



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD

MISSOURI RIVER BANK STABILIZATION

In recognition of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization for efforts to promote partnerships while stabilizing and enhancing the bank of the Missouri River.

A collaborative partnership among those interested in protecting the Missouri River led to a plan to protect the infrastructure of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System while stabilizing and enhancing the bank of the Missouri River within a reach that is designated as a National Recreational River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Lewis & Clark is the largest, by volume, rural water system that has been authorized, and for which the Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for oversight. Authorized by the U.S. Congress in 2000, Lewis & Clark has evolved into a 45 million gallons per day system of 20 member rural water systems withdrawing water from the sand and gravel aquifers downstream of Gavins Point Dam south of Vermillion, South Dakota, and providing high quality water in a three state area. The partners on the stabilization project came with diverse interests, but cooperatively discussed options and agreed upon a solution which would maintain the values of the National Recreational River while protecting vital infrastructure. After much consultation and several on site meetings, the partners agreed upon an innovative idea: a vegetative stone toe revetment. The agreed-upon concept is a bank protection plan with hydraulically rough and environmentally desirable properties. All exposed stone is covered with soil and seeded along with willow, cottonwood and dogwood plantings. This project will have a positive effect on the recovery of the Missouri River by providing a positive alternative and guide for large-scale bank stabilization by utilizing soil over the riprap, rooted plants, and locked logs, and can be retro-fitted to many existing projects. Project monitoring will provide insight into hydraulic and environmental functions of the techniques used, and lessons learned can be used to refine future river projects. Because of their dedication and exceptional collaborative efforts to help improve the bank stability of the Missouri River, the team is granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.