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# Natural Benefits

## MNRR Report Highlights Park's Impact On Economy And Region

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**T**he river that has brought Yankton and the many other communities along its life continues to bring in tourist dollars as well.

Recently, the National Park Service reported that the Missouri National Recreation River (MNRR) led to \$5,564,500 being spent in communities near the park in 2014, supporting 88 jobs for a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$6,435,000. The Park Service reported 134,762 visitors to the river park that stretches from Pickstown to Springfield and Gavin's Point Dam to just north of Sioux City, Iowa.

MNRR superintendent Rick Clark told the *Press & Dakotan* the park is helpful to "gateway communities" that provide access to it.

"It's an indication in many respects that the gateway communities — which are within 60 miles of the park, which in our case is a 100-mile linear park — receive benefits through lodging, through restaurants, gas receipts, souvenirs, etc.," Clark said. "It can really help provide and give recognition to those communities, considering they have a National Park Service area in close proximity to where they're located."

Clark said the numbers were somewhat lower than the previous year's, but that this wasn't a cause for concern — even anticipating an uptick in visitors in the near future.

"(The 2014) numbers were down a little bit, but it's not atypical for these numbers to sometimes bounce around based on fuel cost and other drivers that may be occurring in the country at any given time," he said. "We do expect, going into 2016 — which correlates with the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service — for those numbers to probably go up."

While he said the numbers tend to change from year to year, the support for communities remains.

"Over any given period, it fluctuates to some extent, but the common denominator is they continue to show sustained support for the economy in those respective com-

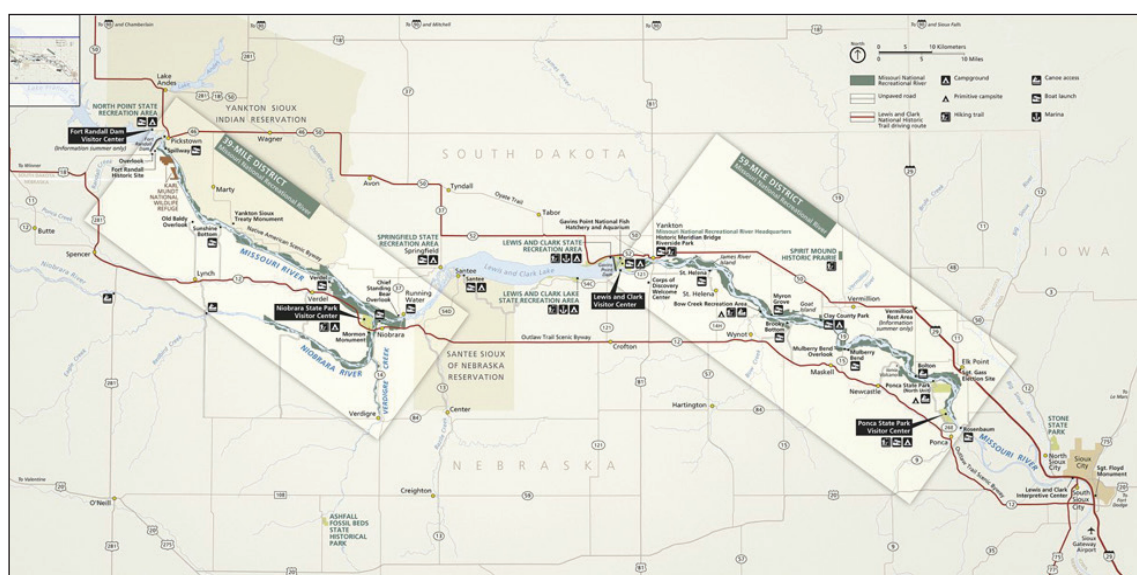


IMAGE: MISSOURI NATURAL RECREATION RIVER

munities that are located in close proximity to our parks," he said.

As for 2015, Clark said he believed major events coming to the Yankton area — including the World Youth Archery Tournament, various kayak races, Riverboat Days and an expanding Ribfest — benefit from the river.

"I think it's a credit to the community to showcase the river

as being part of the community makeup and showing that there are opportunities along the river for those different groups — whether it be canoeing, kayaking, motor boating, fishing or any other wide variety of recreation opportunities — that the Missouri National Recreation River has to offer," he said. "I think it, in many ways, can complement and augment a lot of

those activities that the community is planning."

Dugan Smith, MNRR Chief of Interpretation, Education & Outreach, said the park also provides an impact that goes well beyond economics.

"You don't walk inside of a gate — it's more of an idea that we all share in trying to protect a stretch of the river," he said. "This is a

KELLY HERTZ/P&amp;D

Dugan Smith, chief of Interpretation, Education & Outreach at the Missouri National Recreation River (MNRR), stands next to a water trail sign located at the west end of Yankton's Riverside Park. The MNRR is a national park — divided in two segments, as shown in the map at left — that has a considerable economic impact in the region.

stretch of the Missouri River that is a small piece left like it was 100 years ago."

Clark said the Park Service aims to market the natural state of the MNRR to attract more visitors as time goes on.

"A lot of it is just giving the recognition and better establishing a connectivity to the river that it is one of the last free-flowing remnant sections of river that's still relatively undeveloped and in the state of prehistoric times," he said. "It's what would've been experienced when the Lewis & Clark expedition came up (in 1804), or pre-history."

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## USD Celebrates Howe's 100th Birthday With His Works On Tour

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota is marking the 100th birthday of Native American Artist Oscar Howe (May 13) with eight of his works on tour around the United States.

This fall the university plans a special exhibition of Howe's works featuring more than 40 of the 100 paintings maintained at USD, which houses the largest collection of Howe's work in the world.

"It is thrilling to see one of USD's Oscar Howe paintings at the Metropolitan Museum," said USD President James Abbott. "He was an outstanding artist who made enormous contributions to the evolution of Native American art."

"USD is proud to share Oscar Howe's brilliance with the world, and we are honored to make his art more accessible to the public, both in South Dakota and world-wide," Abbott said.

Howe's 1962 work, "Calling On

Wakan Tanka," is currently on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, part of an exhibition called "The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky." Earlier the same painting was shown in Paris and Kansas City.

Two other Howe paintings, "Ghost Dancer" from 1963 and "Eagle Dance" from 1960, are on display in the Denver Art Museum through next February.

Five more pieces will be shown at The Journey Museum in Rapid City from May 30-Sept. 7 this year, honoring the 100th anniversary of his birth. They include "War Dancer," "Breaking a Wild Horse," "Buffalo Hunter," "Council," and "War and Peace Dancer."

Howe was born May 13, 1915, at Joe Creek on the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota, and showed artistic talent at a young age. After serving in World War II Howe earned a bachelor's degree

at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell and a master's of fine art at the University of Oklahoma in 1954.

He became a professor of art at USD in 1957, and was named professor emeritus in 1980. He died in 1983 at the age of 68. Howe's award-winning paintings and murals earned him the title of Artist Laureate of South Dakota. He was credited with influencing the development of contemporary art in the Indian community.

The College of Fine Arts at the University of South Dakota promotes research and educational projects in Native American art and sponsors the USD Summer Art Institute, the Oscar Howe Archive Project, The Oscar Howe Memorial Lecture and the Robert Penn Northern Plains Contemporary Indian Art Collection.

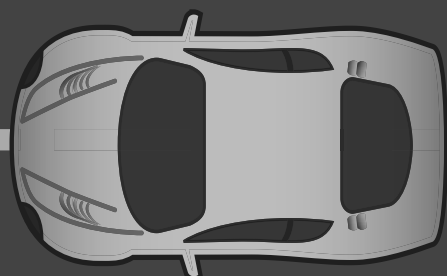
Howe's work is on display year-around at the Oscar Howe Gallery



Oscar Howe

in Old Main on the USD campus. The gallery is open 1-5 p.m. daily or by appointment. The larger Howe exhibition will be Sept. 15-Oct 16

in the John A. Day Gallery at the Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts at USD.



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