

River

Crossings

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Interjurisdictional Rivers Bill Update

H.R. 4169, cited as the "Cooperative Interjurisdictional Rivers Fisheries Resources Act of 1992." is sponsored by Congressman Steve Gunderson (R/WI).

Since the last issue of "River Crossings", Colin Peterson (D/MN), Richard H. Baker (R/LA), Tim Johnson (D/SD), and Floyd Spence (R/SC) joined Wayne Owens (D/UT), Joe Kolter (D/PA), William J. Jefferson (D/LA), Chester G. Atkins (D/MA), William H. Natcher (D/KY), Jerry F. Costello (D/IL), Jerry Huckaby (D/LA), Arthur Ravenel, Jr. (R/SC), W.J. (Billy) Tauzin (D/LA), Doug Bereuter (R/NE), Carroll Hubbard, Jr. (D/KY), and Jim McCrery (R/LA) in signing on as co-sponsors. More co-sponsors are needed to advance the bill through the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

On May 20th Congressman Billy Tauzin (D/LA) assumed a leadership role in pursuit of this important legislation by writing to Gerry Studds, Chairman of the Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment

Subcommittee of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee asking that the Subcommittee schedule a hearing on H.R. 4169. This is considered an important action because Tauzin is a ranking majority member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and his support will elevate the bill's priority.

Potential co-sponsors can be directed to contact Brad Cameron, Washington, D.C. (202) 225-5506.

Election of MICRA Officers

A mail ballot was circulated to all Steering Committee members in early June. Results of that election follow:

Vice Chairman: Jim Fry (MO)
Treasurer: Marion Conover (IA)

Policy Sub-Committee:
Missouri River Member: Larry Peterman (MT)
Lower Mississippi River Member: Wayne Pollock (TN)
Entity Member: Gary Edwards (FWS)

Jim Fry will fill a one year term as Vice Chairman, and then replace Wes Sheets as MICRA Chairman on July 1, 1993.

At that time another Vice Chairman will be elected.

Marion Conover will fill the position of MICRA Treasurer for an unspecified term. Marion has established an account for MICRA at a Des Moines, IA financial institution. All dues, donations, etc. can be directed either through the MICRA office or directly to Marion.

Policy Sub-Committee members will fill their positions for a period of two years. When Vice Chairman Fry assumes the Chairmanship he will also replace Wes Sheets as Policy Sub-Committee "Member at Large". The Upper Mississippi and Ohio River members will come up for re-election in 1993.

MICRA Priorities

The MICRA Activity Prioritization Report was printed in final form in early June. The report documents the prioritization process, responses of all Steering Committee members, and a prioritized listing of all MICRA goals, objectives, and tasks.

A limited number of copies are

available for free distribution through the MICRA office, 608 East Cherry, Columbia, MO 65203, (314) 876-1911.

MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee Being Formed

MICRA's first standing technical committee is being formed to address basinwide concerns related to paddlefish and sturgeon. Candidates for the MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee are currently being identified by Steering Committee members.



MICRA has been identified in a draft Fish and Wildlife Service document entitled, "Guidelines for the Management and Conservation of Paddlefish and Sturgeon Species in the United States", as the logical mid-continent coordination point for all paddlefish activities, and for sturgeon activities effecting those species which occur within the basin (i.e. lake sturgeon, shovelnose sturgeon, and pallid sturgeon). The "Guidelines" document is being developed for the Fish and Wildlife Service by an interagency Committee.



The MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee will hold their first meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Rapid City, South Dakota in September. The Committee's first order of business will be to develop its own Mission Statement and operational procedures. The MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee will not answer to any one State or Agency, but to the MICRA Steering Committee.

Membership of the Paddlefish/

Sturgeon Committee currently includes the following persons: Steve Filipek (AR), Kim Graham (MO), Larry Hesse (NE), Veronica Pitman (TX), Bobby Reed (LA), Phil Stewart (MT), and Cliff Stone (SD).

Further information on membership to the Committee can be obtained from the MICRA Office, 608 East Cherry, Columbia, MO 65201, or by contacting your appropriate State or Entity Steering Committee member.

Plans to Stock Pallid Sturgeon

Jerry Hamilton and Kim Graham, Missouri Department of Conservation, were so successful in their pilot spawning efforts of pallid sturgeon that they are now facing the problem of what to do with the results.

During 1991 and early spring 1992 they obtained 10 mature pallid sturgeon; two from the Missouri River in Nebraska and eight from the Mississippi River below St. Louis. In spring 1992, two mature females from the Mississippi River were injected to induce spawning, eggs were collected by hand stripping and fertilized with milt from four males (two from the Missouri River in Nebraska and two from the lower Mississippi River) to maximize genetic diversity.

Their spawning success far exceeded expectations and they now have 22,000 sturgeon fingerlings (5+ inches total length) being fed artificial foods at the Blind Pony Hatchery near Sweet Springs, MO. Feeding costs will exceed \$50,000 by early fall, and far more if the fish are held until next Spring. Based on current growth rates the fingerlings should be about 10-12

River Crossings

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608 East Cherry
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MICRA Policy Committee

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River Crossings is a mechanism for communication, information transfer, and coordination between agencies, groups and persons responsible for and/or interested in preserving and protecting the aquatic resources of the Mississippi River Drainage Basin through improved communication and management. Information provided by the newsletter, or opinions expressed in it by contributing authors are provided in the spirit of "open communication", and do not necessarily reflect the position of MICRA or any of its member States or Entities. Any comments related to "River Crossings" should be directed to the MICRA Chairman.

inches long by fall 1992. Space in the hatchery raceways and available water may also become problems as the fish grow.

The problem of excess fish arose because the Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Team set a goal to produce fry to use for future broodstock, genetics evaluation, feeding trials, a development series, temperature trials, educational purposes, and for chemical bioassays. The Team assumed high mortality, but survival has been higher than expected.

Ten thousand pallids were appropriated for temperature trials and for bioassay work, but a facility has not been located to conduct this work.

The Recovery Team agreed early on not to stock pallid sturgeon raised at a hatchery until a genetic analysis of parental stock and of the wild populations is conducted to determine stocking locations and rates. Genetics information will likely not be available until late fall.



It appears that the numbers of pallid/shovelnose sturgeon hybrids in the lower Mississippi River may exceed those of "pure" pallid sturgeon. Commercial fishermen who provided the 10 broodstock pallid sturgeon to the Blind Pony Hatchery also provided about 25 additional sturgeon, all of which were apparent hybrids.

At the Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Team's request, Missouri has developed a stocking plan which includes two alternatives: (1) Stock all of the sturgeon currently on hand in the Mississippi River below St. Louis, (2) Stock half in the lower Mississippi river and half in Missouri Department of Conservation managed lakes.

In the first option fingerlings would be stocked at 15-20 sites in the Mississippi River between St. Louis and Caruthersville, Missouri (310 miles). Spreading the stockings over 300+

miles of river would reduce concerns about genetic swamping and likely increase post-stocking survival. This area is proposed because 32 of 35 pallid sturgeon hybrids captured in 1991 and 1992 came from here. Because few pallid sturgeon have been captured above St. Louis, it is likely that most will remain in the Mississippi River. Stocking would occur in early spring after preliminary genetics evaluations are completed.

Under the second option, about half of the sturgeon fingerlings would be stocked into state managed lakes this fall, and the remainder into the lower Mississippi River next spring. The fall stocking would eliminate concerns for hatchery space and water and reduce production costs by about \$30,000. It would also reduce the chance of losing the fish to a disaster.

Under option two, Missouri recommends more specifically that the fall stockings occur in Thomas Hill Reservoir (4,800 acres) and Long Branch Reservoir (2,400 acres). Both reservoirs are in north central Missouri and have typical reservoir fish populations. Missouri feels that lake reared pallid sturgeon should be easier to sample to obtain information on growth, survival, and maturity. Additionally, they would provide an excellent source of known age fish for future research projects.

The fall stocking would be fish 10-12 inches in total length and by spring total length would exceed 12 inches. Based on Missouri success with stocking paddlefish and lake sturgeon, survival at these sizes should be good.

This is an interesting dilemma because no one wants to destroy the progeny of an endangered species, and yet no one wants to see a hatchery reared year class swamp the genes of the wild population either. In the meantime, the cost of maintaining the fish continues to grow.

For further information contact Mark Dryer, Chairman, Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Team, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bismarck, ND, (701) 250-4491.

Sturgeon Information Available

The following publications were recently received in the MICRA office:

Ruelle, R., and C. Henry. 1992. Organochlorine Compounds in Pallid Sturgeon. Contaminant Information Bulletin (June). U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Dakota State Office, Pierre, SD. 7 pp.

Henry, C. J., and R. Ruelle. 1992. A Study of Pallid Sturgeon and Shovelnose Sturgeon Reproduction. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Dakota State Office, Pierre, SD. 19 pp.

For additional information on these publications and to inquire about their availability contact: Dick Ruelle, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Dakota State Office, Pierre, SD 57501-5408. (605) 224-8693.

Zebra Mussel Reaches St. Paul, MN Via Barge

More than 100 mature zebra mussels were found in late June attached to the hull of a barge flected just downstream from St. Paul, MN. Minneapolis/St. Paul is the "Head of Navigation" on the Mississippi, so it seems a better than even bet that the entire Intercontinental Waterway System could already be infested with the pest; much sooner than earlier predicted.

The mussels were discovered on June 24th after a barge owned by Dakota Barge Service in Newport, MN was pulled from the Mississippi for cleaning and repairs. The mussels were attached to the barge by their byssal threads.

Byssal threads are long, sticky thread-like material that is secreted by the posterior part of the foot in many



Zebra mussel showing byssal threads.

mussel species. Most mussel species shed these threads within a few weeks, but the zebra mussel uses them very effectively throughout their adult life to firmly attach to any hard object, including other mussel shells.

In early July numerous zebra mussels were also found clinging to two navigation locks near Winona, MN. Divers could not see well in the murky water of the lock, but felt significant numbers could be located on the locks with a more thorough search.

It would seem that the baton is now passed to recreational boaters who will likely carry the pest further upstream and inland. Ecologically, this could spell disaster for our native mussels because of the zebra mussel's nasty habit of attaching itself to other mussel shells. Large numbers of zebra mussels attached to native mussel shells have been known to kill native mussels through suffocation.

The Impact of Zebra Mussels on Native Mussel Fauna

Recently a group Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) research biologists, active in research programs on zebra mussels or native mussel species, were asked to provide their best scientific judgement as to how many native freshwater mussel species would become extinct in the next ten years.

The results are troubling even if the estimates are off by as much as 90%. At present, FWS biologists believe that 18 species of freshwater mussels of the family Unionidae are already extinct.

Even without the invasion of the zebra mussel, their best professional judgement is that an additional 45 species will probably become extinct in the next ten years because of water quality degradation, siltation, impoundments, navigation projects, and other habitat alterations.

When the impacts of the zebra mussel are considered, it is the opinion of FWS biologists that an additional 20

mussel species will become extinct within the next 10 years.

These estimates were made on the assumption that the zebra mussel will have its greatest impact in reservoirs and large rivers in the eastern United States. If the zebra mussel successfully invades mid-size or small rivers, many more mussel species will either be driven to extinction or at least extirpation in some rivers.

There are a total of 297 species of mussels native to the U.S. Within 10 short years, if these predictions hold up, 30% will be extinct! Species effected are listed in the chart on page 5.

Major Decline in Upper Mississippi River Fingernail Clams

Biologists at the National Fisheries Research Center in LaCrosse, WI analyzed temporal trends in fingernail clam populations for several Upper Mississippi River navigation pools to assess anecdotal observations of reduced abundance.

Historic data were obtained from several sources, including regional scientists, state and federal resource management agencies, primary literature, municipalities, utility companies, unpublished reports, and universities. These data were supplemented with additional sampling at selected river sites.

Sufficient historical data (1973-1990) were obtained for trend analyses (Mann-Kendall test) of fingernail clam abundances in eight navigation pools (2, 5, 5A, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 19). Additional data were obtained by resampling historical sites in pools 2, 5, 5A, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Major declines were evident in pools 2, 5, 7, 8, and 19. Combined data from all eight pools also showed a significant decline in abundance. The decline was most pronounced in Pool 19, which had the longest historic record. Pool 19 densities averaged 30,000/m² in 1985,

declining progressively to zero by 1990. Mean densities of fingernail clams for the seven pools sampled in 1991 remained low, ranging from 0 to 112/m².

Fingernail clam populations are sensitive to pollution, so they make good indicators of environmental conditions. These population declines may signal a large-scale deterioration in the health of this important riverine ecosystem.

Fingernail clams have historically provided an important food resource for diving ducks and channel catfish, especially in Pool 19.



Future research at the LaCrosse lab will attempt to identify causal factors contributing to these declines.

For further information contact: Teresa J. Naimo or Donna M. Wilson, National Fisheries Research Center, P.O. Box 818, LaCrosse, WI 54602-0818, (608) 783-6451.

Tribes Organize to Protect Missouri River Water Interests

Twenty-six Missouri River Indian tribes met in Lakewood, CO in June to discuss mutual interests in the Missouri River Basin. The meeting was sponsored by the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

The tribes agreed that a coalition was needed to represent the diverse Tribal interests in the Basin, however, all did not agree on the means by which the goal (an organized effort) would be accomplished.

Six tribes in North and South Dakota currently have a coalition known as the MNI-SOSE Tribal Water Rights

Freshwater Mussels Which Are Or May Become Extinct in the Next Ten Years as a Result of Man-Induced Factors and the Invasion of the Zebra Mussel

Probably Extinct Freshwater Mussels of the Family Unionidae

Coosa elktoe (*Alasmidonta maccordi*) (AL)
 Carolina elktoe (*Alasmidonta robusta*) (NC)
 Ochlocknee arc-mussel (*Alasmidonta wrightiana*) (FL)
 Sugarspoon (*Epioblasma arcaiformis*) (AL, KY, TN)
 Angled riffleshell (*Epioblasma biemarginata*) (AL, KY, TN)
 Leafshell (*Epioblasma flexuosa*) (AL, IL, IN, KY, OH, TN)
 Yellow-blossom (*Epioblasma florentina florentina*) (AL, TN)*
 Acornshell (*Epioblasma haysiana*) (AL, KY, TN, VA)
 Narrow catspaw (*Epioblasma lenior*) (AL, TN, VA)
 Forkshell (*Epioblasma lewisii*) (AL, TN, KY)
 Round Combshell (*Epioblasma personata*) (AL, IL, IN, KY, OH, TN)
 Tennessee riffleshell (*Epioblasma propinqua*) (AL, IL, IN, KY, OH, TN)
 Wabash riffleshell (*Epioblasma sampsonii*) (IL, IN, OH)
 Cumberland leafshell (*Epioblasma stewardsoni*) (AL, KY, TN)
 Tubercled-blossom (*Epioblasma torulosa torulosa*) (IL, IN, KY, TN, WV)*
 Turgid-blossom (*Epioblasma turgidula*) (AL, TN)*
 Virginia pigtoe (*Lexingtonia subplana*) (VA)
 Tombigbee moccasinshell (*Medionidus macglameriae*) (AL)

* Federally Listed Species

Freshwater Mussels Likely to go Extinct with Establishment of the Zebra Mussel

Ouachita rock-pocketbook (*Arkansia wheeleri*) (AR)*
 Fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*) (KY)*
 Oyster mussel (*Epioblasma capsaeformis*) (KY, AL, TN, VA)
 Cumberlandian combshell (*Epioblasma brevidens*) (KY, TN, VA)
 No Common Name (*Epioblasma tortulosa rangiana*) (Great Lakes)
 Fine-rayed pigtoe (*Fusconaia cuneolus*) (Upper TN River drainage)*
 Cracking pearl mussel (*Hemistena lata*) (Upper TN River drainage)*
 Pink mucket (*Lampsilis orbiculata*) (OH and TN River drainages)*
 Birdwing pearl mussel (*Conradilla caelata*) (Upper TN River drainage)*
 Fragile papershell (*Leptodea fragilis*) (MS River drainage; AL to TX; St. Lawrence River)
 Hickorynut (*Obliquaria olivaria*) (MS River drainage; St. Lawrence River)
 Orange-footed pimpleback (*Plethobasus cooperianus*) (IL, TN)*
 Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*) (Great Lakes)
 Southern clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*) (AL)
 Rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*) (AL, TN, KY)*
 Pink pigtoe (*Pleurobema rubrum*) (TN River drainage)
 Fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*) (MS River and tributaries in MO and AR)*
 Pink papershell (*Proptera ohioensis*) (Unknown)
 Rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica*) (Big river species)
 Wartyback (*Quadrula nodulata*) (OH, Cumberland, and TN River, IA to LA)

* Federally Listed Species

Freshwater Mussels Likely to go Extinct Without Establishment of the Zebra Mussel

Carolina heelsplitter (*Lasmigona decorata*) (NC)
 Highnut (*Pleurobema altum*) (AL, GA)
 Hazel pigtoe (*Pleurobema avellanum*) (AL, GA)
 Painted clubshell (*Pleurobema chattanoogaense*) (AL, GA)
 Black clubshell (*Pleurobema curtum*) (Upper Tombigbee River in MS)*
 Dark pigtoe (*Pleurobema furvum*) (AL)
 Southern pigtoe (*Pleurobema georgianum*) (AL, GA)
 Cumberland pigtoe (*Pleurobema hanleyanum*) (AL, GA)
 Flat pigtoe (*Pleurobema marshalli*) (Gainesville, AL lock and dam)*
 Georgia pigtoe (*Pleurobema murrayense*) (AL, GA)
 Longnut (*Pleurobema nucleopsis*) (AL)
 Ovate clubshell (*Pleurobema perovatium*) (Six streams in the Mobile Basin)
 Warrior pigtoe (*Pleurobema rubellum*) (AL)
 Heavy pigtoe (*Pleurobema taiitanum*) (AL, MS)*
 Alabama clubshell (*Pleurobema troschelianum*) (AL, GA)
 True pigtoe (*Pleurobema verum*) (AL)
 Triangular kidneyshell (*Pychobranchus greeni*) (AL, GA)
 Winged mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*) (St. Croix River, MN)*
 Cumberland monkeyface (*Quadrula intermedia*) (TN)*
 Appalachian monkeyface (*Quadrula sparsa*) (TN, VA)*
 Stirrupshell (*Quadrula stapes*) (Sipsey River, AL)*
 Brother spike (*Elliptio fraterna*) (AL, GA, SC)
 Winged spike (*Elliptio nigella*) (GA)
 Tar spiny mussel (*Elliptio steinstansana*) (NC)*
 White wartyback (*Plethobasus cicatricosus*) (Tennessee River, TN)*
 Lilliput (*Toxoplasma parva*) (MS River drainage, NY south to AR; FL)
 Lined pocketbook (*Lampsilis binominata*) (AL, GA)
 Haddleton lamp mussel (*Lampsilis haddletoni*) (AL)
 Speckled pocketbook (*Lampsilis streckeri*) (AR)*
 Higgins' eye (*Lampsilis higginsii*) (Upper MS River drainage)*
 Alabama lampshell (*Lampsilis virescens*) (AL, TN)*
 Scaleshell (*Leptodea leptodon*) (Unknown)
 Fat pocketbook (*Proptera capax*) (Lower OH River, St. Francis River, AR; eastern IA)*
 Tan riffleshell (*Epioblasma florentina walkeri*) (TN, VA)*
 Upland combshell (*Epioblasma metastrata*) (AL, GA, MS)
 White catspaw (*Epioblasma obliquata perobliqua*) (Fish Creek, OH)*
 Purple catspaw (*Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*) (Green and Cumberland rivers, OH)*
 Green blossom (*Epioblasma torulosa gubernaculum*) (Clinch River, VA)*
 No Common Name (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) (Great Lakes tributaries)
 Upland acornshell (*Epioblasma othcaloogensis*) (GA)
 Southern combshell (*Epioblasma penita*) (Mobile Basin AL, GA, MS)*
 Alabama pearlshell (*Margaritifera marriane*) (AL)
 Coosa moccasinshell (*Medionidus parvulus*) (AL, GA)
 Ring pink (*Obovaria retusa*) (KY, TN, WV)*
 Dromedary (*Dromus dromas*) (TN, VA)*

* Federally Listed Species

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 8, Washington, D.C.

Coalition. An invitation was extended for the other tribes to join this group, but agreement could not be reached.

Instead an organized effort is now underway to develop a Constitution for a new water rights organization known as the Commission of Missouri River Basin Tribes (CMRBT). Purposes of the CMRBT (outlined in the Draft Constitution) would include the following:

- Provide a forum for Indian tribes, native producers, to realize areas of mutual concern and exchange ideas and information on matters relevant to the management of Indian water resources through unified input at the national level.
- Promote an environment of enabling federal and tribal policies which improve opportunities for management and increased productivity from Indian water resources through unified input at the national level.
- Gather and disseminate information concerning legislative and federal policies affecting Indian water interests.
- Advise and work with the Federal, state, local and tribal governments to develop the full potential benefits attainable to Indians from the management of their water resources.
- Encourage the training and development of Indian natives in the water resources professions and related areas of expertise, and use all possible resources available, including tribal community colleges.
- Insure that the Indian reserved water rights are discussed, advanced, claimed, promoted, defended, protected, developed, and used for the full use and benefit of our people, including the right to manage, plan, and market our water and any water related resources to the fullest extent and continued

enhancement of tribal sovereignty.

- To receive membership fees as well as gifts or grants of money and property, in order to administer these solely for the water development of Missouri River Basin Indian Tribes, and to take the necessary and proper steps for the accomplishment of these purposes.

The Tribes make it clear in their Draft Constitution that ".....no substantial part of the activities of the CMRBT shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation [except to the extent otherwise permitted under Section 501(h) of the Code]. The code refers to federal tax laws governing tax exempt organizations.

Within the next few weeks the Tribes will decide whether to join MNI-SOHE or to form the new CMRBT. We applaud the Missouri River Tribes efforts to organize and look forward to working with them in the future.

MICRA has been actively pursuing Tribal membership on our Steering Committee, as well as participation in all of our activities. So far, two of the Mississippi River Basin Tribes (The Chippewa Cree in Montana and the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma) have signed on to the MICRA Agreement.

All of the Tribes in the Basin receive this Newsletter, and our invitation remains open for them to join MICRA either independently or collectively through the proposed Missouri River organization or another such group.

Additional information on MICRA can be obtained from our office at 608 East Cherry, Columbia, MO 65201 or by calling (314) 876-1911.



River Protection and Water Use:

Setting the Conservation Agenda for the 90's

American Rivers, Inc., and The Wilderness Society recently released the subject report documenting a conference of the same name held in Denver, CO on Jun 20-23, 1991.



The report summarizes the ideas and recommendations described and debated at the conference by over 300 individuals from across the country, including leaders of federal and state governments, river recreationists, hydropower developers, farmers, ecologists, and others.

The purpose of the conference was to help define a new national policy for river protection and water in the 1990's. Cosponsors included the National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, American Whitewater Affiliation, Appalachian Mountain Club, Atlantic Salmon Federation, The Beldon Fund, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Idaho Rivers United, Northwest Rivers Council, Oregon Rivers Council, River Network, and Trust for Public Land.

Major points made by the report include the following:

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers System should be recognized as the cornerstone of Federal river protection policy and programs.
- Active public participation is the key to the long-term success of Wild and Scenic river studies and designations, and, indeed, to all river

conservation initiatives.

- A wide range of federal actions should be initiated to compliment the Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems.

- States provide a vital link between Federal and local action; state action is critical to successful conservation of the nation's rivers.

- Increased emphasis at all levels of government on water conservation is critical to the protection and restoration of rivers, particularly in the Western United States.

- New and stronger efforts are needed to achieve the nation's goal of eliminating pollution, and achieving fishable and swimmable waters across the country.

- The operations of all existing dams should be improved to meet today's environmental standards, and some dams in the United States are so environmentally destructive that they should be removed altogether.

- The public as well as federal and state resource agencies need to seize the opportunity to improve river resources provided through hydropower relicensing, while at the same time continuing to block new dam construction on outstanding free-flowing rivers.

- Numerous political and legal restraints need to be eliminated to achieve effective protection of instream flows.

- Greater emphasis on the successful creation and effective administration of state instream flow laws and federal reserved water rights will be needed to preserve and restore rivers.

- The Endangered Species Act is forcing river managers to develop new river management approaches to protect and restore threatened and endangered species.

- New mechanisms and institutions need to be created to facilitate the

transfer of water from wasteful, low value uses to more valuable uses.

- Effective river protection and restoration requires attention to the entire river ecosystem, from the headwaters downstream, and should include the riparian zone.

- There is a growing national movement of local river activists working to restore severely degraded river ecosystems.

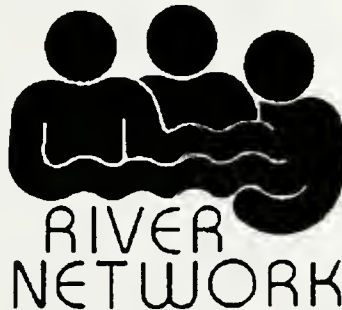
- Improved management by public agencies and communication among user groups are necessary to reconcile increasing conflicts among recreational users of river resources.

- River "greenways" are providing a new focus for river protection and restoration efforts at the local level.

Additional information or inquiries as to availability of this publication should be directed to: American Rivers, Inc., 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 or The Wilderness Society, 900 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

River Network

River Network is a national non-profit organization committed to building local support for river protection. River Network believes that people save rivers, that local people are the voice of America's rivers, and that local action is essential for effective, permanent river protection.



Their stated mission is to empower the American public to protect and

restore our nation's rivers. River Network has the following three programs:

- River Clearinghouse provides grassroots river guardians with information and referrals on technical and organizational issues.

- River Leadership Project recruits and supports state and local leaders in river protection.

- Riverlands Conservancy protects threatened riverlands by transferring them into public ownership.

Services offered to grassroots river conservationists by River Network includes the following:

- DORIS (the Directory of River Information Specialists): This directory is described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

- Networking: A national database of over 1,500 grassroots groups working on river protection is used to put individuals and organizations in touch with others who have successfully dealt with similar issues.

- River Voices: A quarterly publication used to facilitate communication among grassroots river groups and provide information on current issues in river protection.

- Case Studies: "Success Stories" of river conservation projects are circulated to interested individuals and groups to prevent re-inventing the wheel.

- Special Publications: Self-help booklets are published for river activists. "River Wealth" provides ideas on fund-raising. "River Wise" does the same for public education. "Choosing C(3) or C(4)" helps organizations select their tax-exempt status.

- Fund Raising Assistance - Advice, leads, and references on how to raise funds are provided.

- Action Planning Workshops:

Workshops are sponsored to help river guardians plan their campaigns.

For additional information contact: River Network, P.O. Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207. (503) 241-3506 or (800) 423-6747

Need Help Saving A River?

The threats, issues, interest groups, and regulations effecting rivers are numerous and complex. Consequently, the river conservation movement needs informed, energized local river advocates supported by experienced river specialists.

That's why River Network created the "Directory of River Information Specialists" (DORIS). DORIS is a free service that can be used to gain access to volunteer specialists with expertise on the issues of river protection.



DORIS is a computer database with access to over 500 river specialists within conservation organizations, professional societies, state and federal agencies, and a national network of grassroots river guardians.

DORIS specialists have expertise in everything from hydropower to streamside development and pollution. They also have a desire to share their expertise with local river advocates.

To learn more about DORIS contact: River Network, P.O. Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207, (503) 241-3506 or (800) 423-6747.



Resource Abuse Movement?

According to a recent article in "River Voices", a quarterly publication of River Network, environmental protection advocates across the country are increasingly running up against organized, vocal opposition. Many of these anti-environmental efforts are part of a larger national effort that deceptively calls itself the "wise use" movement.



According to River Network, the Wise Use Movement is a national agglomeration of over 250 groups sharing an underlying philosophy: "Weaken environmental protection to permit unrestricted access to all natural resources for economic use, benefit and profit". The River Voices article says that throughout the country, the "wise use advocates are working on unraveling environmental protection on a variety of issues; mineral and energy extraction in wilderness areas and national parks, logging in ancient forests, Endangered Species Act reauthorization, wetlands protection, private property rights protection, and several other issues.

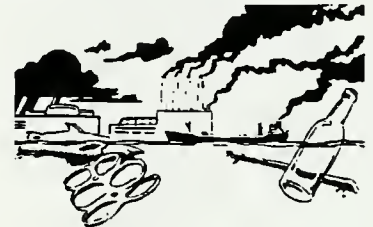
The "River Voices" article says that Wise Use Movement groups claim to be "grassroots" and "of the people for the people", but many are funded by major corporation and extractive industry interests. The article says that resource abuse groups with local emphasis also have misleading names that include the words "friends", "conservation", "conservancy", and the like, mimicking names of environmental organizations.

According to River Network, strategists from the resource abuse movement are copying the environmental movement's technique of grassroots organizing, except they

have access to self-interested corporate money and do not suffer from being restricted to charitable activities.

The article says that a major reason for the successes of the resource abuse movement is their ability to capture media attention by formulating exaggerated and false statements about the impacts of resource protection measures. They appeal to the fears of local citizens, and those fears make it into headlines which gain considerable public attention, building political clout.

According to the "River Voices" article, river protection is viewed as a threat by resource abuse interests, but rather than confront the real issues directly, they hire groups like the "National Inholders Association" or "People for the West", who send in an organizer to terrify people about land condemnation. The article says that there's a gap between the real issues (resource protection versus exploitation) and pseudo-issues (land condemnation and federal control).



Rivers Voices cites the following as examples:

- Pemigewasset River (NH): An effort to protect the River through state and federal Wild & Scenic designation has met strong

opposition. According to River Voices, distortion and intimidation were techniques used by the primary opposition, a group called the New Hampshire Landowners Alliance (associated with the national Alliance for America). The State program was falsely condemned as a confiscation of private property despite the fact that the program governs instream issues, and local zoning and land-use regulations were not overridden. The State legislative proponents were labeled "ecoterrorists", and although the bill passed last year, it included some major concessions related to hydropower. Now the Pemi National Wild & Scenic River campaign is also facing serious opposition. The National Park Service is the lead agency in the study process, and opponents have incited landowners by telling them that the Park Service is involved with the intent to create a new national park accompanied by significant private land condemnation.

- Washington National Wild and Scenic Rivers Campaign: Sparked by the 1988 Oregon Omnibus Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (which designated 40 of that State's rivers into the national system), a group calling itself the "Washington Rivers Coalition" with the motto "Keeping Our Rivers Ours" is working hard to see that the State of Washington does not develop similar legislation. According to "River Voices", the group is largely funded by timber interests, who have brought in a man named Chuck Cushman (National Inholders Association) to organize opposition against any wild and scenic river legislation. Local opposition is riled up and a steady flow of mail keeps coming into the offices of the Washington Congressional delegation. The "Coalition" also lobbies hard each year to oppose the inclusion of any new rivers into the State rivers program, claiming State designation is a precursor to national designation.

- Niobrara River (NE): According

to "River Voices", local resource abuse interests, presumably water development interests, also brought in Chuck Cushman as an outside organizer to direct their resistance to designation of the Niobrara as part of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Program. This was at least the third time (according to the "River Voices" article) that Cushman had been imported to the region for similar activities. His previous work had focused on defeating two efforts to establish national parks in prairie habitat. The article says that because of their previous experience with Cushman and his tactics, local grassroots responded aggressively to his arrival, successfully getting the media to focus on him and his tactics rather than on what he falsely claimed the designation would do to local residents. Through the media, they spotlighted Cushman, exposing his past practices, picking apart his published statements, aggressively countering his claims, and revealing his funding sources.

Whether or not (as River Voices says) there really is a national network of groups out there whose main interest is resource abuse remains uncertain. What is certain is that as we continue to deplete our natural resources, more and more resource management issues are and will be impacting the interests of developers.

That being the case, we shouldn't be surprised if such an organization does or will soon exist. Our only defense is to be prepared by acknowledging its possible existence, do our homework, keep the best interest of the resource in the forefront of all of our actions, and work toward win-win solutions wherever possible.

The National Park Service Nurtures Local Greenways

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program of the National Park Service assists

communities in developing greenways and protecting open space.

Through the RTCA Program the Park Service staff assists nonprofits and state and local government with greenway planning. They help bring people together to identify the natural areas, historical sites and recreational resources which give identity to their community, and then support local efforts to obtain the tools and means to protect and enhance those assets.

Some of their successes include:

- A restoration plan for 25 miles of Santa Rosa Creek in California which won a \$100,000 state grant and a land contribution from a developer for a streamside trail system. The plan also calls for preservation of headwater natural areas as well as restoration of the creek's urban, channelized lower stretch.



- RTCA staff is helping create a 300-mile trail and enhancement plan for the Yampa Valley in Colorado. To date, cooperators, including the State, have pledged \$2.65 million to plan and implement the project. Neighboring communities are planning their own trails to connect with those in the Yampa Valley.

RTCA services include the following:

- Advice and assistance to State and local government or nonprofits.

- One-time consultations and workshops up to 1-2 year collaborations.

- Projects must promise significant, tangible, cost-effective results.

For more information contact your regional National Park Service office or Charlie Stockman with the Park Service in Washington, D.C. (202) 343-3780.

Source: Common Ground, Vol. 3, No. 4, May/June 1992.

National River Systems Recreation Assessment

Peter Kostmayer (D/PA), Wayne Owens (D/UT), and Sam Gejdenson (D/CT) have introduced H.R. 5001 to amend the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963 by authorizing the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a national river systems recreation assessment.

Under the Act a "State of the Nation's River Systems" report would be prepared. It would include an



assessment of the status and trends of the Nation's river resources and their associated riparian resources.

The report would be prepared by an independent panel of experts in the fields of biology, zoology, ecology, and related fields using existing data and information relating to the chemical, physical, and biological elements and processes of river resources and their associated riparian resources.

Contracts or other agreements would be used to form partnerships with

and provide funding to the States for report preparation.

The Report would include:

- An evaluation of the existing status and historic and projected future trends on a national and regional level related to the riverine resource characteristics.

- A list of river systems and river reaches in the Nation for each ecoregion (as defined by the Secretary), the riverine resources characteristics of which have the highest natural qualities with particular emphasis on free-flowing river systems.

- A list of river systems and river reaches in the Nation for each ecoregion the riverine resource characteristics of which are degraded, but for which restoration is a feasible goal.

The report would be distributed to the heads of affected Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities; the States, including all State river management agencies; and to the public. The

report would be utilized to improve the management of riparian areas under their respective jurisdictions.

A standard methodology, describing resource definitions, data collection, methods, and other items needed for a comprehensive information system relating to river and riparian zone resources would be developed.

A central repository for information assembled in accordance with the methodology and relating to river and riparian zone resources would be created.

The information system would include:

- A geographic identification of river systems and their associated riparian areas at a level of detail necessary to reflect the complete functioning of river systems.

- A cartographic system able to sort information by State, river basin, ecoregion (as defined by the Secretary), resource type, and other useful categories.

- A geographic identification, to the extent possible from existing information, of resource characteristics presently and historically associated with each river system, including, but not limited to (1) recreational uses, (2) economic use of river and riparian area resources, (3) social uses of river and riparian area resources, (4) institutional constraints on resource use, (5) condition of the biotic communities of both riverine and riparian zones, (6) functional integrity of the stream as a whole, (7) basin and drainage characteristics, (8) food (energy) sources available to the biotic community, (9) water quality, (10) habitat structure, and (11) flow regime.

The Secretary of the Interior would maintain the information system, periodically update it, and make it available to the public, State, local, and Federal agencies in such manner and form as will promote education, scientific inquiry, and sound agency decision making regarding river and riparian area resources.

The Bill authorizes \$650,000 to prepare the initial report. Copies of the Bill are available from the sponsors.

West Coast Dams Could Come Down

Senate Bill S. 2527, introduced by Senator Brock Adams (D/WA) could

result in removal of two dams blocking salmon movement in the Elwha River.

Called the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act, the bill would transfer ownership of two dams (Lower Elwha and Glines Canyon dams) from the James River Corporation to the federal government, which would lead the way for possible dismantlement.

The legislation is an attempt to restore salmon populations damaged by the two hydroelectric dams, while dealing with the competing interests (i.e. timber companies, environmentalists, fishermen, paper mills, Indians, city officials, park

administrators, and economic development specialists.

According to Al Swift (D/WA) the parties have an incentive to compromise because without legislation, the courts will decide these issues and those decisions are likely to leave everyone dissatisfied. Swift believes the court battles would be more expensive, the concerns of individual groups would be ignored, and the ultimate losers would be the very fish the bill is trying to protect.

Opponents to the Bill are concerned that the taxpayer will end up subsidizing the dismantling of the dams as well as the construction of a water treatment plant needed to

preserve the quality of the Elwha River.

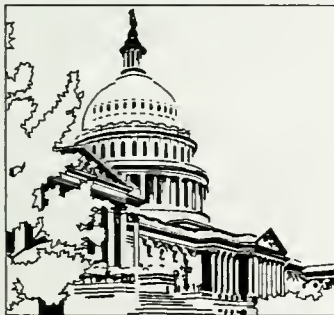
There is also a petition being filed by American Rivers before the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission to remove the Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River and the Conduit Dam on the White Salmon River, both are tributaries to the Columbia River. In both cases, there has been no salmon passage at these dams since the early 1900's. Upstream spawning habitat remains relatively pristine.

Sources: Land Letter, Vol 11, No. 18, June 20, 1992; American Rivers, Summer 1992 Newsletter.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON BILLS PERTINENT TO THE MRDS*

Interjurisdictional Rivers

H.R. 4169 Cooperative Interjurisdictional Rivers Fisheries Resources Act of 1992. Authorizes preparation of a national strategy for interjurisdictional rivers management, and tests the feasibility of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Agreement. Sponsored by Gunderson (R/WI), as well as fifteen additional co-signers. Most likely will not be considered during this session of Congress



Hydropower

H.R. 3002. Introduced by Unsoeld (D/WS). Clarification of FERC

"fishway" definition to include both upstream and downstream passage. Awaiting subcommittee action in the House; no action in the Senate. Substance of Unsoeld bill included in National Energy Strategy bill.

National Energy Strategy Bill. H.R. 776 (Dingel, D/MI) and S.2166 (Johnston, D/LA; Wallop, R/WY). Passed Senate; awaiting reconciliation of differences between House and Senate bills.

Federal Power Act amendments to give states primary authority to impose condition on FERC-licensed hydropower projects. H.R. 649 (Stallings, D/ID), S. 106 (Craig, R/ID). Hearings held in the House, awaiting subcommittee markup; hearing held in Senate, awaiting full committee markup; in House and Senate.

Reaffirmation of state authority to impose environmental conditions on FERC-licensed hydropower projects. H.R. 3977 (Kostmayer, D/PA), S. 812 (Jeffords, R/VT). Awaiting subcommittee action in

House; awaiting subcommittee action in Senate.

Water Quality

Clean Water Act Reauthorization. S. 1081 (Baucus, D/MT). Subcommittee hearings held in Senate, awaiting full committee markup; oversight hearings held in House.

Recreation

H.R. 5001. Introduced by Kostmayer (D/PA). Hearings held which authorizes a national assessment of rivers for recreation potential as well as fish and wildlife values, water quality and water supply possibilities. Awaiting markup.

Agriculture

S 2780 passed by Senate aims to boost enrollment of grass filter strips in conservation reserve program by removing an Agriculture Department easement requirement. H.R. 5402 (Penny, D/MN) is similar bill in the House.

Biodiveristy

House Agriculture forests panel held hearing June 16 on H.R. 1969, which aims to promote forest biodiversity. H.R. 5389 (Scheuer, D/NY) establishes a biodiversity research center.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Hearings held on June 30th on H.R. 5021 (Rahall,D/WV), which calls for study of a 17-mile stretch of New River in Summers county, WV, for possible designation as a wild and scenic river.

* Source: Land Letter - Status Report (May 20,1992), Vol. 11, No.14; American Rivers Summer 1992 Newsletter.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

The Annual Meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be held at the Marriot Hotel in Toledo, OH on September 11-16.

American Fisheries Society

The Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, South Dakota on September 14-17, 1992.

River Restoration Symposium

Larry Hesse, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission has organized a major two-day symposium entitled, "Restoration Planning for the rivers of the Mississippi River Ecosystem". It will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society on September 14th and 16th.

Larry has organized the symposium to help stimulate communication between fisheries researchers and managers basinwide. The objectives of the symposium are:

- To organize a description of existing information on the geology, hydrology, morphology, native fish species, introduced fish species, standard methods used in survey fisheries, human impacts on the physical system, and the

values associated with the riverine resource.

- To define existing or planned management that might be useful for fisheries management in other rivers within the basin.
- To identify minimal requirements for the restoration of important fish stocks and other aquatic resources.

Papers will be presented on the Upper Mississippi, Minnesota, Atchafalaya, Ohio, Wisconsin, Yazoo, Yellowstone, White (AR), Vermillion, Illinois, Arkansas, Big Muddy, Big Black, Clinch, Embarras, Platte, Missouri, James, Kansas, Kanawha, Pigeon, Cheyenne, Grand, Moreau, Bad, White (SD), Powder, Sabine, Little Wabash, St. Croix, and Kankakee.

Paddlefish/Sturgeon Symposium

A Paddlefish Sturgeon Symposium, entitled, "The Prehistoric Survivors: Paddlefish and Sturgeon Management and Culture" will be held on September 16th in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Rapid City, SD.

MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee Organizational Meeting

The Organizational Meeting for MICRA's Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee will be held in

conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Rapid City, SD.

UMRCC Mussel Symposium

A symposium entitled, "The Conservation and Management of Freshwater Mussels" is planned for October 12-14, 1992 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

The symposium is being sponsored by the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee. It will focus on regulations, commercial harvest, conservation, sampling methods and data management, environmental awareness.

Contact: Kurt Welke, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Prairie du Chien (608) 326-0233 or Jon Duyvejonck, Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, Rock Island, IL (309) 793-5800





MICRA Newsletter Questionnaire

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Address _____

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_____ I recommend sending copies of the Newsletter to the following persons/groups:

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