

\$25M Missouri River Study Begins Comment Phase

BY WAYNE ORTMAN
Associated Press Writer

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — A lengthy review of how the Missouri River system is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be done with a backdrop of politics, special interests — and low confidence in the corps.

The \$25 million, five-year study was authorized by Congress to determine whether changes need to be made in the 1944 law that sets eight purposes for the dams, reservoirs and lower free-flowing river: flood control, navigation, hydropower, irrigation, water supply, recreation, water quality, and fish and wildlife.

The massive study begins as a recent report by a Colorado consulting group says eight of 10 people it questioned through interviews and focus groups said changes are needed in how the corps manages the basin system, which stretches some 2,300 miles from Montana to St. Louis.

More than a third of those interviewed said "major" changes were needed in how the corps manages the river.

"Realistically, there's not enough water to do everything for everybody, and there's always that dilemma," said David Pope, executive director of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST), which requested the study two years ago.

"I think what's pretty apparent to a lot of people is that there's been tremendous change — socially, economically, environmentally — (in) the way in which water is used. All of those things have changed a lot since 1944," Pope said.

Management of the river system has often been a contentious issue between upper basin and lower basin states and has resulted in lawsuits. Upper basin states generally want rising or stable water levels for fish reproduction and summer recreation. Lower basin states desire flood control and a steady flow for barges and municipal or commercial water uses.

Next up for the corps is gathering comment at 41 meetings through August in the basin states of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas and in Denver, New Orleans, Memphis,

Tenn., and Rock Island, Ill.

Eleven meetings invite participation by American Indian tribes, some of whom lost land and were relocated when reservoirs were built in the upper basin.

The meetings begin at three South Dakota locations Tuesday through Thursday.

"This is the point where we're really going to hone in specifically on what we are going to study and how much we're going to study," Monique Farmer, spokeswoman for the corps' district office in Omaha, Neb., said of the summer meetings. "We like to say the size and the shape of what the study is going to be."

The Osprey Group is the Colorado consultant hired by the federal government to assess how the corps can develop a project management plan that includes the diverse interests in the basin.

Difficulties it cited include a highly politicized environment, the possibility that various interests could derail the process at any time, and low public confidence in the Corps of Engineers.

"The corps is characterized with words such as secretive, inflexible and

unresponsive," The Osprey Group report said. "This reputation results in a good deal of public skepticism."

Farmer discounted that conclusion. "I think the majority of people would probably tell you that the Corps of Engineers is a great engineering force and that we're highly disciplined," she said, "and that we're doing the most we can particularly with this study to ensure that people know public involvement is a key piece of it for our success and for the success of the study overall."

The Osprey Group said divisions within the basin, deep-seated conflict, advocacy positions and the complexity of the issues will make it difficult to arrive at consensus during the study phase, set to begin later this year and run into 2014.

It suggested that the corps use an executive council of about 15 members made up of its senior leadership, a representative from each basin state and a representative from other federal agencies. The group would exchange information and perspectives but make no

decisions and take no votes. The final decision-making authority would rest with the corps.

"We're still deciding how to move forward with some of those recommendations, how we're going to handle them," Farmer said.

Ideally, the study will provide information, objective analysis and common ground that can benefit the entire basin without someone losing and someone winning, said Pope, whose MoRAST group is comprised of state and tribal representatives from Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas.

"But there's a lot of things that have not been dealt with in the basin that this could be the impetus for, such as water supply needs in rural areas and on Indian reservations," he said.

Changing the 1944 Flood Control Act to redefine priorities would require approval by Congress.

"The political environment is perhaps the most influential factor affecting the Authorized Purposes Study," the Osprey report said.

Storm Hits Plains, Leaves Child Dead

ABERDEEN (AP) — Severe storms that rolled through the Great Plains left a child dead and trapped at least two people in submerged vehicles.

Authorities spent Sunday surveying what they suspected was damage from several tornadoes in north-central South Dakota.

Large hail, heavy rain and strong winds also were reported Saturday in other parts of South Dakota, as well as in North Dakota and Nebraska. A 7-year-old boy in Omaha, Neb., died Saturday evening when he was struck by a tree branch brought down by blustery weather.

In Minot, N.D., firefighters rescued two women trapped in separate vehicles submerged by flooding rains Saturday afternoon. Some area residents reported 3.5 inches of rain in 20 minutes.

Storm spotters in South Dakota reported tornadoes near Bowdle, Hosmer, Ipswich and Wetonka, according to the National Weather Service in Aberdeen. The suspected twisters brought down power lines and trees and destroyed farm buildings, but no injuries were reported.

The weather service on Sunday had not yet confirmed the tornadoes touched down.

Edmunds County emergency manager Leland Treichel said at least four farms in the Bowdle area were damaged and nine transmission lines were down.

Ipswich-based FEM Electric, which serves several towns in the area, lost miles of power lines. A recorded message from the utility said crews were still making repairs late Sunday afternoon, and there was no estimate for when service would be restored.

Wind gusts between 45 and 50 mph were recorded in Holdrege, Grand Island and Kearney in central Nebraska. Quarter- and half-dollar-sized hail came down further north, near the South Dakota border.

In Steele County in east-central North Dakota, officials closed a section of State Highway 32 for several hours early Sunday as heavy rain flooded the roadway with 3 feet of water.

July 4 Events Planned For Mount Rushmore

KEYSTONE (AP) — There'll be no fireworks this year, but the 2010 Independence Day celebration at Mount Rushmore National Memorial July 3-4 will feature a full schedule of educational programs, patriotic tributes and musical entertainment.

On the bill are children's entertainer Phil Baker, presidential re-enactors, performances by hoop dancer Jasmine Pickner and flute player Sequoia Crosswhite, cultural demonstrations by the Germans from Russia and other local cultural organizations and a performance by the Black Hills Symphony.

July 4 events include National Park Service ranger programs and the traditional evening program with lighting ceremony.

The 2010 fireworks show has been canceled because of fears that the fireworks could spark a wildfire.

Jill Cataldo saves hundreds on groceries by making the most of the common coupon. You can, too. Here's how.



A Crash Course in Super-Couponing

By Jill Cataldo
CTW Features



Q: "I read your column every week and I just can't wrap my mind around what you are saying. I cannot envision how you save so much with coupons. Is there some way that would show me, step-by-step?"

A: Wanting to teach others how to Super-Coupon is what led me to launch my workshop series and to write the column you're reading right now! I love teaching other people to cut their grocery bills significantly with coupons.

Coupon shopping has changed so much since the "old days," when coupon shoppers would cut out every coupon they received in the paper then tote them around in giant binders, boxes and plastic bags and stand in store aisles madly sorting, trying to match coupons to products. With the "clipless" system I teach, we only cut exactly the coupons we need, and we know precisely what we're going to buy before we get near the store.

There are three essential tools any coupon shopper should have in his or her arsenal: an accordion file, a computer and a printer.

An accordion file. Essential to keeping your coupons organized. Super-Couponers keep the entire coupon insert intact each week, storing them in an expandable file. When your coupon inserts arrive in the newspaper, write the date on the front. (They are dated in tiny print along the spine, but it's difficult to read, so write it large.) Then, put the inserts in one pocket of the accordion file, with the most recent month in the front pocket, the previous month's behind it, and so on.

A computer. To effectively save big on groceries, you need a computer with internet access. There are many web tools for coupon shoppers that make it a snap to match insert coupons to local supermarket sales. Grocery list "matchup" sites will give you a list of everything on sale at your store of choice, matched to the coupons you need to take those products home at the prices shown. These sites do the hard work of matching coupons to the best sale prices - an essential step to maximize savings. You can quickly and easily choose the products you want to buy during this week's trip.

Here's an example entry from a popular grocery list matchup site:

Campbell's Soup:

On sale for \$1 a can.

Use the 75-cent coupon from 2/3 SS

Pay 25 cents = 75 percent off.

The "2/3 SS" is an abbreviation that indicates the date the coupon insert appeared in the newspaper (February 3rd) and the name of the insert it appeared in (SmartSource.)

If I want to purchase this item, I simply pull that insert from my file, cut that single coupon, then move down the list to the next item I'm interested in. The lists show pre- and post-coupon prices of products, making it easy to spot the best deals.

A printer. The matchup sites actually create a printer-ready grocery list of the items you choose. And, a printer is essential for printing (what else?) coupons! Many popular matchup sites link directly to printable coupons for sale items, too. It's a simple matter to print a corresponding coupon and add it to the coupon pile. Print out the next list, grab your small pile of coupons and you're ready to go.

I have a list of popular grocery list matchup sites on my web site, www.supercouponing.com. Click the "Getting Started" link on the home page to learn more.

It's not easy to cover all of the specifics of Super-Couponing in one column. It's definitely easier for me to teach the concepts in a workshop, where I can show actual examples of matching coupons to sales. I offer my coupon workshop on DVD via my website, too, if this interests you.

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Jill Cataldo, a coupon workshop instructor, writer and mother of three, never passes up a good deal. Learn more about couponing at her website, www.supercouponing.com. E-mail your couponing victories and questions to jill@ctwfeatures.com.

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