

From: Don\_Hultman@fws.gov  
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2003 5:24 PM  
To: Otto, Richard J MVP  
Cc: Mary Beth Garrigan; Ann Sheehan; Amy Denz; Mark Andersen; Barry Drazkowski; Bob Kierlin; Bonnie Koop; Barb Naramore; Bob Drieslein; Cindy Samples; Catherine McCalvin; Mike Conrad; Craig Olson; Bev Spande; Tom Thompson; Krumholz, Daniel J MVP; Dick Hegle; Dick Lambert; Dick Larson; Dan McGuinness; Powell, Donald L MVP; Doug Altrichter; Dorothy Hoffmann; Big River; Jonathan Ela; Eric Nelson; Star, Franklin E MVP; Fred Funk; Ed Passe; Greg Egan; Gene Pelowski; Gretchen Benjamin; George Hoffmann; Sarah Halaverson; Marian Havlik; Jon Stravers; Harland Knight; Harry Buck; Holly Stoerker; Winona Chamber of Commerce; Jim Nissen; John Campe; DeZellar, Jeffrey T MVP; Jeff Janvrin; John Gabbert; Jim Harrison; John Lindell; Jim Sieben; Karrie Jackelen; Ken Lubinski; Berg, Kevin F MVP; Kim Cates; Kent Pehler; Lisa McCurdy; Larry Laber; Joel Luehmann; Marian Meyer; Marjorie Bunce; Davidson, Mark D MVP; Michelle Marron; Matt Nickolay; Mark Beorkrem; Mike DeLong; Mike Griffin; Mike Kennedy; Mike Davis; Mike Osskopp; Mike Majeski; Nick Hennemann; Mark Noll; Norm Senjem; Suzanne Blue; Patrick Connolly; Machajewski, Paul R MVP; 'ragrawe@hbc.com'; Urich, Randall R MVP; Greg Davids; Barb Gronemus; Mike Huebsch; Ray Cox; Ray Vandever; Jennifer Shilling; Steve Sviggum; Tom Hackbarth; Otto, Richard J MVP; Bob Mullally; Rodney Rovang; Perk, Roger A MVR; Ruth Nissen; Bill and Sandra Allaire; Richard Moore; Steve Delapp; Marc Schultz; Whitney, Scott D MVR; Scott Gritters; Scot Johnson; Jim Eddy; Ron Brown; John Marty; Mark Meyer; Pat Pariseau; Sheila Kiscaden; Steve Dille; Tom Saxhaug; Shane Crawford; Steve Sherwood; Sandy Heidel; Roger Steinberg; Steve Johnson; Tim Breza; Tim Schlagenhaft; Russ Eichman; Victor Langer; Wabasha Chamber; Bill Howe; Bill Burke; Brian Aldrich  
Subject: RE: MRCC meeting

I'm sorry that I will be out of town and not able to attend the meeting, although either Bob Drieslein or Eric Nelson will be there representing Upper Miss Refuge. I have refrained from commenting on the proposed legislation floating around since I believe it is a reaction to a perceived direction we are taking in our Comprehensive Conservation Plan when that direction has not yet been set. People need to have a bit of patience as we formulate our alternatives and management direction over the coming months. There will be ample opportunity for agency and public involvement and comment.

However, Dick Otto did raise some direct questions that I will comment on, or at least try to clarify.

By law we cannot allow a use on a national wildlife refuge unless the use is compatible with the purpose of the refuge and the mission of the Refuge System. The compatibility standard applies equally to the Big 6 wildlife-dependent recreation uses and all other uses. The law does say that the Big 6 are priority public uses of the Refuge System and that they should receive enhanced consideration over other general public uses in planning and management within the System. There is no prohibition against any use, but as manager, I must certify that any use is compatible. All this is tempered by the fact that we must have control or jurisdiction over the use for compatibility to apply. In other words, do we have the ability to say no to a particular use? The answer, of course, is not always simple when it comes to Upper Miss. We hope to clarify much of this in the CCP.

Upper Miss is not a typical refuge. A major river, navigation project, multiple ownerships, multiple states, and heavy recreational use are a big reason for it being atypical. However, we continue to operate under the assumption that Corps-owned land that is part of the Refuge per the Cooperative Agreement is to be managed in accordance with the laws governing the Refuge System and it is our responsibility to manage fish, wildlife, and recreation on those lands. The Corps clearly retained responsibility for navigation-related needs, forestry, and other activities. Thus, we are bound together cooperatively since all things on the river are ultimately connected.

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