

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

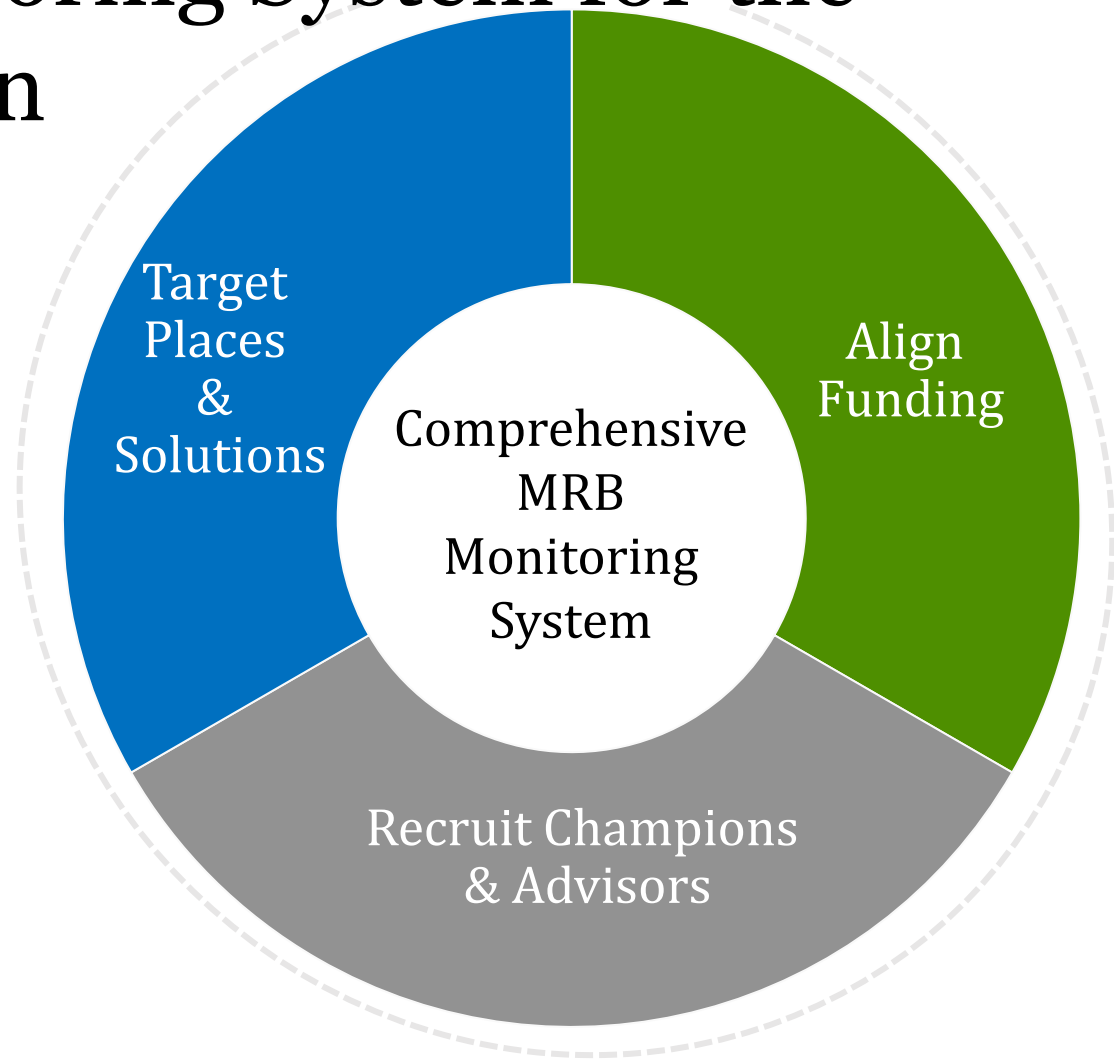
Improve outcomes on 50% of row crop acres by 2030



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

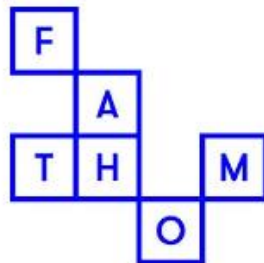
Navigation safety

*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*



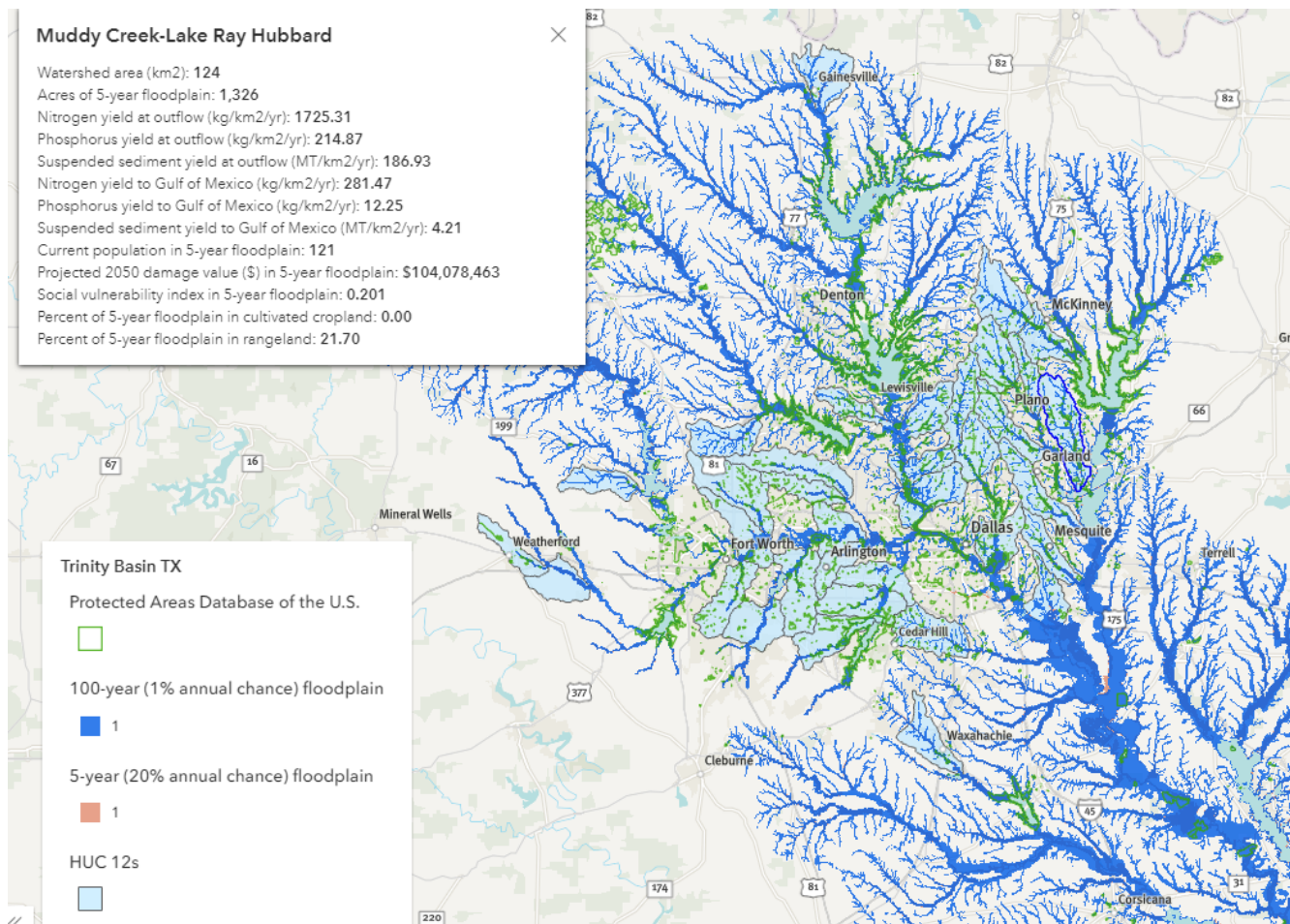


Use Case– Section 1135 Environmental Restoration

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

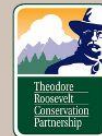


Mississippi River Watershed Partnership Workshop

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





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