

# Action Plan

## Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) Recreation and Water Use Technical Section

September 11, 2008

The Recreation and Water Use Technical Section's charge is to address recreation and water use management issues that go beyond traditional fish and wildlife technical issues. Activities outlined in this Action Plan are based on extensive discussions and recommendations from recent Annual and Fall Technical Section meetings. Some action items can be moved forward relatively quickly while others will take some time to develop.

### **Action Item 1.**

Promote the "Leave No Trace" philosophy in additional reaches of the Mississippi River.

Using the Friends of Pool 9's pioneering effort as a template for bringing the Leave No Trace approach to the Upper Mississippi River, Technical Section members will make an effort to establish Leave No Trace practices in the following reaches:

<u>Reach</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1. Pool 1 through Upper Pool 4	MDNR	Scot Johnson
2. Refuge Winona District - Lower 4 to Pool 6	FWS	Mary Stefanski
3. Refuge LaCrosse District – Pool 7 and Pool 8	FWS	Jim Nissen
4. Refuge McGregor District – Pool 9 to Pool 11	FWS	Tim Yager
5. Refuge Savanna District – Pool 12 to 14	FWS	Ed Britton
6. Lower Pooled Reach – Pool 15 to 22	Corps RI	John Knoble
7. Pool 24 - 26 and Open River Reach	Corps SL	Sara Miller

Scot Johnson will work with Tim Yager and Tim Loose to put together an "electronic packet of information" based on the Friends of Pool 9 experience.

### **Action Item 2.**

Develop "River Friendly Boat" recommendations in an attempt to reduce shoreline erosion, improve water quality, promote aquatic plant growth, enhance the recreational experience and promote the overall safety of river users. – Scot Johnson to take the Lead

1. Develop principles and guidelines to reduce boating impacts based on known physical, chemical and biological effects on the River.  
(See attached draft principles and guidelines).
2. Post the principle and guidelines on the UMRCC web page.
3. Develop kiosk posters promoting river friendly boats.

**Action Item 3.**

Compile and post maps and contact information (links) in a consistent format for all water trails within the Mississippi River floodplain and appropriate tributaries on the UMRCC web page.

<u>Water Trails</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Mississippi reaches from Lake Itasca to Winona	MDNR	Erik Werke
Mississippi backwater trails in Minnesota	MDNR	Scot Johnson
Mississippi tributaries in Minnesota	MDNR	Craig Blommer
CCP Designated Water Trails, Canoe Areas, Slow No-Wake Areas and Electric Motor Only Areas	Refuge HQs	Cindy Samples
Mississippi trails in Illinois	IDNR	Dan Salee
Mississippi trails in Wisconsin	WDNR	Jim Fischer
Mississippi trails in Iowa	IDNR	Martin Konrad
Mississippi trails in Rock Island District	Corps	John Knoble
Mississippi trails in St. Louis District	Corps	Sara Miller

**Action Item 4.**

Gain stronger and more consistent participation in Technical Section activities and meetings by all agency staff charged with managing recreation use on the Mississippi River.

1. Technical Section members will circulate meeting agendas and advocate the benefits of interagency coordination with their fellow staff members and agency supervisors.
2. The Technical Section will support the Executive Board efforts to gain greater participation in the UMRCC.

**Action Item 5.**

Standardize a “visitation accounting methodology” for the entire length of the Upper Mississippi River.

Visitation accounting methodologies used by different agencies over the years will be reviewed and critiqued. The Technical Section will develop a consensus-based, standardized methodology that all agencies can use to make comparisons and assessment of recreational use in managed areas.

**Action Item 6.**

Update the 1994 Economic Impacts of Recreation on the Upper Mississippi River System report authored by Bruce Carlson et al for the Navigation Expansion Feasibility Study.

This study is the definitive report documenting the amount and type of recreational use and related spending and estimated economic impact to the Region. However, the report is now 14 years old and out-dated. Technical Section members will determine the best way to update and fund the writing of a new report covering all or a portion of the report’s most important information to managers and others.