



# 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 NOAA supports MRBIR

NOAA has been represented on the MRBIR since 2007. In 2019, NOAA took the chair's position for the group, with NESDIS (NCEI), OAR (ESRL, NIDIS), and the NWS (MBRFC) in leading roles.

NOAA has consistently brought relevant climate, weather, and hydrologic information to the community. NOAA works directly with most of the Federal agencies involved, and it increases the level of communications during times when extreme events impact the basin.

Information NOAA provides directly aids the USACE on planning projects, flows, and remediation efforts. NOAA's climate monitoring, as well as its longer-lead climate and hydrologic outlooks, is used by a number of agencies for planning and mitigation efforts.

Several recent NOAA studies (OAR/ESRL) on the changing Missouri Basin runoff have garnered great interest among several agencies for planning purposes. Since 2007, NESDIS (NCEI) has consistently participated in regular MRBIR calls and face-to-face meetings, led climate teams, and enhanced the knowledge of past, current, and future climate conditions across the basin, allowing better reaction to potential challenges such as wildfire, flooding, and drought, as well as putting those events in historical context.

## The Missouri River Basin

