Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

- Grassroots Collaboration
- Education
- Incentives

→ Voluntary Action

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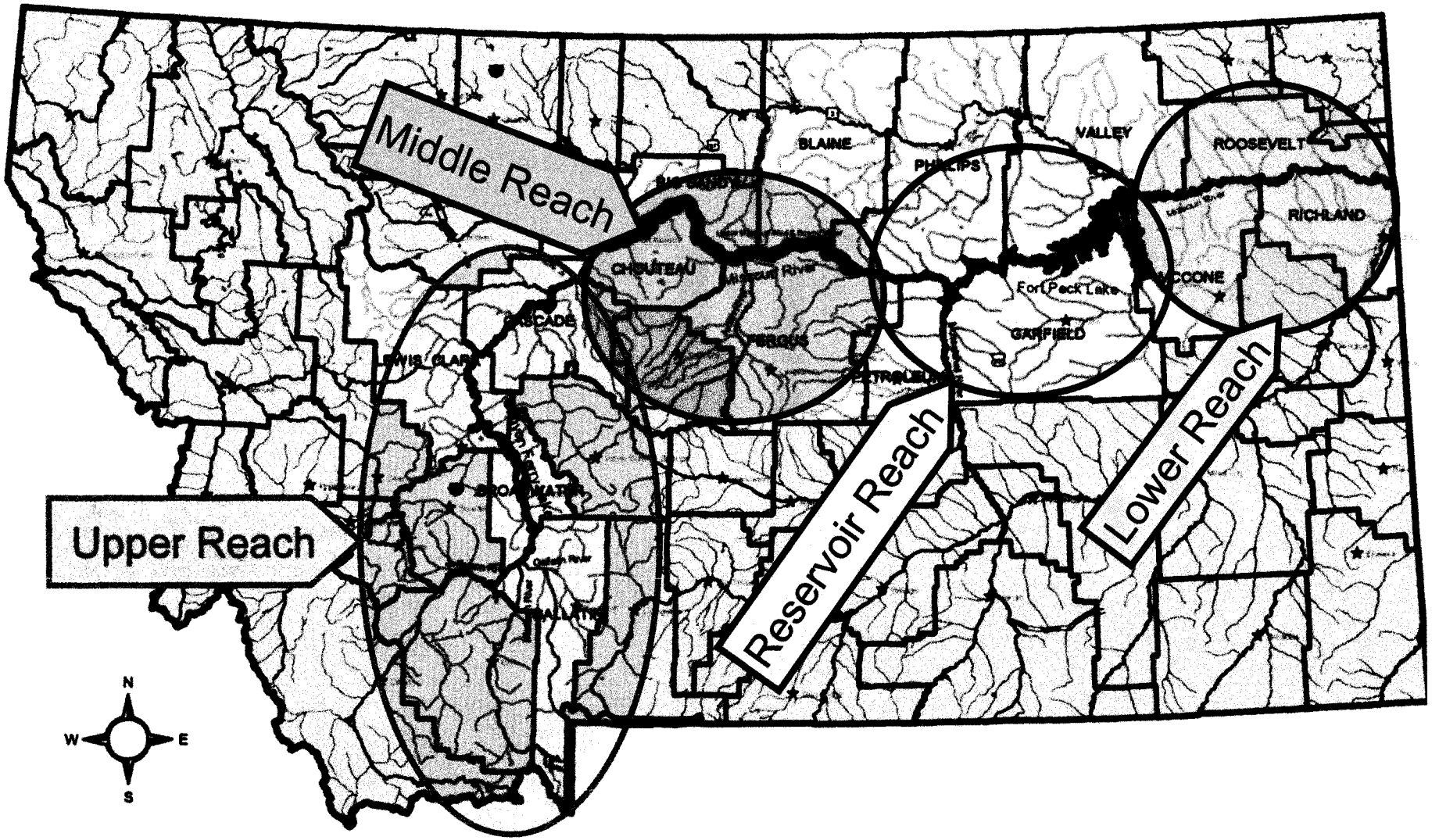
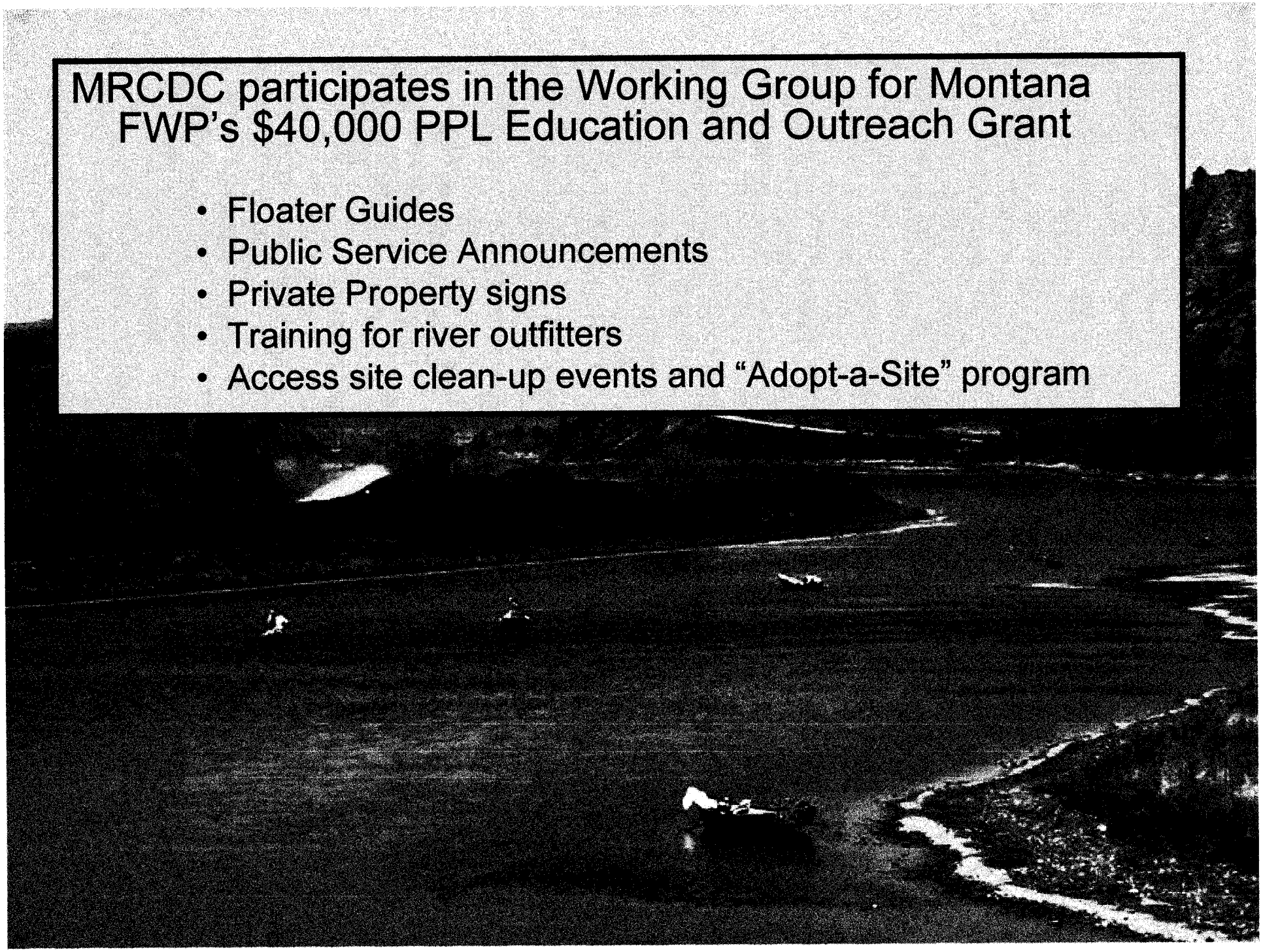
SUSTAINABILITY

EXHIBIT 11
DATE 1/31/07



Missouri River Conservation Districts



MRCDC participates in the Working Group for Montana FWP's $40,000 PPL Education and Outreach Grant

- Floater Guides
- Public Service Announcements
- Private Property signs
- Training for river outfitters
- Access site clean-up events and "Adopt-a-Site" program

GOAL #1: Encourage and promote sound conservation practices, such as "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) for multiple use of the river and adjoining lands.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Corridor – Provide recommendations concerning conservation and natural resource issues relative to Federal and State Land Management	Coordinator meet with agencies, invite to meetings	**On-going**		Coordinator	RD Grant	Offers extended to all, solid relationship with two.
	Council reviews and comments on management documents including RMPs, AOPs, etc.	**On-going**		Council	RD Grant	Comments submitted
	Council will host informational public meetings with USFWS regarding management of the CMR National Wildlife Refuge.	X		Coordinator/ Reach members	RD Grant	Meetings attended by public, state, and federal agencies.
	Council seeks membership on federal Resource Advisory Councils, as appropriate; continue requesting membership in MRRIC and the Central Montana BLM RAC.	X		Coordinator	RD Grant	Membership on Central BLM RAC and MRRIC.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Corridor – Aid local weed control efforts with educational pursuits.	Work with local weed districts and the Statewide Noxious Wee Awareness and Education Campaign to assemble packets of information for distribution.	X		Don, Coordinator, Members	RD Grant	Packets completed.
	Provide existing information packets to floaters, outfitters, guides.		X	Local CDs, Council Members	RD Grant	75% of CDs participate
	Provide existing information at kiosks, gas stations, convenience stores, other local sites.		X	Local CDs, Council Members, Coordinator	RD Grant	75% of CDs participate
	Review hunting/fishing regulations and Block Management Access Guides, work with FWP to include noxious weed information as appropriate.		X	Council Members	RD Grant	Brochures added to maps
Corridor – Market the data gap analysis	Identify groups studying and collecting data along the Missouri River.	X		Council Members, CDs	RD Grant	Contact with at least 1 group in each reach.
	Work with appropriate agencies and other entities to create a centralized site for data posting.		X	Coordinator	RD Grant	Information available on a centralized website.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Lower – Convene Lower Reach Workgroup on USACE Annual Operating Plan	Invite stakeholders, provide draft AOP with explanations and other needed information for review prior to meeting.	X		Coordinator	RD Grant	Stakeholders (Tribal, Federal, State, County, local, private) personally invited.
	Convene meeting to review, discuss, and gather comments.	X		Lower, Reservoir Members	RD Grant	80% of invited groups participate.
	Forward comments to USACE and other agencies as appropriate.	X		Coordinator	RD Grant	Comment presented at public meeting and in writing.
Upper / Middle – Develop and maintain working partnership with PPL Montana	Participate in the PPL Montana TAC.	X		Coordinator	RD Grant	Gain a seat/voice on the TAC
	Promote CREP by arranging meetings with interested landowners, PPL, FSA, and NRCS.	X		Coordinator and Council	RD Grant	Increased enrollment in CREP.
	Advocate changes that make the CREP more effective in Montana by gathering input; hosting tours and meetings; publicizing creative effective uses of CREP.	X		Council, Coordinator	RD Grant	Two projects promoted on the Missouri River, four landowner contacts and meetings.

GOAL #2: Facilitate conservation districts' voice in partnerships that affect the river corridor.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs) Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Provide corridor conservation districts with updates on the Monument, related management decisions and activities within the corridor.	Forward public hearing and comment period dates to Conservation Districts as needed. Forward information on "hot button" items to Conservation Districts.	On-going On-going	Coordinator Council, Coordinator	RD Grant RD Grant	Corridor conservation districts are given ample opportunity to participate in State and Federal management decisions within their stretch of the corridor.
Provide corridor conservation districts with appropriate information so they may take informed, proactive positions on issues that impact the resources.	Council will determine which issues to focus on. Provide information to CDs via electronic means, newsletters, telephone and personal conversations. Focus issues for FY07 are land use planning, riparian area BMPs, and DNRC groundwater / surface water and small well exemption committee.	Each quarterly meeting On-going	Council Coordinator	NA NA	Issues identified in each reach, information researched and forwarded to CDs. CDs provided information on a regular basis (at least quarterly) regarding issues in their area.

GOAL #3: Enhance community involvement in river stewardship.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Identify and address education needs in each river reach area.	Upper: Provide education workshops on Land Use Planning at the county level.	X		Coordinator, CDs	RD Grant	Workshops in 3 counties, attended by CDs, Commissioners, and Planners.
	Middle: Bring landowners and BLM management together to share information and concerns regarding management of the Monument.	X		Coordinator, Middle Reach	RD Grant	Two gatherings involving local landowners and BLM Managers.
	Reservoir: Host a weed management event during hunting season.	X		Coordinator, Reservoir Reach	USFWS Invasive Species Grant	Event attended by out-of-area hunters, publicity at local and regional levels
	Lower: Bring stakeholders together to review management of Fort Peck Dam.	X		Coordinator, Lower/Res Reach	RD Grant	Two meetings held, progress made on AOP comment items.
Promote the Rolling River program using items on the trailer that are specific to each river reach.	Distribute promotional items that can be used on the trailer.	X		Coordinator, CDs	RD Grant, DEQ 319 Grant	Materials distributed to Rolling Rivers stationed throughout the state.
Sponsor a "River Festival" program that can be customized to each district and/or reach.	Investigate existing festivals to determine best way to proceed – determine whether to augment existing programs or begin a new one.		X	Coordinator	RD Grant	Plan drafted for future involvement with or creation of River Festivals.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Sponsor the development of educational materials for schools, etc.	Complete design and set up a static display in each river reach area.	X		Coordinator, Council	DNRC OTO	Displays set up in two locations in each reach.
	Design and create an interactive display focusing on impacts to the Missouri River.	X		Coordinator, special committee	DNRC OTO	Software created, display customized to match.
	Work with DEQ 319 funding to design, produce and distribute Water Quality Improvement brochures.	X		Coordinator, CDs, Council	DNRC OTO	Brochures distributed throughout the corridor.
	Promote community or school designated riparian areas in each river reach area.		X	Coordinator, Council	?	
	Work with MT Watercourse to host an "Educator Workshop" focused on the Missouri River.		X	Coordinator, Montana Watercourse	319?	
Use Council newsletter to transmit information widest audience possible.	Continue publication of quarterly newsletter.	X		Coordinator, Council	DNRC OTO	4 newsletters per year.
	Expand mailing list to at least 200 recipients.	X		Coordinator	DNRC OTO	Mailing list exceeds 200.
	Upgrade website to appeal to attract more interested parties.	X		Coordinator, Contractor	DNRC OTO	Hit recorder added, increasing use each quarter.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Identify other outreach/educational opportunities on land use issues.	Host a combined land use planning workshops for Gallatin and Broadwater Counties.	X		Coordinator, Upper Reach	RD Grant	Commissioners, planners, CDs attend meeting.
	Host a land use planning workshop for Lewis & Clark County.	X		Coordinator, Upper Reach	RD Grant	Commissioners, planners, CDs attend meeting.
Develop "floater guides" or "user guides" for the Missouri River.	Work with Trout Unlimited and PPL Montana to draft plans for floater guides.		X	Coordinator	PPL Rec. Grant?	Floater guides published, distributed, mechanism for ordering via internet in place.

GOAL #4: Maintain and improve water quality.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Work with DEQ/EPA to provide information to Districts regarding TMDL deadlines.	Meet with DEQ and EPA to draft plans for TMDL Planning and funding along the Missouri River.	X		Coordinator	RD Grant	Meeting occurs and plan drafted, regular communication occurs.
Identify and address water quality needs in each river reach area.	Work with the Cascade county CD to Federal, State, and local resource together to stop sediment loading of the Missouri River from Whitmore Ravine.		X	Coordinator, Cascade Co. CD Member	?	DOD joins Task Force, funding obtained to begin implementation of solution.
Plan and implement a monitoring program.	Work with the Marias River to complete an assessment of the lower Marias River as it enters the Missouri River.	X		Council, Marias River Watershed Group	DNRC OTO	Assessment complete and published.

GOAL #5: Maintain and improve water quantity at critical times.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Identify and address water quality needs in each river reach area.	Upper: Investigate and support appropriate groundwater surface water interaction and related legislature.	X		Council		
	Middle: Investigate off-stream watering projects.	X		Council		
	Reservoir: Advocate lower releases from Fort Peck Dam to raise the pool level.	X		Council		
	Lowe: Continue supporting projects that allow continued multiple use of the river in spite of fluctuating water levels.	X		Council		
Participate in the NRCS STAC, advocating common sense conservation practices that benefit multiple uses of the river corridor.	Attend NRCS STAC meetings, provide written input	X		Council, Coordinator	RD Grant	Input provided on a regular basis.

GOAL #6: Support bird, fish, and wildlife habitat and wildlife programs compatible with agriculture and multiple use.

Project Description	Tasks to Accomplish	Timetable Short (1-2 yrs)	Timetable Long (3-5 yrs)	Leadership	Funding	Measures of Success
Investigate programs such as Future Fisheries and Partners for Wildlife and transmit information to Districts.						
Identify ways that Districts can stay abreast of habitat issues as they impact agriculture use.						
Identify and design habitat improvement projects in each river reach area.	Upper: Promote expanded use of the CREP to create habitat areas.	X		Council, Coordinator	RD Grant	CREP enrollment increases.
	Middle: Promote expanded use of the CREP to create habitat areas.	X		Council, Coordinator	RD Grant	CREP enrollment increases.
	Reservoir: Investigate projects to create fish habitat in spite of low pool levels.		X	Council, Coordinator	RD Grant	Project identified, plan to implement is drafted.
	Lower: Investigate the feasibility and use of a CREP to address endangered and threatened species habitat.	X		Council, Coordinator	RD Grant	CREP brainstorming session held, next steps drafted.