

**Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR)  
Meeting Summary**

February 16 & 26, 2021

Remote

**Executive Summary**

The Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable (MRBIR), chaired by Scott Morlock, United States Geological Survey (USGS), met via the WebEx platform February 16th and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to the ongoing condition of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Missouri River Basin Executives or their alternates, representing 16 Federal agencies, attended the meeting along with Planning Committee members and staff. Marci DuPraw and Mitch Chrimer of the National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (National Center) facilitated the meeting, and Alyssa Bonini, also of the National Center, took notes.

The objective of all MRBIR Executive Roundtable meetings is to provide opportunities for Executives of the Federal agencies in the Missouri River basin to engage in collaboration, coordination, and communication pertaining to natural resource management challenges in the basin. They do this by developing partnerships, sharing information, finding ways to support efficient resource use, reporting accomplishments, and garnering Federal focus and fiscal support for natural resource enhancement in the basin.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, participants briefed one another on: (1) litigation related to pipeline cases (DAPL, Keystone), flooding cases, and water supply cases; (2) the snow and soil moisture monitoring network in upper Missouri River Basin; (3) fire management in the Norther Rockies and Rock Mountain Geographic Areas, 2021 fire season prediction, and USGS science support for fire management in the Missouri Basin ; (4) updates in Missouri River water management and Climate; and (5) progress of Federal actions to prevent looting of cultural resources. In addition to these reports and updates, the MRBIR group discussed the top priorities and pressing issues and concerns from their respective agencies. MRBIR members also reviewed various operational aspects of the group, including a proposal to help close the gap in MRBIR funding and “handoff” to new MRBIR Chair Beth Coffey, United States Army Corps of Engineers.