



**August 2012**

The MSAC Mission is to pursue and promote the intelligent use of all available programs and funds to alleviate the sedimentation-caused problems of the Missouri River main-stem reservoirs.

**[www.msaconline.com](http://www.msaconline.com)**

## **Getting Lake Sharpe and Big Bend Rec Back in Shape**

In this newsletter, MSAC looks at the area near Big Bend Dam and its Lake Sharpe.

Roughly \$1 million in repairs to the Left Tailrace campground at Big Bend Dam continue with an anticipated completion date by the end of September, according to a news release from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on June 7, 2012.

The campground sustained substantial damage to roads, camp pads, comfort stations, lift station, water plant and the site's electrical system, according to the report.

Other recreation opportunities are available at Big Bend. The Left Tail Race boat ramp is available along with the North Shore Campground.

Flood repair work will be ongoing throughout the summer at Right Tailrace, Left Tailrace, Spillway Dike, Old Fort Thompson and North Shore Beach recreation areas. According to the news release, the repairs may occasionally cause closures or congestion. The repairs are being funded through



Each dam experienced its record release during June or July of 2011. Five of the six dams more than doubled their previous records. Case in point is Big Bend Dam which released 166,300 cfs in late June of 2011. Previously, its highest cfs was 74,000 cfs in 1997. For the first time in history, the Big Bend Dam spillway near Fort Thompson, South Dakota, opened Friday morning, June 3, 2011. (Photo by Patrick M. Callahan for MSAC Nov. 28, 2011)

the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act approved by Congress and signed by the President on Dec. 23, 2011.

The Omaha District has established a special execution cell, the Omaha District Systems Restoration Team, to address an estimated \$280 million in repairs on 19 levee repair projects as well as \$234 million in repairs at mainstems and related flood control structures and projects along the Missouri River. In addition to contracting actions, the team provides the necessary safety and quality oversight on these projects.

*From US Army Corps of Engineers News Release June 7, 2012*

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### **Lake Sharpe Recreation - "Value to the Nation"**

**878,785 visits to the Lake in 2010 resulted in:**

**\$25,010,749 in visitor spending within 30 miles**

**\$12,722,570 in sales within 30 miles**

**259 jobs within 30 miles**

**\$5,216,395 in labor income within 30 miles**

**\$7,734,329 in value added within 30 miles**

*"The money spent by visitors to Corps lakes on trip expenses adds to the local and national economies by supporting jobs and generating income. Visitor spending represents a sizable component of the economy in many communities around Corps lakes."*

**Source:** US Army Corps of Engineers "Value to the Nation" Web site [www.corpsresults.us](http://www.corpsresults.us)

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### **Lake Sharpe Facilities & Resources**

■ 115,548 Land Acres

■ 80,600 Water Acres

■ 200 Shoreline Miles

Source: USACE Web site

[www.corpsresults.us](http://www.corpsresults.us)

■ 24 Rec Areas

■ 128 Camping Sites

■ 13 Boat Ramps

■ 5 Playgrounds

■ 1 Swimming Area

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# Dam Milestones

August 17th Oahe Dam Near Pierre/Fort Pierre to Reach 50 years

The Oahe Dam near Pierre/Fort Pierre will commemorate its 50th Anniversary on August 17. According to the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce website [www.pierre.org](http://www.pierre.org), the commemoration will feature a short program outside the visitor center overlooking Lake Oahe beginning at 11 a.m. The Dam was dedicated on this date and time in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy. Seating is limited. Lawn chairs welcome.

Join the South Dakota State Historical Society (SDSHS) for presentations at the Cultural Heritage Center, the Oahe Chapel, and the State Theater on August 17 and 18. Special extended tours of the powerhouse and intakes of Oahe Dam will be conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel on Friday, August 17. The Great Lakes Tourism Association, which manages the Oahe Visitor Center, is planning special programs on Saturday, August 18.



***"We take for granted these miracles of engineering, and too often we see no connection between this dam (Oahe) right out here and our Nation's security, and our leadership all around the world. The facts of the matter are that this dam, and many more like it, are as essential to the expansion and growth of this American economy as any measure that Congress is now considering, and this dam and others like it are as essential to our National strength and security as any military alliance or missile complex."***

**President John F. Kennedy**

Aug. 17, 1962 Oahe Powerhouse Dedication

as quoted at US Army Corps of Engineers Facebook



**Historical Views of Oahe Dam: (TOP)**

President John F. Kennedy dedicated the Oahe Dam in 1962. The bottom photo captures surge tank construction at the Oahe Dam. Several organizations are planning special activities to observe the 50th Anniversary milestone on August 17. (Photos courtesy of the State Archives of the South Dakota State Historical Society)

## Oahe Dam 50th Anniversary Commemoration Events

### Friday, August 17

**11 am** Commemoration Program at the Oahe Visitor Center (above the Dam near the Oahe Chapel)

Oahe Chapel, Unveiling & Dedication of interpretive sign following Commemoration Program; Following the Dedication - Chapel open for guided tours until 5 pm

Power Plant & Intake Structure Tours

**1 to 7 pm** Intake Structure Tours

**1 to 4 pm** Extended Power Plant Tours

People are encouraged to stop at the Visitor Center to get info. ID needed. No cameras, cell phones, weapons, pacemakers or defibrillators.

### Friday, August 17 cont'd.

**4 pm** Cultural Heritage Center Oahe Dam Construction Images; Share your stories.

**4 pm** Oahe Marina Live music, food, silent auction, fireworks; Proceeds for local flood relief.

**7:15 pm** Short program to thank people for efforts during flood

**9 pm** Approximate time fireworks

### Saturday, August 18

**9 am** Cultural Heritage Center reception for those who worked during the construction of the Oahe Dam, their spouses and children.

**10 am - 4 pm** Extended Power Plant Tours

### Saturday, August 18 cont'd

**10 am** Oahe Visitor Center "Oahe Talk Back" featuring Matt Sutton, Jamie Damon, who wrote the letter to Pres. Kennedy inviting him to the dedication and Dottie Howe, mother of Jamie Damon. Bring lawn chairs.

**10 am - 4 pm** Oahe Chapel Tours

**11 am** 123 State 123 Theatre in Pierre will show film footage of Oahe Dam construction and Pres. Kennedy's visit/SDSHS



# Fort Peck Dam in Montana Celebrated 75 Years June 23rd

Fort Peck Dam celebrated its 75th anniversary on June 23, 2012.

In a January 18, 2012 press release, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invited the public to attend a ceremony in Montana.

"The Fort Peck Dam is a magnificent structure that has provided benefits to this nation since the day it was authorized in 1933. There is no greater testament to excellence and endurance than the way the Fort Peck Dam stood the test during the Missouri River Flood of 2011," said Omaha District Commander Col. Robert Ruch.

The four-mile long dam was considered the engineering feat of its time. The dam contains 125.6 million cubic yards of fill, 97 percent of which is hydraulic fill. The remainder consists of rolled earth sheared from the abutment, which makes up a 3,000-foot section on the west end. Glacial till from that same abutment formed the core of the final raise of the dam.

The dam also contains nearly 4 million cubic yards of field stone. The width of the base is 4,900 feet while the top of the dam is 50 feet wide and stands 250 feet above the base. Damming height is 220 feet. The reservoir contained by the dam runs 134 miles long with some 1,600 miles of shoreline. Total storage exceeds 19 million acre-feet of water. (An acre foot is equal to an acre of water one foot deep.)

Fort Peck Dam was a major public works project of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration. Thousands of people invested millions of hours con-

structing the dam. Although closure took place on June 24, 1937 -- the 1,341st day of construction -- the dam was not totally finished until 1940 and the final topping wasn't complete until June 1947. Today, 40 employees work at Fort Peck, performing operations and maintenance duties.

----- From the USACE News Release Jan. 18, 2012



## Fort Peck Dam: Not without sacrifice.

**Left:** According to an article published in the Billings Gazette, 59 men were killed on the Fort Peck project in the 1930s. The slide, which occurred in 1938, claimed 8 lives, according to FortPeckDam.com. Six men are entombed in the dam. The photo, at left, of the memorial at the dam site is posted at the Corps' FaceBook site.

We could not confirm the number of deaths that occurred during the construction of Oahe Dam.

**Top photo:** The Fort Peck Dam and Power Plant Museum/USACE photo Montana Tourism Website

View a documentary about the construction of Fort Peck Dam at [www.montanapbs.org](http://www.montanapbs.org).

### A Brief Look at Fort Peck Dam and Lake:

Length of Dam: 21,026 feet  
Type of Fill: Hydraulic & Rolled Earth  
Amount of Fill: 125,628,000 cubic yards  
Date of Closure: June 24, 1937  
Elevation at Crest: 2280.5 feet mean sea level

#### Fort Peck Lake

29 Recreation Areas  
55 Picnic Sites  
367 Camping Sites  
388,259 land acres  
240,000 water acres  
1,520 shoreline miles

From Value to the Nation/corpsresults.us

## MSAC thanks founding executive director

Highlighting a true friend of the Missouri River, South Dakotans observed Howard Paul Day May 21, 2012, as the MSAC Board of Directors formally recognized Paul's retirement after more than 12 years of service to the organization. Paul gathered membership support which gave life to MSAC, incorporated on June 8, 2001. Paul, with the support of his wife Donna, communicated with thousands people including elected officials, government agency staff, and the general public about the problems associated with accumulating sediment in the Missouri River reservoirs. Although now retired, Paul continues his support for this important issue.



**Howard & Donna Paul**

*Thank you Howard!*

## Two water districts award MSAC grants for video

West River Water Development District awarded \$1,200 to MSAC for assistance in producing a video earlier this year. South Central Water Development District also has pledged \$1,200 for these efforts. Expenses included hiring a pilot and photographer to document river changes in November 2011 following the summer of record flooding. Photos were taken from the Pierre to Vermillion area. More than 700 images were taken and an initial 16 minute video has been produced. View the video in two segments on YouTube. Search MSAC sedimentation.



**MSAC President Larry Weiss, Vice President Mary Hurd and South Central WDD Manager Cheryle Van Zee, right**

Stop by the Expo Building at the South Dakota State Fair & visit MSAC.



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