

UGP recognized by intertribal coalition

Interior Department Secretary Bruce Babbitt recently presented the department's prestigious Conservation Service Award to the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition. Western is working with the coalition to provide Federal hydropower allocations to UGP beginning in 2001.

In a letter to UGP Regional Manager **Gerry Wegner**, Coalition President Gary Collins thanked Western "for its support and encouragement in providing assistance and services to Tribes. Special appreciation is given to **Robert Harris** and **Jon Horst** for their assistance and guidance in addressing tribal needs."

The award was presented to the coalition "in recognition of exceptional service and significant contributions to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and 27 member tribes of the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition along the mainstream of the Missouri River."

This was the first award given to an intertribal organization. Collins' letter noted, "The Conservation Service Award emphasizes how the Tribes and Western can build upon a collaborative and cooperative relationship to protect, preserve and promote natural resources on tribal lands." ■