

MRBIR

A Federal Partnership for Missouri River Basin Coordination

Forum for Collaboration

For the past 20 years, the Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable has served as the forum for Federal Agencies promoting a collaborative approach to addressing issues within the Missouri River watershed.



The goal of the MRBIR is to seek opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and communication among Federal Agencies and, when possible and where appropriate, to communicate to other basin interests with a single Federal voice on issues within the basin. This approach is essential to realizing mutually beneficial objectives or when the MRBIR can facilitate more comprehensive interagency efforts that would typically be beyond the scope of any single agency.

Efficient Use of Federal Resources

- Developing strategic partnerships by participating in cooperative projects that address complex basin issues;
- Sharing resource inventories and mapping and eliminating duplicative efforts whenever possible;
- Sharing best practices across agencies, identifying common issues, coordinating actions, resolving conflicts, and enhancing the effectiveness of resource efforts;
- Exploring new opportunities for cooperation, collaboration, and action at the regional and local levels;
- Maximizing efficient use of Agency resources within existing systems while not creating new levels of bureaucracy;
- Reporting cooperative accomplishments to promote greater understanding and awareness of the high environmental and socioeconomic values and needs of the basin's natural resources; and
- Garnering Federal focus and fiscal support toward the enhancement of resources.



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BUREAU OF LAND
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FISH AND WILDLIFE
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FOREST SERVICE



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PROTECTION
AGENCY



COAST GUARD



FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
AGENCY



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION



MARITIME
ADMINISTRATION



NATIONAL OCEANIC
AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION



ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS



WESTERN AREA
POWER
ADMINISTRATION



NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SUCCESS STORIES

MISSOURI RIVER BASIN FEDERAL CLIMATE COLLABORATION (MBFCC) 2014-PRESENT

- The Missouri Basin Federal Climate Collaboration was formed early in 2014 following the flood of 2011 and drought events of 2006 and 2012. Climate information has a critical connection to the water supply and economy of the Basin. An interest in a standing federal group to discuss climate related issues pertinent to the Missouri Basin was expressed; climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation.
- This group was formed to communicate current climate issues and outlooks, share agency climate related priorities, and to bring awareness to stakeholders and prevent redundancy. The collaboration holds quarterly conference calls and webinars. The MRBIR receives a climate update at each of its meetings.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN THE FEDERAL PROCESS (MRRIC) 2006-PRESENT

- As a precursor to establishing the stakeholder Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC), a neutral third party was hired to conduct a Situation Assessment under the auspices of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, and at the joint request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The Situation Assessment recommended that the federal agencies in the basin take a proactive leadership role in convening MRRIC and the collaborative process.
- MRBIR executives appointed staff from their agencies to serve on a Federal Working Group (FWG) to develop a framework for establishment of MRRIC. An Addendum to the MRBIR MOU was signed in October 2008 that committed agencies to the MRRIC Charter, identified roles of agencies in MRRIC, and outlined a conflict resolution process to ensure unified federal positions on MRRIC recommendations.
- The FWG played a crucial role in establishing MRRIC and continues to provide an important forum for the federal agencies to work together to speak with one federal voice on MRRIC matters. <http://www.mrric.org>

MISSOURI RIVER FLOOD TASK FORCE (MRFTF) 2011-2012

- MRBIR facilitated and provided co-chair leadership of the Missouri River Flood Task Force as a collaborative flood recovery effort following the historic Missouri River flood of summer 2011.
- This 9-month flood recovery effort resulted in accelerated completion of initial repairs and holistic consideration of longer-term recovery activities to address floodplain management challenges in the Missouri River basin.
- MRFTF provided a temporary forum for communication, coordination, collaboration and cooperation among the federal officials and designated officers of state, local and Tribal governments within the Missouri River basin states.
- MRFTF Working Groups included: Levee Repair, Agriculture, Tribal Support, Regulatory/Permitting, Communications, Floodplain Management, River Management, Hydropower, and Navigation.
- The Task Force was 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. Non-structural flood risk reduction was a key outcome of this effort.
- MRFTF webpages have been archived in the event that a similar Task Force needs to be activated following a future disaster: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/MRFTF/default.html>

AGENCY SEDIMENT PERSPECTIVES – ONGOING

- Sediment is a recurring issue with many of the MRBIR agencies. Mission assignments sometimes led to conflicts making collaboration difficult.
- The MRBIR Sediment Workgroup developed a document detailing the differences in sediment and erosion mission perspectives so agency executives could appreciate each agency's stance.
- The MRBIR Sediment Workgroup also maintains a list of federally sponsored sediment / erosion related projects in the Missouri River basin to inform each other, document progress and reports, and avoid duplication of effort.

FEDERAL TRIBAL RELATIONS – ONGOING

- Understand different agency perspectives on Government-to-Government consultation with basin Tribes.
- Share best practices and lessons learned among agency Tribal Liaisons
- Facilitate understanding of various agency responsibilities to best meet the federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities.