

Chief Ranger Retires

George Berndt, Chief of Interpretation at Missouri National Recreational River retired in February after over 38 years with the National Park Service at eight different sites.



George earned a BA in History and Political Science at Wittenberg University and an MS in Russian History at Ohio State University. He began his National Park Service career with training at Grand Canyon National Park. After a short stint in the army, George's first assignment was at the National Capital Parks in Washington, DC. His first appointment as historian was at Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi.

As an historian, George derives great satisfaction from delving into archives to debunk commonly accepted stories. While at Gulf Islands National Seashore, he discovered that "Geronimo's Dungeon" at Fort Pickens was a misnomer; the Apache chief and other American Indians were confined in a somewhat more hospitable portion of the fort grounds. During his tenure at Fort Frederica National Historic Site, his research led him to a map that corrected the presumed layout of the 1700s military town.

Here at Missouri National Recreational

River, George met a new challenge by developing from scratch the park's entire interpretive program. Serving as MNRR's first-ever interpreter and uniformed employee, he actively promoted the Recreational River in a continuous media campaign, wrote the text for the River's first standard NPS brochure, wrote many texts and coordinated the production and installation of some eighty wayside exhibits placed throughout the park, served as an interpretive consultant for a \$1.25 million exhibit package developed by the NPS for the new Missouri National Recreational River Resource and Education Center at Nebraska's Ponca State Park, and coordinated the park's prominent involvement in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration, including coordinating National Park Service participation in the Spirit

Mound restoration project near Vermillion.

George will be relocating to Virginia, traveling more, taking up kayaking, and continuing his involvement with history and national parks. All of us at MNRR wish George a long and active retirement. We'll miss his scholarly banter, his editing, spelling and grammar assistance, and his *Smithsonian* magazines in the lunchroom!



Superintendent Mike Madell presents George with a plaque recognizing his over 40 years of federal service.

Contacting Your National Park

Missouri National Recreational River
PO Box 666
Yankton South Dakota, 57078
402-667-2550
www.nps.gov/mnrr

Lewis & Clark Visitor Center
Nebraska Hwy 121, overlooking
Gavins Point Dam
402-667-2546



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Undercurrents

Your free guide to Missouri National Recreational River
www.nps.gov/mnrr



2009

Welcome to your river!

Welcome to the Missouri National Recreational River, one of 391 units of your National Park System. More than two-thirds of the entire length of the Missouri River has been altered or "re-engineered" by the actions of humans. The two remaining untamed stretches that make up the Missouri National Recreational River are, therefore, very important in preserving chapters of America's natural and cultural heritage of "Big Muddy".



This unique unit of the National Park Service offers natural beauty and an exciting history for your enjoyment and enrichment. You will experience the river's ever-changing nature, the animals and plants that find a home in its realm, and the stories of people and events that have shaped its past. As a recreational river, it is also your river to enjoy in a safe and considerate manner. When the United States Congress designated Missouri National Recreational River as a part of America's Wild and Scenic River System, the National Park Service was charged with the task of maintaining the natural state of the river and keeping it accessible for the enjoyment and enlightenment of present and future generations. I hope that you will join the staff of Missouri National Recreational River in caring for and protecting this remarkable national treasure.

R. Michael Madell
Superintendent

Water Under the Bridge

If you entered or left Yankton from or to the south, you probably caught a glimpse of history. The historic Meridian Bridge, just east of the new Discovery Bridge is unique, not just in its design, but in its history.



The concept of the "Meridian Highway" following the 6th Principal Meridian from , Canada to Mexico City began in 1911 with a group of Kansas businessmen. By the end of WW I, most of the route was established, but not paved. The biggest obstacle on the route was the Missouri river at Yankton; crossing was by ferry, by pontoon bridge, by ice road, or by way of Sioux City, a detour of well over 100 miles.

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NEW Ranger Programs

This year, MNRR rangers are offering exciting new programs that will give you a chance to have fun while learning about the natural and cultural history of the river and its surroundings.

Bicycle Tour—

This 8 mile easy family ride from the Aquarium to the Chief White Crane campground shows



you a few of the area's recreational opportunities and gives you a look at the story of the Missouri River and the reasons for and effects of the six major dams.

History Walk— A ranger-guided walk through Yankton's Riverside Park introduces you to the fascinating history of the Missouri River, Yankton, and some of the interesting characters who influenced the growth of this river town.

Canoeing 101—Introduced last year, this 90-minute program gives you the opportunity to learn the basics of canoe safety and operation. The clinic includes a demonstration of basic paddle strokes, and launching, stroke, and landing practice on Lake Yankton.

Movie night—While visiting MNRR, you can preview national parks in the Black Hills and more of the country through our movie night offerings of short videos from several units of the National Park System.

As in the past, MNRR also will be offering campground programs at our Nebraska and South Dakota state park partner sites. Topics include native plants, American Indian history, homesteading, steamboats, and the Lewis & Clark Expedition. For our younger visitors, we offer fishing clinics and hands-on programs. For a complete

schedule and program descriptions see a ranger or visit www.nps.gov/mnrr.

Don't forget to stop at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center for special exhibits and craft programs every Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.



Junior Rangers



Earn your badge!

Pick up a Junior Ranger activity brochure or activity book at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center and spend an hour or a weekend discovering the fascinating historic and natural world of your Wild & Scenic River. Find out what rangers do and what Junior Rangers can do to protect their national parks.

It's free and it's fun!
For online Junior Ranger adventures, visit
www.nps.gov/webrangers

and may be required at some other sites. Other launch sites may be indicated on maps, but are not recommended for trailered craft.

Overnight floats

Most of the land along the park is privately owned and there are few public camping possibilities.

Primitive camping is normally allowed on islands and sandbars. Please adhere to the "pack-it-in, pack-it-out" (Leave No Trace) ethic. The river bank on both sides of the river, sandbars and islands on the Nebraska side, and deeded islands on the South Dakota side of the river are private property. Only the water belongs to the public. In areas other than designated campsites, permission is required to walk, picnic or camp on private property. Sandbars on the South Dakota side of the river are public property. In several locations along the "rec river," the state border is still undetermined.



Another Wild & Scenic River

Not far away is another surprising unit of the Wild and Scenic River System. Niobrara National Scenic River, near Valentine, Nebraska offers river experiences from mild to wild, spectacular waterfalls, classic iron bridges, and fascinating local history. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/niob.



Take it to the Lake!



In accordance with National Park Service policy, personal watercraft (Jet Ski®, WaveRunner®, etc.) are not permitted on the portions of the Missouri designated as Wild & Scenic. This includes the 59-mile reach from Gavins Point Dam to Ponca State Park, the 39-mile reach from Running Water, SD to Ft. Randall Dam, the lower 20 miles of the Niobrara River and the lower 8 miles of Verdigre Creek. Personal Watercraft are welcomed on all Corps of Engineers lakes on the Missouri and on the Missouri River downstream of Ponca State Park. Ride safely and wear your life vest!

More National Parks

Many more of America's special places are within a day's drive of MNRR. Here are just a few:



Pipestone National Monument, Pipestone, Minnesota. www.nps.gov/pipe

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, Phillip, South Dakota. www.nps.gov/mimi

Homestead National Monument of America, Beatrice, Nebraska. www.nps.gov/home

Badlands National Park, Interior, South Dakota. www.nps.gov/badl

Discover your America

Canoeing & Kayaking

Floating the Missouri can be an adventure, different from whitewater trips, but challenging and exciting in its own way. Before you consider a float trip on “Mighty Mo”, you should be an experienced river canoeist or kayaker. The Lakota name for the Missouri is *MniSoshe Wakpa*, turbulent-underneath river. The Missouri is known for its varied currents that sometimes give little or no surface clues to their presence. Wind can also be a problem at times, impeding your progress or creating dangerous waves.



Launch and take-out sites are indicated on the official MNRR map and brochure, and detailed directions can be found at www.nps.gov/mnrr/guides.htm

Restrooms are available at the state parks and at most launch sites. If nature calls when you are not near one of these areas, please use the **Leave No Trace** practices detailed elsewhere in this booklet.

Power Boating

Whether you are fishing or just cruising, boating the Missouri can be different from what you may have experienced on other rivers. The natural portions of the Missouri still exhibit shifting sandbars, tree stumps (snags), and other hazards. Local river rats' boats are easy to spot by their shiny propellers; if you boat the wild Missouri, you *will*

Float trip guides and outfitters



This list is provided for your convenience and may not be complete. No endorsement by the National Park Service or Missouri National Recreational River is implied.

Missouri River Expeditions, P.O. Box 536, Vermillion, SD 57069. Telephone: 605/360-2646
E-mail: ccmrepaddler@yahoo.com
Internet: www.missriverexp.com

Missouri River Rafting, P.O. Box 133, Irene, SD 57037. Telephone: 605/267-3075

Missouri River Tours, P.O. Box 17A, Wynot, NE 68792. Telephone: 402/985-2216

DJ's Sports Rentals: 31110 Walleye Dr., Yankton, SD 57078. Telephone: 605/665-3206
E-mail: rentals@djssportsrentals.com
Internet: www.DJsSportsRentals.com

hit sand! Constant attention to the water ahead of you is necessary to maintain a safe course. Watch your speed and be on the lookout for submerged obstacles.

Launch ramps are provided by the Corps of Engineers on both sides of the river below Gavins Point Dam, by the City of Yankton at Riverside Park, and by the state of South Dakota at Randall Creek, Running Water, and Clay County Park. Nebraska Game and Parks provides launch ramps at Verdel, Niobrara State Park, St. Helena, Brooky Bottom, Mulberry Bend, and Ponca State Park. State park fees apply at state parks

Camping

The National Park Service does not operate campgrounds in or near Missouri National Recreational River. Camping is available through our partner agencies as follows:



US Army Corps of Engineers operates the Cottonwood Campground on Lake Yankton and Nebraska Tailwaters Campground on the Missouri River. Both campgrounds are in Nebraska and reservations may be made through the national reservation service at 877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

South Dakota State Parks (www.sdgfp.info) operates several campgrounds near MNRR, including Lewis & Clark on Lewis & Clark Lake, Pierson Ranch below Gavins Point Dam, and Chief White Crane on Lake Yankton (605-668-2985). The state also operates the Randall Creek campground on the Missouri below Fort Randall Dam and North Point on Lake Francis Case. (605- 487-7046) South Dakota State Parks reservations 800-710-CAMP. Clay County State Recreation Area is located west of Vermillion with first-come-first-serve campsites within a half mile of the river.

Nebraska State Parks (www.ngpc.state.ne.us) provides campgrounds at Ponca State Park (402-755-2284), the downstream boundary of MNRR, at Niobrara State Park (402-857-3373), and at Weigand/Burbach unit of Lewis & Clark Recreation Area on Lewis & Clark Lake (402-388-4169). Nebraska State Parks reservations 402- 471-1414.

Most campgrounds are full on summer weekends, so make your reservations early. All offer both electric and tent sites except Clay County Recreation Area. Some state park facilities also have camping cabins and housekeeping cabins available. Call the parks or visit their websites for more information.

Who's more likely to drown?

Adults or kids?

According to one of our partners, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, adults are far more likely to drown in a swimming or boating accident than children. Why? Adults will insist that the kids wear life jackets, but will neglect to wear one themselves.

But I can swim!

Many drowning victims were good swimmers. Injuries in a boating accident, strong currents, or distance may make swimming impossible.

Be safe!

State and federal regulations require children under 13 to wear life jackets while in a boat and we recommend that all boaters wear them at all times.



Don't sit on it, wear it!

Alien Invasion Alert!

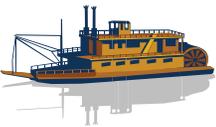
Keep your National Park free of this invasive species! Zebra Mussels, accidentally imported from Europe, have spread from the Great Lakes and Mississippi River to other waterways. They clog water intakes, damage boats and motors, and crowd out native species. They reproduce rapidly and have few natural predators. Zebra mussels can only travel upstream as hitchhikers, they or their larvae attached to boats, motors, or trailers, or in livewells or bilges.



MNRR and the lakes upstream presently appear to be free of these pests. Please prevent their spread by washing your vessel with hot soapy water or allowing at least five days drying time after boating in waters that may be contaminated. Ask a ranger for a brochure to learn what you can do to protect your favorite fishing and boating places.

Did You Know?

The average lifespan of a Missouri River steamboat was 5.7 years.



Twenty percent of these boats sank before their third season. Fire, explosions, and ice jams claimed a few of these ships, but the vast majority were sunk by snags, tree stumps lodged in the river bottom with their jagged ends just above or below the water's surface.

Hit the Trail

The National Park Service's partner agencies offer numerous hiking and bicycling opportunities. South Dakota State Parks have several miles of paved and primitive trails along the north shore of Lewis & Clark Lake. Nebraska State Parks maintains unpaved trails on the south shore of the lake. Appropriate state park admission is required to park at the trailheads.



The city of Yankton has an extensive system of paved trails through the historic city and a connecting trail to the dam area. For more information on these trails, ask a ranger for a "Meridian Trails" brochure. Excellent hiking and/or equestrian trails are also available at Ponca and Niobrara state parks.

Park Offices to Move

The headquarters of MNRR will be moving from O'Neill, Nebraska to downtown Yankton. According to the plan, the MNRR field office, currently located in the Corps of Engineers' Lewis and Clark Visitor Center will also be relocated to a new office space at 508 East Second Street. National Park rangers will continue to help staff the Corps visitor center and present programs there. The move, scheduled for May, will provide adequate space for the park's administrative staff, research library, interpretive and natural resources rangers, and in the future, for protection rangers.



Under the Bridge

(Cont'd from Pg 1)

The solution to this problem, the Meridian Bridge, was not the work of the state or federal highway departments, but of a group of daring Yankton businessmen. In 1919, this group pledged \$155,000 to begin construction, hoping to recoup their investment through bridge tolls and increased business that they hoped the bridge would bring. The bridge company procured additional private investments to cover the final cost of \$1.3 million.

The bridge, dedicated on October 11, 1924, took nearly four years to build and required over 750,000 rivets. The 824-ton lift span, not an unusual design for the era, was

unique in that it was designed to be disassembled and swapped with one of the fixed spans should the unpredictable Missouri relocate its channel. Also unique was the fact that the lower level was intended for railroad traffic, with the upper deck for cars, trucks, and wagons.



Meridian Bridge as originally constructed; note the toll house, counterweights, and iron railings. Photo courtesy of Yankton Press and Dakotan.

Bridge Tolls

Pedestrians	10 cents
Horse & Rider	15 cents
Bicycle & Rider	15 cents
Car and Driver	50 cents
Passengers	10 cents
2 horse wagon & Driver	\$1
Cattle, horses, Mules, hogs & Sheep on foot	20 cents per head

Meridian Bridge tolls 1924

In 1946, the City of Yankton took over ownership and the remaining debt of the bridge company, eventually paying off the debt and turning the bridge over to the state highway department. Tolls were eliminated in 1953 and the lower deck that never carried a train was paved to carry construction traffic for Gavins Point Dam.

Although a historic structure, the Meridian Bridge we see today is not the bridge that was originally built. The late 1900s brought extensive updating, including construction of new approach ramps, new lighting, and the removal of the 400-ton concrete counterweights. The ornate iron railings on the upper level were replaced with concrete barricades. In 2008, during the construction of the Discovery Bridge, emergency repair of rusted structural components forced a two-week closure of the Meridian Bridge.

On October 11, 2008, Yankton's historic Meridian Bridge was retired exactly 84 years after its dedication. The fate of this monument to local entrepreneurship and American engineering is uncertain. The original intention was to make it a part of the Yankton area's trail system, carrying pedestrians and cyclists over America's longest river and adding a touch of history to their recreation. However, due to the rate of corrosion of the bridge's structural components, the cost of preservation and maintenance may be far more than originally anticipated. Further studies of the bridge's structural integrity are scheduled, and local interests hope to have the bridge open for the summer of 2009.

Did You Know?

At 2,320.7 miles the Missouri is America's longest river. It is 2.5 miles longer than the Mississippi River. This does not include the approximately 325 miles from Three Forks to Brower's Spring, considered to be the Missouri's source.

Doing your part

We all benefit from visiting America's wild places and relaxing with outdoor activities, but heavy use of our favorite recreation areas is having a negative impact and detracting from everyone's outdoor experience.

Missouri National Recreational River is *your* park; your place for outdoor recreation. Boaters, floaters, anglers, and hunters; everyone needs to do their part to minimize their impact on the river environment.



Leave No Trace is an outdoor ethics program developed by a partnership of government agencies and private enterprises. The LNT principles are based on scientific information, common sense and courtesy. Whether you are camping or just out for a day, the following seven principles will help keep your river enjoyable for everyone.

The 7 Principles

Plan ahead and prepare—Be aware of conditions and weather you might encounter and pack accordingly. Repackage food to minimize waste. Schedule your trip for low-use days if possible.

Use durable surfaces—Travel and camp on rock, gravel, or sand when not on the river. Use existing campsites and fire scars to minimize impacted area. Camp 200 feet from water, streambeds, and other campers.

Dispose of waste properly—Pack it in, pack it out. Do not attempt to burn waste in your campfire. Solid human waste should be deposited in a “cathole” 200 feet from water or campsites, or use a portable toilet. Toilet paper should not be buried, but bagged and packed out. Dishwater should be strained into a cathole and the solid material bagged and packed out.

Leave what you find—Flowers, trees, artifacts; enjoy looking at them and leave them for others to enjoy. Do not build fire rings or structures, or trench campsites.

Minimize fire impact—Use camp stoves whenever possible. If you must have a campfire, keep it small, use an existing fire site or use a fire pan or mat. Burn all fuel to ash and pack out.

Respect wildlife—Give wildlife their space, do not feed animals or leave food scraps. Even if you are hunting, minimize disturbance of non-game species.

Be considerate of other visitors—This sums up the whole LNT program. Let nature's sounds prevail, allow others their space, and think about what you can do to leave a campsite or recreation spot the way you would like to find it.

Ask a ranger for a LNT brochure or reminder card or visit www.lnt.org.

Did you know?

Yankton's first non-Indian resident was Pierre Dorion, a French trapper and trader who married into the Yankton Tribe around 1785. He joined the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery enroute and left the expedition at Calumet Bluff after serving as liaison and translator between the explorers and the tribe.

Deal of a lifetime!

Have you reached the noble vintage of 62 years? If so, then you qualify for America's best outdoor recreation bargain! The federal recreation Senior Pass covers your admission to national park fee areas, and nearly all other federal recreation areas, including U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service areas.

The pass also entitles you to reduced camping fees at most federal recreation areas and special services (tours, programs, etc.) at some areas. The best news is that this pass is only \$10 and it's good for the rest of your life!



For those lacking the years to qualify for the Senior Pass, the \$80 Annual Pass is still a bargain, covering entry to all recreation areas operated by the above agencies. Both passes are good for the holder and three additional adults and are available at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center.

Hey, Teacher!

Missouri National Recreational River offers in-classroom ranger programs to area schools within a 75 mile radius of Yankton. The programs are intended to enhance students' comprehension of the natural and cultural history of the Missouri River, and were developed to coordinate to state social studies curriculum standards. Topics include the Lewis & Clark Expedition, fur trade, Chief Standing Bear, steamboats, and the dynamics of the Missouri River. For a complete catalog of available programs, Contact the park at 402-667-2550, or visit our website at www.nps.gov/mnrr and click on “For Teachers”.



Bow Creek Recreation Area Open to the Public



The National Park Service (NPS) recently completed a land transaction that resulted in approximately 250 acres of Missouri River bluffland, bottomland, and accretions becoming open to the public. The tract of land, referred to as Bow Creek Recreation Area, is located along Bow Creek and the Missouri River in Cedar County about 2 miles northeast of Wynot, Nebraska. The acquisition of Bow Creek Recreation Area began in 2004 when the NPS purchased the property north of Bow Creek and completed the transaction in 2008 with the acquisition of the southern portion. All lands were acquired from willing sellers.

Bow Creek Recreation Area provides many opportunities for the public to experience the Missouri National Recreational River. The property includes a mix of wetlands, grasslands, riparian cottonwood forest, and mesic-bur oak forest. Rock and sediment exposures along the Missouri River reveal past geologic events. The property has abundant wildlife, ranging from migratory songbirds to resident whitetail deer and wild turkey.

Biologists are working to restore areas of Bow Creek Recreation Area that have succumbed to native and non-native plant species. Of particular interest, the NPS converted 30 acres of farmland into native prairie, cut and treated all Russian olive trees, and has removed several thousand native, eastern red cedar trees from the floodplain and historic bluffland prairie. Planned restorations include converting the smooth brome pastures found in the bottomland

(continued on next page)

into native prairie and utilizing prescribed fire in the management regime. Tentatively, the NPS will burn approximately 15 acres in spring 2009.

Public access to the property is via county gravel road (see map inset) or by boat from the Missouri River. Travel on the county gravel road is not advised during extremely wet conditions or during winter snow/ice conditions. There is no winter road maintenance. Those visitors who wish to visit the property south of Bow Creek must gain access by boat from the Missouri River or wade across Bow Creek, which is not advisable during high water events.

Activities abound once you arrive at Bow Creek Recreation Area. Hiking (albeit no established trails), wildlife viewing, camping, fishing, and hunting are allowed on the property. The following regulations apply:

- Private land surrounds the public access and the entire NPS property. All visitors must respect landowner rights and not trespass or litter
- Trash receptacles are not available on the property. Do not leave trash or litter. The NPS encourages that you "Leave No Trace" so others can enjoy the Bow Creek Recreation Area experience as well. See "Doing Your Part" on page 12.
- Motorized vehicles and horses are prohibited on the property
- Federal and State Hunting and Fishing Regulations apply
- Do not damage or remove the cultural or natural features
- Trenching and campfires are prohibited
- Do not leave personal property unattended for more than 24 hours. This includes waterfowl blinds on the NPS accretion property.

- Portable treestands and steps may be used on the property. Contact Park for additional information.
- Non-toxic hunting shot is required

Visitors are also encouraged to visit Mulberry Bend Overlook on the south side of the Vermillion-Newcastle Bridge, which is owned and managed by the NPS. Please contact the MNRR Resource Management Division at 402 667-5524 for more information.



Hunting is another popular year-round activity along the "rec river" corridor. Most hunting is done on private land, requiring permission of the landowner. Both South Dakota and Nebraska state hunting regulations apply. Duck blind permits for the upper end of Lewis and Clark Lake can be obtained from the US Army Corps of Engineers at the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center or online. Applications are taken from August 1 to September 1.



Weather or not...



The Great Plains climate can be full of surprises, but you can generally expect hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Be prepared for occasional storms with possible tornadoes in the summer and snow with the possibility of ice or blizzard conditions in the winter. You can also expect many seasonably pleasant days at any time of



Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Avg Precip.	*Avg. Water Temperature
January	28	8	.43	
February	35	14	.53	
March	46	24	1.77	
April	60	35	2.51	50
May	72	46	3.87	63
June	82	57	3.91	71
July	87	62	3.36	78
August	85	60	2.93	78
September	77	49	2.17	66
October	64	38	1.85	54
November	45	24	1.25	42
December	32	12	.51	

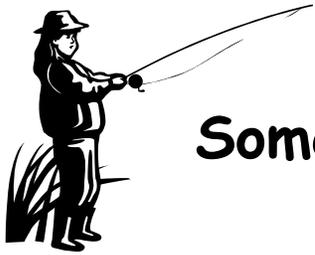
*Missouri River at Yankton. Water temperature recording began in 2006 on a seasonal basis.

Visitor Centers

The Lewis and Clark Visitor Center overlooking Gavins Point Dam is the only visitor center in the country shared by the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service. Rangers from both agencies staff the center, assist visitors and present interpretive programs.



The visitor center at Ponca State Park (NE) houses the Missouri River Resource and Education center, which includes a wing of exhibits jointly developed by several agencies and designed and built by the National Park Service.



Something Fishy!

Missouri National Recreational River includes the two reaches of the Missouri River, 20 miles of the lower Niobrara River, and the lower 8 miles of Verdigre Creek. Catfish, walleye, sauger, paddlefish, and many more game species await your angling skills in these bodies of water.

Licensing: The Missouri River forms a good part of the state boundary between South Dakota and Nebraska. As the river here is considered "border waters," either state license (South Dakota and Nebraska) is acceptable and special seasons and laws apply accordingly. Waters of the Missouri River are defined to include all flowing portions and backwaters, sloughs and chutes that draw water from the Missouri River. Mouths of tributaries may only be fished in the state in which the angler is licensed.

Live bait: To avoid introducing non-native species, use caution when using live bait and follow all state regulations. Please empty all bait buckets in the water they were filled from or on land.

Threatened and Endangered: The Pallid Sturgeon, a fish native to the Missouri River, is listed on the federal Threatened and Endangered Species List. It is difficult to differentiate the pallid sturgeon from the

more common shovelnose sturgeon and the lake sturgeon, and the season is therefore closed year-round on all sturgeon species.

So, where are they biting?

Bait shops and other anglers are your best sources, but they won't always share the best spots. Here are some helpful hints:

The best time is often in the evening and early morning as this is feeding time for most fish. Bass, and walleye and trout feed all night.

Deep holes are good places and are often located under bridges, below dams, on bends in the river, and downstream of sandbars.

Fish can sense noise vibrations such as hitting the bottom of the boat or loud talking.

For walleye/sauger, the best times are May to June and mid-September through November. Just downstream of the Fort Randall and the Gavins Point dams seems to be popular with anglers for this fish species.

For small and largemouth bass, the best times are May, June, September, and October near Springfield (SD) and Niobrara (NE).

For crappie and northern pike, the best times are early April after ice out and in late summer near Springfield and Niobrara.

For catfish, the best times are late June, July and August near Springfield and Niobrara.

Fun Page



All the words below can be found in this newsletter and are hidden in the puzzle. The words may be horizontal or vertical, but none are diagonal or backwards.

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| LEAVE NO TRACE | NATIONAL PARK | CAMPING | ZEBRA MUSSEL |
| STEAMBOAT | TRAIL | RANGERS | BICYCLE |
| CLIMATE | HISTORY | LIFE JACKET | HUNTING |
| STANDING BEAR | KAYAK | CANOE | FISHING |
| RECREATION | BOAT | BOW CREEK | MERIDIAN BRIDGE |

T L S C I B O A T K R R Y D A E Y T T D V O R A I F L Y
 E I N E M E R I D I A N B R I D G E R W A E K Y I N Y I B
 R N C L R D J O G Y R A E C A N O E A G N I E S Z A E E V
 I R D K E G J U I A L N R A H U N T I N G B L T E T R E K
 D U O T C E C M S S K I C B S P J I B L E A O I A B I S T I
 A D R C R L E A V E N O T R A C E A H C W F N R O L R O
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 L T I T O M A H A R O A S T E A M B O A T C E C S P N K E
 S T E N E T I R N R G A C E K A I B K F Y K K B S A G A
 S A D C E E M N S V Y A E B G E U R B I G C O E E E R E T E
 I A B O C E S G T L E I E S L G M C B T L G T A L K R N
 G I P C A M P I N G Y E S E G T E E E G E A Y R I N S G A
 A H S S I S U T B I C I E R R S K N F R I E E R H T T R B O

Enjoy yourself! Remember the fishing is always good;

the catching just makes it better.



Resource Manager Heads West



After over eight years at Missouri National Recreational River, Wayne Werkmeister, Chief of Resources Management, has taken a new appointment with another branch of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Wayne, who graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln came to MNRR from the Bureau of Land Management's Durango, Colorado office as MNRR's first resources chief. When asked about his accomplishments at MNRR, Wayne was quick to share credit with MNRR's partner agencies and with his staff, particularly Stephen Wilson for his GIS capabilities and biological skills, and Paul Hedren, Superintendent from 1997 to 2007 for his vision and leadership. He stated his most important achievement here was to establish or improve relationships with landowners and key agencies involved with the river, including the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the wildlife agencies of South Dakota and Nebraska. He also cited the beginnings of river recovery through three specific projects. The most noticeable of these is the removal of over 300 junk cars from the Yankton area riverbank with leadership from Kevin Kuhl of the City of Yankton, Shane Bertsch of South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, and Steve Grubbe, coordinator for Missouri River Futures. Heavy equipment was provided by the Corps of Engineers. This "Detroit riprap" was placed to stabilize the banks back in a time when society was less concerned with environmental impacts, and now has been replaced with more esthetically and environmentally acceptable materials. Another visible project was the removal of the abandoned concrete pillar at

Ponca State Park. Wayne also instituted the Missouri River Cleanup, brainchild of Gerald Mestl of the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. This annual event brings together several state and federal agencies and hundreds of local residents. Wayne would like to think his impact will be quickly forgotten by river enthusiasts because much of it is no longer visible; but the absence of the many eyesores and obstructions will contribute significantly to the future ecology and function of the system, and enjoyment of visitors.

Wayne sees a bright future for Missouri River recovery. With the establishment of an NPS office in Yankton, landowners and river users have an improved opportunity to work with the NPS on a variety of river issues. The Missouri River Futures, coordinated by Theresa Smydra, is another perfect example of landowner opportunities to work directly with one person, Theresa, and have access and communication with all the Federal and State agencies and their programs from the area.



"There are so many things about to happen, so many groups coming together and working together." Wayne stated. "I encourage everyone to come to the river and enjoy it. Make it your river. I'm sure going to miss it!"

In his new appointment as Associate Field Manager of the BLM's Grand Junction, Colorado office, Wayne will work with a staff of 80 to 90 employees who oversee 1.5 million acres of public lands and directly oversee range, wildlife, watershed, and wild horse issues. And since big rivers are now in Wayne's blood, his new territory includes a long stretch of the Colorado.

All of us at MNRR wish Wayne the greatest success at his new post.

"An Indian is a PERSON."

So said Judge Elmer Dundy in his ruling in the case of *Standing Bear et al v. Crook*.

After the Civil War, African Americans had been freed from slavery and, at least on paper, had the rights of other citizens. The original inhabitants of this land, American Indians, had no such recognition until a precedent-setting 1879 federal court case opened the door to their own civil rights.

Chief Standing Bear, like most of the Ponca Tribe, farmed and lived in a cabin he had built himself. His family home had heating and cooking stoves, dishes, and furniture. He was a Christian and wore both Indian and Euro-American clothing.



In 1877, the Ponca tribe was relocated against their will from Nebraska to "Indian Territory", now Oklahoma. Promised supplies were not delivered and the climate proved inhospitable to the Poncas; by the end of 1878, over a quarter of them, including Standing Bear's son, had died of malaria and other diseases.

Standing Bear and about thirty other men, women, and children fled the reservation in January 1879. When they reached the reservation of their friends and relatives, the Omaha, they were arrested and detained by the army on orders of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. With the help of newspaperman Thomas Tibbles and probable cooperation of Gen. George

Crook, Standing Bear sued for a writ of habeas corpus to order his release or the filing of formal charges.

The government's defense claimed, among other things, that as wards of the government, Indians did not have rights under the constitution. The tribe's attorneys, John Webster and A.J. Poppleton, contended that nothing in the constitution excluded Indians from legal protection.

Standing Bear was allowed to make an informal statement before the court. He held out his hand and through his interpreter made this statement: "That hand is not the color of yours. But if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be the same color as yours. I am a man. The same God made us both."

Ten days later, Judge Dundy handed down his decision that included the words at the top of this page. Though radical, the ruling did not set a precedent; American Indians had many more challenges to meet before being acknowledged as citizens with full voting rights in 1948. Like Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Judge Dundy's decision was just the beginning of a long and continuing road to equality.

For more information on Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe, go to www.nps.gov/mnrr and click on "History & Culture", then "People".

Did you know?

Americans use 50 billion disposable water bottles annually. Less than one quarter of these are recycled; the other 38 billion end up in landfills. Think Green! Use refillable bottles, or reuse disposables, then recycle. These bottles are made into carpet and fleece clothing.

