

MRERP

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

A Component of the Missouri River Recovery Program



Incorporating Tribal Natural Resources into the
Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan



Objectives

- Project Roadmap
- Discuss Tribal Natural Resources Meetings
- Discuss how Tribal Natural Resources will be incorporated into the MRERP planning process
- Discuss Next Steps



MREERP Roadmap

Initiate Planning

- 1) Develop Partnerships and Prepare for the Study
- 2) Establish Study Rationale and Focus

Study the Affected Environment

- 3) Assess Resource Conditions (Inventory)
- 4) Evaluate Future Conditions (Forecast)



Consider Alternatives

- 5) Formulate Restoration and Adaptive Management Alternatives
- 6) Compare Impacts of Alternatives
- 7) Consider Preferred Alternative

Select the Plan

- 8) Develop Draft MREERP-EIS
- 9) Develop Final MREERP-EIS
- 10) Publish Record of Decision



Focal Natural Resource Baseline Assessment

- What is the current condition of the Focal Natural Resources?
- What factors (KEAs) are critical to the persistence of each Focal Natural Resource?
- What is the current condition of each of those critical factors?



The Importance of Tribal Input



- Unique Knowledge
- Federal Trust Responsibilities

Hidatsa Mandan Arikara Earth Lodges



Tribal Natural Resource Meetings

Discussion Topics:

- Identify Tribal significant natural resources associated with the Missouri River
- Describe the condition of those natural resources
- Identify habitats or ecological processes required to maintain those species





Methods: Tribal Natural Resource Meetings

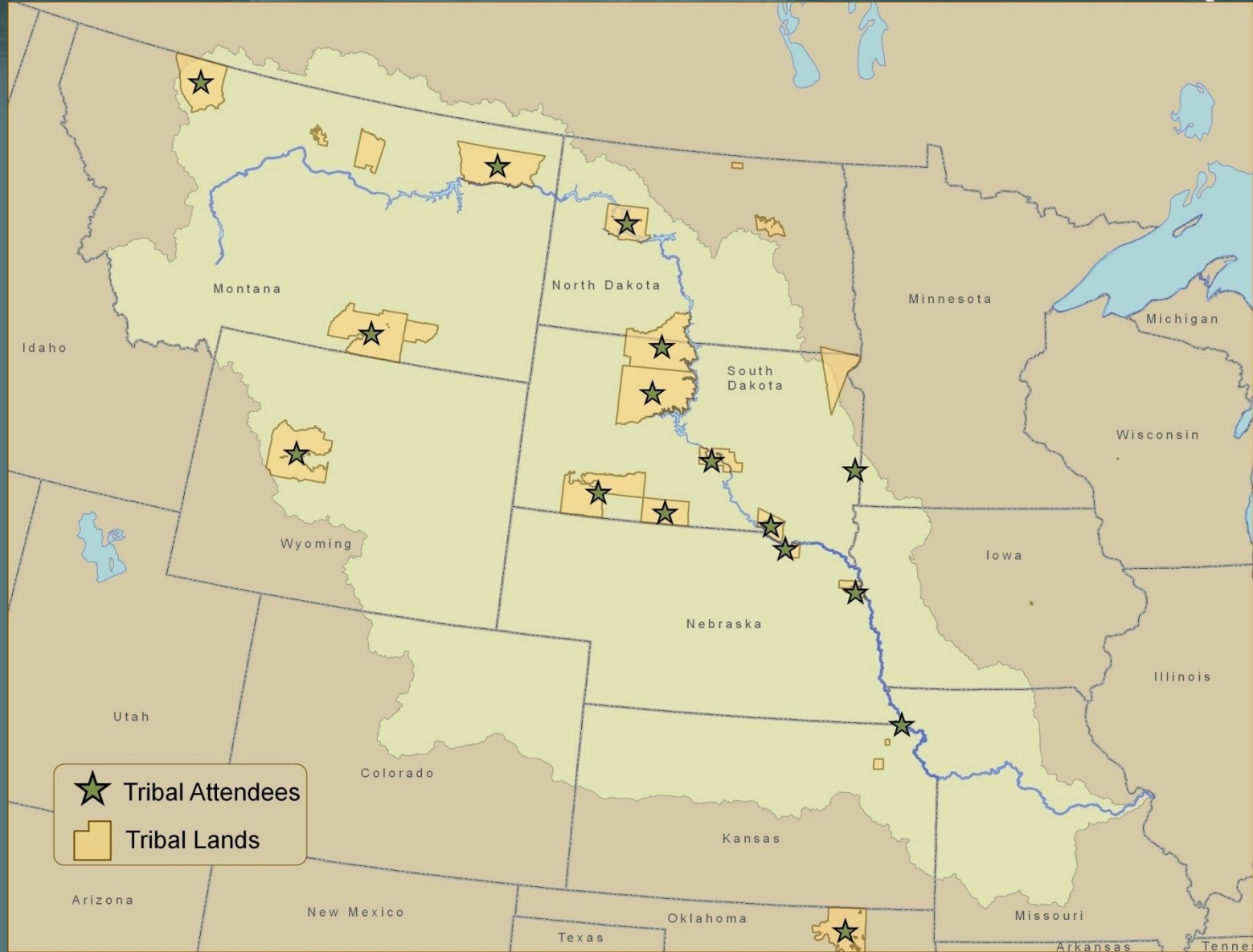
- Develop Meeting Approach:
 - Methodologies
 - Meeting Facilitation
 - Data Collection
 - Incorporation strategies
- Identify Attendees for Meetings
 - Cooperating Agency Team member
 - Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee member
 - Tribal Referrals



Methods: Meeting Notes Review Process

- Detailed draft meeting notes were providing digitally to tribal attendees
- Tribal members provide review and revisions
 - Ensure comments were captured and maintain the context in which they were intended
 - Ensure sensitive species, locations, uses were not specifically capture to maintain privacy

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan and EIS





Data Organization

- *Key Themes*
 - *Tribal Plants & Animals*
 - *Ecological Observations/ Processes*
- *Other Important Information:*
 - *Social, Cultural, Economic Importance of Natural Resources*
 - *Potential Stressors and Contributing Areas*



Tribal Plant & Animal List

175 Native species provided by Tribes

- Team X- walked the Key Nested Species List & Tribal List

Results

- Many similarities
- Fruit and Berry Assemblage gap



Example: Species

- Cottonwood
 - Part of 5 Missouri River Focal Natural Resources Areas
 - Key Ecological Attribute: Native Floodplain Vegetation
 - Indicator: Cottonwood Forest Age Class





Example: Species

- Chokecherry
 - Part of 4 Missouri River Focal Natural Resources Areas
 - Key Ecological Attribute: Native Floodplain Vegetation
 - Indicator: Native Floodplain Vegetation Cover





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Ecological Observations/ Processes

- X- walked Tribal Input with existing list of Key Ecological Attributes & Indicators

Results:

- Identified new Indicators
 - River and Floodplain Habitat Quality Key Ecological Attribute
 - # of Vegetated Islands
 - Soil Quality



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Draft Tribal Natural Resource Document





Thank You!
Questions?

