

Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS): Q & A

1. What is the study authority and the original Missouri River Project purposes?

- Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, Title 1, Section 108, provides authorization to study the Missouri River Projects located within the Missouri River basin to review original project purposes and determine if changes to the authorized purposes and infrastructure may be warranted
- The existing authorized Missouri River Project purposes are: flood control, navigation, irrigation, power, water supply, water quality control, recreation, and fish and wildlife

2. Study Organization?

- The Omaha & Kansas City U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts co-lead the study
- Will emphasize transparency, stakeholder involvement, and basin-wide communications
- Project Management Plan will reflect stakeholder input from upcoming listening sessions
- Includes a strong independent review process from qualified entities outside of the Corps

3. Timeline?

- Official kick-off on October 1, 2009
- Regional listening sessions on October 1 (Ft. Pierre, SD) and October 8 (Kansas City, KS)
- Phase 1 (listening, scoping, & project management plan): 6 months to one year
- Phase 2 (analyze existing conditions, forecast future conditions and outputs): two years
- Phase 3 (alternatives, trade-off analysis, plan formulation, review): two years
- Aim to complete study in five years

4. Project funding?

- 100% Federal

5. What is the project area?

- Potentially the entire Missouri River Basin and tributaries and projects, especially the Missouri River main-stem lake projects; to include a review of affects on the Mississippi River.
- Many scope questions will be further defined during the scoping process in 2010

6. Relationship to Other Existing Studies?

- MRAPS is a broad-based multi-purpose study. Results from previous and other ongoing studies will be incorporated as appropriate. Ongoing coordination with other studies will avoid duplication.

7. Anticipated Product?

- Comprehensive feasibility-type report and Env. Impact Statement for Chief's Report to Congress
- Report will document study findings and make recommendations to Congress as appropriate

8. What are the opportunities?

- Examine current project infrastructure and operations to identify options that may provide more multi-purpose benefits in terms of economic, ecosystem, cultural, and socio-economic/societal outputs
- Facilitate basin-wide discussion of trade-offs and efficiencies
- Evaluate river management options in respect to current basin values and priorities

9. Who are the stakeholders? *Note that stakeholders will be further defined during the listening session process in late 2009, but an early list would likely include:*

- Nearby States – MO, KS, NE, IA, MN, SD, ND, WY, MT, CO; plus Middle Mississippi River and lower Mississippi River States
- American Indian Tribes associated with the Missouri River Basin
- Mississippi River Commission
- All applicable Federal agencies
- Existing stakeholder groups: MoRAST, MRBIR, MRRIC, MO-ARK, e.g.
- Interest-oriented non-governmental organizations and business interests