

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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2 October 2009

Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington D.C. 20310-0180

Dear Secretary Darcy,

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is writing to express its support of modernization of Missouri River management under the 1944 Flood Control Act. We are pleased with the authorization of the Missouri River Study in Section 108 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, and would like to take this opportunity to provide suggestions for the Study to ensure the project takes into consideration the views and concerns of wildlife professionals. We would also like to offer our services as a resource during the planning and implementation of this project.

The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit scientific and educational association of over 8,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers, dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to represent and serve wildlife professionals—the scientists, technicians, and practitioners actively working to study, manage, and conserve native and desired non-native wildlife and their habitats worldwide.

TWS feels that the Flood Control Act of 1944 has not adapted to the contemporary multiuse needs of the Missouri River. The integrity of managing for social, economic, and environmental needs has been compromised because the Act limits managers' ability to adapt to changing river conditions.

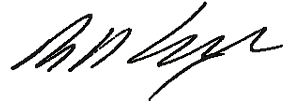
As the Missouri River Project commences, we would like to ensure that the process is comprehensive, inclusive and will identify the needs of the communities and wildlife that inhabit the Missouri River basin. We commend your effort to work with stakeholders through the Listening Sessions and Scoping Meetings set up to facilitate collaboration and we hope these meetings will lead to a sustainable management plan. The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been involved in the process thus far and is committed to working towards an effective management strategy and we support their efforts to work with the Army Corps in every stage of the Study.

TWS supports science-based management and recommends the Study include independent analysis and oversight, as well as incorporate adaptive management processes that ensure a seamless transition between old and new management initiatives. Collaboration with the Department of Interior agencies, such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureaus of Reclamation and Indian Affairs, will help ensure the Study program is unified across state and

regional boundaries, as well as provide important perspectives that would help formulate sustainable decisions. Likewise, input from many stakeholders, including organizations such as TWS, will lead towards a more cohesive and integrated decision making process.

Thank you for supporting the Missouri River Project Study and considering the recommendations of wildlife professionals. Please contact Laura Bies (301 897-9770 ex.308 or laura@wildlife.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Leopold".

Bruce Leopold
President

cc: Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
Sam Hamilton, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Jerry Gidner, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs