

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sara Schmuecker

10/10/2024

2024 Corn Belt Ports & Upper Mississippi River
Regional Multi-Modal Port & Logistics Center
Annual Meeting



USFWS Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office

**“WORKING WITH OTHERS
TO CONSERVE, PROTECT,
AND ENHANCE FISH,
WILDLIFE, PLANTS, AND
THEIR HABITATS FOR THE
CONTINUING BENEFIT OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.”**



PROGRAMS

- Ecological Services
- National Wildlife Refuge System
- Fisheries Program
- Law Enforcement
- Migratory Bird Program



ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER...



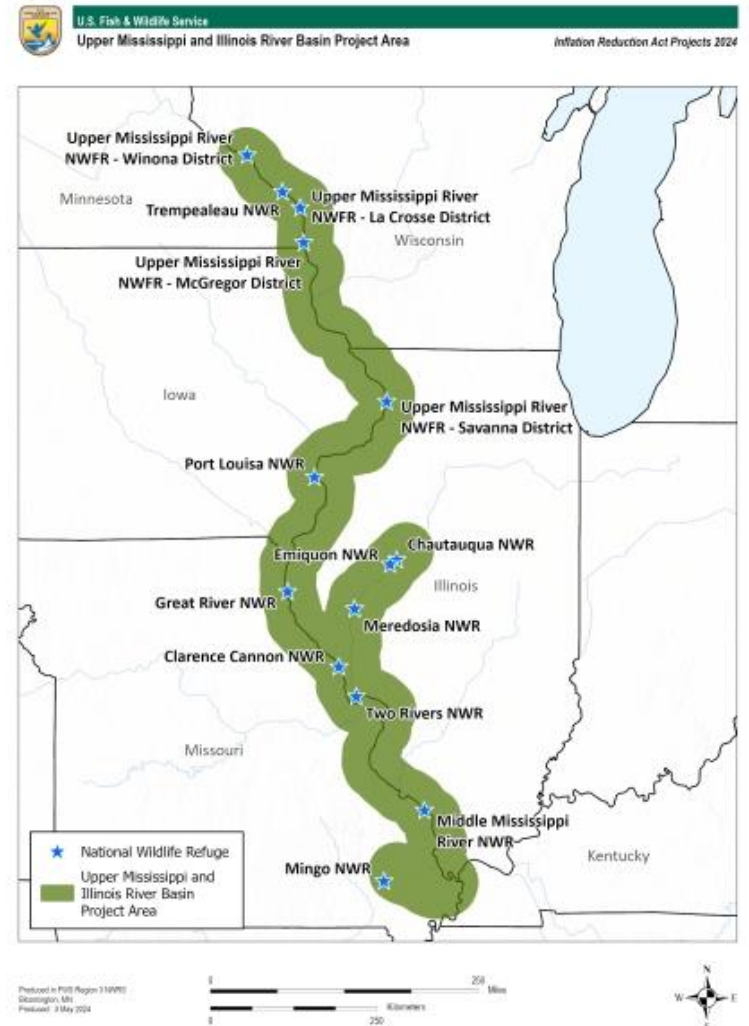
USFWS Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

• Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Awarded \$10M
- Seven projects to reduce risks and associated damages of flood and drought while benefiting fish, wildlife and recreational opportunities by restoring resilient habitats using nature-based solutions.
- <https://www.fws.gov/project/inflation-reduction-act-upper-mississippi-and-illinois-river-basin>

Project name	State	County	Funding
Rush Lake Water Control Structure Adaptive Replacement	IA	Louisa	\$55,000
Tarr Marsh Climate Resiliency and Restoration Project	IA	Jackson	\$345,915
Building Resilience in America's Big River Forests	IL, IA, MN, MO, WI	Multiple	\$1,110,000
Guttenberg Ponds Connection	IA	Clayton	\$500,000
Treatment of Bottomland Hardwood Forest	MO	Wayne, Stoddard	\$577,500
Replacement and Improvement of Water Control Structures on Ditches 1 and 2	MO	Wayne, Stoddard	\$1,251,000
Upper Mississippi River Pool 6 Sam Gordy's Slough Connectivity Restoration Project	WI	Buffalo	\$250,000



FISHERIES



La Crosse, WI



Cartersville, IL

Wilmington (ILWW)

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Forest City Dam to Rapids Conversion Project

- In development
- Winnebago County, IA
- Dam Removal
- 99 stream miles reopened
- Partner Project Lead: City of Forest City
- [Forest City Dam to Rapids Conversion Project | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)

“This project will remove a hazardous low-head dam on the Winnebago River in northern Iowa to improve fish passage and benefit important mussel species... Completion of the project would also allow northern pike to migrate upstream in the spring to access quality wetland spawning habitat and utilize rearing habitat in the northern portion of the county. This project will also address climate change resiliency by reducing flood risk to the surrounding park.”

Steamboat Rock Dam Removal and Restoration

- In development
- Hardin County, IA
- Dam Removal
- 30 stream miles reopened, 800 acres reopened
- Partner Project Lead: Iowa DNR
- [Steamboat Rock Dam Removal and Restoration | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)

“This project will remove Steamboat Rock Dam in the uppermost watershed of the Iowa River in Iowa. Dam removal will improve the distribution and abundance of several priority mussel species ... by restoring stream function, increasing access to habitat, and reconnecting tributaries to the river. It will also reconnect almost 30 miles of upstream passage for mussel-fish host species... In addition to the species benefits, removing this barrier will also reduce flooding at a nearby campground and provide a safer environment for water recreation.”

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Endangered Species Act

- Protection
- Recovery

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

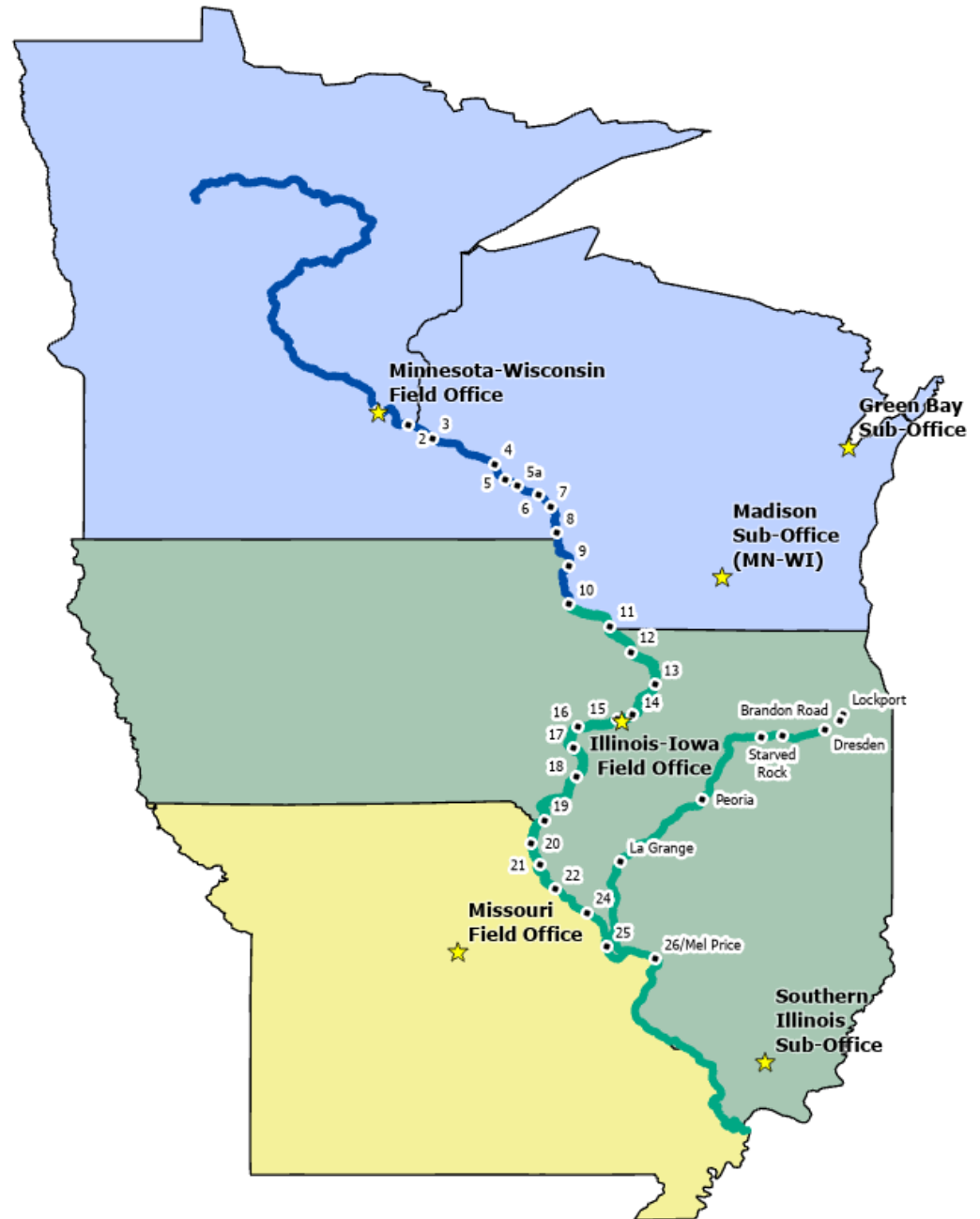
- Natural Resources Protection

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

- Projects with Landowners

Contaminants

- Assessment, Litigation



A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT RIVER SYSTEM

In 1986, Congress designated the Mississippi River

“...as a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system...shall be administered and regulated in recognition of its several purposes.”

The Mississippi is the only river with such designation.

Citation: WRDA1986, Section 1103(a)(2).



1,300-mile waterway linking five states to the Gulf Coast export market.



RAMSAR designation to 318,750 acres of the UMRS

302,000 acres on the UMR
16,750 acres on the ILWW



Supports many federally listed or candidate TE species



The basin draws over 12 million recreation-related visits each year contributing \$1.2 billion to local economies and transports 122 million tons of commodities annually.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM (UMRR)

Authorized in WRDA 1986

“...to create a healthier, more resilient Upper Mississippi River System which can sustain the river’s many uses.”

Has resulted in the restoration and enhancement of >121,000 acres of the UMR floodplain.

<https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Stewardship/Upper-Mississippi-River-Restoration/>



Sunfish Lake, Pool 11
Aug. 1994



Sunfish Lake, Pool 11
Sept. 2006



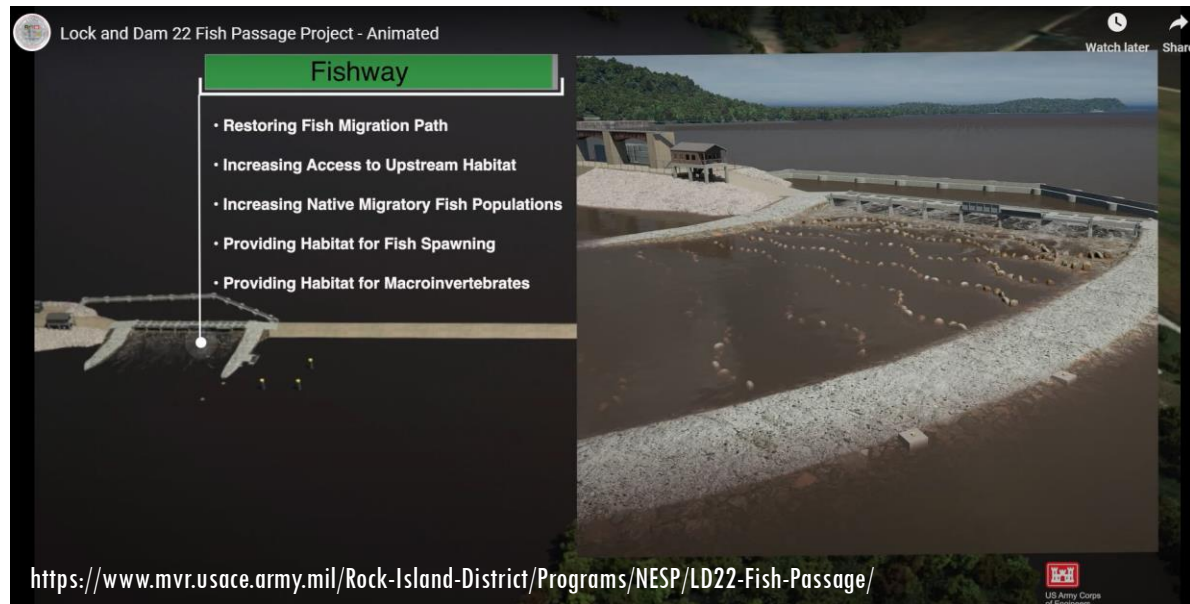
NAVIGATION AND ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM (NESP)

Authorized in WRDA 2007

Dual-purpose program

“...improve efficiency and capacity of the nationally significant Upper Mississippi River – Illinois Waterway (UMR-IWW) navigation system while protecting preserving and enhancing the structure, diversity, and function of this nationally significant ecosystem.”

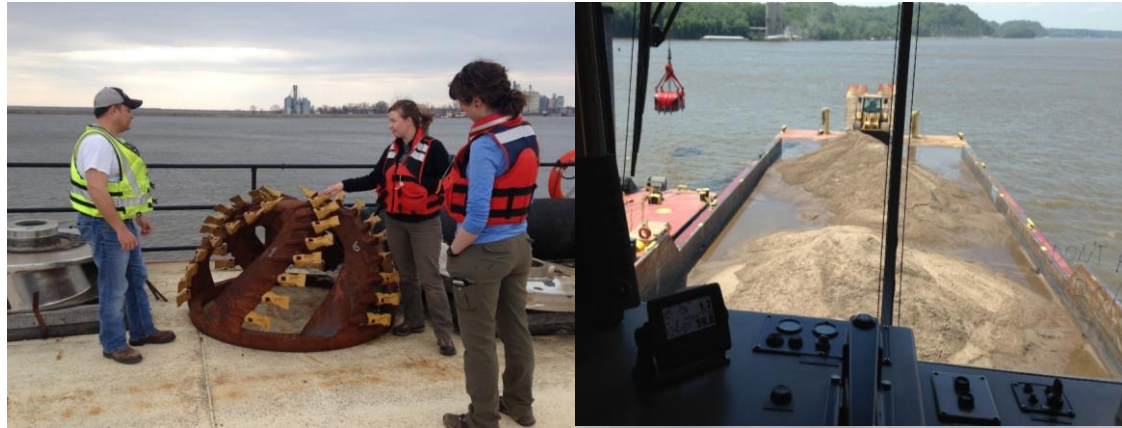
<https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NESP/>



ON-SITE INSPECTION TEAM

From 1940 to 2000, the RI District dredged approximately **57.4 million cy** of material between RMs 300 and 614 at **116 dredging locations**.

- Coordinate partner agencies recommendations for dredged material placement actions to avoid and minimize impacts to natural resources
- Identify alternative and new placement site opportunities



SPILL PLANNING & RESPONSE

Member of:

- UMRBA UMR Hazardous Spills Coordination Group
- Quad City Subarea and St. Louis Subarea Spill Response Group
- Harmful Algae Bloom Team
- UMRCC Water Quality Tech



THANK YOU



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