



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable

MRBIR

A Federal Partnership for Missouri River Basin Coordination

A forum for collaboration

For the past 20 years, the MRBIR has served as the forum for Federal agencies promoting a collaborative approach to addressing issues within the Missouri River watershed. The goal of MRBIR is to seek opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and communication among Federal agencies and, where appropriate, to communicate with a single Federal voice on issues within the basin. This approach is essential to realizing mutually beneficial objectives, and it also allows MRBIR to facilitate more comprehensive interagency efforts that would typically be beyond the scope of any single agency.

Structure and membership

The Executive Committee, composed of SES-level agency leaders, generally meets in person two times each year. General membership constituting MRBIR also attends these meetings. The Planning Committee, composed of select agency staff representatives, participates in monthly calls to help shape MRBIR agendas and topics.

Efficient use of Federal resources

MRBIR promotes the efficient use of Federal resources through a number of strategies:

- Developing strategic partnerships through cooperative projects that address complex basin issues;
- Sharing resource inventories and mapping, eliminating duplicative efforts, and enhancing effectiveness whenever possible;
- Sharing best practices across agencies, identifying common issues, coordinating actions, and resolving conflicts;
- Exploring new opportunities at the regional and local levels;
- Maximizing efficient use of agency resources;
- Reporting cooperative accomplishments for greater understanding of environmental and socioeconomic values and the needs of the basin's natural resources; and
- Garnering Federal focus and support toward the enhancement of resources.



Flooding and drought response

The Missouri River Basin continues to experience both historic flooding (e.g., 1993, 2011, 2019) and drought (e.g., 2003–2007, 2012, 2017, 2018). The MRBIR provides a forum to discuss and act upon such disasters across Federal agencies during these extreme events. MRBIR's unique position allows the valuable flow of information between agencies to better serve the public and each other.

Federal–Tribal relations

MRBIR provides a forum to understand different agency perspectives on government-to-government consultation with basin Tribes. Agencies' Tribal liaisons share best practices and lessons learned. Members deepen their understanding of various agency responsibilities to best meet the Federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities.

Agency sediment perspectives

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. It also maintains a list of Federally sponsored projects related to sediment and erosion in the Missouri River basin in order to share information, document progress, and avoid duplication of effort.

How Reclamation supports MRBIR

Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency with numerous programs, initiatives and activities that help the Western States, Native American Tribes and others meet water needs and balance the multitude of competing uses of water in the West.

Reclamation's 44 units/divisions and its dams, reservoirs and canal works on Missouri River tributaries of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program (PSMBP) provide water to irrigation districts and municipalities. PSMBP as authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 coordinates multi-purposes between Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Western Area Power Administration. During extreme weather events – whether drought or flooding – coordination of operations of Reclamation's facilities within PSMBP is essential. MRBIR provides an excellent opportunity to build federal agency relationships within the basin and further Reclamation's mission to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

The Missouri River Basin

