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For Immediate Release: Feb 24, 2012

MEDIA ADVISORY

Missouri River Flood Task Force next meeting Feb 28, Omaha

Omaha, Nebr. — Following the historic flooding in the Missouri River Basin, a coalition of federal, state, Tribal and non-profit groups have formed to address both immediate and long-term floodplain management challenges. The task force will hold its third in-person meeting in Omaha, Nebr., at the Omaha Marriot, 12202 Regency Circle from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. The meeting is open to the public to observe.

There will be a media availability session from 2:30 – 3:30 pm. Media wishing to participate are asked to contact Thomas O'Hara at 402-996-3810, by 5 pm, Monday, Feb. 27, to help ensure your information needs, deadlines and access for specific subject matter experts are met.

The Missouri River Flood Task Force is chaired by three federal agencies: the Federal Emergency Management Agency), Region 7; the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division. However, multiple agencies within the Missouri River Basin have joined this task force in order to effectively collaborate and work towards solutions to the challenges of the basin.

The mission of the Task Force is to complete initial repairs by 1 March 2012 and to conduct long-term recovery activities in response to the Missouri River Basin flood of 2011 to address flood-plain management challenges and keep comprehensive flood risk reduction as a top priority. The Task Force is chartered to seize the opportunity to shape the future of the flood plain, and to set conditions for success for all involved by streamlining governmental processes; accelerating necessary assessments, coordination, and permitting requirements; and by applying agile and critical thinking to the problem set. These coordinated efforts will ensure timely progress and yield the intended results on the ground in the immediate future, and lead to a comprehensive recovery plan to achieve long-term flood risk management.

For more information or resources on the ongoing efforts to address both the short-term and continuing floodplain management challenges for the Missouri River Basin, go to http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/mrftf/.

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