



Whitney Clark
Executive Director
Friends of the Mississippi River

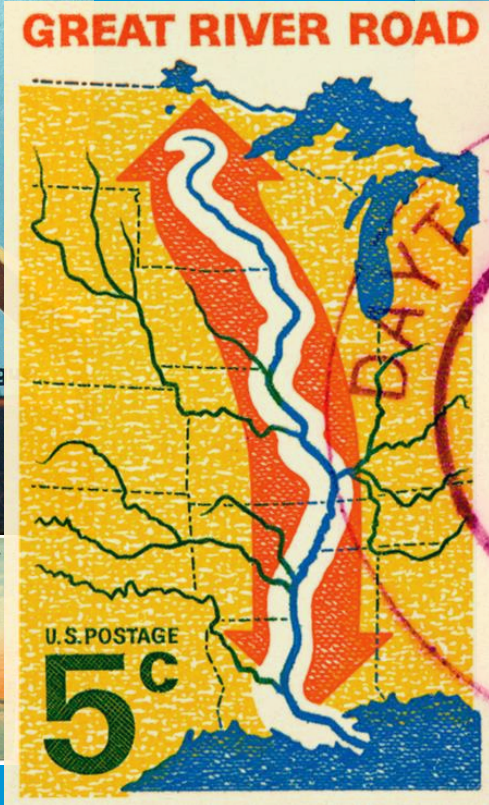
An aerial photograph of a wide, winding river flowing through a dense forest. The river is a vibrant blue, contrasting with the dark green and brown tones of the surrounding trees. The sky is a soft, golden yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The river meanders across the landscape, creating a series of loops and curves. The forest appears thick and continuous, with the river cutting through it.

Welcome!

Mississippi River Restoration & Resilience Initiative (MRRRI)

The
Mississippi
River is
culturally
important





The River is important for our **economy**

1.5 million jobs

\$500 billion in
revenue





Drinking water
for 20 million
people

The
Mississippi
River is
essential
habitat



**And yet... the Mississippi River is
at risk**



Degraded water quality

Our River communities are more vulnerable to **floods, hurricanes, and other catastrophic weather events**





Aquatic
invasive
species



Erosion

Gulf Dead Zone

It's time... for MRRRI



Comprehensive
Everglades
Restoration Plan



Great Lakes
Restoration
Initiative

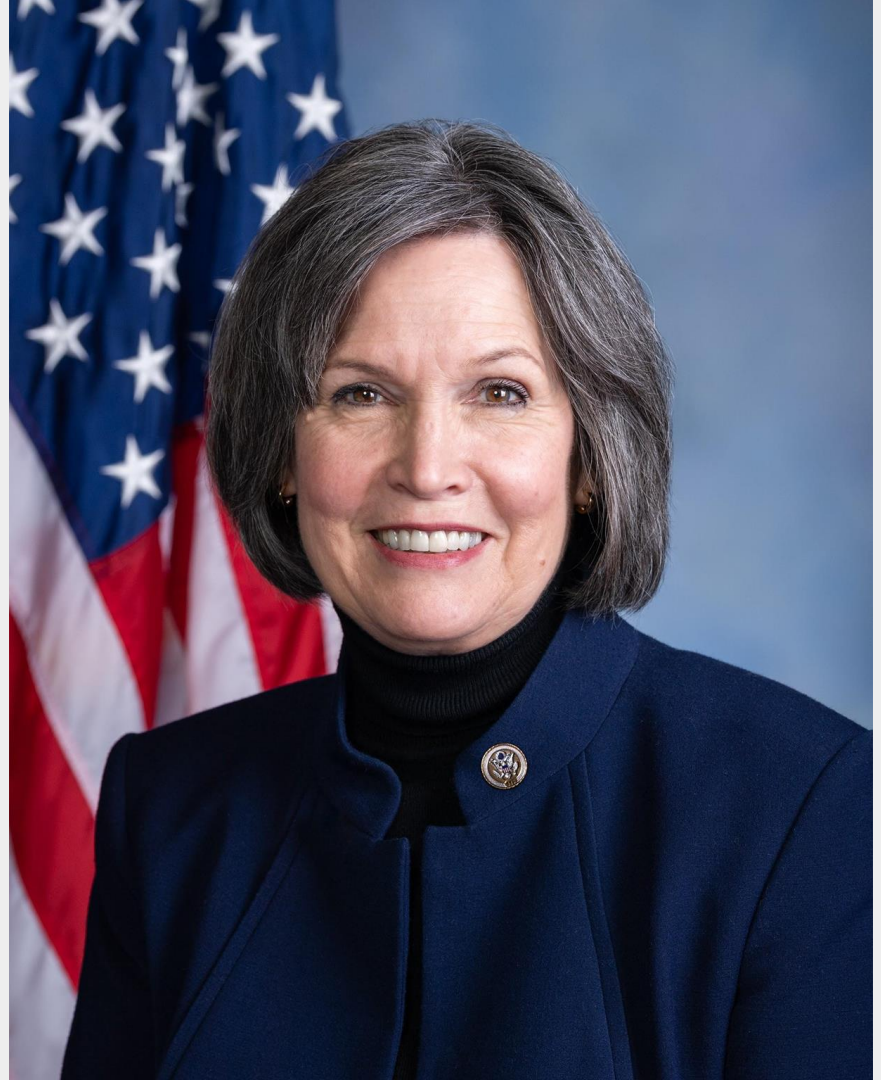


Chesapeake Bay
Program



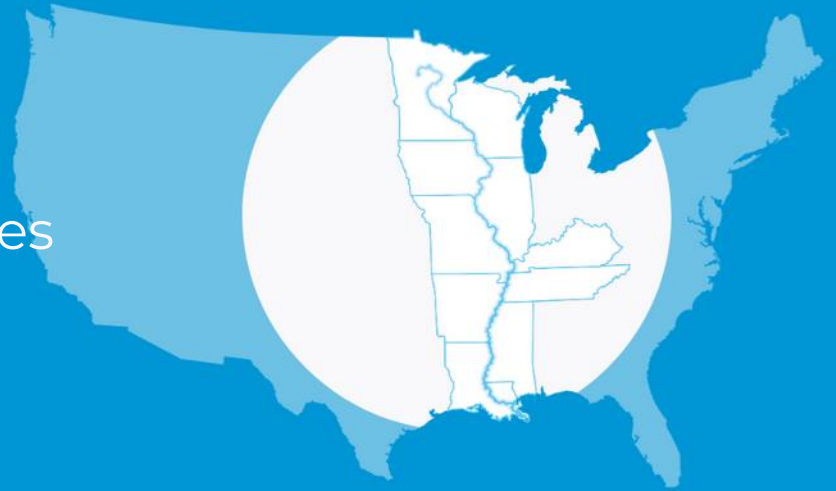
**Mississippi
River
Restoration &
Resilience
Initiative**

MRRRI's
champion:
Rep. Betty
McCollum

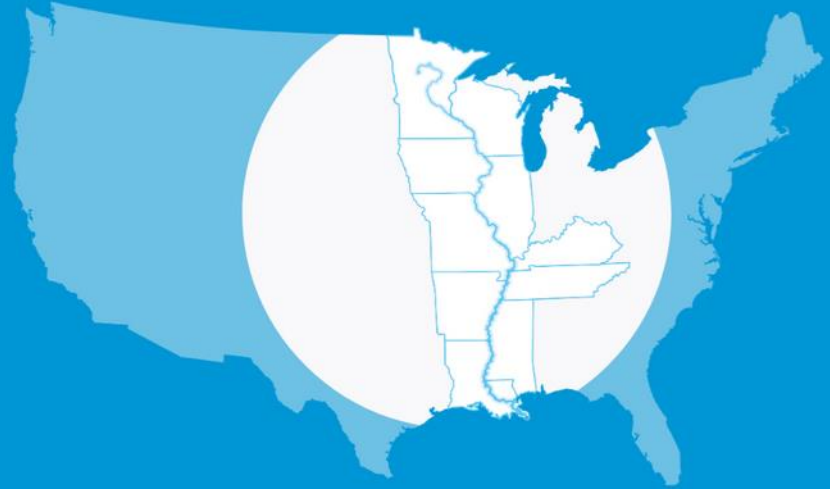
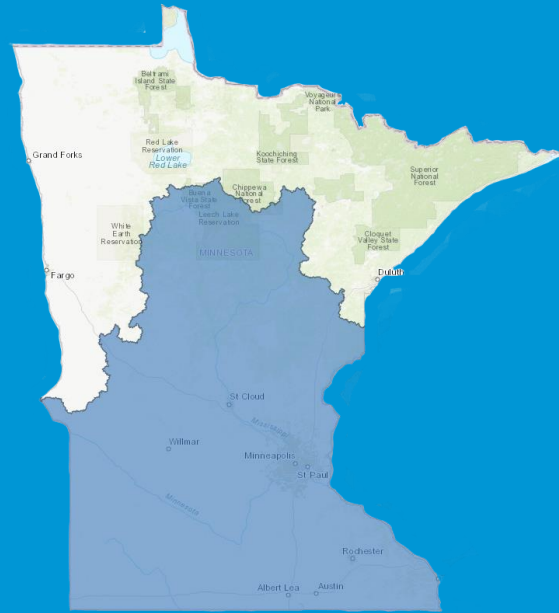


Mississippi River Restoration & Resilience Initiative

- Voluntary, non-regulatory
- \$300-\$350 million / yr. Federal funding
- mainstem river states and tribes
- Grants & partnership program
 - Governments (state, regional, local)
 - Tribes and tribal governments
 - Nonprofits
 - Partnerships
 - Other entities



Mississippi River Restoration & Resilience Initiative in Minnesota



MRRRI will fund projects in areas that drain to the Mississippi River within the boundaries of Minnesota and all 10 mainstem states.

MRRRI has 4 Focus Areas



**Clean
Water**



**River
Corridor
Habitat**



**Natural
Infrastructure**



**Aquatic
Invasive
Species**



MRRRI Focus Area: Improve water quality

Two Main Buckets:

- Urban runoff
- Cropland runoff

A photograph of a pelican in flight over a body of water. The pelican in the foreground is swimming, while another is flying above it. The background shows a line of green trees under a clear sky.

MRRRI Focus Area: Habitat Restoration

Including programs that...

- Restore wetlands
- Support in-stream habitats
- Reconnect side channels
- Supports living shorelines
- *And more!*



MRRRI Focus Area: Natural Infrastructure

Investments that restore the River's floodplain access through projects such as...

- Voluntary easements
- Levee modification or removal
- Responsible sediment transportation
- *And more!*

A close-up photograph of a large pile of dark, striped mussels. The mussels are clustered together, showing their characteristic dark brown and black stripes. They are resting on a dark, textured surface, possibly a rock or a piece of wood. The background is a plain, light color, making the mussels stand out.

**MRRRI Focus Area:
Aquatic Invasive Species**

MRRRI Action Plan



MRRRI Science Plan



25% + 10%

At least 25 % of MRRRI funds will be directed to communities of color or low-income communities,* plus an additional 10% directed to communities that experience persistent poverty.

** Based on what we know about the Congresswoman's legislation at this time.*

MRRRI Collaborative



MRRRI Collaborative Steering Committee



MRRRI Collaborative Campaign Committee

NWF: legislative, policy strategy

FMR: communications

MRN: organizing and outreach



MRRRI Collaborative Equity Committee

FRESHWATER



10 MRRRI State Leads



Moving MRRRI Forward

MRRRI is taking shape



Congress



Federal agencies



Collaborate on an
Action Plan



We restore
Mississippi River

Cong. McCollum's goal: Congress and Biden sign
MRRRI into law **this year.**

Join us!

- Follow **FMR, your state lead organization** and sign up to be a **River Guardian (fmr.org/advocate)**
- Sign on as a **MRRRI endorser**
- Join the **MRRRI Collaborative**
- **Reach out** directly to FMR staff if you have specific questions





Thank you!

We look forward to continuing
this conversation!

Q&A