

Project Title: Building consensus on invasive carp management in the Missouri River Basin

Lead Author, Agency, and Contact Information: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), Chris Steffen (chris.steffen@ks.gov)

Participating Agencies:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Travis Beam (travis.beam@state.co.us)

Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Kim Bogenschutz (kim.bogenschutz@dnr.iowa.gov)

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Grace Loppnow (grace.lopeknow@state.mn.us)

Missouri Department of Conservation; Joe McMullen (joseph.mcmullen@mdc.mo.gov)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Tom Woolf (thomas.woolf@mt.gov)

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Kirk Steffensen (kirk.steffensen@nebraska.gov)

North Dakota Game and Fish Department; Ben Holen (bholen@nd.gov)

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks; Tanner Davis (tanner.davis@state.sd.us)

Wyoming Game and Fish Department; Josh Leonard (joshua.leonard@wyo.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Location of Activities: Missouri River basin



Statement of Need: The Missouri River Basin comprises one-sixth of the continental United States, including all or

parts of 10 states, two Canadian provinces, and 25 Native American tribal reservations or lands. The economic resources that rely on the Missouri River Basin include municipal needs, agricultural practices, hydropower, recreation, flood control, navigation, and fish and wildlife. Recreation alone generates millions of dollars into the basin's economy. However, recreational use of the Missouri River basin is threatened by the establishment of invasive carp. Currently, bighead and silver carp are increasing in abundance and expanding their range in the Missouri River Basin.

To help address these issues, the Asian Carp Technical Committee of the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee Missouri River completed the *Missouri River Basin Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework*, which provides goals and strategies for invasive carp management in the basin. However, as funding for invasive carp projects in the basin is limited, it is imperative that partners responsible for invasive carp management in the Missouri River Basin work collaboratively to prioritize and conduct projects. Consensus of basin-wide invasive carp management priorities - and a summary of challenges to meeting those priorities - is urgently needed to improve basin-wide invasive carp management.

A model of how to do this exists in the "Building Consensus in the West Workgroup" of the Western Regional Panel on ANS. The effort was successful in bringing together the 19 western states to collaborate and agree upon standard protocols and procedures that have been very effective in preventing the spread of zebra and quagga mussels in the western United States (see <https://westernregionalpanel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/WRP-BC-Activity-Report-FINAL.pdf>). The workgroup achieved this by providing a forum for facilitated dialogue between state and federal jurisdictions conducting watercraft inspection and decontamination programs. The facilitated dialogue resulted in the creation of science-based standards for preventing and containing the spread of mussels overland by recreational watercraft and early detection sampling and monitoring, in addition to the development of a model legal framework for state watercraft inspection and decontamination.

This "Building consensus on invasive carp management in the Missouri River Basin" project is meant to borrow from and emulate the success of the "Building Consensus in the West Workgroup".

Project Objectives:

1. Hold facilitated discussions among Missouri River Basin states to build consensus on invasive carp management actions and locations within the basin and identify challenges and potential solutions for implementation.

Project Highlights:

- Initial scoping of project has been completed, and a preferred path forward has been identified.

Methods: The initiation of this project was delayed due to the USFWS Coordinator position for the Missouri River Basin Carp Partnership being vacated. The project was then restarted once a new coordinator was hired. The Missouri River Basin Carp Partnership members discussed the

project at multiple meetings and decided on exploring using Structured Decision Making to get the best product from this project. An initial scoping meeting was held with Structured Decision Making experts at USGS to determine if this is the right tool and path forward to meet the project objective. It was determined that Structured Decision Making is appropriate and KDWP is in the process of setting up a contract with USGS to continue with the project and meet the project objective.

Results and Discussion: No results to share at this time.

Tables and Figures: None.

Recommendation: Continue the project as designed and agreed upon by Missouri River Basin Invasive Carp Partnership members.

References:

<https://westernregionalpanel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/WRP-BC-Activity-Report-FINAL.pdf>

Pherigo, E., editor. 2017. Missouri River Basin Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework. Asian Carp Technical Committee, Missouri River Natural Resources Committee, Columbia, MO, 26 pp.