

The Path Ahead and Public Involvement

The Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS) is a broad-based five year study co-led by the Omaha and Kansas City Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

MRAPS will emphasize transparency, stakeholder involvement and basin-wide communications. It will examine authorized purposes and current river infrastructure to identify options that may provide more multi-purpose benefits in terms of economic, ecosystem, socio-economic and societal outputs. The study will analyze trade-offs and efficiencies, as well as evaluate river management options in light of current basin values and priorities. The study will produce a comprehensive feasibility-type report and Environmental Impact Statement for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Report to Congress.

MRAPS includes an important public involvement element that is essential for developing findings and recommended actions supported by Missouri River basin communities. The study involves listening to and addressing the issues and concerns of the public and project stakeholders.

Engaging stakeholders

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will actively solicit input from federal, state and local agencies, Tribal Nations, businesses, interested stakeholder associations, farmers and land-owners, environmental groups, recreation users, and others.

The MRAPS team will provide groups and individuals with informal and formal opportunities for study input, especially at public outreach periods, study scoping, and draft document reviews.

Reaching out

The study team will provide interested parties with study progress updates and information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study process and how it relates to planning analysis and alternatives formulation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will endeavor to arrange public forums in locations and times convenient to the local population. *(Please inform the study team regarding your preferences for future meeting times and locations.)*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will reach out, through designated points of contact, to involve Tribes in collaborative processes designed to ensure information exchange, and consideration of disparate viewpoints before and during decision making.

As the study proceeds from its initial start in October 2009 into mid-2010, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will develop a full public involvement and communications plan using public and agency inputs. This plan will guide the study team in its subsequent basin analysis and plan formulation activities. It will emphasize communication throughout the basin, support a variety of public input and suggestion opportunities, and provide for multiple means of communication depending on the audience.

Based on project needs and public input, MRAPS will use a variety of communication tools to ensure stakeholders are actively engaged in study activities. These communications tools may include such mechanisms as:

- Regional listening sessions
- Study workshops
- Focus group discussions
- Stakeholder interviews
- Website information sharing
- Public comment collection
- Formal scoping meetings
- Other means of engagement as needs are known.



Stay informed
Keep current on MRAPS developments by visiting www.mraps.org



Understanding How MRAPS Works

The Missouri River is a complex system that currently involves serving multiple purposes, among them are (alphabetically):

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Flood risk management
- Irrigation
- Navigation
- Power generation
- Recreation
- Water quality
- Water supply

Assessing how to best serve and manage these multiple purposes is also a complex undertaking, especially considering that stakeholder values change over time. MRAPS will evaluate current interests and community values within the basin, and identify the opportunities for improvements to the Missouri River through research, analysis and stakeholder input.

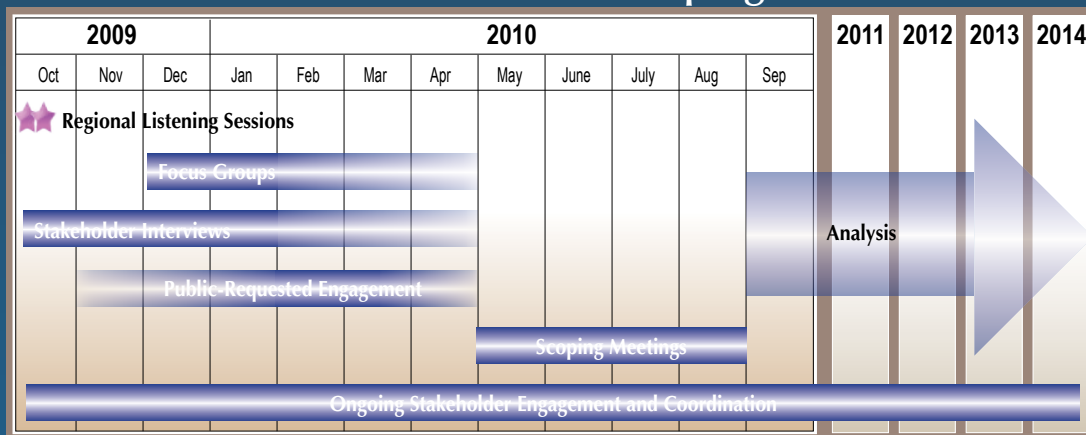
MRAPS will bring together the public, interested parties, independent experts and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel to inventory existing Missouri River project purposes and conditions and to evaluate needs, problems and opportunities.

During the latter stages of the study, MRAPS will examine various alternatives and associated impacts on:

- Existing project infrastructure
- Basin economics
- Environmental quality
- Public safety
- Communities and social networks
- Other evaluation criteria may be added during the study.

MRAPS concludes with the documentation and review of the study team findings and recommendations. This documentation is then provided to the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Congress is the ultimate decision maker for any major proposed changes.

Public Involvement & Scoping Period



First steps

In preparation for formal study scoping in 2010, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will develop the communications and public involvement plan through various outreach activities. This early outreach will provide a sound basis for the initial scoping efforts and enable an informed discussion.