NPS involvement in developing interpretive wayside exhibits along these trails, as well as connecting with the MNRR's recent selection as one of fourteen new pilot national parks for the "Let's Move Outside" Program, an initiative sponsored by First Lady Michelle Obama and supported by the Secretary of Interior and NPS Director. The overall objective of this initiative is to get children and families outside, to create healthy habits and lifestyles through outdoor activities, and to enjoy nature, especially on public lands.

CLAY COUNTY PARK is located on the river just southwest of Vermillion, South Dakota. It offers river access with a boat ramp, picnic shelter, observation deck, and a primitive nature trail that connects the river to the adjacent SDGFP-managed campground. In 2010, park staff participated in the annual River Appreciation Day for Clay County sixth graders for the first time and hopes to be invited to present again each year. Other than that event, the park has not presented programming at this location in the past; however, there are wonderful facilities and untapped opportunities for interpretation and education.

CORPS OF DISCOVERY WELCOME CENTER The Welcome Center is located high on a bluff just off Highway 81, a few miles south of Yankton on the Nebraska side of the river, and is open year-round. Created by a private non-profit organization as part of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, this venue now struggles to attract visitation. There are a series of outdoor NPS and partner wayside exhibits on site that interpret the Missouri River, Missouri River Valley, and the Meridian Bridge on Highway 81, but the river itself is not visible from the site. The Welcome Center includes a large gift shop offering a wide variety of souvenirs and locally made items, as well as brochures from area attractions. There is an unused room that is suitable for exhibits, programs, or multimedia presentations. Other assets include a large parking lot, attractive grounds, and a hiking trail, but the out-of-the-way location may continue to present challenges for attracting visitors.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Facilities

LEWIS AND CLARK AND WEIGAND STATE RECREATION AREAS are located across the river from its South Dakota counterpart. NGPC also manages several boat ramps, a marina, and campgrounds located on the Nebraska side of the river throughout the MNRR Corridor. MNRR staff present occasional interpretive programs at Weigand State Recreation Area during the summer season.

MISSOURI NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER RESOURCE AND EDUCATION CENTER AT PONCA STATE PARK

This relatively new facility (opened in 2004) features a large interpretive display and exhibit area, a field laboratory, and conference rooms. It was developed in partnership with the NGPC, NPS, USACE, and many private and public foundations and organizations. Exhibits created under the auspices of the NPS address people's use of the river from prehistoric times to the present, river

Corps of Discovery Visitor Center

Interpretive Solutions photo



Existing Conditions

ecology, and stewardship. It is located at the southern- and eastern-most end of the MNRR. MNRR staff present interpretive programs there two days per week during the summer and also participate in two annual events, an Education day and weekend-long Missouri River Expo each fall.

NIORRARA STATE PARK The park is located on a high bluff above the river, where spectacular views of the confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri Rivers can be enjoyed. The park office and visitor center is very small, offering little space for interpretation other than a small computer kiosk that could be enhanced with additional content about the MNRR. The park features picnic pavilions, a number of campgrounds and rustic cabins, as well as a group lodge that is available for meetings and teacher workshops. An interpretive shelter overlooks the confluence. There are multiple hiking and horse trails, on the bluff and going down to the confluence and along the riverbanks. The trail system

also includes an old railroad trestle-turned-trail. MNRR staff present interpretive programs at popular Niobrara State Park each summer.

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Facilities

LEWIS AND CLARK STATE RECREATION AREA The State of South Dakota operates recreational and interpretive facilities centered on Lewis and Clark Lake, a stretch of the river that is a reservoir created and managed by the USACE's Gavins Point Dam. Facilities include several campgrounds, a small Welcome Center with a retail counter and a limited number of exhibits about Missouri River wildlife, several amphitheaters for interpretive programs, a bike trail, a horse camp and trails, and a privately operated marina. Although the lake is not a part of the officially designated MNRR, NPS staff regularly present programs throughout the recreation area during the summer season.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK BOY SCOUT CAMP is also located in the recreation area. MNRR staff partner with the USACE staff to present summer programs to scouts before the troops depart on river trips approximately weekly.

SDGFP also manages several other campgrounds located throughout the MNRR Corridor. These include one co-located with Clay County Park, Springfield State Recreation Area, North Point, Randall Creek, and South Shore campgrounds in addition to multiple boat ramps.

View from Niobrara State Park

Interpretive Solutions photo



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Facilities

FORT RANDALL DAM VISITOR CENTER The USACE's small visitor center at Fort Randall Dam is only open during the summer season. It features exhibits about wildlife, paleontology, tribal life, and the dam. On-site outdoor exhibits interpret dam features. MNRR staff occasionally present programs at SDGFP's nearby North Point and Randall Creek Campgrounds.

FORT RANDALL HISTORIC SITE

Fort Randall was once part of a string of frontier forts protecting westward expansion efforts. Wayside exhibits interpret the fort's history. Remaining tangible elements include the Fort Randall Cemetery and Chapel. The chapel is now nestled beneath a modern pavilion to protect it from further deterioration. An overlook above the remains of the fort and chapel provides wayside exhibits and a panoramic view of the fort site, the dam, the river, and the USFWS Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuge which was established to protect Bald Eagles (there is no public access to the refuge).

MNRR staff occasionally offer interpretive programs at the Fort. Re-enactments by organized groups are a popular annual event and MNRR staff offer an interpretive program following the annual re-enactment ceremonies. The area is also part of the Randall Creek Recreational Area, which is managed by the State of South Dakota. It includes a USACE wildlife viewing platform with wayside exhibits and scopes.



LEWIS AND CLARK VISITOR CENTER AT GAVINS POINT

PROJECT This is arguably the largest and most visible visitor venue in the MNRR because of its proximity to Gavins Point Dam and two nearby USACE campgrounds. The dam offers guided tours during the spring and summer and opportunities for fishing. The Visitor Center is well appointed, with a number of professionally produced exhibits about the river, its history, and inhabitants. There is an interactive map addressing the creation of the dams and the resulting reservoirs; however, it does not indicate or mention the MNRR. A small space in a corner of one area of the Visitor Center is allocated for trade show-style exhibit about the MNRR, and a small number of items in the sales area reference the NPS. Jefferson National Parks Association operates the sales area through a cooperating association agreement with the USACE. NPS staff currently helps operate this visitor center and offer interpretive programs here during the summer months, including Junior Ranger programs. Operation of this

Lewis and Clark Visitor Center

Interpretive Solutions photo

Existing Conditions

Snapping turtle, Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium

Interpretive Solutions photo

visitor center currently represents the largest investment of MNRR interpretive staff time and resources.

USFWS'S GAVINS POINT NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY AND AQUARIUM

The hatchery features one of only six captive pallid sturgeon brood stocks in the world. Exterior exhibits interpret the sturgeon breeding program. The facility, which also features other native species of fish and amphibians, is not staffed, but visitors can enter and view the exhibits and aquaria on their own. MNRR staff does not currently provide regular programming or services at this facility. However, a USFWS/NPS Liaison has an office located in the NPS headquarters building in Yankton, so there is potential to partner more with the USFWS to conduct interpretation, education, and outreach programs. In spring 2011, MNRR and the USFWS partnered on a joint National Junior Ranger Day and Kids' Fishing Derby Event; the agencies plan to continue this partnership event in future years.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA'S MISSOURI RIVER INSTITUTE

The Institute is an entity within the University of South Dakota that was established to develop and promote research, education, and public awareness of the natural and cultural resources of the Missouri River Basin. Institute partnership initiatives with the NPS include development of a recreational and interpretive water trail (see below for more details), an annual teacher workshop, and creation of a Quaternary Geologic



Mapping and Geochronology of the MNRR corridor. The Institute is a strong partner in park research.

YANKTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITOR CENTER AND CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU (CVB)

This well-organized facility distributes information about all visitor services, activities, and attractions in the Yankton area. It issues a weekly newsletter listing area events including those of MNRR, and sponsors several committees and events. The park is an active member and MNRR officials sit on the Education and CVB Committees and participate in monthly meetings and Chamber networking events. The modern building includes some exhibit space, with a modest section set aside for the MNRR. It is located within sight of and a short walking distance from the park headquarters building.

The MNRR is also located along part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LECL), another interpretive partner and unit of the National Park System, which spans parts of 11 states, following the Corps of Discovery's epic journey.

Please see the following table, **Existing Interpretive Facilities, Services and Programs**, for a summary of existing interpretive services on or near the Missouri National Recreational River. The numbers indicated in the table correspond to locations on the map that follows.

Existing Interpretive Facilities, Services, and Programs

No.	Location	Facilities / Amenities / Activities	Interpretive Media / Services	Partner(s)	Theme or Topic
1	Ponca SP (NE)	Cabins, trails, pool; prairie, backwater.	MNRR Resource & Education Center (exhibits, media), sculptures, wayside exhibits, overlook, Water Trail signs	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC)	All themes
2	Elk Point (SD)	River access; hunting	Wayside exhibits in city park	City of Elk Point	River dynamics
3	Bolton (SD)	Boat ramp	Water Trail sign	Multiple	Kate Sweeney steamboat wreck
4	Mulberry Bend (NE)	Boat ramp, Trail, overlook	Wayside exhibits	NPS; NGPC for boat ramp only	Geomorphology
5	Mulberry Bend (SD): N. Alabama Bend	None	None	USACE	
6	Vermillion, Cotton Park (SD)	River access	Wayside exhibit	Vermillion Parks & Recreation	Lewis & Clark 1881 Flood
6a	W. H. Over Museum (SD)	On USD campus	MNRR museum exhibit; historic river photos	USD	River history
6b	Vermillion City Parks (SD)	Bluff overlooks; view of flood plain	Wayside exhibits	Vermillion Parks & Recreation	1881 Flood
7	Spirit Mound Historic Prairie (SD)	Hiking trail; prairie restoration	Wayside exhibits	MNRR, SDGFP, Spirit Mound Trust	Lewis & Clark; American Indian cultures, Spirit Mound Historic Trust
8	Clay Co. Park (SD)	Campground, trail, boat ramp, overlook, comfort station, shooting range, rodeo grounds	Wayside exhibits	SDGFP, Clay Co. Parks	Endangered species: exceptional opportunities for paddlers to see terns & plovers

Existing Conditions

No.	Location	Facilities / Amenities / Activities	Interpretive Media / Services	Partner(s)	Theme or Topic
9	Goat Island		None		Birding
10	Brooky Bottom (NE)	Restaurant; heavy use by boaters; tubers; access to Goat Island	Wayside exhibits	Privately owned (in Cedar Co., NE)	Goat Island, river dynamics, Lewis & Clark
10a	Wiseman Wildlife Management Area (NE)	Hunting	None	NGPC, Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District	
10b	Wiseman Monument (NE)	Commemorative stone monument	Inscription on monument		Cultural history
11	Myron Grove (SD)	Boat ramp; parking; hunting	Wayside exhibits	SDGFP, Clay County, NPS	Cultural history (exceptional): Lewis & Clark, Petit Arch, American Indian village; Audubon Bend; steamboat landing; confluence of Bow Creek; geology; NPS land
12	Audubon Bend property (NE)	Excellent riverfront access possible; USACE owns 5 miles of riverbank	None	USACE	St. Helena backwater, chute
13	St. Helena (NE)	Boat ramp, picnic shelter, primitive (car) camping			James River Island, James River confluence; former St. Helena Island
14	Corps of Discovery Welcome Center (NE)	Mowed trail, view of river valley	Wayside exhibits	Private non-profit	Lewis & Clark; Missouri River; Highway 81
15	Yankton (SD)				
15a	Riverside Park (SD)	Boat ramp, RiverWalk art sculptures, walking and bike trails	Wayside exhibits	City of Yankton	Riverboats, Lewis & Clark, Riverine processes/ geomorphology
15b	Meridian Bridge/ Green Island (SD)	Hiking/biking trail (to come)	Wayside exhibits (to come)		Riverboats, river ecology NPS

Existing Conditions

No.	Location	Facilities / Amenities / Activities	Interpretive Media / Services	Partner(s)	Theme or Topic
15c	Territorial Capitol Building replica (SD)	City of Yankton rents for events; ADA accessible on 1st floor only	Wayside exhibits	City of Yankton Parks & Recreation	Lewis and Clark; Missouri River Riverboats/Captain Grant Marsh
15d	Paddlewheel Point (SD)	Walking trail	None	City of Yankton Parks & Recreation	
15e	Yankton Chamber of Commerce (SD)	Building with Chamber staff, restrooms, brochures and information resources	Exhibit space (including case and wall space); kiosk/computer info	Yankton Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau	All themes
15f	Auld-Brokaw Trail (SD)	Trail	None	City of Yankton Parks & Recreation	
15g	National Field Archery Assn (NFAA)/ Rush Island (SD)	Archery range	Museum	NFAA (Rush Island: privately owned, no public access)	
15h	Dakota Territorial Museum (SD)	Museum and other buildings	Museum exhibits on cultural history, Dakota Territory	Dakota Territorial Museum	Dakota Territory history
16	Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery & Aquarium (SD)	Small boat ramp on Deer Blvd, aquarium, hatchery, walking trails, picnic shelters	"Self-service" aquarium; birding	USFWS	Endangered species (exceptional opportunity): pallid sturgeon
17	Lewis & Clark Visitor Center (NE)	Gavins Point Dam, 2 campgrounds, boat ramps, overlook, fishing, trails, river access; eagles' nests	VC, Water Trail signs; Tailwaters Campground; programs; small NPS exhibit; Jr. Ranger programs; power plant tours, wayside exhibit	USACE	All themes
18	Lewis & Clark Lake State Recreation Area (SD side)	Campgrounds, river access, picnic shelters, trails, visitor center, amphitheaters	Canoe clinics, fishing programs, Water Trail signs	SDGFP	Recreation

Existing Conditions

No.	Location	Facilities / Amenities / Activities	Interpretive Media / Services	Partner(s)	Theme or Topic
18a	Chief White Crane Campground (SD)	Trail to Cottonwood; trails; camp sites; eagles; sports	Eagle program (USACE); amphitheater; Water Trail sign	SDGFP (formerly USACE)	Chief White Crane & others; Lewis & Clark
18b	Pierson Ranch Campground (SD)	Amphitheater, sports, kitchen shelter, equipment rental	Park Ranger Programs; Homestead Days Event	SDGFP (formerly USACE)	Ranching on the river; erosion battle
18c	Marina (SD)	Boat rentals/sales, slip rentals, boat ramp, restaurant, convenience store, wind surfing, low frequency info radio (USACE)	None	SDGFP concessioner	Reservoir; sedimentation; river management; transformed river: microcosm of all river issues; man vs. water
18d	Resort (SD)	Motel, cabins, pool, bike rentals, picnic shelters, sports	None	SDGFP concessioner	Recreation
18e	Lewis & Clark Campground (SD)	Horse camp, amphitheater, swimming beach, boating beach, disc golf, archery range	Welcome Center, brochures (all agencies), wayside exhibits, kiosks, 3 trails (bike, nature, multiple-use) with markers & brochures; programs	SDGFP	Archaeology; fossils; history of river changes
18f	Lewis & Clark Lake State Recreation Area (SD)	Wildlife viewing	Brochures; bluebird & wood duck houses	SDGFP	Wildlife: deer, turkey, mountain lions, beaver, muskrat, woodchuck
18g	Charlie Creek Boat Ramp (SD)	Boat ramp	Replica of 1st country school in SD	SDGFP	Pioneer life
18h	Navaritts boat ramp (SD)	Boat ramp		SDGFP	
18i	Sand Creek Campground (SD)	Camp sites, boat ramp, great fishing, fish cleaning station, private homes	Small kiosk	SDGFP	

Existing Conditions

No.	Location	Facilities / Amenities / Activities	Interpretive Media / Services	Partner(s)	Theme or Topic
19	Lewis & Clark Boy Scout Camp (SD)	BSA facility	Leave No Trace (LNT) and other Park Ranger programs	Boy Scouts of America, SDGFP	Leave No Trace
20	Weigand SP (NE)	Boat ramp, campground, picnic shelter, playground: extremely popular park	Programs, Visitor Center, brochure rack	NGPC	All themes
21	Bon Homme Hutterite colony (SD)			Bon Homme community	Colonies on rivers; way of life; living cultures
22	Santee boat ramp (NE)	Boat ramp	American Indian cultural Center; American Indian school history	Santee Sioux, SDGFP	American Indian stories; links; living cultures; ongoing, changing relationships between tribes & Federal government
23	Terrace Park, Springfield (SD)	Paved trail, camping, overlook in city park, boat ramp, playground, public golf course	Museum	City of Springfield	Delta, sediment change; wildlife
24	Between Santee & Springfield: exceptional wildlife (SD)	Walk to Bottom Rd, Bazile Creek, golf course			Solitude, isolation
25	Running Water (SD)	Boat ramp, former ferry landing, restaurant	Private history museum, wayside exhibits	"Sally" of ferry-operator family	Farthest west railroad in SD at one time; settlement history
26	Chief Standing Bear Overlook (SD)	Old Ferry landing	Wayside exhibits at overlook	Ponca tribe	Chief Standing Bear; human rights

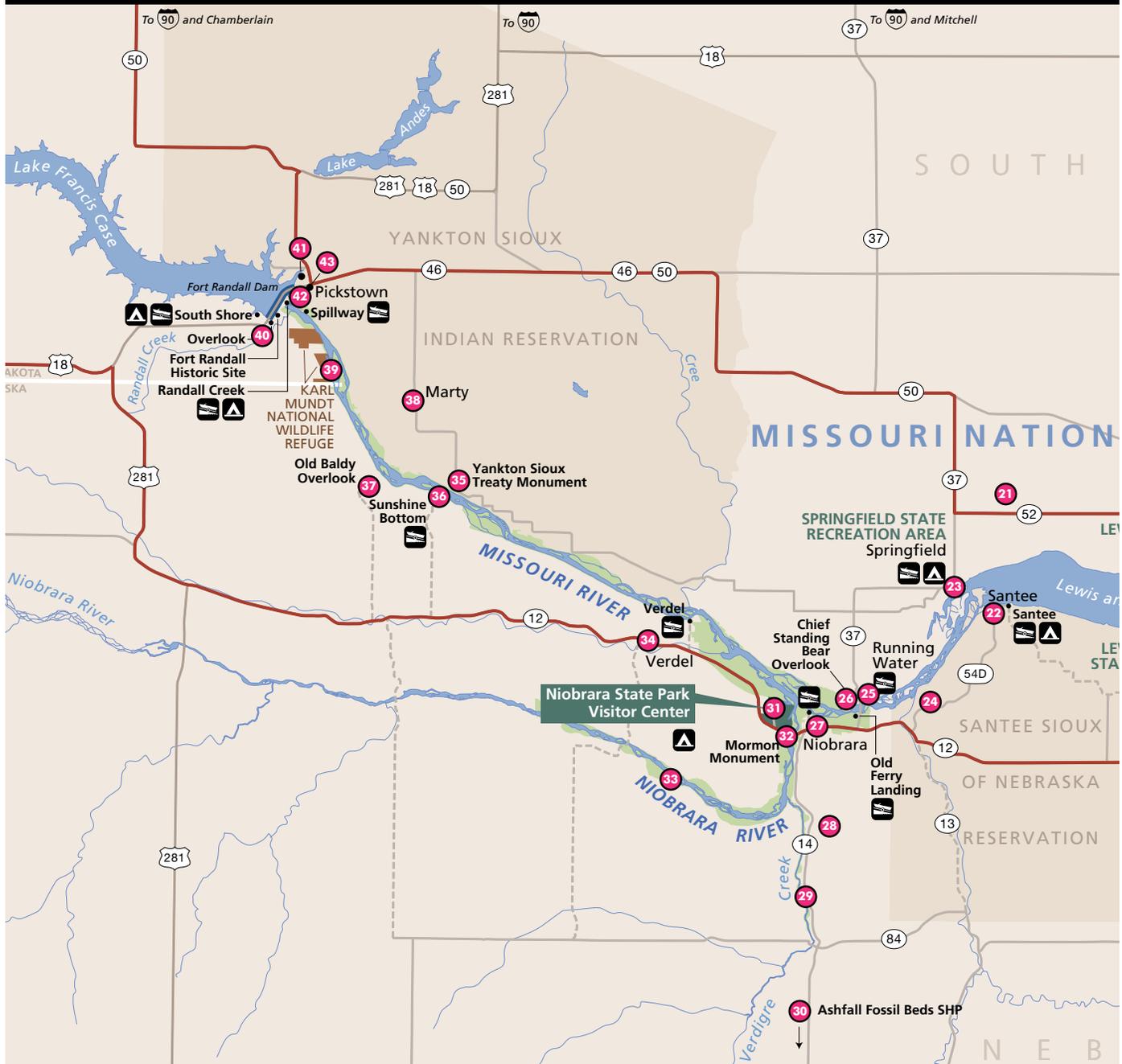
Existing Conditions

No.	Location	Facilities / Amenities / Activities	Interpretive Media / Services	Partner(s)	Theme or Topic
27	Niobrara (NE)	City boat ramp, trailhead across bridge	Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT) Programs: invasive species, etc.; Ponca Tribal Museum (to move soon); Lewis & Clark wayside exhibit; Shannon Trail wayside exhibits	Village of Niobrara, Ponca Tribe	Relocations over time due to river changes (human and natural)
28	Ponca Tribal Headquarters (NE)		Museum (moving from Niobrara); powwow grounds; earth lodge	Ponca tribe	Living cultures
29	Verdigre Creek (NE)				Scenery, Outstanding Recreational Values (ORVs); park
30	Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park (NE)	Fossils, active paleontological dig	Visitor Center, active excavation, research; NE fish hatchery	University of Nebraska -Lincoln; NGPC	Same gray ash strata throughout region
31	Niobrara State Park (NE)	Camping, cabins, pool, river rafting, cookout shelter, group lodge, trails, foot trail across railroad bridge	Small Visitor Center with kiosk; interpretive shelter, Park Ranger programs, wayside exhibits	NGPC	River ecology and riverine processes
32	Mormon Monument (NE)		Wayside exhibit to be developed in partnership with and approved by the Mormon Church	Mormon Church	Mormon history; Mormon trail
33	Lower Niobrara River (NE)	Wilderness, paddling; Pischelville Bridge: river access (research needed)	Pischelville Bridge website (research needed)		
34	Verdel boat ramp (NE)	Boat ramp (hard to find; signage needed)	Wayside exhibit	NGPC	Scenery, Outstanding Recreational Values (ORVs)

Existing Conditions

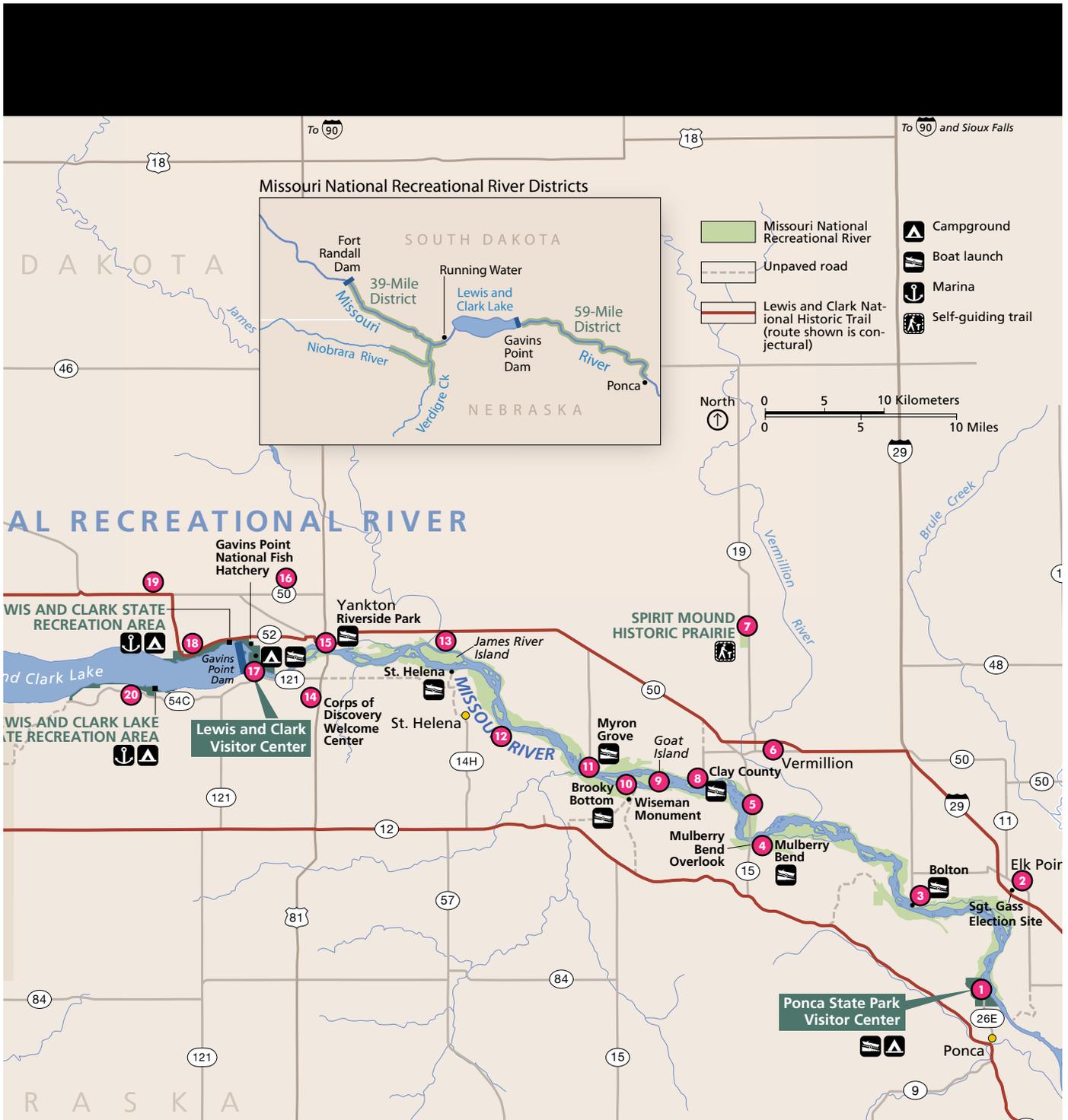
No.	Location	Facilities / Amenities / Activities	Interpretive Media / Services	Partner(s)	Theme or Topic
35	Yankton Sioux Treaty Monument (SD)	Monument obelisk	Monument, NPS wayside exhibit	Yankton Sioux Tribe	Living cultures; annuities treaties
36	Sunshine Bottom Boat Ramp (NE)	Boat ramp (upgrade planned)	Wayside exhibits planned	NGPC	Recreation
37	Old Baldy Overlook (NE)		Lewis & Clark wayside exhibit	Private ownership	Lewis & Clark prairie dogs (site and experience documented in Expedition journals)
38	Marty (SD)	Yankton Sioux Tribe headquarters		Yankton Sioux tribe	Living cultures
39	Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuge (SD)	No public access, eagles	Wayside exhibit/kiosk; overlook	USFWS	Wildlife
40	Fort Randall Historic Site (SD)	Historic site	Publication, programs, annual reenactment, chapel, fort/ parade grounds, cemetery, overlook, wayside exhibits	USACE; NPS Historic Preservation Crew	Military and settlement history NPS Preservation Crew and mission
41	Fort Randall Dam (SD, NE)	Dam, visitor center	Seasonal Visitor Center, wayside exhibits, older signs	USACE	River management
42	Northpoint State Recreation Area Campgrounds: Randall Creek (seasonal: eagles), South Shore, North Point, Spillway (SD, NE)	Boat ramps, campgrounds, wildlife viewing	Wayside exhibits, Park Ranger programs	SDGFP	Wildlife
43	Pickstown (SD)	Visitor services; marketing	NA	Multiple	

Missouri National Recreational River Existing Interpretive Venues



No. | Location

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Ponca State Park | 7 Spirit Mound Historic Prairie | 13 St. Helena | 18 Lewis & Clark Lake State Recreation Area |
| 2 Elk Point, SD | 8 Clay County Park | 14 Corps of Discovery Welcome Center | 19 Lewis & Clark Boy Scout Camp |
| 3 Bolton | 9 Goat Island | 15 Yankton | 20 Lewis & Clark State Recreation Area/Weigand State Park |
| 4 Mulberry Bend | 10 Brooky Bottom | 16 Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery & Aquarium | 21 Bon Homme Hutterite colony |
| 5 Mulberry Bend | 11 Myron Grove | 17 Lewis & Clark Visitor Center | |
| 6 Vermillion | 12 Audubon Bend | | |



- 22 Santee
- 23 Terrace Park, Springfield
- 24 Santee to Springfield: exceptional wildlife area
- 25 Running Water
- 26 Chief Standing Bear Overlook

- 27 Niobrara
- 28 Ponca Tribal Headquarters
- 29 Verdigre Creek
- 30 Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park
- 31 Niobrara State Park
- 32 Mormon Monument

- 33 Lower Niobrara River
- 34 Verdel
- 35 Yankton Sioux Treaty Monument
- 36 Sunshine Bottom
- 37 Old Baldy Overlook
- 38 Marty

- 39 Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuge
- 40 Fort Randall Historic Site
- 41 Fort Randall Dam
- 42 Northpoint State Recreation Area
- 43 Pickstown, SD

Information and Orientation

WAYFINDING

One hundred twenty-six miles of river and many unmarked adjacent access roads managed by multiple partners create tremendous challenges for visitors wanting to focus their visit on the Missouri National Recreational River. It is not clearly evident to visitors and area residents alike that the MNRR is a unit of the National Park System. A standard NPS Unigridd brochure is available for the park. It highlights features and facilities operated by various partners. Signs identify the MNRR at river crossings, but only at three locations (Discovery, Standing Bear, and Vermillion-Newcastle Bridges). The park suffers from a lack of identity to date due to the lack of a significant land base, as well as the need for its own public information venue. The park also lacks an interpretive film and general interpretive publication to provide orientation and address the MNRR's stories.

WEBSITE

The MNRR website offers standard NPS features, including directions and wayfinding instructions. It includes a digital "flyover" of the river in the Multimedia Section, and a Spanish language summary of park features, activities, and information.

The Interpretive Experience

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA

The main interpretive media in the park to date are wayside exhibits, many of which have been produced by the NPS in partnership with an impressive array of agencies and organizations. Almost every wayside exhibit lists a different set of partners and, consequently, they lack a consistent or uniform appearance, with some but not all adhering to NPS Graphic Identity Standards, which also adds to area residents' and visitors' confusion. Partners include LECL, USACE, City of Yankton Department of Parks and Recreation, South Dakota Arts Council, SDGFP, South Dakota Department of Tourism, South Dakota Department of Transportation, NGPC, Nebraska Department of Roads Enhancement Program, Federal Highway Administration, Missouri-Niobrara River Confluence, Spirit Mound Historic Trust, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

A Missouri National Recreational River Water Trail is under development as the result of efforts by several governmental, non-profit, and academic organizations to encourage use of and improve access to the Missouri River for kayakers and canoeists; however, these signs will also serve motor boat operators, anglers, and other recreationists who visit these river access points. Fourteen double-sided interpretive and wayfinding signs are currently being designed and written for Phase I of the Water Trail, which

is located along the MNRR from just below Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, South Dakota, downriver to Ponca State Park in Nebraska, and an additional 20 river miles to Sioux City, Iowa, for a total of 79 river miles. The trailhead-facing side of each sign will have maps, safety, wayfinding information, and interpretive content for that stretch of the Water Trail. The side of the signs that face the river will include site-specific interpretive information about the unique natural and cultural resource features that will be encountered on the next downriver segment of the Water Trail. Funding for Phase I of the Water Trail was secured through an NPS Challenge Cost Share Grant and a grant from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission with additional funding support from the City of Yankton, City of Vermillion, City of Sioux City, Lewis and Clark National Resources District, University of South Dakota's Missouri River Institute, Sierra Club, Missouri River Futures, and Izaak Walton League of America. The park has also recently been notified of funding for Phase II signs through the NPS's Connecting Trails to Parks grant program. These additional signs will be located on the 39-mile district from just below Fort Randall Dam to Lewis and Clark Lake above Gavins Point Dam. MNRR has also submitted a funding request for Phase III in FY2012, the final phase, which will include developing a virtual tour and downloadable technology applications for virtual visitors, as well as to entice new visitors to explore the Water Trail.



Trailhead signs are critical tools for providing wayfinding and orientation information as well as conveying the significance of the natural and cultural features of the river and trail to users. They will also help educate trail users about the outstandingly remarkable values and importance of the Missouri National Recreation River as both a natural and cultural resource and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail as a cultural resource. The Missouri River Institute from the University of South Dakota has taken the lead role in the development of Phase I and the park plans to continue facilitating their positive partnership role in Phases II and III by developing Cooperating Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU)

The Meridian Highway runs all the way from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Mexico City

Interpretive Solutions photo

agreements to manage Phases II and III of the Water Trail. Since most of the park is the river, this water-based recreational trail will be a key resource for local residents and visitors alike.

WEBSITE

The MNRR website offers about a dozen site bulletins with both historical and science-oriented information, from Lewis and Clark to threatened and endangered species to controlling the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive aquatic organisms. Historical topics include early explorers, riverboats, and the story of Chief Standing Bear, an early advocate for American Indian civil rights. Information is available on the three National Historic Register sites that are also part of the park corridor: Spirit Mound Historic Prairie, Meridian Bridge, and Fort Randall Historic Site.

The science and nature section of the website offers information on park wildlife and native plants. It also addresses resource management issues and river ecology.

Some of these and other park brochures are also offered at some partner sites, but distribution is inconsistent. The website remains the most consistent source for information and printed matter. It also includes a small number of photo albums featuring scenes on the river. However, there remain opportunities to expand and build on the foundation of the current website, including adding social media and technology tools, more links, curriculum materials, and other resources to engage both virtual and potential actual visitors.

CURRICULUM-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAM

The park is tremendously under-utilized as an educational resource for all grade levels, from kindergarten through university. School classes do visit the MNRR; however, it is primarily as part of a field trip to the USFWS Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium and the USACE Lewis and Clark Visitor Center at Gavins Point Dam, where programs are offered in partnership with the USACE staff. Field trips to the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center usually involve an age-appropriate “scavenger hunt” activity through the exhibits, a video presentation, and a tour of the power plant, but no clear emphasis on the NPS and its role on the MNRR. MNRR staff has offered seven different outreach programs in which rangers visit the classroom. These are targeted to fourth and fifth grade and usually involve media presentations and, in some cases, hands-on materials. Programs can be adapted to a wider age range. Topics have included steamboats, Chief Standing Bear, the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition, Fur Trade, damming of the river, homesteading, and regional national parks. These programs are actually the same or closely mirror programs offered to general interpretive audiences during the summer season rather than being true age- and developmentally-appropriate curriculum-based education programs specifically designed for students.

Park staff is currently planning development of a full-spectrum formal curriculum-based education

program that focuses on state (SD and NE) and national standards and will include both field trips to the park and classroom outreach programs. Work toward this goal has already begun, with a focus group for teachers held in June 2010, and a teacher workshop in August 2010. In addition, a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program was started in 2010 and will be continued in summer 2011. Teachers worked with park staff to begin strategic planning and develop an initial conceptual framework outline for future park curriculum materials. They also began developing lesson plans that align park resources and themes with state standards for both Nebraska and South Dakota. In 2010, seven teachers (five full-time and two part-time) were hired for eight weeks during the summer, including some from each state and at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Plans for a number of Education Program initiatives in 2011 are in place, including continuing the eight-week summer Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program and assisting with USD's week-long Missouri River Institute Teacher Workshop at Ponca State Park. Additional future workshops may also include joint workshops with Niobrara National Scenic River; Niobrara State Park; Project WET: Discover A Watershed, Missouri River; Project WILD; Project Learning Tree; Project Archaeology; and other appropriate park and resource-focused workshops.

Junior Ranger Program Special Projects Funding has been granted in FY 2011 to develop and print age-differentiated activity books and create

online Web Ranger Program materials. The year 2010 marked the park's first ever celebration of National Junior Ranger Day, which it plans to make an annual event.

Please see Appendix A: Draft Education Strategic Plan for the Missouri National Recreational River's Curriculum-Based Education Program for more details.

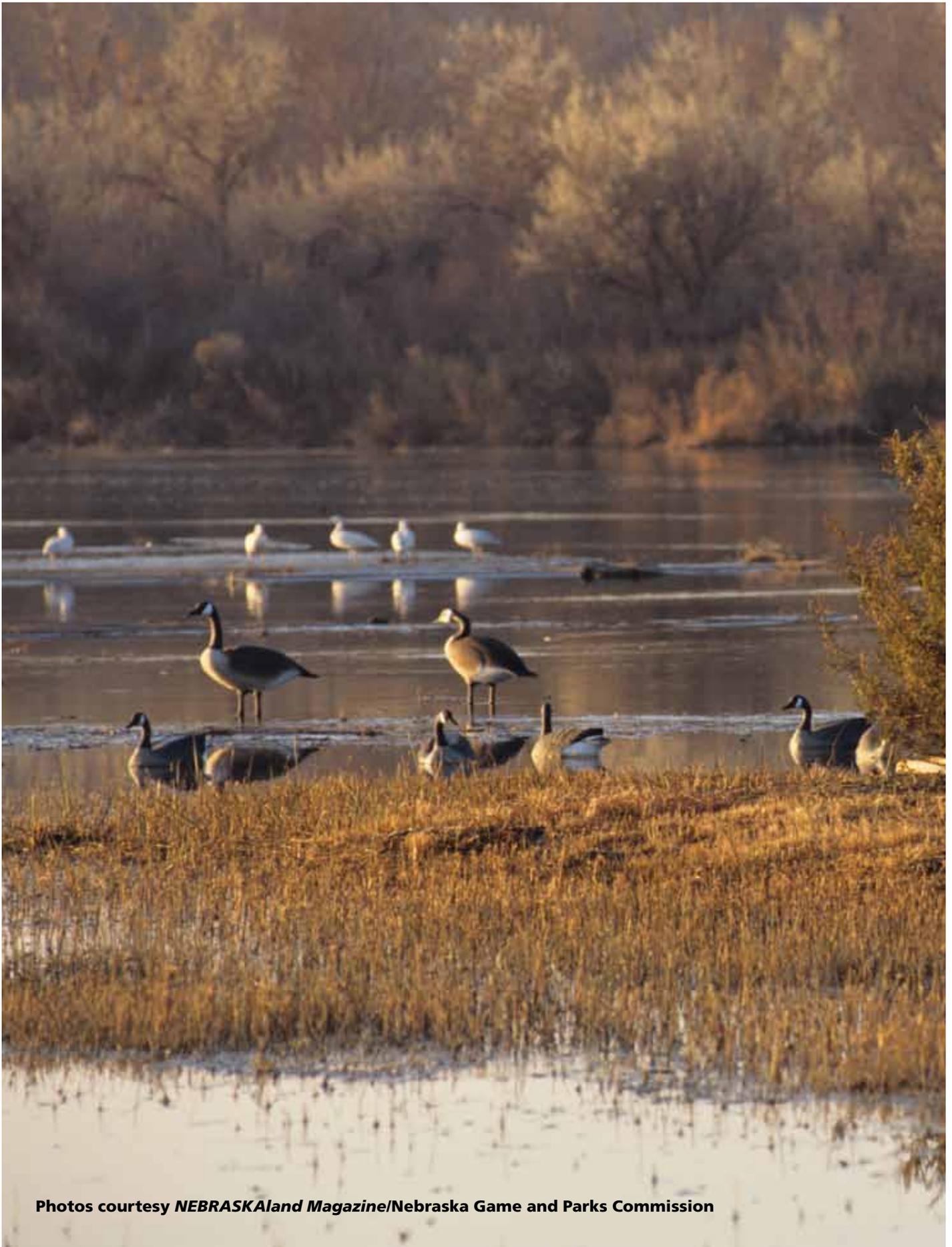
Personnel

The Interpretation and Education Division is a very small one. In addition to the Chief of Interpretation and Education, positions currently include one permanent Interpretive Park Ranger, two seasonal Park Rangers, and three seasonal Park Guides. Teacher-Ranger-Teachers work for up to eight weeks during the summer, based on available funding.

Gavins Point Dam

Interpretive Solutions photo





Photos courtesy *NEBRASKA*land Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Recommendations

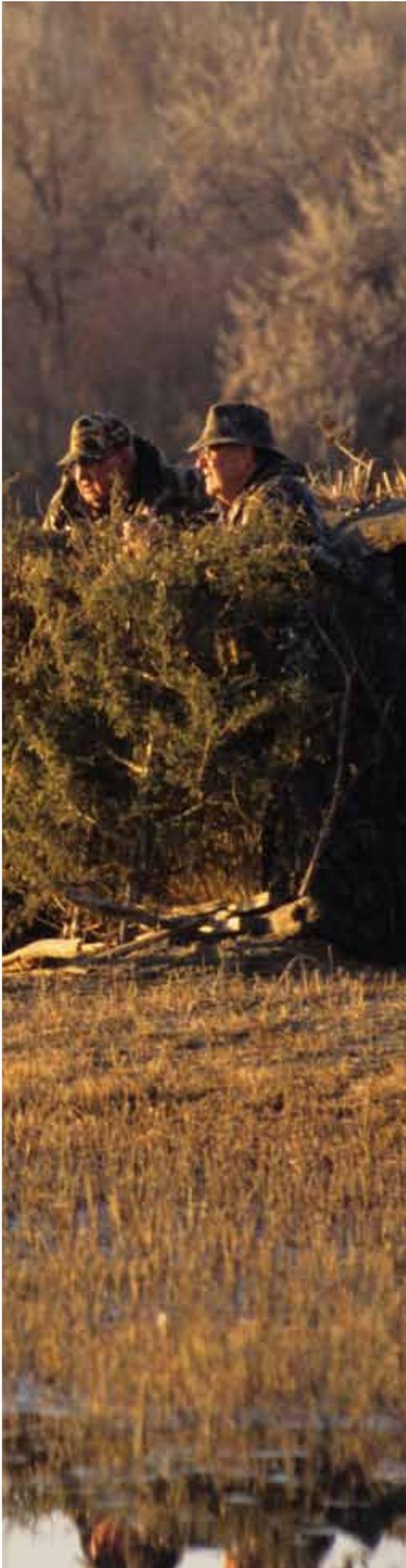
The top priority recommendations

will focus on evaluating existing programming for effectiveness while implementing new initiatives with the overall goal of increasing awareness of the NPS's presence and roles on the MNRR on the local, regional, and national levels. There will be a shift in emphasis toward natural and cultural resources and management issues, including developing new programs, reducing the previous heavy focus on history. Key areas of emphasis include:

- Implementing and reinforcing NPS branding efforts
- Expanding and updating the Park website to incorporate social media, increase effectiveness, and be more compelling and attractive to a wider regional and national audience
- Developing a quality full-spectrum curriculum-based Education Program that supports state and national standards
- Developing a targeted outreach program that meets the needs and interests all communities located in the MNRR corridor as well as park management
- Incorporating multiple perspectives
- Expanding recreational and lifelong learning opportunities.



Adult Piping Plover



Reinforcing the NPS Presence

Because the Missouri National Recreational River covers a wide territory and is managed by multiple agencies and organizations, visitors—and even long-time area residents—are often unaware that the MNRR is, in fact, a unit of the National Park System. One of the highest overall priorities of the LRIP, therefore, is to reinforce and enhance NPS visibility on and along the river. The LRIP’s recommendations toward meeting this goal include enhanced branding and marketing initiatives to promote the NPS and interpretive programming, creation of a Mobile Ranger Station (vehicle with decals, interpretive props, and portable displays), and exploring the possibility of creating new visitor contact location opportunities for the NPS.

NPS Branding and Marketing to Attract Regional and National Audiences

An important way to reinforce the NPS presence in the MNRR is to focus on branding, marketing, and outreach. The more people along the river who encounter the National Park Service brand or arrowhead, the more their awareness of the agency’s role will be enhanced.

HIGH PRIORITY High priority recommendations center on outreach to and education about the MNRR on a regional and national level as well as in local communities.

- Ensure that all park vehicles have an NPS arrowhead visible on them to increase visibility as park staff travel throughout the corridor.
- Update, expand, enhance, and maintain the park website, incorporating social media.
- Use NPS Centennial opportunities to promote MNRR as an NPS unit and connect with larger national and regional audiences. The NPS Centennial year is 2016.
- Create and distribute park rack cards throughout the region at traveler- and tourist-oriented venues, including airports and rest areas.
- Create a park-specific Web Ranger Program with age-differentiated activities.
- Create Mobile Ranger Station(s) (see section below for description and details).
- Develop a Media Outreach Plan.
- Work with WASO to be a featured “NPS Getaway Park of the Week” on nps.gov (current contact is Jennifer Mummart).
- Establish a Friends’ Group to support MNRR programs and help spread the word about the NPS in communities throughout the corridor.
- Develop a Volunteer-in-Parks Program Plan and cross-post opportunities on NPS and other national volunteer websites.
- Continue developing and expanding the curriculum-based education

program including developing and posting lesson plans on the park website, hosting Teacher-Ranger-Teachers, and offering teacher workshops. Cross-post materials and opportunities on NPS, state and national education websites.

- Support continued development of Missouri River Basin Outreach and Education website and ensure the MNRR is listed on and linked to it.
- Host quarterly community events, river appreciation festivals, and similar activities to promote and build awareness of NPS presence on river and throughout the corridor.
- Post park interpretive materials in partner sites' restrooms to promote the NPS presence and emphasize our role in protecting park resources and water quality.

MEDIUM PRIORITY These recommendations center on creating a wider interpretive presence for the MNRR and disseminating information to targeted groups of stakeholders throughout the corridor.

- Work with local media partners throughout the corridor to create regular newspaper columns and radio shows; invite TV stations to cover MNRR events.
- In cooperation with heritage and state tourism organizations, scenic byways, and state DOTs, install signs along Interstates 29 and 90; Highways 12, 50, and 81; and in airports in Omaha, Sioux City, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Pierre to enhance marketing, brand recognition, and

orientation to the site's themes and recreational opportunities as well as promote the park to larger regional and national audiences.

- Create an Arts in the Parks Program and cross-post on national websites.
- Conduct quarterly meetings and Question & Answer sessions about river issues.
 - ♦ Share reintroduction and recovery success stories, including images, to reinforce residents' and visitors' understanding of the agency's role in ecosystem management on the river.
- Explore opportunities for a dedicated NPS visitor contact station, either in park headquarters building lobby or at a partner facility, or develop an interpretive media piece to go into partner visitor centers that focuses on the NPS presence and role on the MNRR.
- Develop a Volunteer Action Group and expand the park's Volunteer Program. Not only will such a group provide much needed support, but participants will also share in reinforcing the NPS presence and management role on the MNRR.
- Create a park Teacher Advisory Committee.
- Participate in career fairs and workshops at colleges and universities located in and adjacent to the MNRR corridor.
- Work with Scout, youth, ElderHostel/RoadScholar, and other national and local programs.

Recommendations

- Present Community Outreach Programs at monthly meetings of community organizations throughout the corridor such as:
 - ◆ Lions Club and other service organizations
 - ◆ Sierra Club
 - ◆ Water Development Districts, Irrigation Districts, Conservation Districts, and other such organizations
 - ◆ Stock growers' associations and other agricultural groups
 - ◆ 4-H clubs, scouts, and other youth organizations
 - ◆ Other groups of children, citizens, and decision-makers in the area
- Create internship opportunities for students to volunteer/work and earn school credit.
- Create/develop a speaker series.

LOW PRIORITY When resources permit:

- Create virtual geocaching and letterboxing activities and cross-post on national websites.

NPS staff provides interpretive services in partnership with multiple agencies and organizations (please see Existing Conditions section for a complete list). Many additional opportunities exist along the river to enhance the NPS role and presence. Some of these opportunities are located beyond park boundaries or apply to multiple locations throughout the MNRR.

These include:

- In partnership with the USACE, SDGFP, NGPC, the Yankton Sioux Tribe, and Nebraska and South Dakota State DOTs, work to enhance wayfinding and orientation signs throughout the MNRR.
- Work with multiple partners to distribute rack cards promoting the MNRR at tourist- and traveler-oriented venues throughout the region to enhance marketing, brand recognition, and orientation to the site's themes and recreational opportunities.
- Collaborate with state partners to promote hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, bird watching, camping, picnicking and other recreational and interpretive opportunities throughout and adjacent to the MNRR on SDGFP's State Game Production Areas and NGPC Wildlife Management Areas.

Mobile Ranger Station

Because the MNRR covers so much territory and the NPS will never have sufficient interpretive staff to provide regular, ongoing programming at every potential venue—or even most—a mobile interpretive unit is recommended that could travel from venue to venue, carrying program materials, props, and displays, and reinforcing the NPS brand during its travels. In addition to presenting informal interpretive programs in the field, this mobile unit could also be used to introduce visitors to citizen science-type skills and related resource management projects to foster stewardship of the river.

- This “traveling road show” could be a boat, van, or other vehicle with a strong NPS graphic identity, outfitted as a mobile ranger station that could provide formal and informal interpretive programming at multiple MNRR and partner sites.
- The mobile unit would expand awareness and visibility of NPS presence wherever seen.
- The vehicle could include portable displays and program materials that address MNRR interpretive themes and provide citizen-science type stewardship projects in which visitors can become involved.
- Explore the possibility of partnering with Niobrara National Scenic River, also under NPS jurisdiction, to create the mobile unit(s).

Fort Randall Dam

Interpretive Solutions photo



Recommendations By Type

This section lists recommendations grouped by priority level for interpretive services including programs, traditional media, digital media, and the park's website. It also addresses potential visitor contact opportunities for the future. Recommendations emphasize interpreting the MNR's stories from multiple perspectives. They center on evaluating and maintaining some existing interpretive services, while expanding or changing programming as needed and as staffing and funding permit.

Please see the Implementation Summary below for more details.

Personal Services: Interpretation, Outreach, and Curriculum-Based Education Programs

The park is coming off the commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, and wishes to expand interpretive programs beyond the historical, addressing natural resource topics, including resource protection, recovery, and adaptive management efforts, and encouraging support for the protection of Federally-designated threatened and endangered species while also developing new interpretive and educational opportunities. Programs will be designed to engage youth, present multiple perspectives, attract a larger regional and national audience, and reinforce the NPS brand through local efforts but also tap into the national momentum and attention on the upcoming NPS Centennial in 2016.

HIGH PRIORITY These recommendations include evaluating, then deciding which existing programs to continue, expand, or discontinue, as well as developing important new initiatives, especially those associated with the 2016 NPS Centennial and planned acquisition of the Green Island property.

Current programs to be evaluated, continued, enhanced, or expanded:

- Continue/Expand Teacher Workshop offerings.
- Continue/Expand Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program.
- Continue to develop the "Let's Move Outside" Initiative.
- Increase Ranger-led physically active and engaging Junior Ranger and other youth programs.

NEW INITIATIVES:

- Develop a Media Outreach Plan.
- Develop program(s) to inform general public and school audiences about adaptive management and river recovery issues and activities based on reconfiguring existing technical materials for the benefit of the general public, teachers, and students.
- Develop lesson plans and curriculum materials about park resources that are aligned with state and national education standards.
- Develop joint programs with teachers, schools, and tribes at Santee and Yankton Sioux and Ponca Cultural Centers as well

as other cultural communities throughout the corridor.

- Host and participate in quarterly community events, river appreciation festivals, and similar activities to promote and build awareness of NPS presence on river and throughout the corridor.
- Develop new Green Island programs, including Leave No Trace (LNT) and bird walks (once NPS receives title).
- Dialogue/provide opportunities for tribal members to interpret their own stories via various programs and interpretive media.
- Partner with US Geological Survey (USGS) to interpret hydrology, flow management, and geomorphology; create lesson plans.
- Create a Mobile Ranger Station (vehicle such as boat, van, or other vehicle with decals and props) to present roving programs at venues throughout the MNRR Corridor.

MEDIUM PRIORITY As with high priority items, with both existing programming and new initiatives in place, attention turns to developing additional new programs that will engage youth, enhance interpretation from multiple perspectives, reinforce the National Park Service brand throughout the MNRR, and open up new interpretive and recreational opportunities for visitors.

- Expand locations throughout the corridor where current programs are offered (as funding and staffing

allow), balancing with new initiatives and programming.

NEW INITIATIVES:

- Develop Park Ranger in the Classroom school programs for PreK-University levels.
- Develop school field trip opportunities that support state and national standards.
- Develop service learning programs and opportunities for school groups.
- Engage youth, families, Exploritas/RoadScholar/Edventure Program groups and other potential citizen scientists in resource protection and habitat restoration projects.
- Participate in local and regional college and university career fairs.
- Create internship opportunities for students to volunteer and/or work for the park and earn school credit.
- Provide Leave No Trace training to scout and other youth leaders.
- Partner with USFWS to develop program to educate youth about Missouri River fish species, with a particular focus on the pallid sturgeon.
- Partner with local and regional museums on joint programs.
- Promote family canoe clinics to increase participation.
- Develop new family nature hikes.
- Develop family camping programs.

Recommendations

Grey Herons

Courtesy NEBRASKAland Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



- Develop night sky interpretation programs.
- Offer birding walks (morning and evening).
- Offer riverboat/river-based tours.
- Create Arts in the Parks Program.
- Develop living history programs.
- Partner with area museums on joint interpretive and educational programs.

Additional recommendations for personal services can also be found in the above section on NPS branding and marketing.

LOW PRIORITY If funding and staffing levels eventually permit, the following programs could be developed.

- Create geocaching program (virtual, in keeping with NPS mission).
- Create letterboxing activities.
- Develop/reinstitute history walks.
- Assess the need for more instructional programs on recreation: such as how to fish, paddle, and camp, especially on upper reach; develop new programs as needed.

Traditional Interpretive Media

HIGH PRIORITY The highest priorities for the design and installation of new interpretive media involve development of new NPS properties that expand the visitor experience. Other high priorities include continuing development of Water Trail signs and replacing some of the existing redundant wayside exhibits with new panels that tell additional, compelling, site-specific stories.

- Revise printed Junior Ranger program materials to include age-differentiated and more action-based activities (funded in FY11).
- Develop rack cards.
- Provide support for development of wayside exhibits interpreting reconstructed Ponca earth lodge.
- Continue development of Water Trail signs (already in process and funded in FY11).
- Trade out existing repetitive panels found at other locations in MNRR corridor so each location offers a unique interpretive experience and opportunity for visitors and area residents alike.

MEDIUM PRIORITY Medium priority programs expand the MNRR stories in new ways.

- Update park Unigrid brochure to reflect new location for park headquarters, properties, and new interpretive and recreational opportunities.

- Develop new wayside exhibit panels for Chief Standing Bear Bridge Overlook that tell his story to replace duplicate panels found elsewhere in corridor and that are not specific to this site.
- Develop wayside exhibits for Meridian Bridge re-opening as a walking and biking trail.
- Develop wayside exhibits for future trail on the Nebraska shore from Meridian Bridge to Green Island.
- Develop wayside exhibits for future Green Island trails (once NPS receives title).
- Develop new waysides at Terrace Park overlooking the delta in Springfield.
- Develop a short introductory film about park.
- Develop new wayside exhibit at Wiseman Monument to incorporate multiple perspectives and provide more balanced points of view.
- Write a General Interpretive Publication (basic book to sell) about the park.
- Work with the USACE to review and update existing wayside exhibits at Fort Randall to include the American Indian story.
- Develop an electronic program and/or publication about stories along the Missouri River that people can use to explore by car, either in segments or as a single, integrated tour.
- Partner with area museums on interpretive materials.

Recommendations



Chief Standing Bear Bridge

Interpretive Solutions photo

LOW PRIORITY If funding and staffing levels eventually permit, the following programs will be considered:

- Review existing publications for landowners and farmers; perform gap analysis to identify information voids; develop a supplemental publication, if deemed necessary.
- Develop additional NPS waysides at Fort Randall Historic Site that address the Chapel restoration by NPS Historic Preservation Crews.
- Work with partners to develop wayside exhibits on Paddlewheel Point trail.

Digital Interpretive Media and Park Website

Development of digital interpretive media and website enhancement are intended to reach regional and national audiences, provide targeted information to specific types of visitors, and present multiple perspectives on the river's stories.

HIGH PRIORITY New or expanding audiences for interpretive content include social media users and a wider age range of youth as well as general regional and national audiences. Services for those who recreate on or otherwise enjoy the river focus on providing targeted information tailored to the specific needs of each type of user group.

- Update and expand park website.
- Add approved social media links to park website per new NPS standards, policies, and guidelines in Director's Order.
 - Create Facebook page for park.
- Begin posting at least weekly, more often as staffing and content allow.
 - Create Twitter account for park.
- Begin posting at least weekly, more often as staffing and content allow.
 - Create YouTube account for park
- Add oral history podcasts to website once project is complete.
- Create science-oriented podcasts for website.
 - ◆ Create Flickr account for park.
 - ◆ Create library of images and entries.

- Support production of virtual tour of Spirit Mound Historic Prairie (already underway by Spirit Mount Historic Trust).
- Add information to website about Yankton Sioux Treaty Monument.
- Add links to Hwy 12 and other Scenic Byways.
- Add links to local and regional trail systems.
- Add links to birding smart phone apps, birding sites, and information.
- Add links to local communities and Chambers of Commerce located throughout the corridor.
- Add links to lodging facilities throughout the corridor (with required disclaimer that "This does not constitute an endorsement by the NPS").
- Add links to additional partner sites.
- Expand online park photo gallery.
- Develop interactive web/virtual tour of float down the river (FY12 CTTP PMIS funding request submitted as Phase III of Water Trail development).
- Develop a mobile app for use on the water (FY12 CTTP funding request already in PMIS as Phase III of Water Trail development).
- Promote Water Trail via social media.
- Create park-specific Web Ranger Program with age-differentiated activities.

Recommendations

The Yankton Sioux Treaty Monument

Interpretive Solutions photo



- Create detailed web-based itinerary-building tool to meet individual visitor's desired experience and recreational goals. Create print versions as needed.
- Create web links to Ponca, Yankton and Santee Sioux, and other affiliated tribes' websites.

MEDIUM PRIORITY Medium priorities for digital media focus on expanding information available via the park website.

- Develop a shared framework and digital collection of resources, information, and images that can be shared by partners.
 - ◆ Create an online library.

- Work with partners to assess need and, as appropriate, develop and provide printable and downloadable maps and information on best hunting, fishing, hiking, paddling, motorized boating, wildlife viewing, photography, geology, wildflowers and native plants, cultural and historic locations, including where personal water craft, such as jet skis, are/are not allowed and other special MNRR regulations.

LOW PRIORITY Provide an opportunity for visitors to contribute their photographs to the park's website by creating an online gallery of visitor photos of MNRR.

Visitor Contact Opportunities

MNRR will also explore the possibility of enhancing awareness of the NPS brand by either enhancing the NPS presence at existing venues, or developing NPS-centered media that could be shared with partners and presented at existing visitor contact facilities.

Existing venues

Recommendations center on six possible options for creating a permanent NPS presence in the MNRR:

- Explore the possibility of an NPS presence at Fort Randall VC (USACE).
- Explore the possibility of creating a new venue for an NPS presence in Clay County Park (Clay County Commission, MRI, and SDGFP)."
- Explore the possibility of creating an NPS presence in Corps of Discovery Welcome Center (Corps of Discovery Welcome Center Board Missouri River Institute.
- Explore the possibility of creating an NPS presence at the Dakota Territorial Capitol Replica (City of Yankton).
- Explore the possibility of reconfiguring the MNRR headquarters building to accommodate a visitor contact station.
- Explore the possibility of developing interpretive media that could be displayed in all partner visitor centers throughout the MNRR corridor.

USACE'S FORT RANDALL VISITOR CENTER There is potential space in this visitor center for limited NPS

exhibits. A more permanent presence and exhibits in this visitor center would increase NPS visibility in the upper 39-Mile reach, where it is especially lacking.

CLAY COUNTY PARK An NPS facility at this location would require new construction.

CORPS OF DISCOVERY WELCOME CENTER There is an unused room that may be suitable for exhibits, programs, or multimedia presentations.

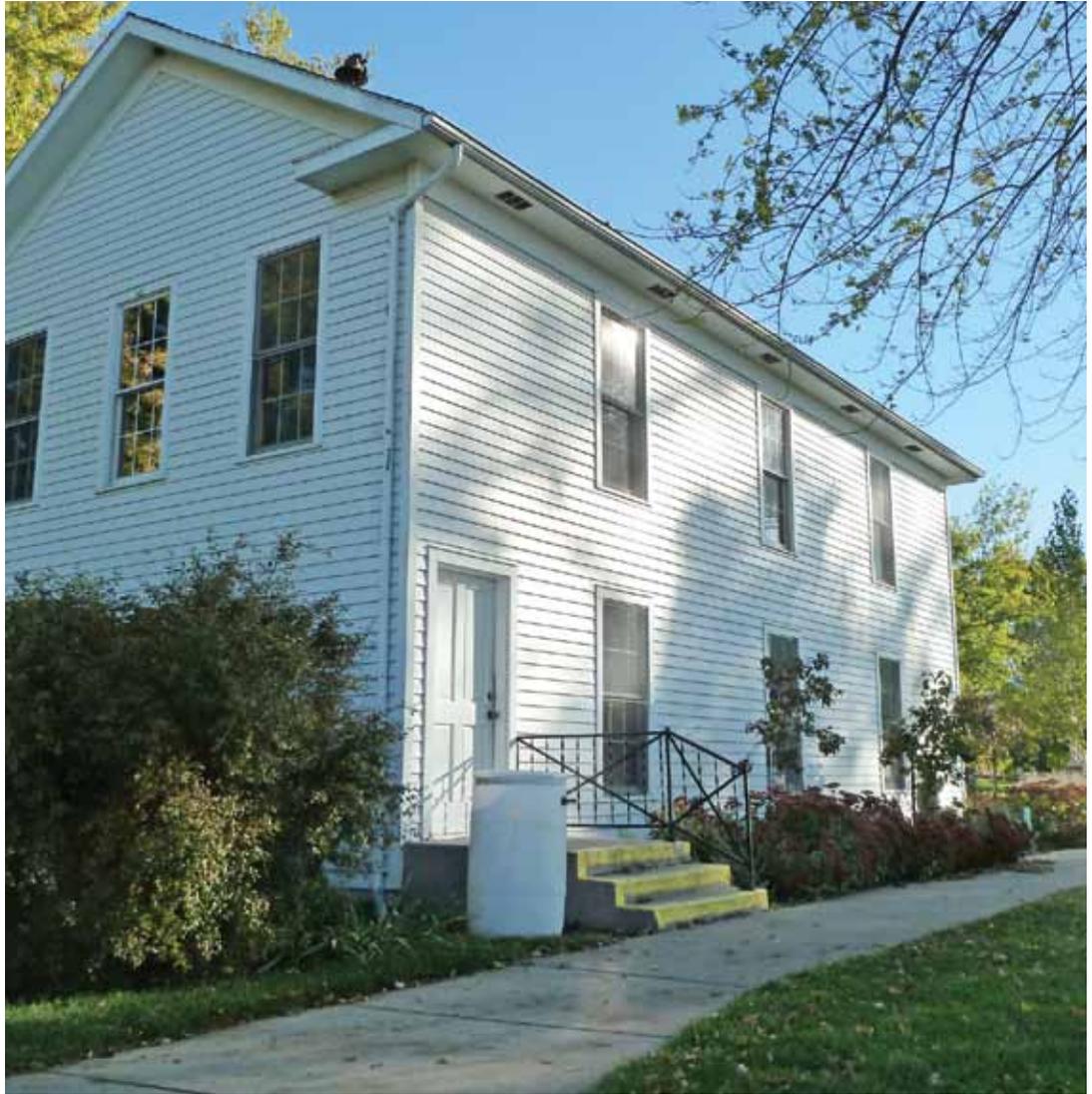
CITY OF YANKTON'S DAKOTA TERRITORIAL CAPITOL REPLICA Its size, setting, and location make it a prime candidate as a potential partner location for MNRR programs and exhibits, but the City of Yankton continues to depend on the venue for occasional rental income. Staffing this facility as a year-round visitor center seven days per week would require a total of 1.9 full-time equivalents (FTEs). It is recommended that the NPS approach their City of Yankton Parks and Recreation Department partners to explore the feasibility of this option on a seasonal basis initially.

MNRR HEADQUARTERS BUILDING Reconfiguration of this small building would require a space program study to determine whether administrative functions could continue to be accommodated along with visitor contact functions. The location is near the river and features a spacious parking lot. Limited space is available for exhibits or media presentations.

Recommendations

Dakota Territorial Capitol Building Replica

Interpretive Solutions Photo



NEW MEDIA SHARED WITH PARTNERS One way to reinforce the NPS brand throughout the MNRR would be to develop interpretive media that could be displayed in all partner visitor centers. It would focus on the MNRR as a unit of the National Park System, managed in partnership with USACE, USFWS, NGPC, and SDGFP. The media

piece could be presented via a simple computer kiosk that would take up little space in partners' already quite crowded buildings, but would provide an overview of the NPS role on the MNRR. The same media piece could be repurposed for public television and the park's website.

THE CORRIDOR CONCEPT: A “Missouri River Recreational and Heritage Corridor”

The LRIP planning process has made it clear that the MNRR’s multiple managing partners share a basic mission regarding preservation of the river’s Outstandingly Remarkable Values, or ORVs. Partner organizations are made up of people with a common purpose working together to achieve compatible goals. This common purpose could be extended to marketing, branding, and providing interpretive services and recreational opportunities.

Visitors come to the MNRR to enjoy the ORVs, and have little interest in—or even knowledge of—which agency operates which recreational, cultural, or natural venue. The idea of promoting the MNRR and surrounding area as a “Missouri River Recreational and Heritage Corridor” arose from discussions that took place during planning for the LRIP. The intent is not to seek formal designation as a national heritage corridor, but simply to expand partnerships with state, federal, and city agencies, as well as non-profit organizations and tourism promoters, to brand and market the area of the MNRR as a single regional tourism destination.

Advantages to this approach include:

- It creates a brand for the area, not just individual agencies.
- It provides an opportunity to link to and inform the development of the MNRR branding plan now under development.

- It avoids the “patchwork” effect of multiple brands, marketing strategies, and program offerings in the region.
- It capitalizes on partnership programs, encouraging economy of scale and cost efficiencies. Partners could share information and resources, for example, in creating, printing, and distributing an area bird list.
- Many granting agencies favor partner projects.
- Joint marketing saves costs and provides visitors with a comprehensive view of what is available.
- Joint packaging and branding creates a strong identity that can be reinforced by all partners.
- The corridor concept promotes a seamless visitor experience.
 - ◆ Although note that varying regulations regarding boating, hunting, and fishing of the two states, Nebraska and South Dakota, would need to be understood, addressed, and communicated.
- The concept provides the opportunity to tie in with the entire Missouri River ecosystem, and all the umbrella organizations that have been created to address the river’s challenges: Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC), Missouri River National Resource Committee (MRNRC), the Missouri River Basin Association (MRBA), the University of South Dakota’s Missouri River Institute (MRI), and others.

Recommendations

- The districts of the river that make up the MNRR could represent the whole river, as stakeholders have urged. The MNRR could be interpreted in the context of what the river once was, and could be again.

Recommendations for moving the region toward the corridor concept include:

- Work with partners to promote and develop the Missouri River corridor concept, including branding, joint marketing, partner programs, and grant opportunities.
 - ◆ Improve signs on Interstates 29 and 90 and Highways 50, 12, and 81.
 - ◆ Create a shared graphic identity for the corridor.
- Introduce the corridor concept through MRNRC, MRRIC, and MRI.
- Work with MRI and USACE on further development of the Missouri River Basin Outreach Information and Education umbrella website for the corridor.
 - ◆ The website should include a map of the entire Missouri River basin, from Three Forks, Montana to St. Louis, Missouri.
- ◆ Link to all partners, including MRI, MRNRC, MRRIC, USACE, USFWS, SCGFP, NGPC, tourist organizations, SD and NE DOTs, and Indian tribes.
- ◆ Provide information by state, segment, or region.
- ◆ Content could include:
 - History
 - Issues
 - Points of interest
 - Student research
 - Teacher resources
 - Lesson plans
- Create interagency interactive kiosks for consistent messaging at all partner venues, including those of USACE, MRI, USFWS, SCGFP, NGPC, tourist organizations, SD and NE DOTs, and Indian tribes.
- Install/create exhibits/interactive kiosks at area airports, rest areas, and other offsite venues. Create rack cards for tourist venues outside park boundaries.
- Develop a framework/assemble a digital collection of resources/information/ images to be shared by partners.

Implementation Summary

The following is a summary of the action items and interpretive services proposed as part of this long-range interpretive plan. It identifies the themes addressed for each interpretive service, as well as the target audiences for each. Services are listed by priority level (high, medium, low) within the context of short-, mid-, and long-term planning periods of 1-3, 3-5, and 5-10 years, respectively. Higher priority items are described in greater detail in the narrative sections of the document above. The summary will guide development of annual interpretation plans and implementation strategies for the next ten years.

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
NPS BRANDING & ATTRACTING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AUDIENCES								
Begin Planning 2016 NPS Centennial Events	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Update, expand, and maintain park website	Exists	Short	High	All	All	No		
Add NPS-approved social media links	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Create Facebook page for park; post at least weekly	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Create Twitter account for park; post at least weekly	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Create YouTube account for park	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Add Oral Histories podcasts when completed	New	Short	High	All	All	No		USD/MRI, SDPBS
Create Teacher-Ranger-Teacher podcasts and post	New	Short	High	All	Curriculum-based	No		Teachers
Create science/resource management podcasts and post	New	Short	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, River Management	All	No		Park Resource Management staff, USD/MRI, USFWS, USGS, USACE
Create Flickr account	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Add information about Yankton Sioux Treaty Monument & Rosenbaum access point	New	Short	High	Culture/ American Indians; Recreation	All	No		Yankton Sioux Tribe; SDGFP

Recommendations

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
NPS BRANDING & ATTRACTING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AUDIENCES (CONTINUED)								
Add links to Hwy 12 and other Scenic Byways	New	Short	High	Culture	All	No		LECL, Private Shannon Trails Assn, Hwy 12/ Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway Assn, Oyate Trail
Add links to local and regional trail systems	New	Short	High	Recreation Culture	All	No		City of Yankton, LECL, USACE, NGPC, SDGFP, Auld-Brokaw Trail, Oyate Trail, Tribes, other corridor communities
Add links to birding sites and smart phone apps	New	Short	High	Fish & Wildlife, Recreation	All	No		USD/MRI, Audubon Society, others TBD
Add links to local communities and Chambers of Commerce throughout MNRR Corridor	New	Short	High	n/a	All	No		Local Chambers of Commerce
*Add links to lodging facilities throughout and adjacent to MNRR Corridor (*with required disclaimer that "This does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the National Park Service.")	New	Short	High	n/a	Recreational General public, Virtual	No		Local Chambers of Commerce, private business owners
Add links to additional partner sites	New	Short	High	All	All	No		TBD
Add links to Ponca, Yankton and Santee Sioux, and other affiliated tribes' websites and events	New	Short	High	Culture/ American Indians	General Public, Curriculum-based, Virtual	No		Ponca, Yankton Sioux, Santee Sioux, other affiliated tribes
Promote MNRR Water Trail via social media	New	Short	High	Recreation	Recreational Virtual	No		Water Trail Committee
Work with WASO to be a featured "NPS Getaway Park of the Week" once website is up to date (current contact is Jennifer Mummart)	New	Short	High	All	All	No		WASO

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
NPS BRANDING & ATTRACTING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AUDIENCES (CONTINUED)								
Create monthly newsletter and schedule of events, distribute electronically where feasible; post on website	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Work with multiple partners to distribute new MNRR rack cards at tourist and traveler venues throughout the region	New	Short	High	All	General Public, Recreational	Yes		State DOTs, NGPC, SDGFP, Local Chambers of Commerce, Private business owners, USACE, CDWC, USFWS, Museums, travel and tourism agencies, AAA, others tbd
Write/contract a General Interpretive Publication about the MNRR (basic sales book like KC Publications' Story Behind the Scenery Series)	New	Short	Medium	All	All	Yes		Harpers Ferry Center, local freelance writer(s)
Develop/Contract a short introductory film about the MNRR; work with SD and NE Public Broadcasting	New	Short	Medium	All	All	Yes		Harpers Ferry Center, USD/ MRI, Mount Marty College, SDPBS, NEPBS
Explore the possibility of a dedicated NPS visitor contact station, alternative would be developing an interpretive media piece about the NPS' role on the MNRR to display:	New	Short	Medium	All	All but Virtual	Possibly		
Reconfigure MNRR HQ lobby to accommodate	New	Short	Medium	All	All but Virtual	Possibly		
NPS presence at Dakota Territorial Capitol Building	New	Short	Medium	All	All but Virtual	Possibly		City of Yankton Parks & Recreation Dept.
Potential new facility at Clay County Park	New	Short	Medium	All	All but Virtual	Yes		Clay County Commission, SDGFP, USD/ MRI

Recommendations

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
NPS BRANDING & ATTRACTING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AUDIENCES (CONTINUED)								
Work with heritage and state tourism organizations, scenic byways, state DOTs, and other partners to create and install signs along I-29, I-90, and Highways 12, 50, 81 to enhance wayfinding and orientation throughout the MNRR Corridor	New	Short	Medium	n/a	All but Virtual	Yes		State DOTs, SDGFP, NGPC, Tribes, USACE, USFWS
Expand park's online photo gallery	Exists	Short	Medium	All	All	No		
Create detailed web-based itinerary-building tool to meet individual visitors' desired experiences and recreational goals. Make print versions available as needed.	New	Short	Medium	All	All	No		
Create virtual geocaching program and cross-link between MNRR website and national geocaching sites	New	Short	Low	All	Local, Recreational General Public	No		SDGFP, NGPC, USFWS, USACE, geocaching websites staff
Create letterboxing activities	New	Short	Low	All	Local, Recreational General Public	Yes		SDGFP, NGPC, USFWS, USACE, letterboxing websites staff
Continue Planning 2016 NPS Centennial Events	New	Mid	High	All	All	Yes for implementation in 2016		
Develop an electronic program and/or publication about stories along the Missouri River that visitors and local residents can use to explore the region by car, either in segments or as a single, integrated tour	New	Mid	Medium	All	All	Possibly		All
Create an Arts in the Park Program	New	Mid	Medium	All	Local, General Public	Yes		Local artists and galleries, local colleges, SDGFP, NGPC, USACE, USFWS
Explore the possibility of creating an NPS presence in the Corps of Discovery Welcome Center; alternative would be developing an interpretive media piece about the NPS' role on the MNRR to display	New	Mid	Medium	Culture	Local, Recreational General Public	Yes		Corps of Discovery Welcome Center Director and Board

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
NPS BRANDING & ATTRACTING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AUDIENCES (CONTINUED)								
Explore the possibility of creating an NPS presence in the Fort Randall Visitor Center; alternative would be developing an interpretive media piece about the NPS' role on the MNRR to display	New	Mid	Medium	All	All but Virtual	Yes		USACE
Create interactive interagency kiosks for consistent messaging at all partner visitor venues	New	Long	High	All	Recreational General Public	Yes		All
Create and install exhibits and/or interactive kiosks at regional airports, rest areas, and other venues	New	Long	High	All	Recreational General Public	Yes		State DOTs, airports, Chambers of Commerce, other transit stations,
Create Mobile Ranger Station(s)	New	Long	High	All	Recreational General Public, Local, Curriculum-based	Yes		
OUTREACH								
Create a Friends' Group	New	Short	High	n/a	All	Unknown		
Develop Media Outreach Plan	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Develop Volunteer Program Plan	New	Short	High	Stewardship	Recreational General Public, Local, Curriculum-based	No		
Work with local media partners to develop a regular newspaper column and radio show(s)	New	Short	Medium	All	Recreational General Public, Local, Curriculum-based	No		Local newspaper and radio outlets
Create a speaker series at locations throughout the MNRR Corridor	New	Short	Medium	All	Local, Recreational General Public	No		Various subject matter experts

Recommendations

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
OUTREACH (CONTINUED)								
Conduct quarterly meetings and Question & Answer sessions about river issues and management at locations throughout the MNRR Corridor	New	Short	Medium	All	Local, Recreational	No		Various corridor communities
Share/promote reintroduction and recovery success stories with strong visuals to reinforce the NPS' role in ecosystem management on the river to residents and visitors alike	Both	Short	Medium	Fish & Wildlife, River Management	All	No		MNRR Resource Management staff
Offer and present programs at monthly community organizations' meetings throughout the MNRR Corridor	New	Short	Medium	All	Local, Recreational General Public	No		Various
Host and participate in quarterly community events, river appreciation festivals, and similar activities to promote and build awareness of NPS' presence	New	Mid	High	All	Local, Recreational General Public, Curriculum-based	Possibly		Various
Dialogue/Provide opportunities for tribal members to interpret and present their own stories via programs and interpretive media	New	Mid	High	Culture	Local, General Public, Curriculum-based	Possibly		Tribes
Create a Volunteer Action Group/Expand park's Volunteer Program	New	Mid	Medium	River management	Local, Recreational General Public, Curriculum-based	Possibly		RSVP, local colleges and universities. Corridor community centers
Participate in local and regional college and university career fairs	New	Mid	Medium	n/a	Curriculum-based	Possibly (registration fees)		Local colleges and universities
Participate in and present at Mount Marty College "Brown Bag" sessions	New	Mid	Medium	All	Local, Recreational General Public Curriculum-based	No		Mount Mary College
Work with partners to promote and develop the Missouri River corridor concept	New	Long	Medium	All	Recreational General Public,	Yes		Various

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
INTERPRETIVE AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS								
Develop and implement evaluation tools and processes to assess the effectiveness and viability of all programs	New	Short	High	All	All	No		
Reconfigure existing technical program materials to inform general audiences about adaptive management and river recovery activities	Existing	Short	High	River Management	All	No		MRRIC
Continue developing and implementing "Let's Move Outside" programs by increasing physically active and engaging Ranger-led Junior Ranger and other youth programs	Existing	Short	High	Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river	Local, Recreational General Public	No		
Provide Leave No Trace (LNT) training for scout and other youth leaders	New	Short	Medium	Recreation	Local, Recreational	No		Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, Community Centers
Develop and provide scout merit badge support programs	New	Short	Medium	All	Local, Recreational	No		Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts
Engage youth, families, ElderHostel/Road Scholar/Edventure Program groups, and other potential citizen scientists in resource protection and habitat restoration projects	New	Short	Medium	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, River management Fish & Wildlife	Local, Recreational General Public	TBD (additional equipment and safety supplies)		Boys & Girls Clubs, Scouts, Yankton Parks & Recreation, RSVP, Community Centers
Develop new Green Island programs, including bird walks and Leave No Trace trainings	New	Mid	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, River management Fish & Wildlife; Recreation	Local, Recreational General Public	No		
Promote family canoe clinics to increase participation	Existing	Mid	Medium	Recreation, Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river	Local, Recreational General Public	No		SDGFP, NGPC, Community Centers
Develop new family nature hikes	New	Mid	Medium	Recreation, Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river	Local, Recreational General Public	No		SDGFP, NGPC, Community Centers
Develop family camping programs	New	Mid	Medium	Recreation, Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river	Local, Recreational General Public	Possibly (additional equipment)		SDGFP, NGPC, Community Centers
Develop night sky interpretation programs	New	Mid	Medium	Culture, American Indians, Exploration	Local, Recreational General Public	No		USACE, SDGFP, NGPC, Scouts

Recommendations

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
INTERPRETIVE AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS								
Develop birding walks (morning and evening)	New	Mid	Medium	Fish & Wildlife; Recreation	Local, Recreational General Public	No		Audubon
Develop riverboat/river-based tours	New	Mid	Medium	Culture, Fish & Wildlife, Recreation	Local, Recreational General Public	Possibly		TBD
Expand locations throughout MNRR Corridor where programs are offered, balancing with new initiatives and programming	New	Mid	Medium	All	Local, Recreational General Public	No		USACE, SDGFP, NGPC
Develop living history programs	New	Mid	Medium	Culture	Local, General Public	Possibly, for period clothing and supplies		Local museums
Collaborate with state partners to promote recreational opportunities and programs on SDGFP's State Game Production Areas and NGPC's Wildlife Management Areas	New	Mid	Medium	Fish & Wildlife, Recreational	Local, Recreational General Public	No		SDGFP, NGPC
Partner with USFWS to develop youth program about Missouri River fish species, esp. pallid sturgeon	New	Mid	Medium	Fish & Wildlife	Local, Recreational General Public	No		USFWS
Assess the need for additional recreational instructional programs (fishing, paddling, camping), particularly on the upper reach	New	Mid	Low	Fish & Wildlife, Recreational	Local, Recreational General Public	No		SDGFP, NGPC
Develop/reinstitute history walks	Existing	Mid	Low	Culture	Local, General Public	No		
CURRICULUM-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS								
Expand Teacher Workshop offerings	New	Short	High	All	Curriculum-based	Not required, but helpful in providing them with books, supplies, and other specialized teaching materials; will vary by workshop type and topic		Teachers, schools, districts, accrediting college(s) or institutions

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
CURRICULUM-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)								
Continue Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT) Program	Existing	Short	High	All	Curriculum-based	Yes; Funding secured in FY11, PMIS #167828; Funding requested for FY12, PMIS #160808		Teachers, schools, districts, accrediting college(s) or institutions
Develop lesson plans and curriculum materials about park resources for each grade, PreK-12th, that are aligned with state (SD and NE) and national education standards:	New	Short	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, Culture (all)	Curriculum-based	No; Funding requested for FY12 TRTs, PMIS #160808		Teachers, schools, districts,
Adaptive management and river recovery activities	New	Short	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, River management	Curriculum-based	No		MRRIC, Teachers, schools, districts,
Threatened and endangered species	New	Short	High	Fish & Wildlife,	Curriculum-based	No		Teachers, schools, districts, USFWS, USACE
Hydrology, flow management, geomorphology	New	Short	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river	Curriculum-based	No		Teachers, schools, districts, USGS, MRI, USACE
Develop joint programs with teachers and schools in tribal and other cultural communities	New	Short	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, Culture (all)	Curriculum-based	No		Teachers, schools, districts, Ponca, Yankton Sioux, Santee Sioux, other affiliated Tribes, Hutterite Colonies
Develop NPS Ranger in the Classroom school programs for PreK-University	New	Short	Medium	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, Culture (all)	Curriculum-based	No		Teachers, schools, districts, colleges and universities
Develop field trip opportunities that support state and national standards	New	Short	Medium	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, Culture (all)	Curriculum-based	No, but if we can get bus transportation subsidies it will enhance participation		Teachers, schools, districts,
Develop service learning programs and opportunities	New	Short	Medium	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, River management	Curriculum-based			Teachers, schools, districts,

Recommendations

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
CURRICULUM-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)								
Create an interagency education committee to support enhanced school programs	New	Short	Medium	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, River management	Curriculum-based	No		Teachers, schools, districts, community education committees, USFWS, USACE, SDGFP, NGPC
Create a Teacher Advisory Committee	New	Short	Medium	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, Fish & Wildlife, River management	Curriculum-based	No		Teachers, schools, districts,
Support further development of Missouri River Basin Outreach Information and Education website	New	Short	Medium	All	Curriculum-based, General Public, Virtual	Not required, but financial assistance to partners would be helpful		USD/MRI, USACE
Create internship opportunities for students to volunteer and/or work and earn school credit	New	Mid	Medium	All	Curriculum-based	Not required, but a stipend will be more attractive to students		Teachers, schools, districts, colleges and universities
Partner with local and regional museums on joint programs	New	Mid	Medium	Culture	Curriculum-based	No		Teachers, schools, districts, local and regional museums
INTERPRETIVE MEDIA								
Revise Junior Ranger program materials to include age-differentiated and more physically active activities; have professionally printed on recycled paper, using soy-based inks	Existing	Short	High	All	Local, Recreational General public	Secured in FY11, PMIS #161317		
Develop rack cards for park	New	Short	High	All	Local, Recreational General public	Yes		
Develop Phase II Water Trail signs for 39-Mile District	New	Short	High	All	Local, Recreational General public	Secured in FY11; PMIS #159538		Water Trail Committee
Develop interactive virtual tour of float trip on river	New	Short	High	All	Local, Recreational General public, Virtual	Yes, requested for FY12; PMIS #170576		Water Trail Committee

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
INTERPRETIVE MEDIA (CONTINUED)								
Develop a mobile, downloadable app for use on Water Trail	New	Short	High	All	Local, Recreational General public	Yes, requested for FY12; PMIS #170576		Water Trail Committee
Update park Unigrid brochure to reflect new HQ location and new land acquisitions	Existing	Short	Medium	All	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based	Yes		Harpers Ferry Center
Develop wayside exhibits and portal sign for refurbished historic Meridian Bridge as a walking and biking trail	New	Short	Medium	All	Local, Recreational General public	Funding requested for FY12; PMIS #131663		City of Yankton
Develop new wayside exhibit panels for Chief Standing Bear Bridge Overlook that tells his story to replace duplicate, non-site-specific panels	New	Short	Medium	Culture, American Indians	Local, Recreational General public	Yes		Ponca Tribe, SD DOT
Develop new wayside exhibit at the Wiseman Monument that incorporates multiple perspectives and provides more balanced points of view of that incident.	New	Short	Medium	Culture, American Indians	Local, Recreational General public	Yes		Tribes, NGPC
Work with Spirit Mound Historic Trust to support production of a virtual tour of Spirit Mound Historic Prairie	New	Short	Medium	Culture, Ecosystem	All	Unknown		Spirit Mound Historic Trust, Tribes
Review existing publications developed for landowners and local farmers that emphasize the important role they play in protecting the river; perform a gap analysis to identify any information voids; develop a supplemental brochure and web document, if determined to be necessary.	Existing	Short	Low	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, River management Fish & Wildlife	Local	No; unknown		Missouri River Futures
Develop additional wayside exhibits at Fort Randall Historic Site that address the NPS' role in the Chapel's historic preservation	New	Short	Low	Culture, stewardship	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based	Yes		USACE, NPS Historic Preservation Office

Recommendations

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
INTERPRETIVE MEDIA (CONTINUED)								
Work with partners to assess the need for and develop downloadable and printable maps of best locations for hunting, fishing, paddling, hiking, motorized boating, wildlife observation, photography, wildflowers, geology, cultural and historic sites, where jet skis are/not allowed, and other special MNR regulations and activities.	Some exist, others don't, integrated map would be new	Short	Low	Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river,	Local, Recreational General public	Unknown		SDGFP, NGPC, USACE, USFWS, USGS
Post park materials in partner sites' restrooms/ stalls to promote the NPS presence and emphasize our role in protecting park resources	Both	Mid	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, River management Fish & Wildlife, Culture	Local, Recreational General public,	No		All with visitor facilities
Develop wayside exhibits for future trail on NE shore from Meridian Bridge to Green Island	New	Mid	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, River management Fish & Wildlife,	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based	Yes, requested for FY13; PMIS #131663		
Develop wayside exhibits for future Green Island trail(s)	New	Mid	High	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, River management Fish & Wildlife,	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based	Yes, requested for FY14; PMIS #131663		
Provide support for development of wayside exhibits interpreting reconstructed Ponca earth lodge	New	Mid	High	Culture/ American Indians	Local, General public, Curriculum-based	Not required, but financial assistance to partners would be helpful		Ponca Tribe, University of NE-Omaha, NGPC
Develop wayside exhibits for Terrace Park overlooking the delta	New	Mid	Medium	Ecosystem/ Free-flowing river, River management	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based	Yes		City of Springfield
Work with USACE to review and update existing wayside exhibit panels at Fort Randall Historic Site to include multiple perspectives and American Indian stories	Both	Mid	Medium	Culture/ American Indians	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based	Possibly		USACE, Tribes

Interpretive Service or Initiative	Existing or New?	Time Frame (Short, Mid, Long)	Priority within time frame (High, Med, Low)	Theme(s) Addressed	Audiences Served	Additional Funding Needed?	Status	Existing or Potential Partner(s)
INTERPRETIVE MEDIA (CONTINUED)								
Develop a shared framework and digital collection of resources, information, and images that can be shared by partners	Both	Mid	Medium	All	All	No		All
Create online library	New	Mid	Medium	All	All	No		All
Partner with area museums on interpretive materials, displays, and exhibits	New	Mid	Medium	All	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based			Dakota Territorial Museum, W.H. Over Museum, others TBD
Trade out existing repetitive wayside exhibit panels found at multiple locations throughout the MNRR Corridor so each location offers a unique, site-specific interpretive experience and opportunities for both visitors and area residents	New	Long	High	All	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based	Yes		Various
Work with partners to develop wayside exhibits for existing and other new trails added throughout the MNRR Corridor, as appropriate	New	Long	Medium	All	Local, Recreational General public, Curriculum-based	Yes		Various

GLOSSARY

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: A flexible decision-making process that promotes collaboration and learning from the outcome of management actions that ultimately leads to more effective decisions and enhanced benefits from projects. It is a process that integrates elements of planning, implementation (building and operating), monitoring, analysis, assessment, and decision making. Its true measure is in how well it helps meet environmental, social, and economic goals, increases scientific knowledge, and reduces tensions among stakeholders.

ARCHAEOLOGY: The scientific study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts, inscriptions, monuments, and other such remains, especially those that have been excavated.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: A term used for a project that aims to make scientific discoveries, verify scientific hypotheses, or gather data which can be used for scientific purposes, and which involves large numbers of people, many of whom have no specific scientific training.

CONSERVATION: Prevention of injury, decay, waste, or loss; official supervision of rivers, forests, and other natural resources in order to preserve and protect them through prudent management; especially planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.

COOPERATING ASSOCIATION: A revenue-producing non-profit or not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the educational and preservation goals of the partnering agency [or protected site].

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE: A traditionally or historically used and/or modified geographic area. Use or modification may be physical, spiritual, or cosmological.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: A general term used to refer to archaeological sites, historic structures, monuments, artifacts, traditional cultural properties, and/or other human expressions of ethnic or national identity. They are places or objects of local or national heritage.

CURRICULUM: Typically refers to a written plan outlining what students will be taught (a course of study). Curriculum documents often include detailed directions or suggestions for teaching the content. Curriculum may refer to all the courses offered at a given school, or all the courses offered at a school in a particular area of study.

CURRICULUM-BASED EDUCATION: The hierarchically structured, chronologically graded education system, running from primary school through the university and including, in addition to general academic studies, a variety of specialized programs and institutions for full-time technical and professional training. In this context, it is educational programming that is specifically designed to meet the specific learning objectives of the park, teachers, and their students that are aligned with established district, state, and/or national standards and grade level expectations for required learning. In this context,

it is used to specifically identify the target audience and objectives for specifically designed programs, in contrast to the more general lifelong learning educational objectives of general audiences for whom interpretive programs are designed – formal education as opposed to informal education.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT: The integration of ecological, economic, and social principles to manage biological and physical systems in a manner that safeguards the long-term ecological integrity, natural diversity, and productivity of the landscape.

EDUCATION: The field of study that deals mainly with methods of teaching and learning in schools; education is the process of developing an individual's knowledge, values, and skills and encompasses both teaching and learning. In this context, education in its broadest definition is the overall goal of interpretation or education for informal learning audiences but also encompasses curriculum-based education (see above for definition).

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) designates endangered species.

ENTOMOLOGY: The scientific study of insects.

EVALUATION: A judgment of worth or merit; an appraisal of value; the careful appraisal and study of something to determine its feasibility or effectiveness at meeting its goals and objectives.

EXHIBIT: An organized arrangement of text, graphics, and objects that communicate a message or theme. Outside exhibits are often called waysides and may include interpretive signs, kiosks, or other presentation methods developed for use in the outdoors.

FORMAL INTERPRETATION: All scheduled presentations, personal or non-personal, that have a theme, goal, and objective with desirable measurable outcomes.

FRIENDS' GROUP: An advocacy organization of interested citizens and volunteers who assist agencies or organizations in building constituency support; soliciting and accepting charitable contributions, grants, and funding from other sources. Sometimes inappropriately interchanged with cooperating association, these groups may have a different structure and purpose, depending on the organization with which they are associated.

GEOCACHING: A treasure hunting game where you use a GPS to hide and seek containers with other participants in the activity. Geocaching is often described as a "game of high-tech hide and seek." In this context, because of the NPS Mission, any geocaching would be virtual, in the sense that no objects are removed or left behind.

HERITAGE: Anything that has been transmitted from the past or handed down by tradition; the evidence of the past, such as historical sites, buildings, and the unspoiled natural environment, considered collectively as the inheritance of present-day society; natural and cultural resources.

HYDROLOGY: The scientific study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water.

ICHTHYOLOGY: The scientific study of fish.

IMPOUNDED: Confined or channelized in reference to a waterway, such as the Missouri River.

INFORMAL INTERPRETATION: Spontaneous personal interpretive contacts with visitors or audiences within a variety of settings; also known as roving interpretation.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM: Applying methods and language from more than one academic discipline to examine a theme, issue, question, problem, topic, or experience. Interdisciplinary methods work to create connections between traditionally discrete disciplines such as mathematics, the sciences, social studies or history, and English language arts. A philosophy of teaching in which content and methods are drawn from several subject areas to examine a central theme, issue, problem, or topic; involves the integration of multiple disciplinary perspectives within a problem-solving or topical context.

INTERPRETATION: A mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and meanings inherent in the resource; a teaching technique that combines factual with stimulating explanatory information.

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA: Means, methods, devices, or instruments by which the interpretive message is presented to the public (i.e. exhibits, waysides, brochures, signs, magazines, books, etc.).

INTERPRETIVE PLANNING: The decision-making process that blends management needs and resource considerations with visitor desire and ability to pay to determine the most effective way to communicate the message to targeted markets.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM: Activities, presentations, publications, audio-visual, media, signs, and exhibits that convey key heritage resource messages to audiences.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species can be plants, animals, and other organisms (e.g., microbes). Human actions are the primary means of invasive species introductions.

LEAVE NO TRACE: An interagency program that teaches minimum-impact outdoor recreational use skills that focus around several main principles for both front- and backcountry settings: Plan Ahead and Prepare, Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces, Dispose of Waste Properly, Leave What You Find, Minimize Campfire Impacts, Respect Wildlife, and Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

LETTERBOXING: A pastime combining navigational skills and rubber stamp artistry in a “treasure hunt” style outdoor quest; an outdoor hobby that

combines elements of orienteering, art, and puzzle-solving. Letterboxers hide small, weatherproof boxes in publicly-accessible places (like parks)[1] and distribute clues to finding the box in printed catalogs, on one of several websites, or by word of mouth. Individual letterboxes usually contain a notebook and a rubber stamp.[2] Finders make an imprint of the letterbox's stamp, either on their personal notebook or on a postcard, and leave an impression of their personal stamp on the letterbox's "visitors' book" or "logbook" — as proof of having found the box and letting other letterboxers know who has visited.

LIFELONG LEARNING: Learning throughout the life cycle, from birth to grave and in different learning environments -- formal, non-formal, and informal.

LIVING HISTORY: An attempt to accurately replicate the past through the use of a physical environment and the sights, sounds, and smells of the period being represented; the two major types of interactive living history interpretation are first-person and third-person.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Physical properties, materials, and on-going ecological processes that include, but are not limited to, air and water atmospheric resources, marine and freshwater systems; geologic features and processes; biological entities and systems; natural sound; day and night sky features and relationships; seasonal and celestial fluctuations; and natural interactive processes.

NON-PERSONAL INTERPRETATION/INTERPRETIVE SERVICES: Interpretive media that do not require a person to deliver a message (i.e. exhibits, waysides, brochures, signs, magazines, books, etc.).

ORNITHOLOGY: The scientific study of birds.

OUTREACH: The communication of the organization's mission and goals to a wide variety of audiences usually away from the organization's offices, sites, or properties.

PALEONTOLOGY: A science dealing with the life of past geological periods as known from fossil remains.

PERSONAL SERVICES: One person or persons providing interpretation and other visitor services to another person or persons.

PRESERVATION: To keep safe from injury, harm, or destruction; to keep or save from decomposition; to keep up and reserve for . . . special use.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A process of learning and keeping up to date in one's area of expertise. The process of progressing in one's chosen career through continuing education and training.

SERVICE LEARNING: A teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. In this context, it generally refers to students participating in resource projects that align the park's curriculum-based education and resource management programs with the teacher's learning objectives.

STAKEHOLDER: A person who has a vested interest in a place, program, issue, or process.

STEWARDSHIP: The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care; an ethic of caring for, protecting, and responsibly managing resources.

SUSTAINABLE: Of, relating to, or being a method of harvesting or using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged.

THREATENED SPECIES: Legal status afforded to a plant or animal species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as determined by the USFWS or the NMFS.

VISITOR CENTER: A facility, open to the public, that provides information about the area's natural and cultural resources. A visitor center may contain exhibits, visitor facilities, and interpretive information.

VISITOR CONTACT STATION: Any location, ranging from a table, a kiosk, [vehicle], to a building where people can obtain information about a natural or cultural resource.

VISITOR STUDIES: The interdisciplinary study of human experiences within informal education settings; the systematic collection and analysis of information or data to inform decisions about interpretive exhibits and programs; measuring or assessing the effects of museum exhibitions and/or interpretive programs and media on learners.

WAYSIDE EXHIBIT: An interpretive exhibit located outside and may include interpretive signs, kiosks, or other presentation methods developed for use in the outdoors.

WEBQUEST: Student centered and inquiry based, a WebQuest challenges students to explore the web for information and it is an excellent way to integrate the Internet into the classroom. Traditionally, WebQuests have an introduction, a process, a task, a list of resources, a conclusion, and an evaluation.

Sources include Webster's Online Dictionary, the National Association for Interpretation's Definitions Project, Missouri River Recovery and Implementation Committee Glossary, and subject matter specific websites on the subject such as threatened, endangered, and invasive species, geocaching, letterboxing, and others.

Draft Education Strategic Plan for the Missouri National Recreational River’s Curriculum-Based Education Program (September 2010)

VISION STATEMENT:

The Missouri National Recreational River and the National Park Service, through its collaborative education partnerships, will be a source of inspiration that fosters responsible environmental stewardship and creates a positive sense of place among current and future visitors and residents throughout the river corridor.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Through its full-spectrum, curriculum-based Education Program, the National Park Service and partners will provide an array of standards-based educational experiences and curriculum enrichment resources about the Missouri National Recreational River, its outstandingly remarkable values and natural, cultural, and historical resources for preschool through university level students as well as accredited professional development opportunities for teachers.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Create and distribute standards-based, interdisciplinary activities, experiences and resources.
 - ◆ Create a Missouri National Recreation River corridor map that includes listings of specific educational resources by location.
 - ◆ Develop a website providing easy access for all educational resources.

- Collaborate with other local agencies in order to provide activities, resources and experiences to expand the park’s ability to serve MNRRC corridor and regional communities’ educators and their students.
- Offer professional development and lifelong learning opportunities for educators and community members.
- Foster professionalism, stewardship, and accountability within the Missouri National Recreational River corridor.
- Collaborate with Missouri National Recreational River corridor educators and other stakeholders to plan and develop meaningful, relevant materials that meet both park and stakeholder education needs.

Topic Areas for Curriculum Materials: three major categories with sub-topics listed for each.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Earth Science
 - ◆ Geology
 - ◆ Paleo-Oceanography
 - ◆ River Systems/Hydrology/Sedimentation/Water Chemistry/Adaptive Management

- General Ecology
 - ◆ Populations/Diversity/Interdependence/Adaptation
 - ◆ Dynamic Ecosystems/Habitats
 - ◆ Human Impacts
 - ◆ Threatened and Endangered Species/Causes
 - ◆ Preservation/Conservation/Sustainability
 - ◆ Global Climate Change and effects
 - ◆ Energy Systems and Transfers
- Botany/ Plant Biology
 - ◆ Plant communities
 - ◆ Invasive, Non-native vegetation
- Wildlife Biology
 - ◆ Management
 - ◆ Mammology/Ichthyology/Ornithology/Entomology
 - ◆ Invasive, Non-native animals

LIVING CULTURES AND CULTURAL HISTORY

- Early Cultures
 - ◆ Archaeology/Cultural Displacement
 - ◆ American Indian History/Living Cultures
 - ◆ Settlers/Pioneers
 - ◆ Steam Boat/River Life
 - ◆ Westward Expansion
- Politics & Economics
 - ◆ Lewis and Clark
 - ◆ Civilian Conservation Corps/Works Project Administration
 - ◆ Pick-Sloan Plan of 1944
 - ◆ Homestead Act of 1862
 - ◆ Wild & Scenic River Act of 1968
 - ◆ Current Issues
- Adaptive Management

RECREATIONAL

- Activity Awareness
- Responsibility/Stewardship/Leave No Trace
- Safety/Dangers/Hazards

The Planning Team

MISSOURI NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER

Steve Mietz, *Superintendent*

*Anne Doherty-Stephan, *Community Outreach, Partnerships, and Education Director*

Gia Wagner, *Chief, Division of Resources Management*

*Dugan Smith, *Interpretive Park Ranger*

*Nicole Snyder, *Teacher-Ranger-Teacher/Volunteer*

John Rokosz, *Seasonal Interpretive Park Ranger*

Hector Diaz, *Seasonal Park Guide*

Josh Olmsted, *Seasonal Park Guide*

*Lisa Yager, *Biologist*

Brian Korman, *Biological Technician*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Peggy Scherbaum, *NPS Harpers Ferry Center, Project COR*

Karla Sigala, *Interpretive Specialist, Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail*

STAKEHOLDERS AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Ken Block, *DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Greg Blumer, *Corps of Discovery Welcome Center*

Gene Bormann, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*Tim Cowman, *University of South Dakota Missouri River Institute*

*Corey Davis, *Boy Scouts of America, Sioux Council (SD)*

*Carol Hale, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Jim Heisinger, *citizen of Vermillion, Sierra Club, Spirit Mound Historic Trust*

Brenda Johnson, *freelance writer*

Todd Larson, *City of Yankton Parks and Recreation Department*

Paul Lepisto, *Izaak Walton League of America*

Mike Mitchell, *private citizen*

*Broch Muhs, *Boy Scouts of America, Many Rivers Council (NE)*

Angie O'Connor, *Avera Sacred Heart Hospital/Healthy Yankton*

Phyllis Packard, *citizen of Vermillion, Clay County Commissioner*

Brian Paulsen, *Chief of Police, City of Yankton*

Jim Petersen, *Missouri River Bank Stabilization Association*

Loretta Sorensen, *freelance writer*

*Dean Spader, *Sierra Club*

Shane Bertsch, *Lewis and Clark Recreational Area, South Dakota Division of Game, Fish and Parks*

Dan Sternhagen, *Lewis and Clark Recreational Area, South Dakota Division of Game, Fish and Parks*

Theresa Smydra, *Missouri River Futures*

Jerry Wilson, *Clay County Commissioner*

Linda Wuebben, *City of Crofton*

INTERPRETIVE SOLUTIONS, INC.

*Ann Clausen, *Principal*

*Vid Mednis, *Media Specialist*

* *Member of Core Planning Team*

Harpers Ferry Center
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Missouri National Recreational River
508 E. 2nd Street
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-0209
605-665-4183 fax
www.nps.gov/mnrr