



Missouri
River
Futures

Missouri River Futures

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Quarterly Activities Report for Jan-March 2008

Submitted by Theresa M. Smydra

Missouri River Landowner Conservation Workshop – March 13

Another new experience for me! There were so many ways this could be set up and past efforts haven't been successful, so this venture was a little daunting to say the least. This took considerable preparation as those who have had similar experiences would know. The MRF steering believed that an avenue such as this would be helpful in sharing information and communicating with landowners and the landowners I've worked with wanted an avenue in which they could express their thoughts and learn more about activities on the MNRR where they call home. Thanks to those that shared their ideas and assisted with the preparations, there were a lot of them. I couldn't have done it by myself! I also would like to thank those that took the time to attend this workshop, landowners and agency folks alike. You can see the summary on the webpage but it was a huge success and plans now start for the 2nd annual edition in 2009!

Events/trainings attended:

Soil classification update (net-meeting): Jan 10

Easement Brainstorming Teleconference: Feb 4

Planned Grazing Systems Workshop: Feb 5, Norfolk

CP38E SAFE Habitat for Upland Game Birds training: Feb 7, Norfolk

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Seminar: Feb 12, Hastings

Cottonwood PDT meeting: Feb 20-22, Vermillion

Cultural Resources considerations (net-meeting): Feb 20, 2008

Missouri River Natural Resources Conference and Bi-Op Forum: Feb 25-27, Nebraska City

Missouri River Landowner Conservation Workshop: March 13, Yankton

Gavin's Point Interagency Meeting: March 27, Yankton

Events/trainings planned:

Annual ESH boat trip – May, June

NRCS net meetings

Riparian Forest Summit – Sept.

Regulatory – June?

Landowners:

Conducted limited number of personal on-site visits with planning the workshop taking a lot of time, but I was able to visit with many that attended. I made some new contacts and talked with previous ones. I truly enjoy getting to know the wide variety of landowners along the MNRR and the sharing of information. Also initiated contacts related to proposed ESH projects that later were cancelled.

A couple of fee titles, one in process, continue on with the Involvement of the Conservation Fund. Continue to press onward toward awarding sloughing easements but tight budgets make this difficult.

Promotional Activities

I try to stay involved with these types of activities since there is no better way to share how special our area is and portray the needs and values of the Missouri River. I often have the opportunity to share news with others; it's surprising the lack of process of the information sharing aspect of our jobs. I ask again that everyone keep me apprised of educational and promotional activities involving the Ft. Randall and Gavin's reaches. Involved with clean boat campaign, water trial, MRI, and attending special interest group meetings in the area.

Funding Research and Status

Gathering ideas from other successful groups, namely Niobrara Council and the RWBJV to determine their reason's for success that we can possibly sue for the MNRR. Paul Lepisto and I organized an easement teleconference exploring ideas with several knowledgeable folks. The success of that was limited but a beginning.

Missouri River Futures Recognition

It is gratifying for me to have our name on posters and mentioned during presentations. My contact and stakeholder lists continue to grow. We are growing a reputation as a real resource out here on the land in several aspects. I see MRF changing and developing as time goes as does the needs of this area.

WRP in Nebraska

There may be changes coming in the WRP program but I was involved with processing and submitting 6 applications to the NRCS state office. This may not sound like much, but there is a lot of work gathering the required information on which these are ranked and awarded.