Missouri River 2011 Flood
Wild & Scenic River
Regulatory Information

The Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) 59-mile and 39-mile reaches were designated in 1978 and 1991 under the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA). The 39-mile segment extends from Fort Randall Dam to Running Water, SD along with the lowest 20 miles of the Niobrara River and ten miles of Verdigre Creek. The 59-mile segment of the MNRR starts at Gavins Point Dam and ends near Ponca State Park, Nebraska. Detailed maps are available upon request.

The WSRA declared it is "…the policy of the United States that certain rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." (16 USC 1271)

Federal agencies must seek a WSRA review prior to taking action or committing funding within WSRA- designated reaches of a river. The MNRR must evaluate all federal actions in order to protect the values identified under the WSRA, for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Many of these activities are water resource projects under the regulatory authority of the US Army Corps of Engineers through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. WSRA review is required for both public and private water resource projects that fall within the jurisdiction of the USACE regulatory authority.

Typical projects that constitute a federal action:

1. Issuance of permits for:
   - bank stabilization
   - irrigation intakes
   - in-stream disposal of flood deposited sand/silt material
   - repair and reconstruction of roads, bridge embankments, and utility structures (temporary and permanent)
   - construction of temporary roads and 'fill borrow' areas
2. Any other activity that is federally funded in whole or in part.

If you have questions, please contact the Missouri National Recreational River at (605) 665-0209.