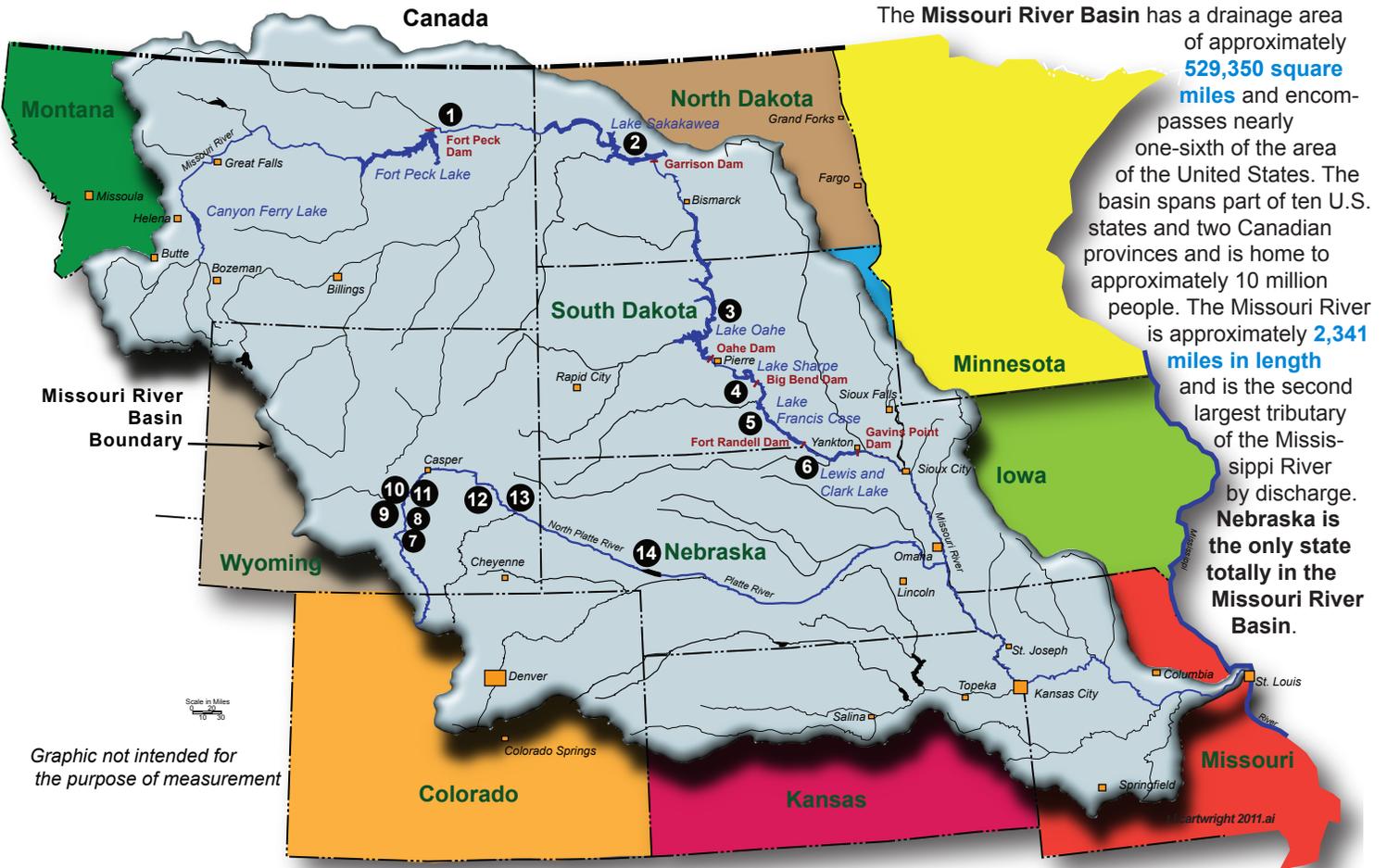
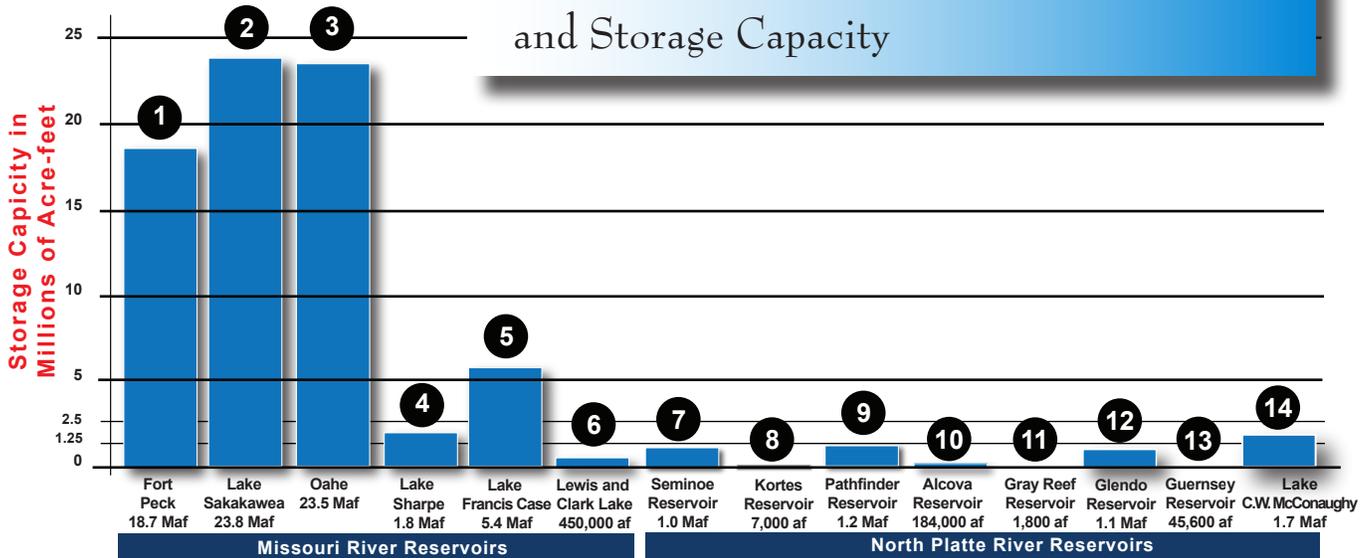


Missouri River Basin



Selected Missouri River Basin Reservoirs and Storage Capacity



Figures over 1 million acre-feet (Maf) rounded to the nearest 100,000 acre-feet

One acre-foot (af) of water is equal to 325,851 gallons of water

Operation of Mainstem Missouri River Reservoirs



Reservoirs on the Missouri River were constructed for the purposes of flood control, navigation, water supply, irrigation, recreation, water quality, hydro-power, and fish and wildlife.

Under the authorities of the 1944 Flood Control Act and other legislation, the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) constructed, operates, and maintains a series of six large dams and reservoirs on the mainstem Missouri River.** (See map on page 3 for location and capacity of reservoirs.) Fort Peck Dam and Reservoir was originally constructed under previous legislation in 1933 for the purpose of providing water for navigation below Sioux City, Iowa to Kansas City, Missouri, but is now operated for all the purposes listed below. Prior to construction of the other five dams, the Missouri River was used for navigation from its mouth near St. Louis, Missouri up to Montana.

Under the 1944 Flood Control Act, the other five dams were constructed for the **eight authorized purposes of flood control, navigation, water supply, irrigation, recreation, water quality, hydro-power, and fish and wildlife.** There have been numerous lawsuits over the years between the states in the Missouri River Basin (Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri) and the USACE. Many of these lawsuits were over the operation of the dams and reservoirs and whether the USACE was operating correctly or whether one or two purposes were to receive higher priority than the other authorized purposes, specifically flood control and navigation.

In 1960, the USACE wrote the first of what is now called "**The Master Manual**," which describes how the river is to be operated. The Master Manual was subsequently revised in 1973, 1975, 1979, 2004, and 2006. Each year, the USACE issues an "**Annual Operating Plan**" describing expected actions based

upon the reservoir storage, expected runoff, and other factors. The Annual Operating Plan is based on the Master Manual. The public has the opportunity to review the Annual Operating Plan and provide comments to the USACE.



Gavins Point Dam June 13, 2011, at 144,800 cfs. Photograph by Mark Noble, DNR staff



Gavins Point Dam pictured under normal releases

