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The Mississippi River

Resilient and Healthy Rivers Series

Tuesday, October 08, 2024

About EESI



Non-partisan Educational Resources for Policymakers

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies



Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs



Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making



Sustainable Solutions

Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges in order to achieve our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.

Polycymaker Education

Briefings and Webcasts



Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived webcasts, and written summaries

Climate Change Solutions



Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs



Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

Social Media (@EESIOnline)



Active engagement on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube



Upcoming Briefings in this Series



Resilient and Healthy Rivers Series

4

The Tennessee River | Wednesday, December 11, 2-3:30 PM

The Columbia River | Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 2-3:30 PM

The Colorado River | Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 2-3:30 PM

The Hudson River | Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 2-3:30 PM

The Ohio River | Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 2-3:30 PM

“Small But Mighty” Rivers | Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 2-3:30 PM

Signup for our COP newsletter here: eesi.org/signup

Briefing RSVP here: eesi.org/rivers-briefings



EESI
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What did you think of the briefing?

Please take 2 minutes to let us know at:

www.eesi.org/survey

Materials will be available at:

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Tuesday, October 08, 2024

Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative

An Association of 105 U.S. Mayors
Vision • Leadership • Results

MRCTI





MRCATI DISASTER RESILIENCE AND
ADAPTATION PROGRAM

Mayors of Middle America Have an
Ambitious Plan to Save the World's Most
Important River—*The Mississippi*



Mitch Reynolds
Mayor
La Crosse, WI
MRCTI Co-Chair



George Flaggs
Mayor
Vicksburg, MS
MRCTI Co-Chair



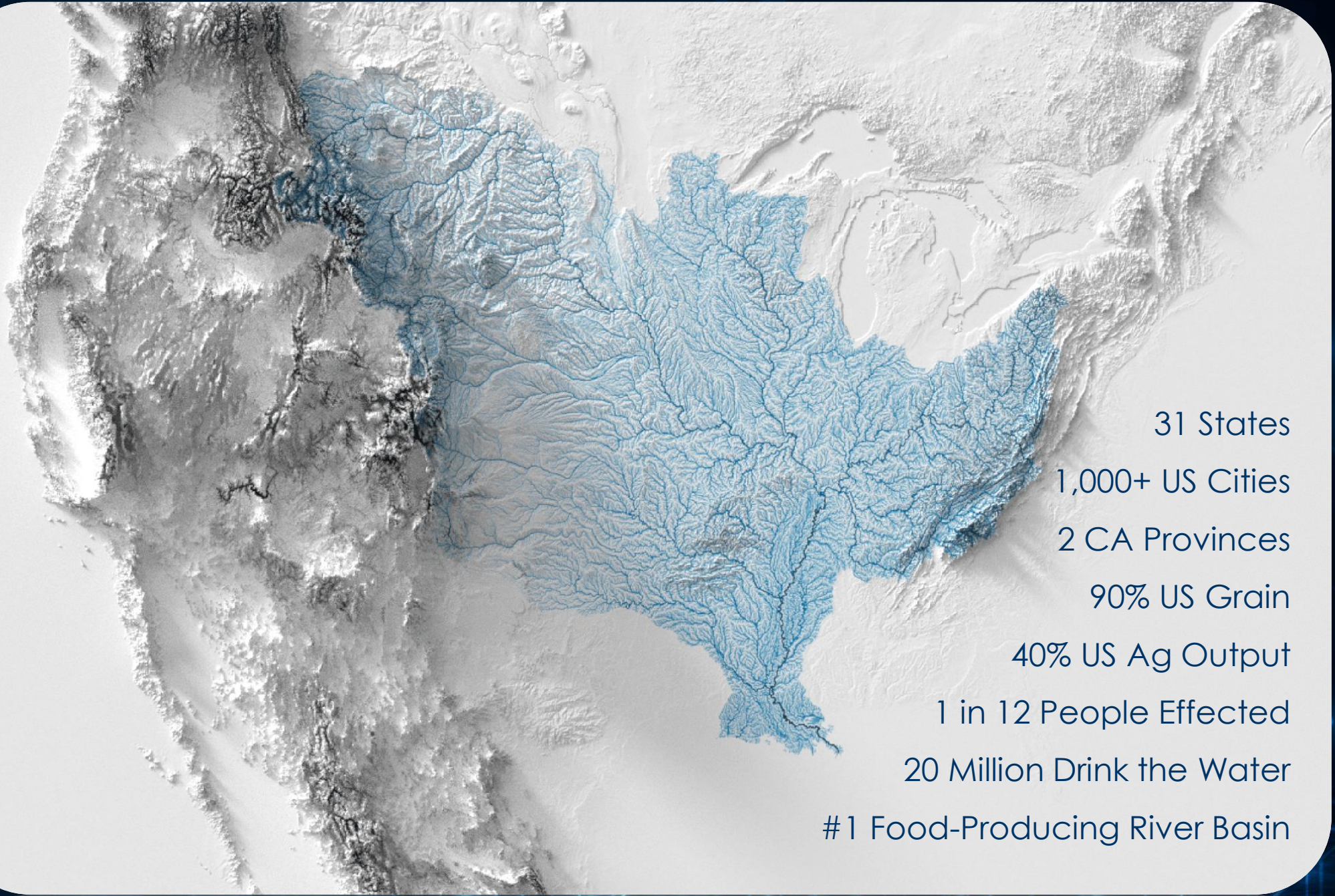
Melisa Logan
Mayor
Blytheville, AR
MRCTI Secretary



Brad Bark
Mayor
Muscatine, IA
MRCTI Treasurer

105 US Mayors Across Ten States





31 States

1,000+ US Cities

2 CA Provinces

90% US Grain

40% US Ag Output

1 in 12 People Effectuated

20 Million Drink the Water

#1 Food-Producing River Basin



MRCTI COP 27

Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative
United Nations Climate Talks, Egypt 2022



Mississippi River Mayors and Global Conservation Authority Ducks Unlimited Announce 100,000 acres of Resilient Infrastructure



Local Action for Global Good



Scan this QR Code to see official project website

Co-Benefits of Corridor Scale Projects

- 8 Hours of peak-flood protection at 2019 levels
- 11.5 million pounds of nutrient captured
- 230,000 tons of carbon sequestered
- Nearly \$1 trillion in products secured
- Most climate vulnerable communities protected
- Total project area = 100,000 acres, 9 states, 45 cities over ten-year period
- Potential to meet 30% of U.S. non-power sector NDC over next ten years



Types of Projects Being Deployed

- Wetlands
- Marshes
- Forests
- Connected Floodplain
- Reconnected Back Water
- Multi-State / Multi-City
- Corridor Scale Impacts



EESI Briefing: Mississippi River Watershed

October 8, 2024

TNC's Mississippi River Basin Program

Goals

Reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loading to the Gulf of Mexico by 20% by 2025 and 40% by 2035

Protect and restore 2 million acres of floodplains by 2030

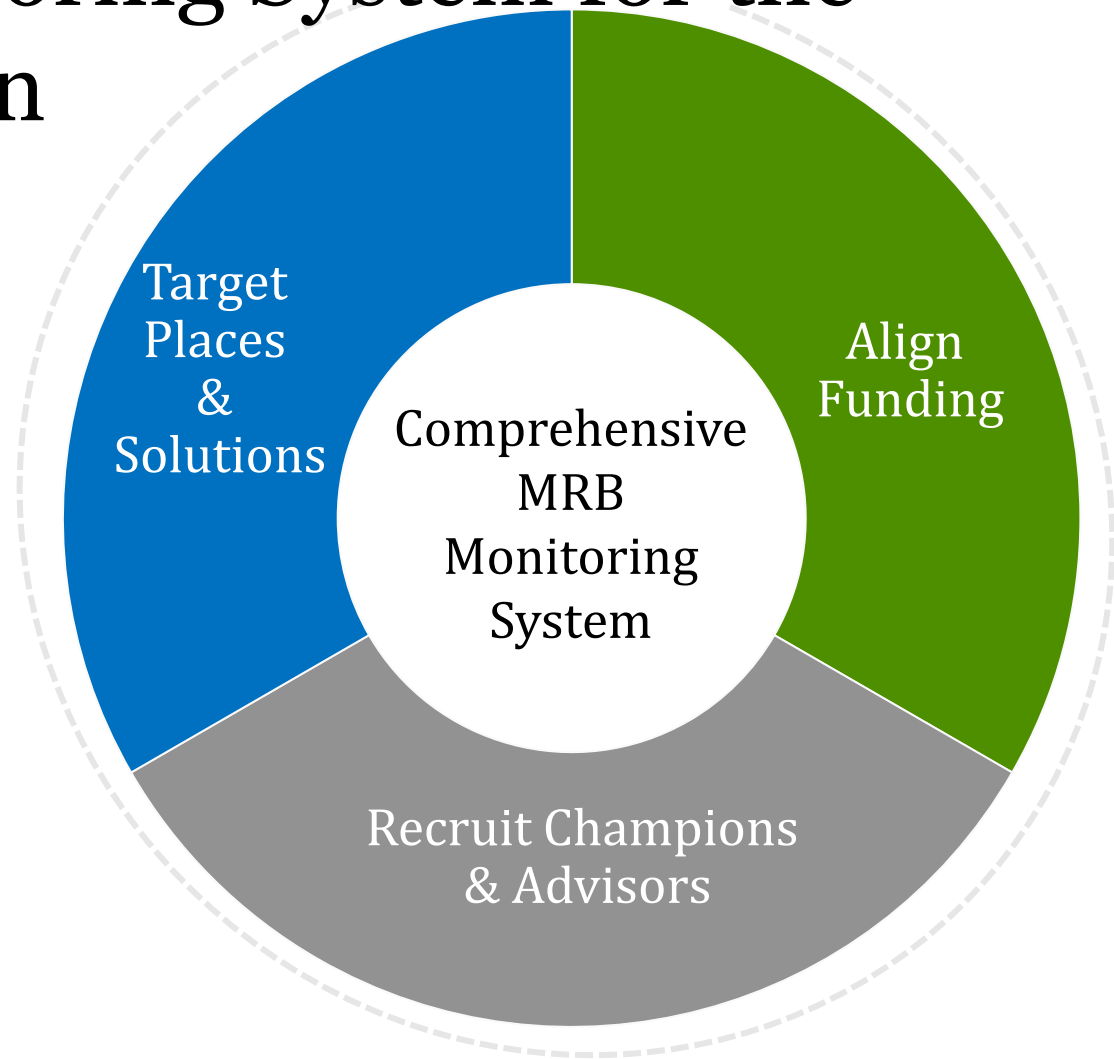
Improve outcomes on 50% of row crop acres by 2030



Comprehensive Monitoring System for the Mississippi River Basin

The Goal

A fully funded sentinel monitoring system across the Mississippi River in the next five years.



Priorities determined by the Coalition

Leverage
systems
in place
and
available
funding

Water Quality &
Hypoxia

Flood Risk
Management &
Resilience

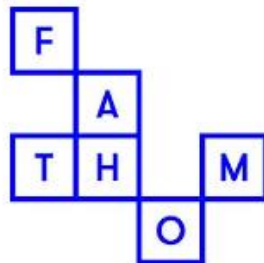
Navigation safety

*Ecosystems and
Habitat Quality*

FLOODPLAIN PRIORITIZATION TOOL

The Nature Conservancy developed the new Floodplain Prioritization Tool (FP Tool) to identify critical opportunities for floodplain conservation and restoration in the Mississippi River Basin. Working with data developed by the Conservancy and provided by several partners, the FP Tool is designed to help identify places where these actions would have the greatest impact on the overall health of this iconic river system. This first-of-its-kind tool is interactive, web-based and designed to help decision-makers—like federal, state and local governments, county planners, land trusts, and businesses—optimize their conservation and restoration investments and minimize the impacts of development. For the portfolio of priority sites identified throughout the basin, the Floodplain Prioritization Tool allows stakeholders to identify priorities and assess tradeoffs related to nutrient removal, wildlife habitat, flooding and other goals.

The applicability of this new tool is important because floodplains are incredibly [hard-working ecosystems](#) that can improve water quality, reduce flood impacts, provide critical wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities. But tens of millions of acres of floodplains across the Mississippi River Basin have been developed or converted to agriculture. These changes in land use have degraded water quality, increased flood impacts, and diminished habitat for fish and wildlife, all of which takes a toll on the economy and the quality of life for people.



About the Floodplain Prioritization Tool

Mississippi River Basin Floodplain Tool

Who is it for?

Launch the FP Tool (IE not supported)

Fact Sheet

Feature Story

Coverage Map

The Value of Floodplains

User Training Video

Technical Specifications & Data Layers

Email TNC's Kris Johnson

Media Info

Lower Meramec River Floodplain Tool

Launch the FP Tool (IE not supported)

Western Tennessee Floodplain Tool

Trinity Floodplain Prioritization Tool

The Trinity Floodplain Prioritization Tool (FPPT) is designed to help identify key opportunities for floodplain protection and restoration in the Trinity River Basin. Use the selector widgets below to specify criteria related to current and future flood risk, current and projected land use characteristics, water quality, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage. The map on the right will change in response to your selections to identify sites that meet all the selected criteria and help identify the geographies where floodplain conservation is likely to have the greatest positive impact for the conservation and community priorities selected.

Identify Floodplain Units

Select Flood Frequency

1-in-5-year

1-in-100-year

1-in-500-year

View Floodplains By Watershed Size

HUC-8

HUC-12

Catchment

Watershed Opacity



Filter Floodplain Units

Download Selected Data

Save and Share

Reset Filters

Available Floodplain Area

Available floodplain area for the currently specified flood frequency

0 to 100,000 acres

Available unprotected floodplain area for the currently specified flood frequency

0 to 100,000 acres

Water Quality & Soils

Nitrogen yield to local

0 to 100

- **Water Quality & Soils** (N, P, Sediment yield, etc. 303d listed segment...)
- **Habitat** (Terrestrial ,Freshwater, resilience, connectivity)
- **Carbon Storage** (above, below ground)
- **Flood Risk- Community** (current/future population exposure, building losses, SVI)
- **Flood Risk- Agriculture** (% floodplain in crop or pasture, in are of high current/future losses)
- **Development pressure** (in floodplain, in watershed)
- **Supporting overlays** (land cover, floodplain, priority conservation areas, development pressure, flood losses, exposure)

**data in parentheses is partial layer list*



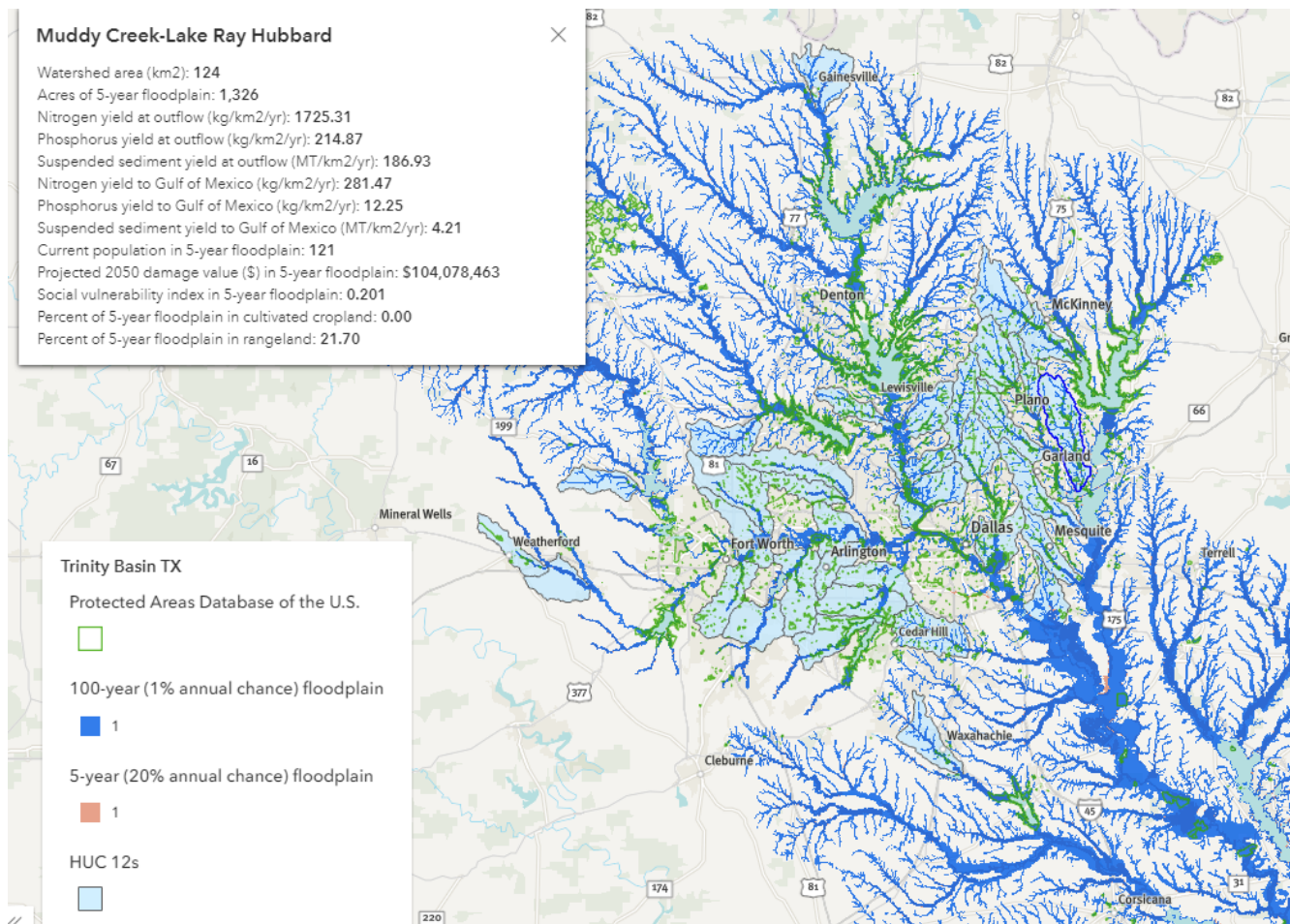


Use Case– Section 1135 Environmental Restoration

Section 1135 – Environmental Restoration - What areas may be available protect/restore to improve aquatic habitat that could be funded by cost-share in Upper Trinity River Basin?

Criteria:

- Available unprotected floodplain within watershed near protected land (possible USACE adjacent) in 5-year flood frequency that potentially contributes to sediment loading to USACE project (reservoir).
 - 1 in 5 yr.
 - HUC 12
 - Available flood plain area, unprotected >100 acres
 - Suspended sediment yield >20
- Possesses community flood risk reduction potential (NFS co-benefits)
 - Population exposure (current and 2050) >10; >18
 - Expected to experience increased developmental pressure **Index >1**
- Supporting Layers
 - 5-yr
 - 100-yr
 - Protected areas

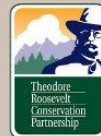


Mississippi River Watershed Partnership Workshop

Conference Planning Committee:



Consulting Partners:



JUNE 25-27, ST. LOUIS, MO

Focus of Workshop

- Leadership Issues facing the watershed
- Exploring goals areas – water quality, flood and drought resilience, navigation, fish and wildlife resources, recreation
- Options for moving a Mississippi River Watershed Partnership forward

125 attendees

- 22 states
- 8 Federal agencies (Mr. Jaimie Pinkham, Principle Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation, USDA keynoted)
- 10 State Agencies
- National and Local NGOs
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Navigation
- Attend to who is missing





Sarah Murdock; smurdock@tnc.org



Mississippi River

AMANDA MOORE
EESI CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING



Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative Act (MRRRI)

MRRRI – Support for Core Areas of River Health:



- **Clean water:** Improve water quality in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico by reducing the amount of polluted runoff, excess nutrients, and sediment entering the River system;
- **Improving Resilience:** Improve community resilience with natural infrastructure by restoring the ability of the Mississippi River and its floodplain, riverine wetlands, delta and coastal wetlands, and backwaters to minimize and ameliorate flood and storm risks;
- **River habitat:** Protect and restore wildlife habitat in and along the Mississippi River and throughout the River corridor, including by preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in the River system; and
- **Vulnerable communities:** Prioritize these efforts to address disproportionate impacts to communities of color, rural communities, and economically disadvantaged communities caused by ecological degradation of the Mississippi River and its tributaries.



Clean Water Act

Sackett v EPA decision: Impacts to Water Quality and Flood Storage

- Over **50% of the water** that reaches the Mississippi River Delta originates in streams that may not be federally protected against pollution and destruction
- Almost **two-thirds** of previously protected wetlands are no longer protected by the Clean Water Act
- Without federal baseline, the burden falls on states and localities to protect streams, which historically has fallen short to ensure the protection of waters for future generations





Disaster Funding

Pre- and Post-Disaster Funding

- Federal funding has an important role *before and after* disasters
- FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program aims pro-active investment in community resilience and pre-disaster mitigation activities.
- USACE managing the river for heightened climate risk and severe weather - Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study





Mississippi River Delta



Severe Threats and Building Resilience in the Delta

- 1) Governance rooted in a science-based planning process
- 2) Dedicated and protected funding streams that have given us a strong record of implementation
- 3) Public trust and support



Community Outreach and Engagement



Network Mapping Themes & Takeaways

Themes

1. Strengthening Citizen & Community Advocacy
2. Protecting Water Quality & Wetlands
3. Restoring Natural Flows & Connectivity
4. Conserving Land Area
5. Adopting Sustainable Agriculture Practices



Network Mapping Themes & Takeaways

Takeaways

1. Partnership and education are needed at the community level to foster trust, empower residents, and leverage government programs.
2. Projects and plans should fully involve communities.
3. Relationship overhauling is needed to rebrand, reconnect, and celebrate the Mississippi River.
4. Riparian restoration and protection plans are needed along the mainstem and major tributaries to reduce flood risk and protect habitats.

“Getting
community
buy-in is
critical.”

Network Mapping Themes & Takeaways



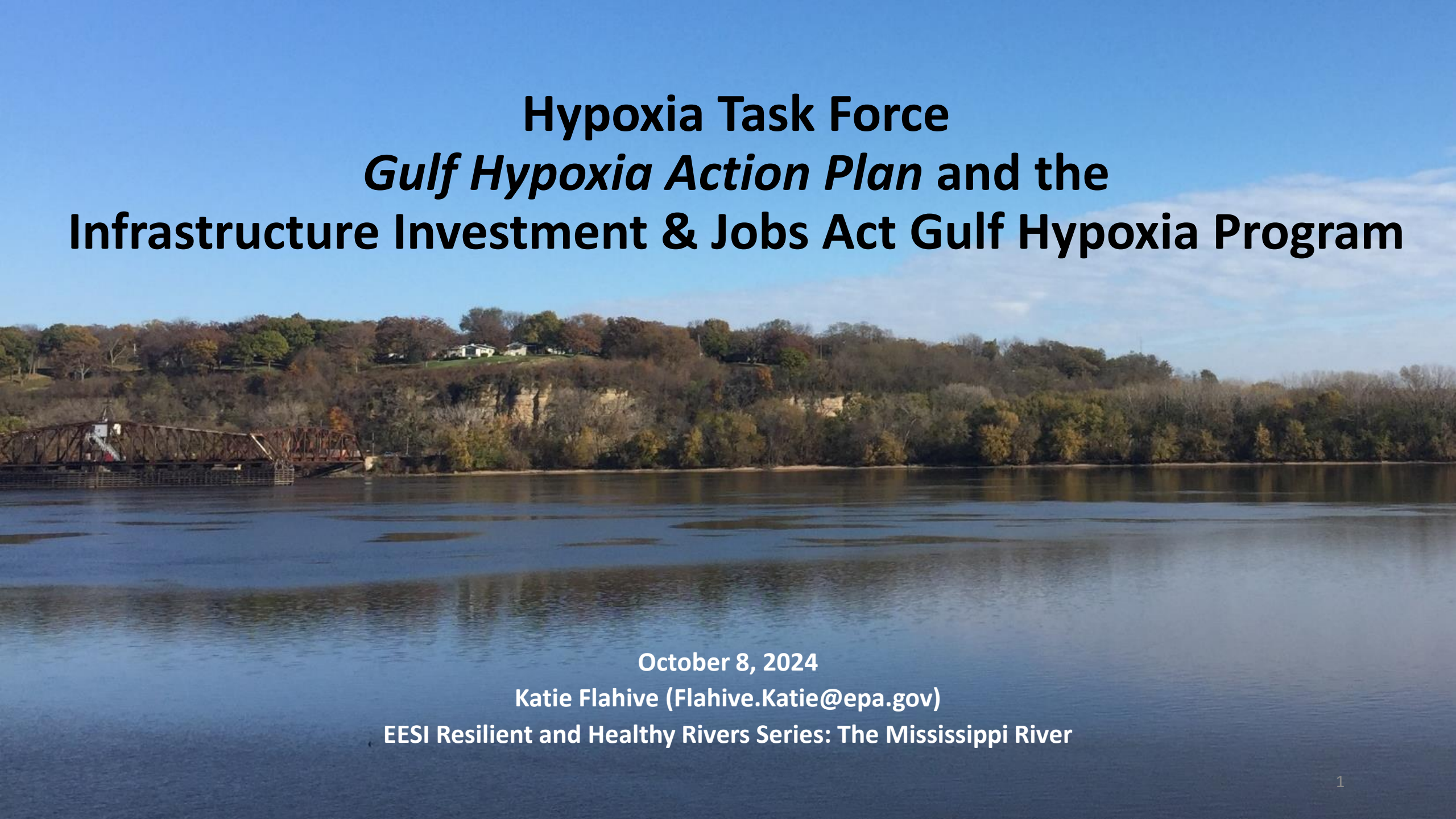
Takeaways

5. Upstream restorative management, wetland protection and restoration will benefit downstream communities and ecosystems.
6. Increased monitoring of nature-based approaches to demonstrate cost-effective benefits.
7. Increased capacity and technical assistance are needed for organizations to fully utilize the suite of federal funding opportunities.
8. Consider how to improve equity and accessibility for federal programs.



THANK YOU

MOOREA@NWF.ORG



Hypoxia Task Force *Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan* and the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act Gulf Hypoxia Program

October 8, 2024

Katie Flahive (Flahive.Katie@epa.gov)

EESI Resilient and Healthy Rivers Series: The Mississippi River

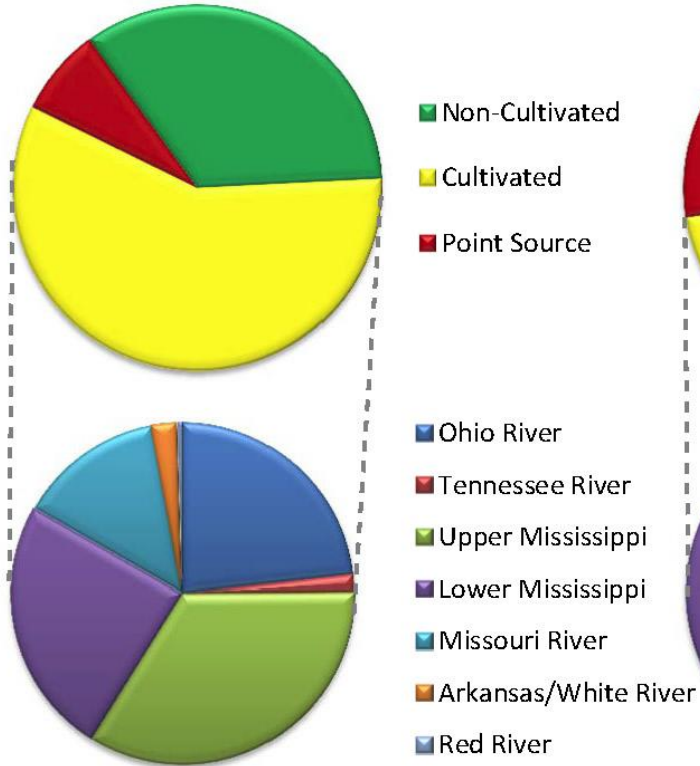
Hypoxia & the Mississippi River Basin



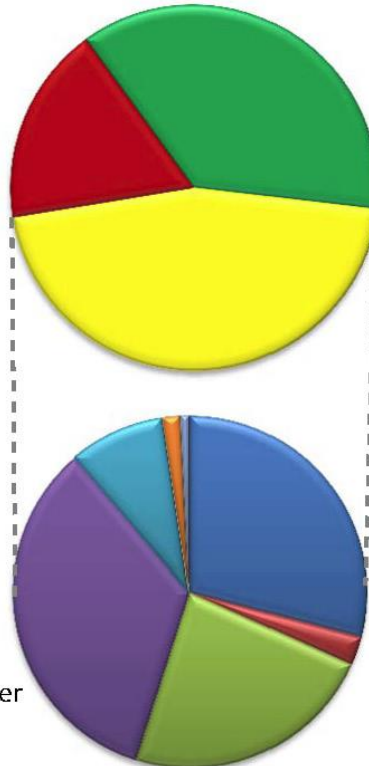
Source: <https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf/mississippiatchafalaya-river-basin-marb>

Mississippi River Basin Loads

Total Nitrogen to Gulf



Total Phosphorus to Gulf



USDA CEAP-SWAT model estimates of sources of TN & TP from MARB to the Gulf of Mexico (2003-2006 data, [White et al 2014](#))

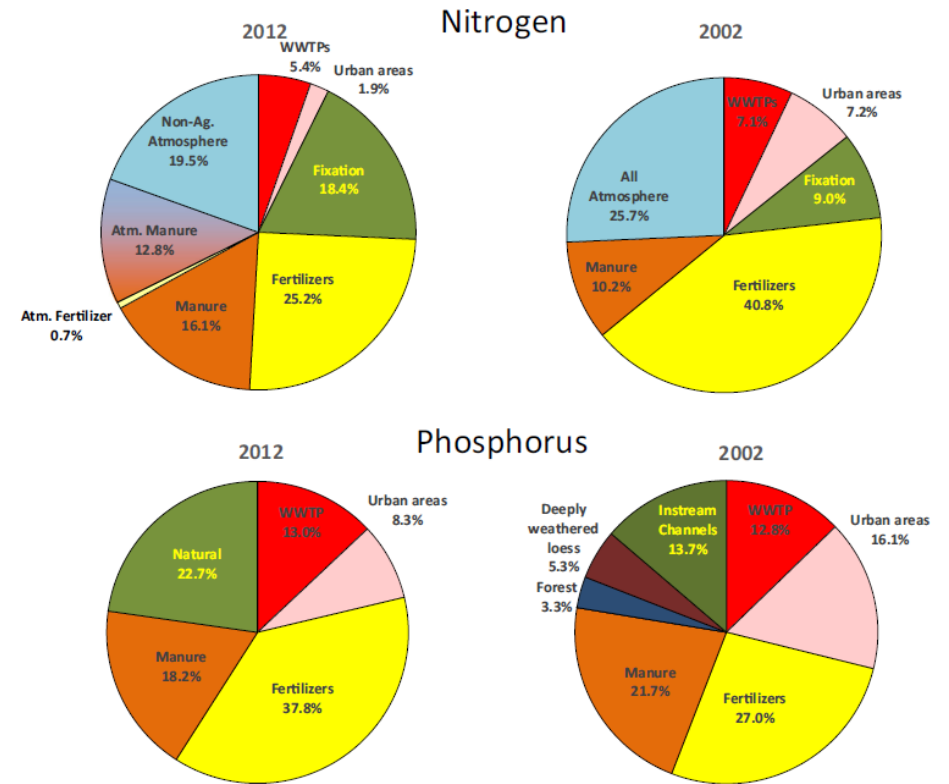
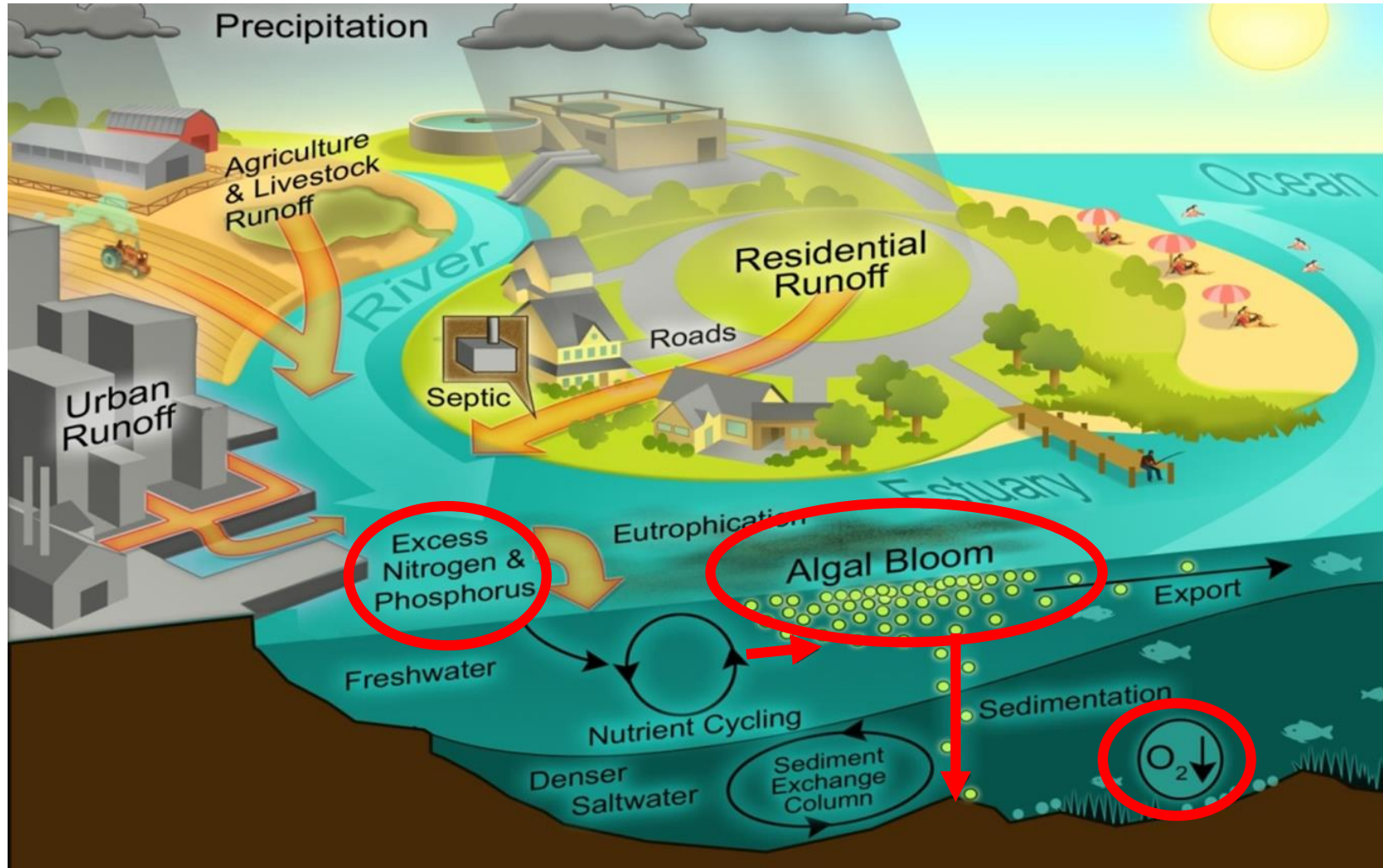


FIGURE 5. Allocation of loading by source from the MARB from this study (2012) for nitrogen and phosphorus and based on results from the 2002 SPARROW model (Robertson and Saad 2013) for nitrogen and phosphorus.

USGS SPARROW model estimates of sources of TN & TP from MARB to the Gulf of Mexico (2012 data, [Robertson and Saad 2021](#))

Hypoxia 101



[Learn more about nutrient pollution and the associated water quality and human health impacts](#)

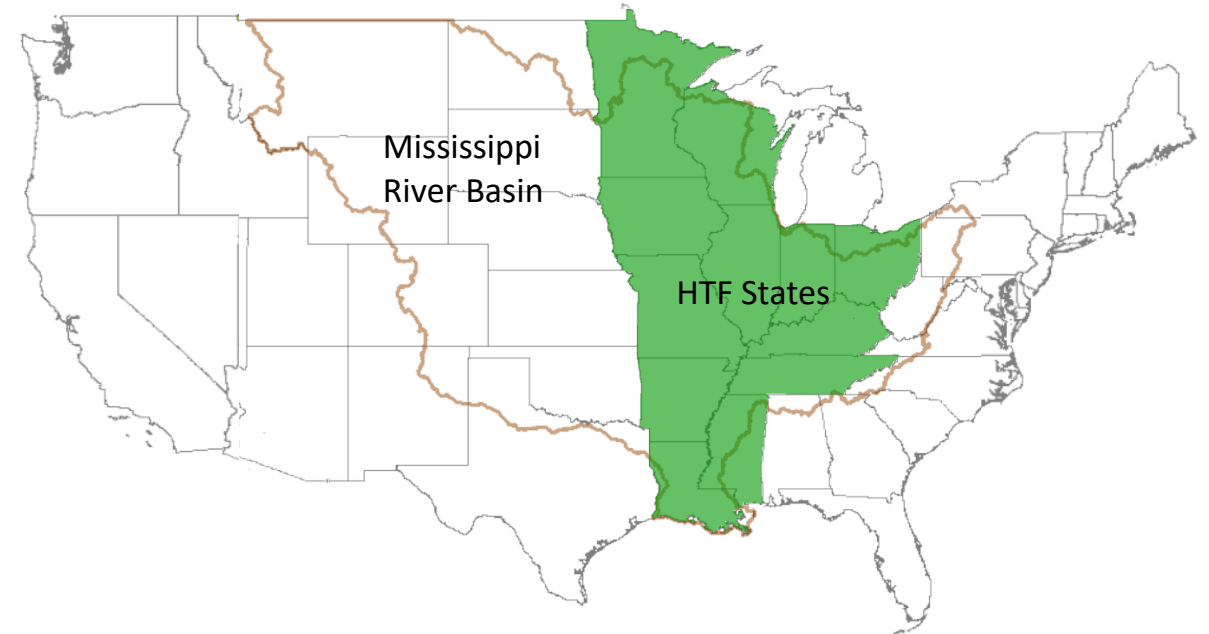
Hypoxia Task Force Members

5 Federal Agencies and Tribes

US Environmental Protection Agency (co-chair)
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 US Army Corps of Engineers
 US Department of Agriculture
 US Department of Interior
 National Tribal Water Council (reps 21 Tribes with
 land in this area)

12 States

Arkansas	Ohio
Missouri	Louisiana
Iowa (co-chair)	Illinois
Tennessee	Mississippi
Minnesota	Kentucky
Indiana	Wisconsin



Coordinating Committee: staff level support to members

- Each state member represents the Agriculture, Environmental Quality, and/or Natural Resources agency; multiple state agencies engage with the CC.
- Three Sub-Basin Committees are CC members (Upper Miss, Lower Miss, Ohio River)
- Land Grant Univ. Consortium works with the CC: SERA-46 has two reps from each state LGU

Task Force Background

Late 1990s

Late 1990s: Formed based on the White House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources' "[Integrated Assessment](#)"

- Scientific basis for [2001 Action Plan](#) with goal to reduce the size of the Hypoxic Zone
- Led to focus on reducing nitrogen loads to the gulf via the Mississippi River

2001

2001 Action Plan called for periodic [Reassessments](#)

- Convened [four science symposia](#)
- [EPA Science Advisory Board](#) panel, synthesized science and symposia outcomes, recommended dual nitrogen and phosphorus reduction strategy, 45% reduction

2008

[2008 Action Plan](#)

- Agreement by states to implement their own strategies with dual N and P reduction effort

2015

[2015](#) reiterated the goal, adopted an interim target

- 20% reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus loading by 2025

2022

[Gulf Hypoxia Program](#) established to advance the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan goals

- \$60M over 5 years to states, Tribes, Sub-Basin Committees, Land Grant Univ. Consortium

Present

States/Tribes implementing [Nutrient Reduction Strategies](#) with first-time dedicated support through the IJA Gulf Hypoxia Program; Sub-Basin Committees & Land Grant Univs providing local, multi-state supports; EPA submits biennial [Reports to Congress](#) describing progress

Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan Goals

Coastal Goal

“Reduce the...extent of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone to **less than 5,000 square kilometers by the year 2035**. Reaching this...will require a significant commitment of resources... An Interim Target of a **20 percent reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus loading by 2025** is a milestone for immediate planning and implementation actions.”

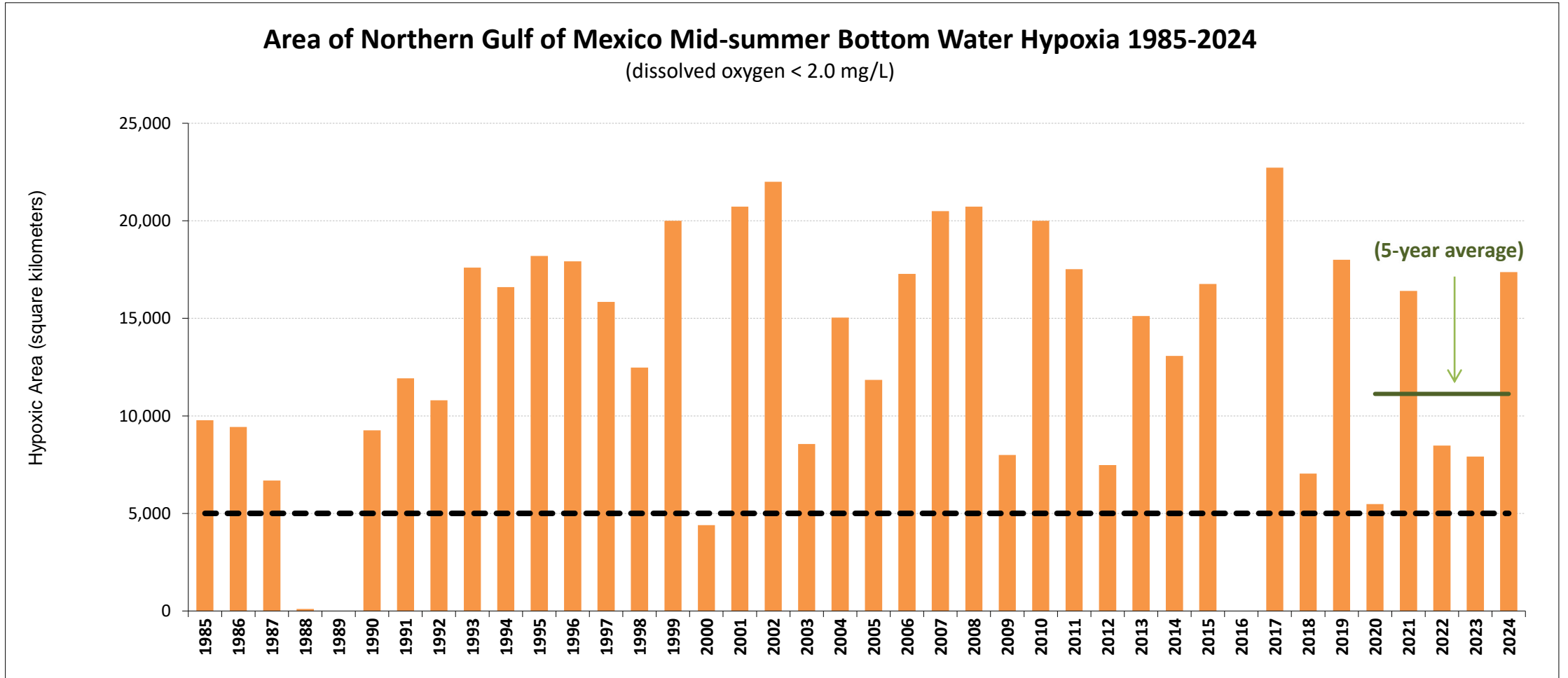
Within Basin Goal

“To **restore and protect the waters of the 31 states and tribal lands** within the MARB through implementation of nutrient and sediment reduction actions to **protect public health and aquatic life** as well as reduce negative impacts of water pollution on the Gulf of Mexico.”

Quality of Life Goal

“To **improve the communities and economic conditions** across the MARB, in particular the agriculture, fisheries and recreation sectors, through improved public and private land management and a cooperative, incentive-based approach.”

Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan Goals



Historic size of hypoxia from 1985 to 2024. No data for 1989 and 2016. 1988 value is 100 sq. km.

[\(N. Rabalais, LSU/LUMCON & R. Turner, LSU\)](#)

State of Gulf Science

Model Results

Offer guidance on watershed nutrient reduction levels to meet the goal and significantly advance our understanding

- Single (N) and/or dual (N & P) load reductions needed
- Expected effects of reaching the Interim Target on the zone

Coastal Goal

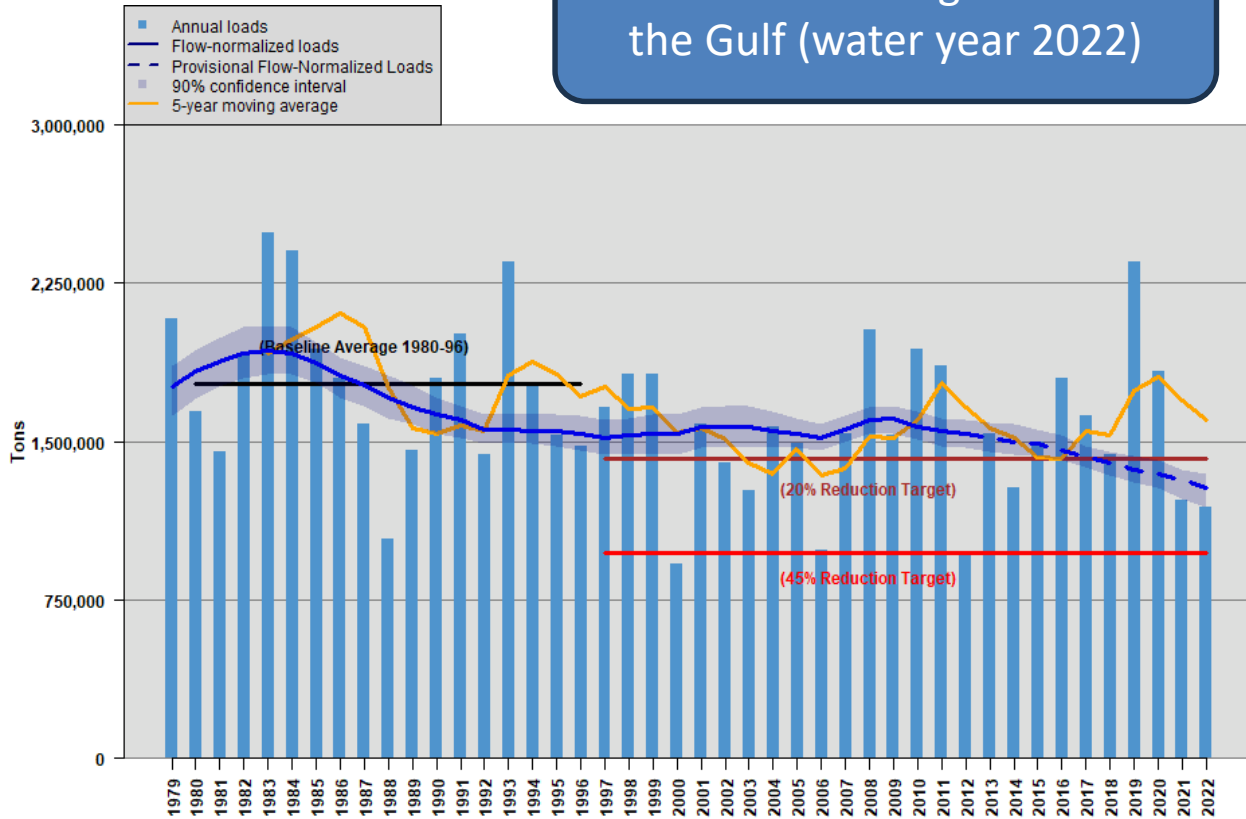
- To achieve the goal, more effective to reduce both N and P simultaneously than to decrease N alone
- The present findings do not suggest a need to change targets, but emphasize the criticality of reducing both nutrients by 45% ([Fennel and Laurent 2018](#))

Interim Target

- Though a large hypoxic zone is likely to persist, reaching the interim target brings the system closer to an inflection point where measurable decreases in the hypoxic zone size can be expected with future load reductions.

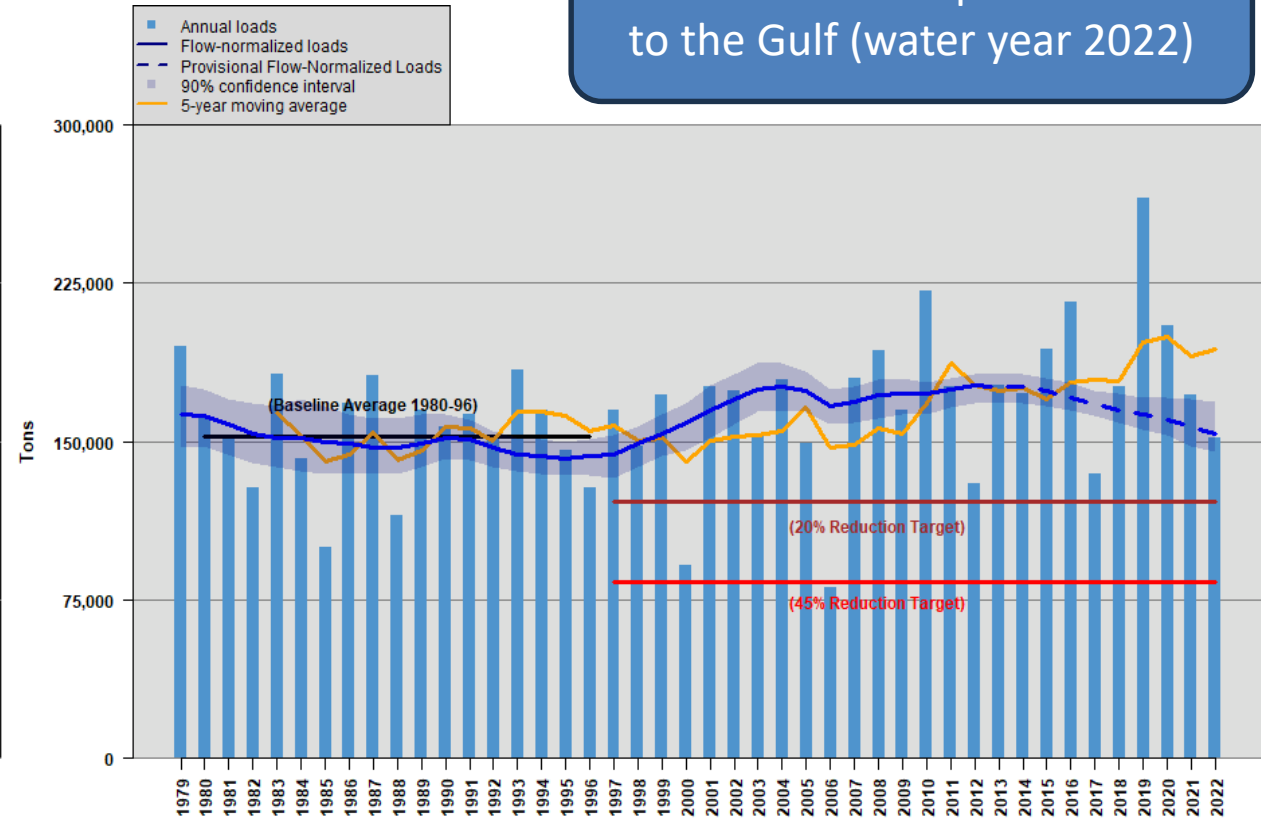
Annual Water Quality Loading Trends to the Gulf of Mexico

Annual Total Nitrogen Loads to the Gulf (water year 2022)



Trend start period	Trend end year	Trend, in percent change	Lower 90% confidence interval	Upper 90% confidence interval	Trend attributed to changes in streamflow	Trend attributed to other changes in the watershed
1980-1996	2022	-25%	-32%	-19%	2%	-27%

Annual Total Phosphorus Loads to the Gulf (water year 2022)



Trend start period	Trend end year	Trend, in percent change	Lower 90% confidence interval	Upper 90% confidence interval	Trend attributed to changes in streamflow	Trend attributed to other changes in the watershed
1980-1996	2022	3%	-5%	13%	1%	2%

Tracking Progress Toward the *Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan* Goal and 2025 Interim Target

- States report ongoing work to quantify progress towards the 2035 goal and 2025 interim target through [Nutrient Reduction Strategies](#) and Gulf Hypoxia Program [workplans](#).
- Long-term monitoring and reporting of loading [trends](#) using the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Weighted Regressions on Time, Discharge and Season (WRTDS) model.
- The 5-year average areal extent of the hypoxic zone, based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) annual hypoxic zone cruise that [measures](#) the areal extent.
- Regular tracking of loading trends from [point](#) and [nonpoint](#) sources.
- MARB-scale modeling assessments of nutrient loading trends from agricultural sources using USGS SPARROW models and USDA Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) assessments.

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

Gulf Hypoxia Program

\$60M over 5-years as a first-time dedicated investment in the *Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan* to reduce nutrients delivered to the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone via the Mississippi River.

EPA is awarding most of the funding in \$4.2M cooperative agreements to 12 states.

- First awards underway: BMPs, sub-grants, planning, outreach, practice and soil sampling education, stakeholder engagement, WWTP optimization
- Second awards in planning stage

EPA is awarding modest support to eligible Tribes & Nations, Sub-Basin committees, and the Land Grant University consortium SERA-46.

\$5.4M total to 15 tribes

- Support staff; demo projects; implement, augment, advance NPS progs; capacity building; 7 to apply for Treatment as State for CWA programs.

\$400K to each of three Sub-basin committees and \$600K to SERA-46

- Comms strategies, cross-border convenings, research needs assessment, WQ monitoring on Mississippi, Ohio and large tributaries.

Gulf Hypoxia Program

Ensure that GHP benefits are realized by disadvantaged communities

- OH: Home Septic Treatment System Program
- MO: Watershed Stewardship Workshop

Advance water quality actions that have climate adaptation or mitigation co-benefits

- IL: Cover Crop Premium Discount Program
- TN: WWTP Optimization
- Upper Sioux Community: Streambank Stabilization

Support states as they scale up implementation of their nutrient reduction strategies

- AR: Implement Conservation Practices in High Priority Areas
- MN: Scaling up Conservation Practice Adoption

Support Tribes in leveraging existing or developing new nutrient reduction strategies

- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe: Watershed Management Plan Implementation
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians: NPS Assessment Report
- 7 of 15 GHP Tribes applying for TAS for CWA programs

Document and communicate progress towards HTF goals at the Basin scale

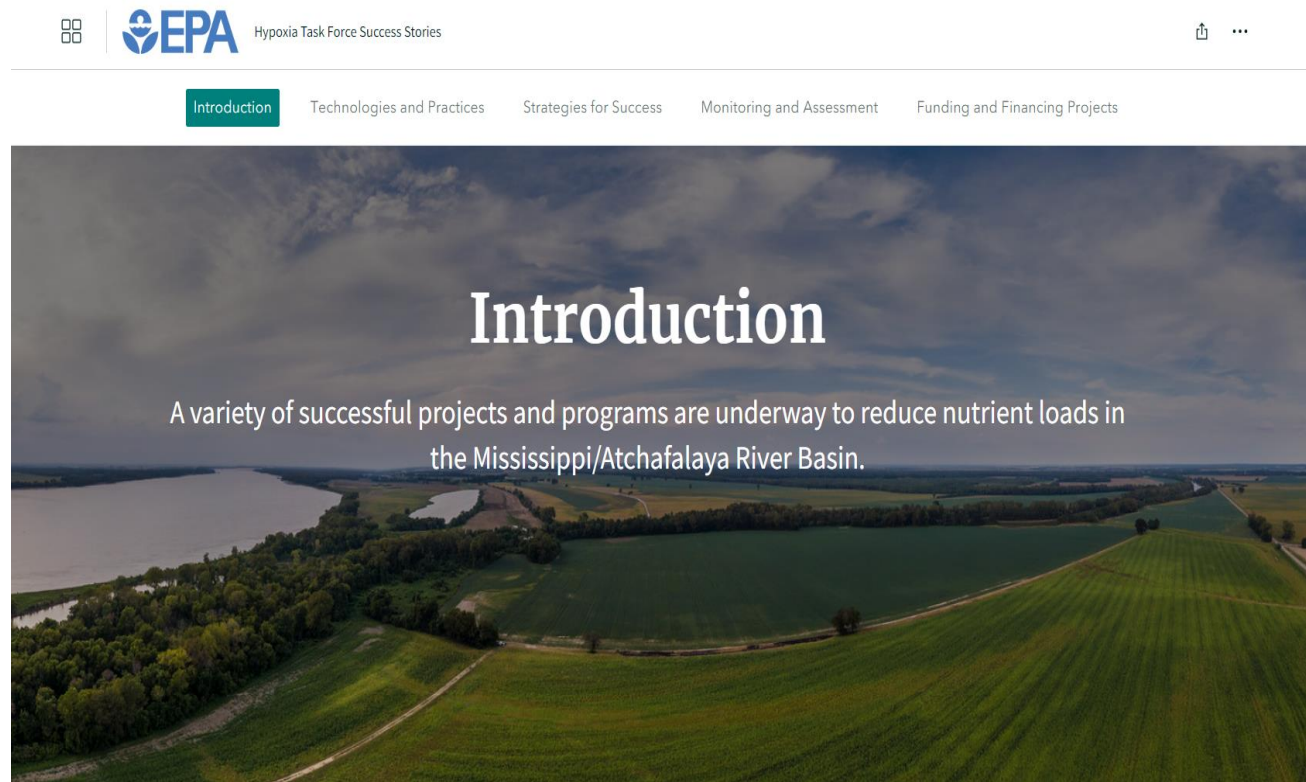
- SERA 46: Basin-wide Communications Strategy
- UMRBA: Upper MS River NRS & Comms Strategy

Advance research in support of nutrient reduction strategies

- MS: Diatom Index
- SERA 46: Support Research at Universities in HTF States

*Above is not comprehensive, see [GHP webpage](#) for all priorities, Implementation Memoranda, state and partner workplans, etc.

Hypoxia Task Force – Learn More



- Explore Hypoxia Task Force [Success Stories](#).
- Review biennial [Reports to Congress](#).
- Attend a Hypoxia Task Force [public meeting](#).
- Sign up to receive the Hypoxia Task Force quarterly [newsletter](#).
- Engage with [state implementation](#).
- Explore task force goals, meetings, science, Reports to Congress, Gulf Hypoxia Program, and more resources on [EPA's website](#).
- The public can communicate anytime with the Hypoxia Task Force by [submitting input and inquires](#).





**Case Study: Technical
assistance in our
watersheds through an
environmental justice lens**

MAGALI ROJAS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

THE HEARTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
CENTER

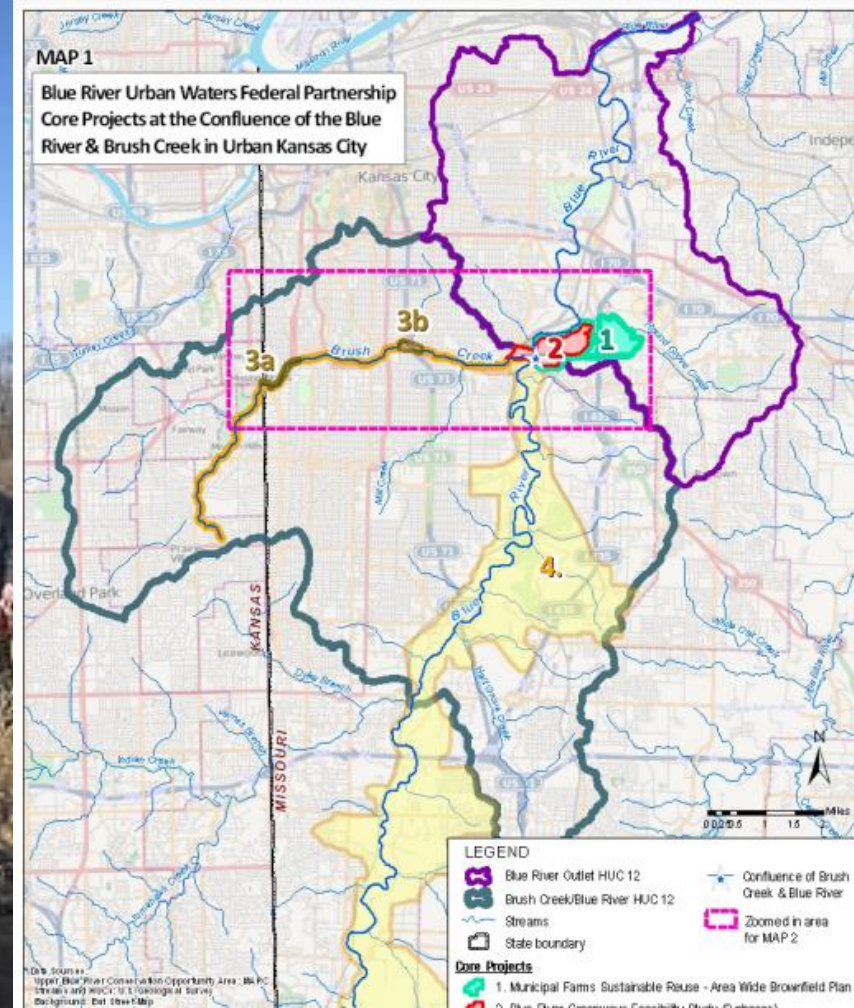
Definitions:



Environmental justice: just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2024).

Energy Justice: "the goal of achieving equity in both the social and economic participation in the energy system, while also remediating social, economic, and health burdens on those disproportionately harmed by the energy system" (Initiative for Energy Justice, 2019).

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) Program: These centers will provide training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, developing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding. EPA has selected 16 EJ TCTACs in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2024).



The Blue River Watershed in Kansas City

The Mississippi River



Flow contribution to the Mississippi River Basin watershed. Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division.

The Mississippi River Basin covers about 40% of the continental United States.

90% of the flow on the Lower Mississippi comes from the Missouri, Ohio, and Upper Mississippi basins, with 60% of the flow at Cairo, IL, coming from the Ohio River Basin.

Short-term drought across the basin since June has reduced flows on the Upper Mississippi and exacerbated ongoing low flows on the Missouri.

Latino Voices

The 2024 Mississippi River Public Opinion Poll, commissioned by Hispanic Access in partnership with FM3 and New Bridge Strategy, has for the first time ever captured Latino perspectives on the challenges confronting the Mississippi River watershed.

WATER CONCERNS



OF LATINOS BELIEVE THAT TRASH DUMPED IN RIVERS AND STREAMS IS A MAJOR THREAT TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



OF LATINOS THINK THAT PFAS, OR “FOREVER CHEMICALS,” ARE A MAJOR THREAT TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



OF THE GENERAL POPULATION IN THE POLLED STATES AND LATINOS THINK THAT CHEMICALS AND WASTE FROM INDUSTRY ARE A MAJOR THREAT TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



OF LATINOS CONSIDER PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE OCEAN A VERY OR EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEM.

CONSERVATION



74%

OF LATINOS CONSIDER POLLUTION OF RIVERS, LAKES, AND STREAMS A VERY OR EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEM.

PROTECTING 30X30



OF LATINOS SUPPORT THE 30X30 GOAL OF CONSERVING 30% OF AMERICA’S LANDS, FRESHWATER, AND OCEAN BY THE YEAR 2030.



OF LATINOS SUPPORT POTENTIAL POLICIES THAT COULD BE PROPOSED IN CONGRESS THAT CREATE NEW NATIONAL PARKS, MONUMENTS, OR WILDLIFE REFUGES TO PROTECT AREAS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION.

59%



OF LATINOS FEEL THAT TAKING ACTION TO RESTORE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHOULD BE A VERY OR EXTREMELY HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE STATE.



Common Threats to Watersheds:



Invasive plant species



Illegal Dumping



Agriculture Polluters



Lack of Tree canopy



Polluted runoff



Grassroot Work in Kansas City



Technical Assistance - Environmental Services

The Heartland Environmental Justice Center - supports individuals and organizations who serve in communities experiencing environmental injustice across Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and adjoining Indigenous Nations. It provides resources to communities seeking help on pressing environmental and energy equity challenges.

How we help:

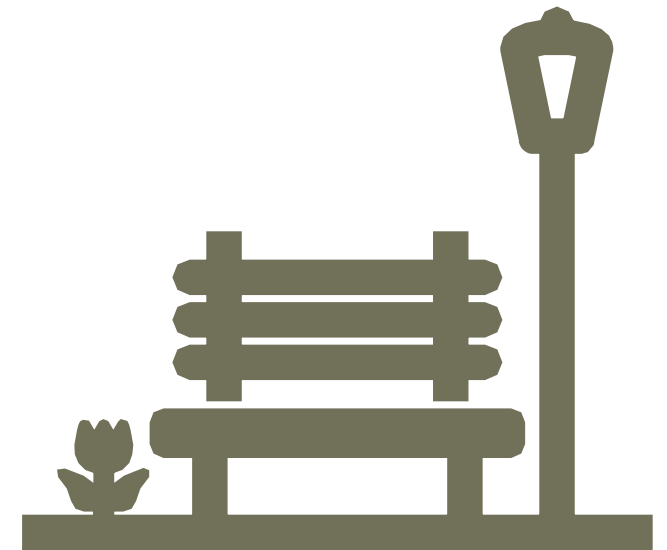
By listening and engaging in ways that are tailored to the communities we serve. We work alongside communities to identify community needs, think strategically about planning, solutions, and funding, and link communities with appropriate resources.

Our support varies in scope:

- Light-touch guidance, like navigating communities to existing training resources.
- Medium-touch support, such as preparation for grant applications, facilitating a community needs assessment, or building a project budget
- Intensive assistance, like policy analysis or technical and engineering expertise

How we do it?

- We have program managers, community program coordinators, community engagement coordinators, and partners that can support these needs by providing resources, training, and connections.



Challenges TCTACs & Communities Face:

They are limited in the scope of service that they can offer. (Ex: can offer grant writing training but cannot write grants for communities.)

Technical assistance centers do not have any funds to disperse to communities in need.

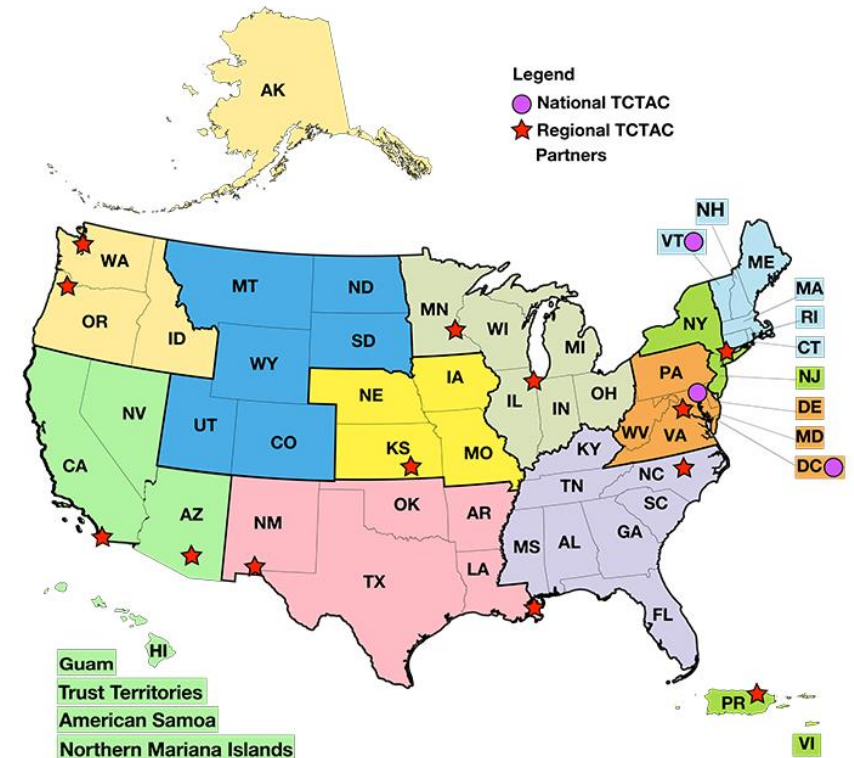
The range of partner services are so extensive that it is challenging to communicate exactly what we can provide.

There is a lot of political tension in environmental justice topics - remaining neutral can be challenging. Ignoring political tension can appear ignorant.

Environmental justice is a sensitive topic with many ties to social justice

Some audience segments might experience barriers to accessing technology that allows virtual event participation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has many burdensome requirements.



Key Takeaways:

Approach watershed issues through a holistic lens

Latinos care about protecting our natural resources and their voices need to be heard

Grassroot organizations need direct funding with less stringent limitations

TCTACs need to be held accountable and supported by federal agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency & The Department of Energy

Questions?



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