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Update, comment meetings on the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study scheduled for St. Joseph, Bismarck

OMAHA, Neb. – Presentations on the findings and recommendations from the focus group and tribal meetings in support of the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study are being sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers in March.

The first will take place in St. Joseph, Mo., on Monday, March 8, at Missouri Western State University, Fulkerson Center, 4525 Downs Drive. The second will be in Bismarck, N.D., on Wednesday, March 10, at the Kelly Inn, 1800 North 12th Street. Both meetings start at 5:30 p.m.

An independent facilitator, the Osprey Group, will present information and considerations from recent Tribal meetings, focus group meetings, interviews, and surveys. The Corps will also present information regarding the upcoming formal scoping meeting schedule and the next phase of the study. Following the presentation, comments will be accepted from the public.

These two meetings are not the formal scoping meetings that will define the size and shape of the authorized purposes study. Those will be conducted later this summer. Advance notice of the dates and sites will be announced later in the spring.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been directed by Congress to conduct a review of the original purposes established by the 1944 Flood Control Act. The goal of the multi-year study will determine whether changes in the eight purposes are warranted. These purposes are flood control, hydropower, water supply, irrigation, navigation, recreation, water quality and fish and wildlife. Infrastructure operated by both the Corps and Bureau of Reclamation is included in the study.

Additional information on the authorized purposes study is available at www.mraps.org and information about this focus group interview process and a link to a brief electronic survey are available at <http://mraps.ecr.gov/>.