



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 the BLM supports MRBIR

The Montana/Dakotas Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages over eight million surface acres and forty-five million acres of federal mineral estate in the Missouri River Basin (with a substantial amount of additional BLM managed lands in Wyoming and Colorado). These lands are managed to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. These lands also play a role in how other agencies carry out their missions. For example, BLM managed lands play a key role in the overall management of mineral and energy resources, forests and rangelands, fire and fuels, off-reservation tribal treaty rights, cultural and paleontological resources, water availability and quality, recreational opportunities, fish and wildlife, and invasive species. The purpose of the BLM's participation within MRBIR is to foster effective working relationships in order to strategically address emerging issues and/or management opportunities within the Basin.

The Missouri River Basin

