

## **Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable** **2018 Work Plan**

*“A Partnership for Missouri River Basin Stewardship”*

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR) is a forum for Federal agencies advocating for a collaborative approach to addressing issues within the Missouri River Basin.

**MRBIR webpage:**

<https://projects.ecr.gov/mrbir/>

### **MRBIR Work Plan**

The MRBIR Work Plan is designed to align with the MRBIR vision of, “*addressing the complex Missouri River Basin (MRB) societal issues through collaboration, coordination, and communication.*” As such, MRBIR promotes collaborative impact as a tool for Federal management activities affecting Missouri River Basin’s human communities and ecosystems. MRBIR’s goal is to promote an integrated, holistic interagency approach to address these complex basin issues; enhancing the ecosystem and its natural resources, identifying common issues, sharing data, coordinating actions, and resolving conflicts.

MRBIR educates and informs MRB Federal Agency Executives through the actions of the following priority teams and activities:

#### **A) MRB Roundtable Council**

**Goal:** Coordination and partnership across all MRBIR Federal agencies for effective, efficient resource management and increased understanding of Missouri River Basin complex societal issues.

**Tasks:**

**1. Track and promote successful MRBIR partnerships**

- a. Maintain list of collaborative activities, including groups that originated as MRBIR tasks (MBFCC, ...)
- b. Highlight successes (MR Flood Task Force and Greater Sage Grouse Initiative, etc.) through development of information products, such as, fact sheets and presentations.
- c. Seek and encourage innovative partnerships and solutions, including non-federal partnerships.

**2. Maximize Government Efficiencies**

- a. Identify where existing programs and policies are in conflict and if these are creating barriers to progress other programs and efforts. Evaluate these issues and identify mutually agreed means of resolution (e.g. internal policy changes, Congressional language).

- b. Coordinate agency activities to “*Realize the most Impact for each appropriated dollar without duplicating efforts*” by maximizing the capabilities and mission priorities of each agency.
- c. Foster Memorandums of Understanding between agencies to create a robust and capable framework to support Federal activities in the MRB.

**3. Emergency Preparedness and Response**

- a. Be proactive in working to build resilience into Missouri River Basin to lessen emergencies, and to minimize and better withstand impacts from emergencies.
- b. Plan and strategize for possible emergency scenarios that would require action from Federal agencies in the MRB.
- c. Coordinate Federal activities in response to floods, drought, wildfire, water supplies, water quality, other natural disasters, and other Regional and National emergencies.

**4. Assist the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC)**

- a. The MRRIC Federal Working Group (FedWG) will assist the Corps of Engineers and US Fish and Wildlife Service in carrying out responsibilities related to the implementation of Section 5018 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.
- b. The FedWG is comprised of Federal agency representatives with some Agencies having key staff assigned to MRRIC.
- c. Leadership and coordination of the FedWG is rotated among the agencies on a quarterly basis.

**5. Maintain historical and operational knowledge of the MRBIR through the MRBIR public web site (<https://projects.ecr.gov/mrbir/>) and document repository ([MAX.gov](https://max.gov))**

- a. Annually (or more frequently, if necessary) update web site to reflect current leadership and operational details.
- b. Annually (or more frequently, if necessary) update Max.gov document repository.

**Collaboration Team Members:** MRBIR Chair and Co-Chair lead (lead); All agencies (members)

**B) Missouri Ecosystem and Climate Team**

**Goal:** Coordination of Missouri River Basin interagency ecosystem and climate initiatives and services.

**Tasks:**

**1. Climate collaboration in the MRBIR.**

- a. **Coordination of resiliency, outlooks and planning actions for climate-related issues.** Provide a regular forum to exchange drought and/or other climate-related issues management information undertaken by MRBIR agencies. Activities might include coordination with states and tribes who are doing risk management and drought preparedness work. Coordination with the National Integrated Drought Information



**Tasks:**

- 1. Coordinate Agency Data Sharing activities.**
  - a. Consider promoting OpenData.gov principals between agencies.
  - b. Consider compiling a List of Federal Agencies Data Portals and publish to MRBIR website.
- 2. Identify and increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of existing data that could be beneficial to MRBIR partners.**
  - a. Brainstorm and list various data that each agency has and/or data that each agency could use.
  - b. Identify data beneficial to Missouri River ESA compliance and implementation of Adaptive Management Plan
- 3. Strategize on how MRBIR members can partner together on sharing data to enhance effectiveness of natural resource efforts.**
  - a. Identify sharing platform(s) that could be utilized to enhance information sharing amongst MRBIR members. ([MAX.gov](http://MAX.gov))
  - b. Explore use of platforms that can host data for shared use (ex. USGS WIM Data Portals or USGS ScienceBase)
- 4. Review and update Data Identification and Sharing Team content on the MRBIR website**
- 5. Provide updates to Executives and Planning Committee on other key developments in this topic area.**

**Data Identification and Sharing Team Members:** Mary Roth (lead); Others....

## **D) Federal-Tribal Relations Team**

**Goal:** Coordination Among MRBIR Agencies for the Efficient Fulfillment of Federal Fiduciary Responsibilities to Tribes and to address Tribal Needs for MRBIR related Missouri River Basin Management Activities

**Tasks:**

- 1. Monthly conference calls held on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am central time.**
- 2. Identify opportunities to present Agency projects/plans to Tribes to facilitate effective consultation and Tribal participation.**

3. **Tribal consultation coordination among agencies where applicable and needed.**
4. **Review and update Federal-Tribal Relations Team content on the MRBIR website**
5. **Provide updates to Executives and Planning Committee on other key developments in this topic area.**

**Federal-Tribal Relations Team Members:** Diane Mann-Klager/Wayne Stone, BIA; \_\_\_\_\_, USACE (Co-leads); Doug Kluck, NOAA; Jordan Smith, USFWS; Reed Robinson, Regional NPS Tribal Liaison; Cal Jennings, WAPA; \_\_\_\_\_, BLM; Todd Hagel, NRCS; \_\_\_\_\_, USGS; \_\_\_\_\_, USFS.

## **E) Water Quality and Quantity Team**

**Goal:** Awareness and coordination among MRBIR agencies for Missouri River Basin water quality and quantity concerns

**Tasks:**

1. **Sediment and Erosion.** Monitor ongoing Federal Missouri fluvial sediment and erosion projects and provide an annotated list of those projects on an annual basis.
  - a. Prepare and update a document defining each agency's mission perspective with regards to sediment and erosion.
  - b. Provide updates on sediment and erosion monitoring technology.
2. **Emerging Contaminants of Concern.** Define each problem and provide situational awareness and education.
  - a. Southeast NE niobium Nio-Corp mine saltwater discharge
  - b. Neonicotinoids in grain seed coatings related to bee colony collapse
  - c. Others
3. **Nutrients and Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB).** Provide situational awareness and education.
  - a. Provide current and anticipated implications for the basin, drinking water and other systems.
4. **Recharge of Groundwater and Stream Base-Flows.** Define each concern and provide situational awareness and education.
  - a. Montana's groundwater recharge to mitigate and make more resilient for drought and flooding.
5. **Identify and share solutions and tools, including those that address multiple problems.** Seeks opportunities to implement and disseminate these resources.
6. **Review and update Water Quality and Quantity Team content on the MRBIR website**

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- 7. Provide updates to Executives and Planning Committee and FWG on these and other key developments in this topic area.**

**Water Quality Team Members:** \_\_\_\_\_ (lead); Casey Kruse, USFWS; Rick Clark, NPS; Dan Pridal, USACE; Verlon Barnes, NRCS; John Kinney, USFS