

News Release

June 10, 2011

Joyce Williamson Jennifer La Vista 605-394-3219 303-202-4764 jewillia@usgs.gov jlavista@usgs.gov

Track Flood Waters Near Sioux City

Reporters: Do you want to accompany a USGS field crew as they measure flooding? Please contact Jennifer LaVista at 303-202-4764.

High floodwaters on the Missouri River near Sioux City, IA are being monitored with a new temporary U.S. Geological Survey streamgage.

Real-time water level information from the Dakota Dunes, S.D. streamgage, which was installed on June 2, can be accessed <u>online</u>. Temporary USGS streamgages are installed during floods to provide additional monitoring data in critical areas needed for effective forecasting and emergency response.

USGS scientists are collecting critical streamflow data that are vital for protection of life, property and the environment. This information is used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage flood control, the National Weather Service to develop flood forecasts, and various state and local agencies in their flood response activities. Real-time water level information from 159 streamgages across the state are available on the <u>USGS South Dakota FloodWatch Website</u>.

"USGS crews are working around the clock to help protect lives and property by ensuring that the Army Corps of Engineers, and other state and local agencies have the most accurate, up-to-date water level information," said USGS South Dakota Water Science Center Acting Director, Joyce Williamson. "Our scientists had to fix and relocate the Dakota Dunes temporary gage after it was damaged on June 6, to make sure these agencies and residents of Dakota Dunes continue to receive critical flood information."

To determine the elevation of the river at the Dakota Dunes streamgage, add 1,080 feet to the level reported on the website. For example, if the stage is 13.38 feet, add 1,080 feet to get a river elevation of 1,093.38 feet above sea level.

Access current flood and high flow conditions across the country by visiting the USGS <u>WaterWatch</u> website. Receive instant, customized updates about water conditions in your area via text message or email by signing up for USGS <u>WaterAlert</u>.

USGS provides science for a changing world. Visit <u>USGS.gov</u>, and follow us on Twitter <u>@USGS</u> and our other <u>social media channels</u>. Subscribe to our news releases via <u>e-mail</u>, <u>RSS</u> or <u>Twitter</u>.

###

U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey