THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

Our presentation will begin momentarily

Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study – Public Orientation Meeting

View the study website at:
www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/LMRComp/

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Study Website

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY

PUBLIC ORIENTATION MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2024

U.S. ARMY

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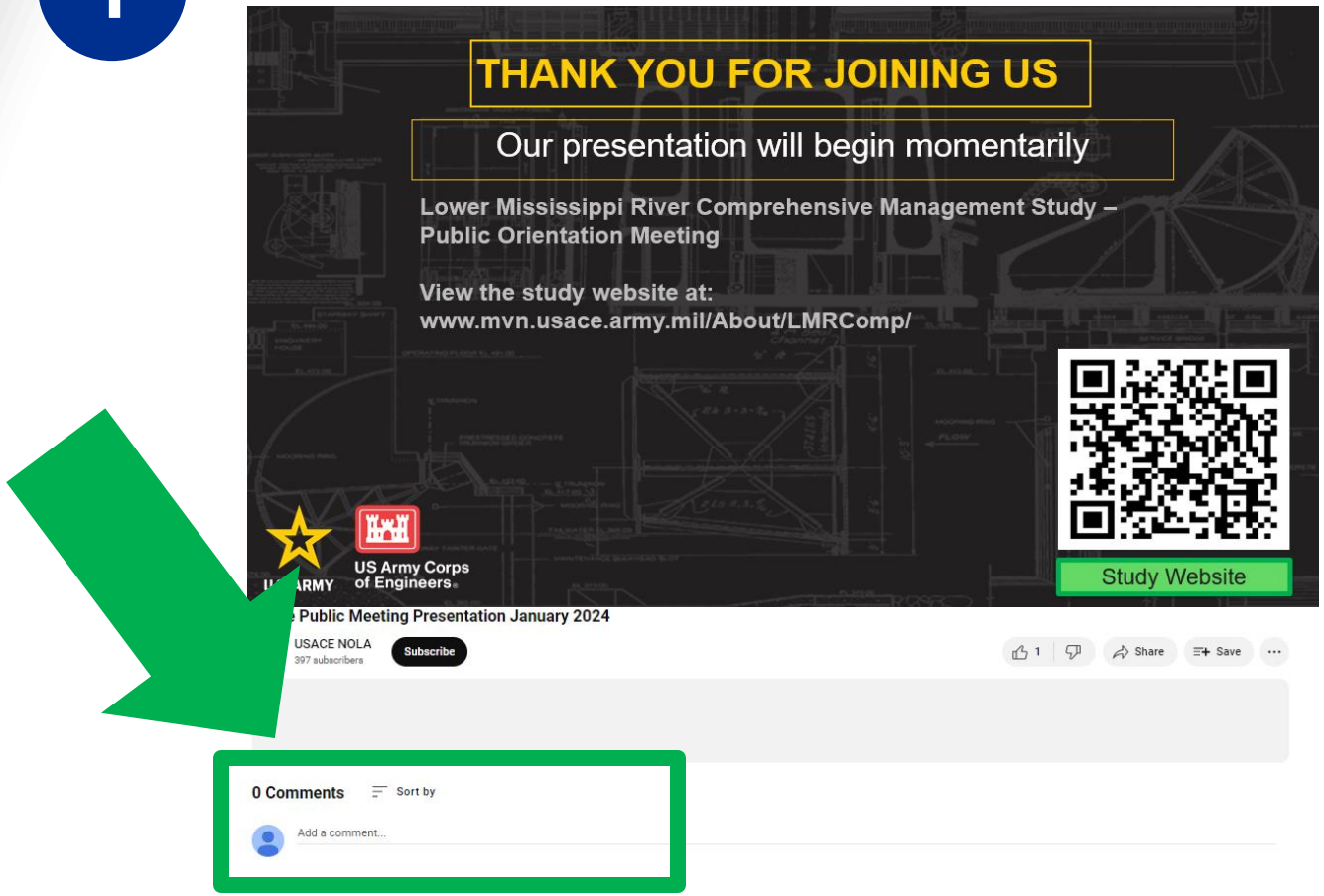
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HOW CAN YOU SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TODAY?

1



2

Email Us:
LMRComp@usace.army.mil

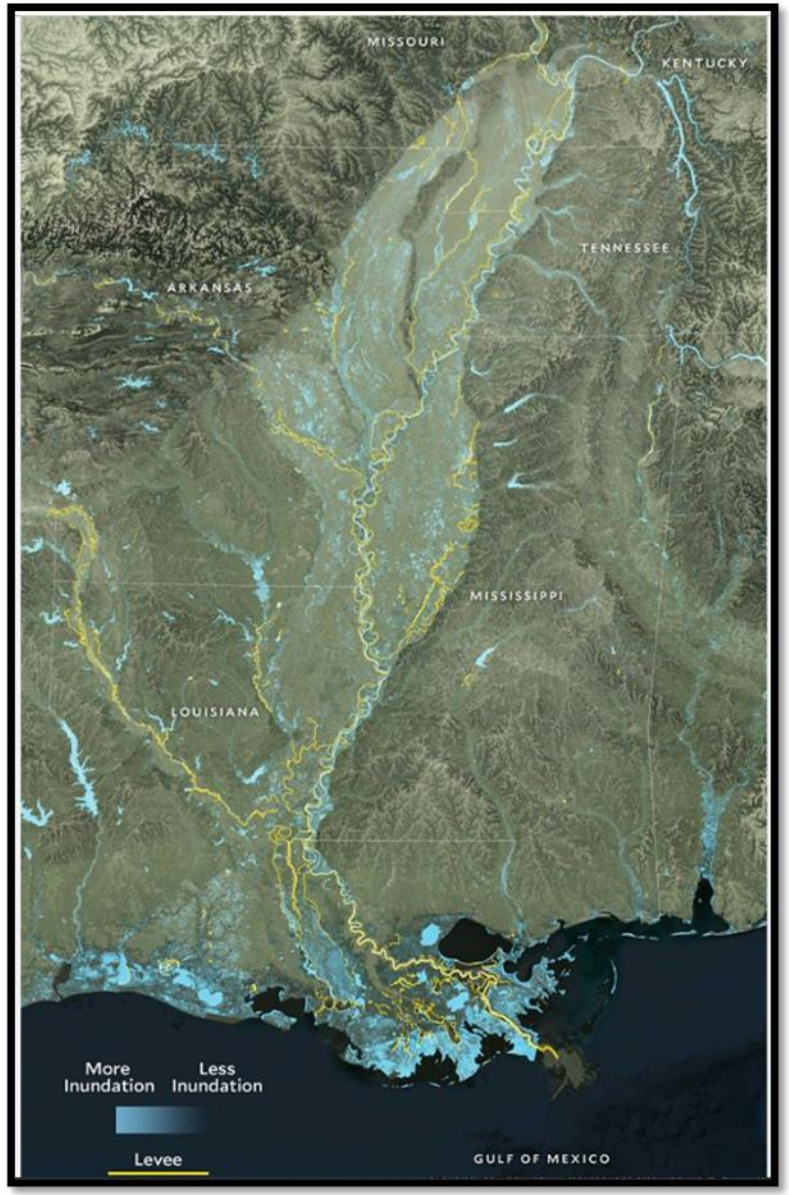
Subject Line:
Public Orientation Meeting

WHY ARE WE HERE TODAY?

- Introduce you to the Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study
- Explain how you can participate throughout the process

AGENDA

- ✓ Why are we here today?
- ❑ Why are we studying the Mississippi River?
- ❑ What are the problems and opportunities along the Mississippi River?
- ❑ Has USACE studied the Mississippi River before?
- ❑ How are we conducting the Study?
- ❑ What are the objectives the Study?
- ❑ What is the Study schedule?
- ❑ How can you contribute?



WHY ARE WE STUDYING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?

Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study was authorized in Section 213 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.

(1) PURPOSE – The Secretary, in collaboration with the heads of other Federal agencies and pursuant to subsection (d)(1)(A), shall conduct a comprehensive study of the Lower Mississippi River basin from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to the Gulf of Mexico. The study will identify recommendations of actions to be undertaken by the Secretary, under existing authorities or after congressional authorization, for the comprehensive management of the basin for multiple purposes:

(A) Hurricane and storm damage reduction, flood risk management, structural and nonstructural flood control, and floodplain management strategies;
(B) Navigation
(C) Ecosystem and environmental restoration;
(D) Water supply;
(E) Hydropower production;
(F) Recreation; and
(G) Other purposes as determined by the Secretary.

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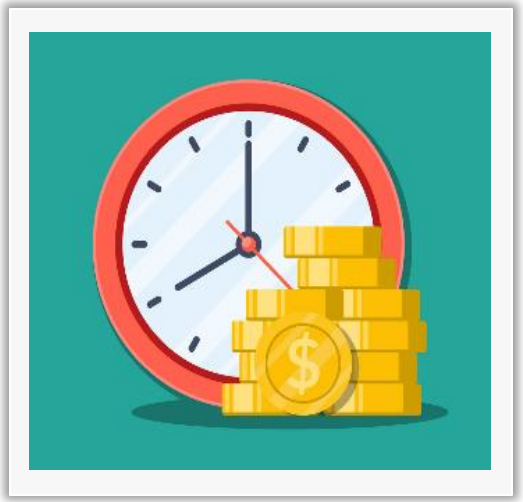
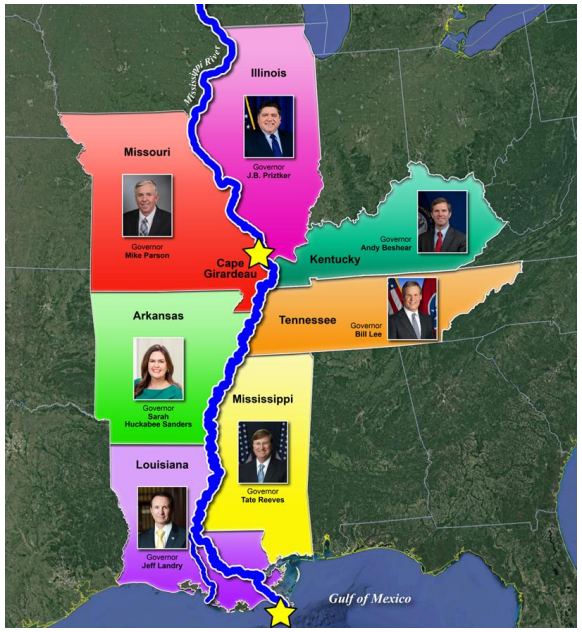


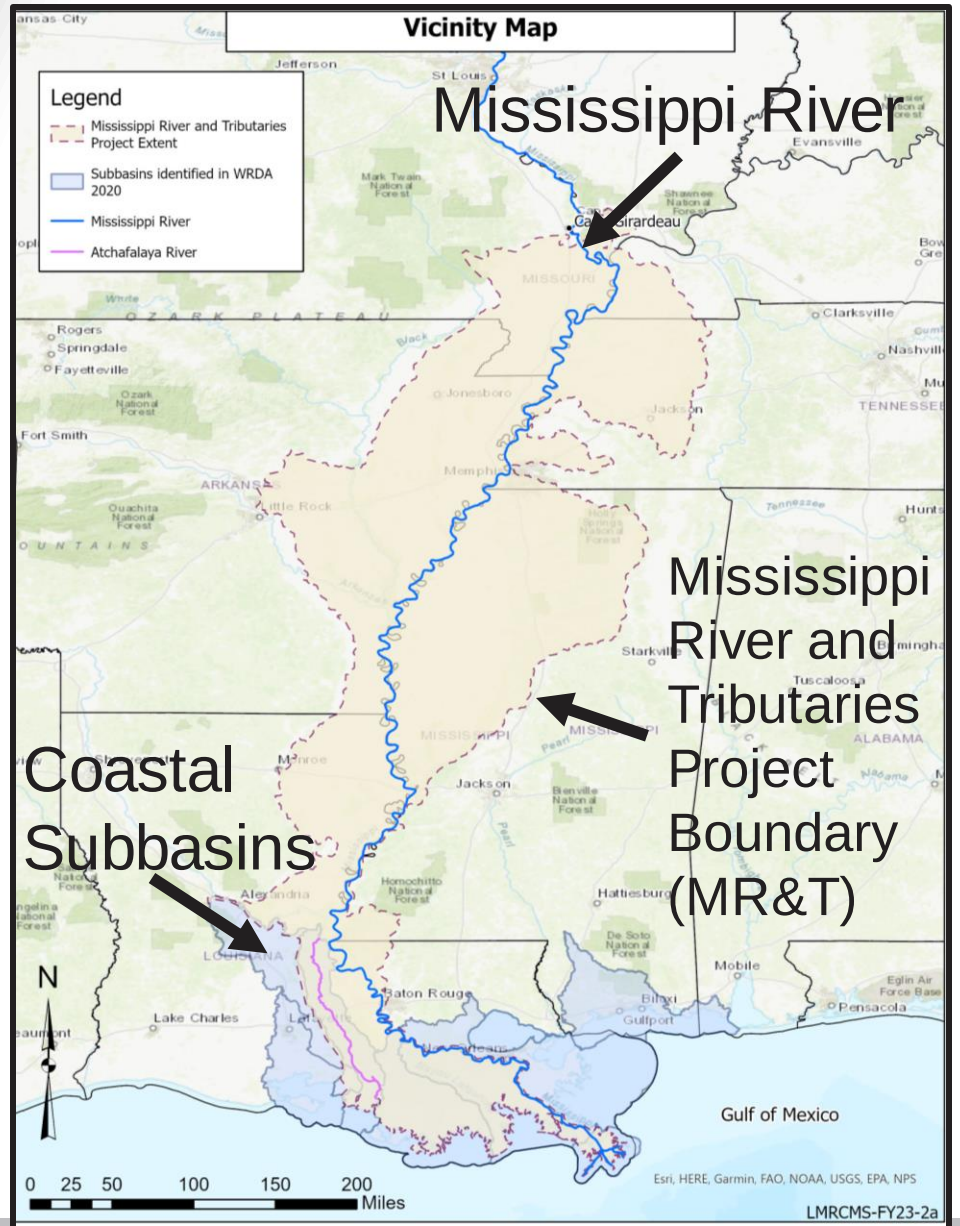
$25M
5 Years, 2022 - 2027



7 States
Cape Girardeau, MO to Gulf of Mexico

Flood Risk, Navigation, Ecosystem Restoration, Water Supply, Hydropower, and Recreational Uses

WHY ARE WE STUDYING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?



Credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mississippiriver-new-01.png

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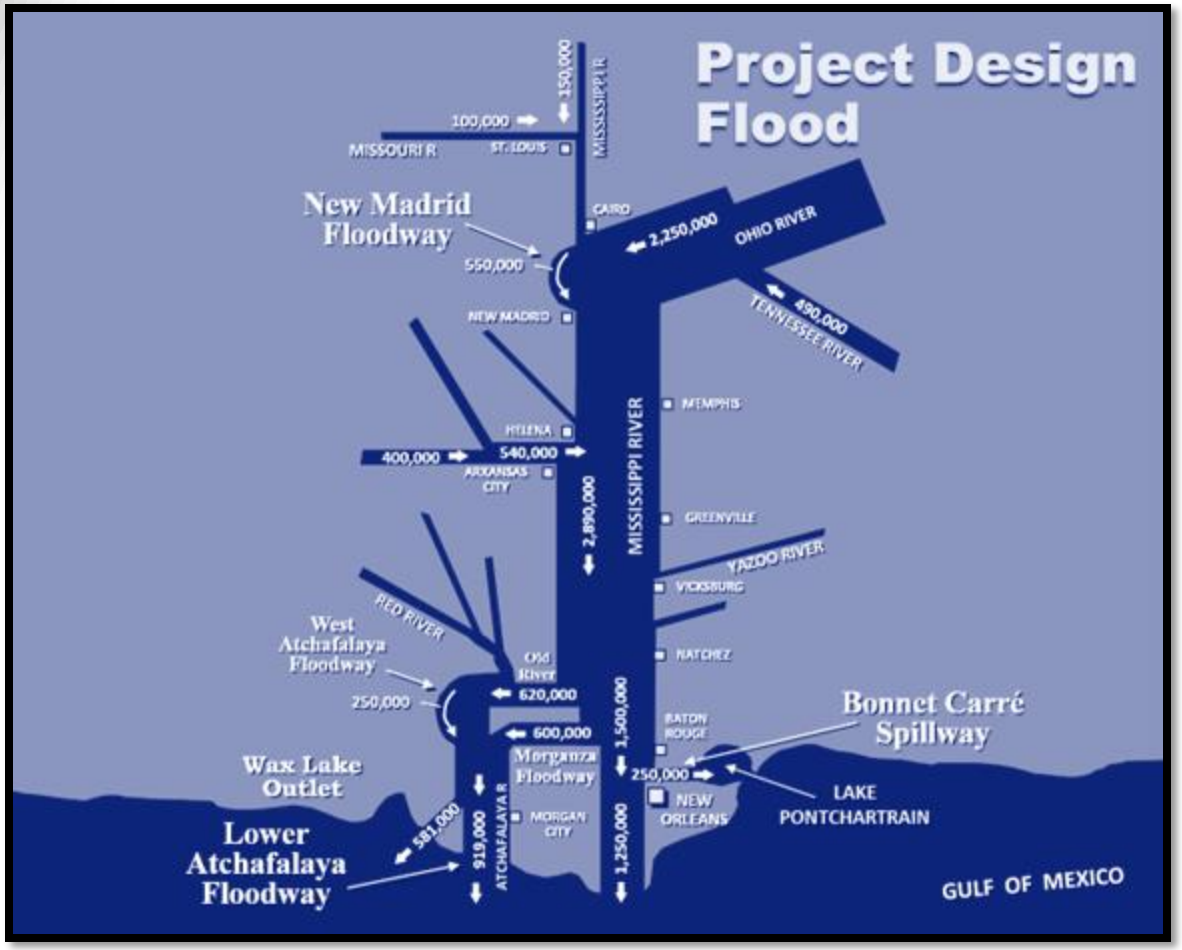
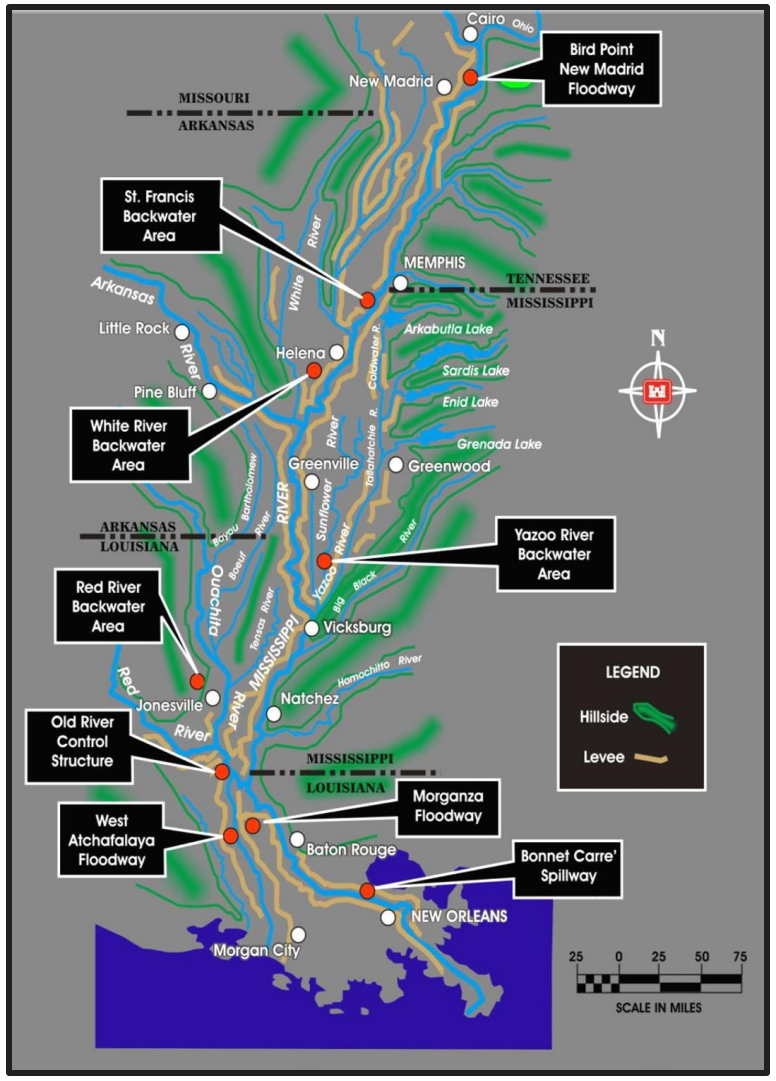
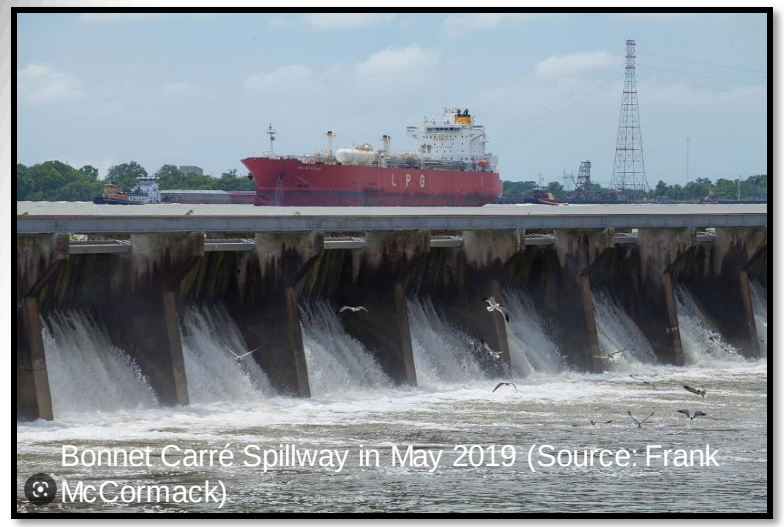


Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project

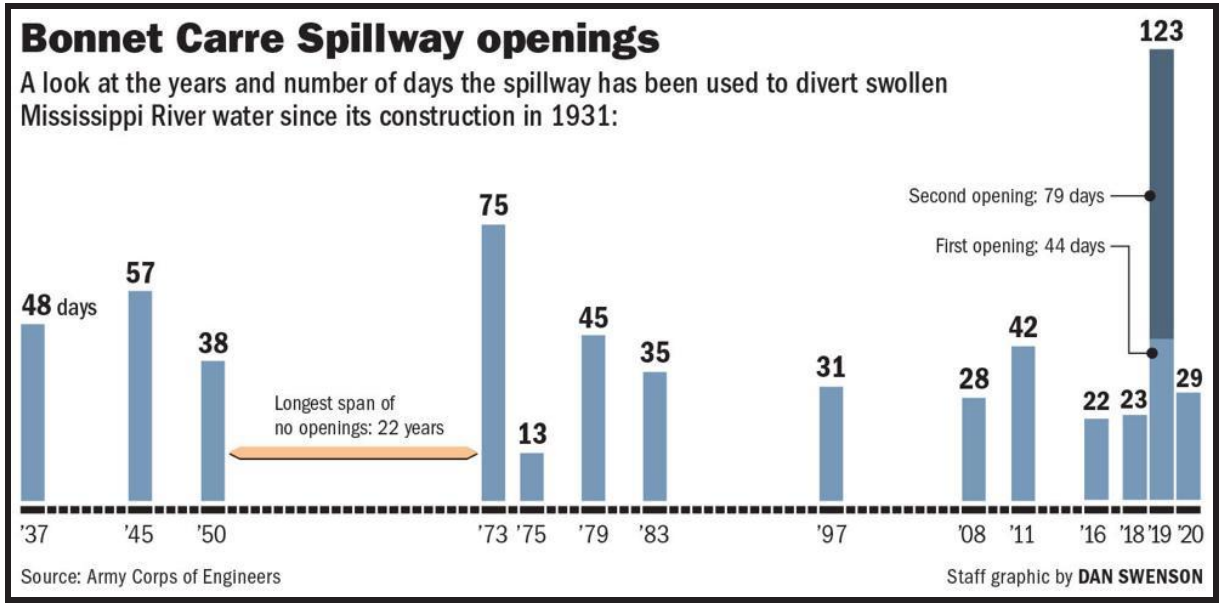


WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?


Bonnet Carré Spillway in May 2019 (Source: Frank McCormack)


Potential saltwater intrusion into aquifers, impacting farmland irrigation.

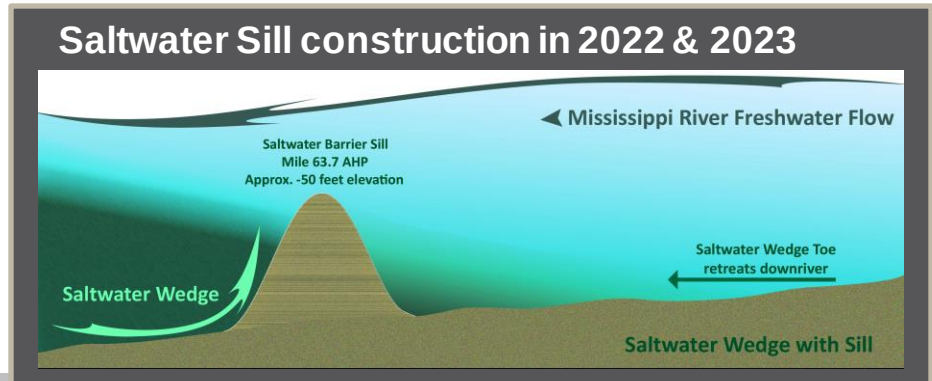

Barges stranded at Port of Rosedale, MS during historic low MR water in October 2022



2022 Low Water Headlines:

Memphis District's Dredge Hurley returns home ending most productive, longest season on record

The 36-person crew dredged 14.5 million cubic yards of material in 273 days



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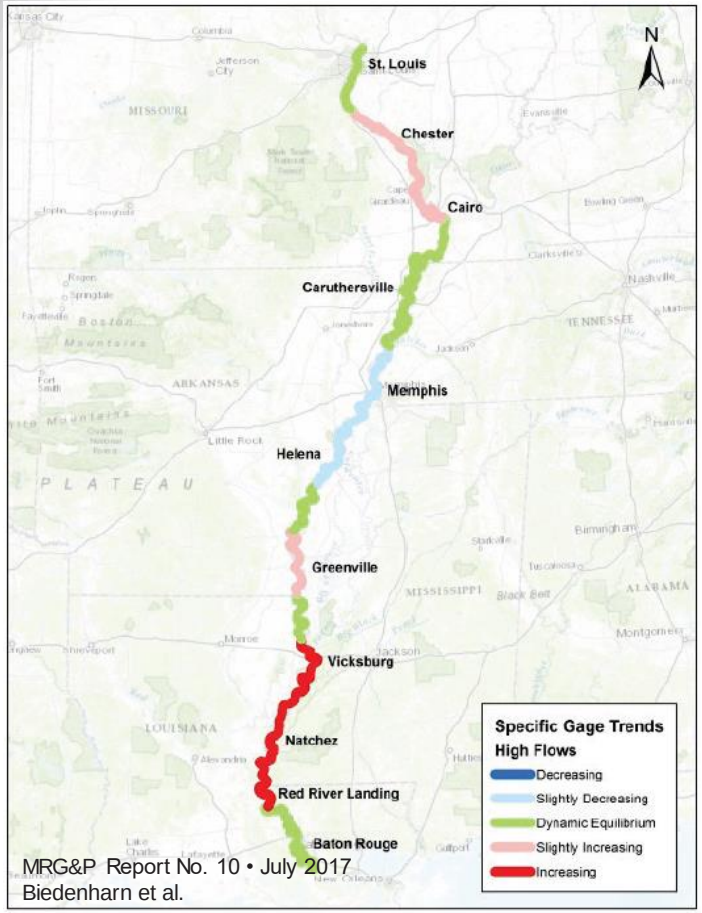
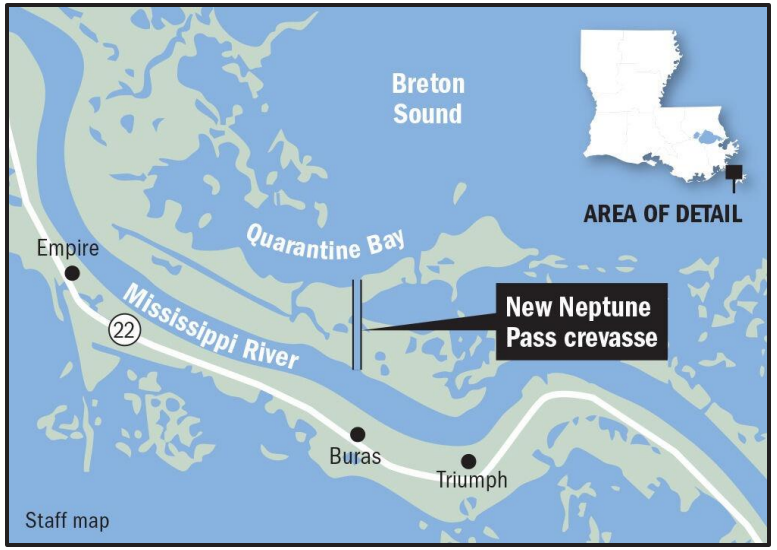


MRG&P Report No. 10 • July 2017
Biedenharn et al.

Research indicates long-term geomorphic changes are occurring in the Mississippi River

USACE is deepening the MR from Baton Rouge to New Orleans from 45 ft to 50 ft.



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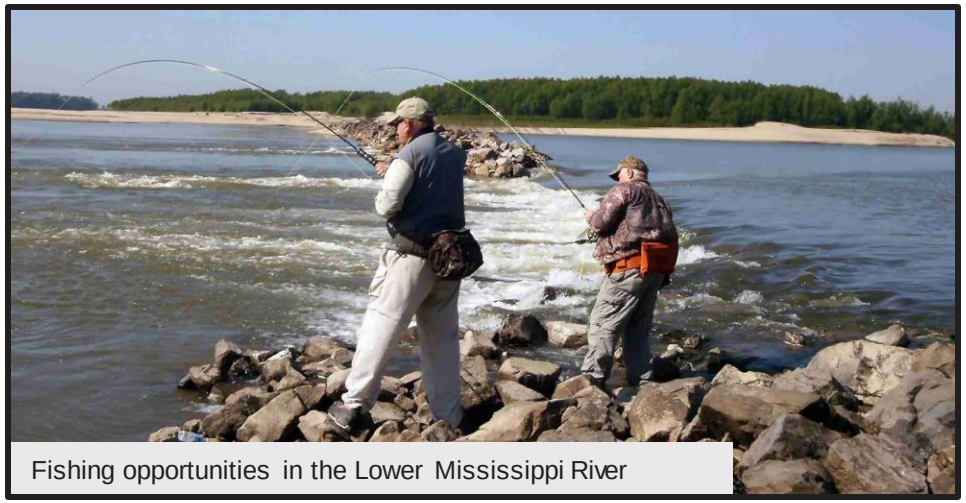
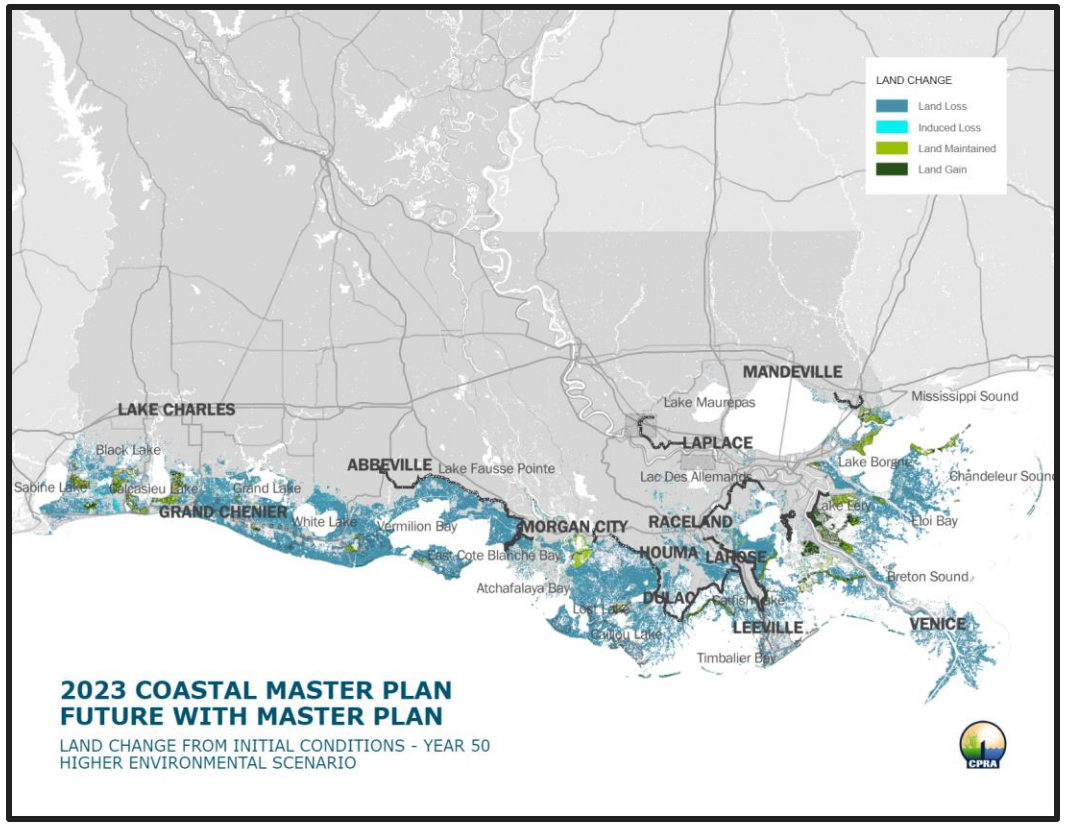


Fishing opportunities in the Lower Mississippi River

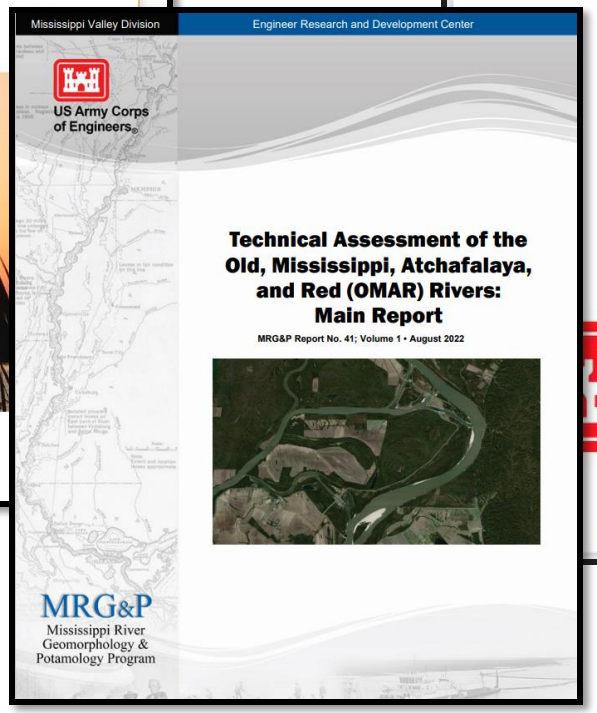
Dike notching connects secondary channels and isolated wetland areas to improve habitat.



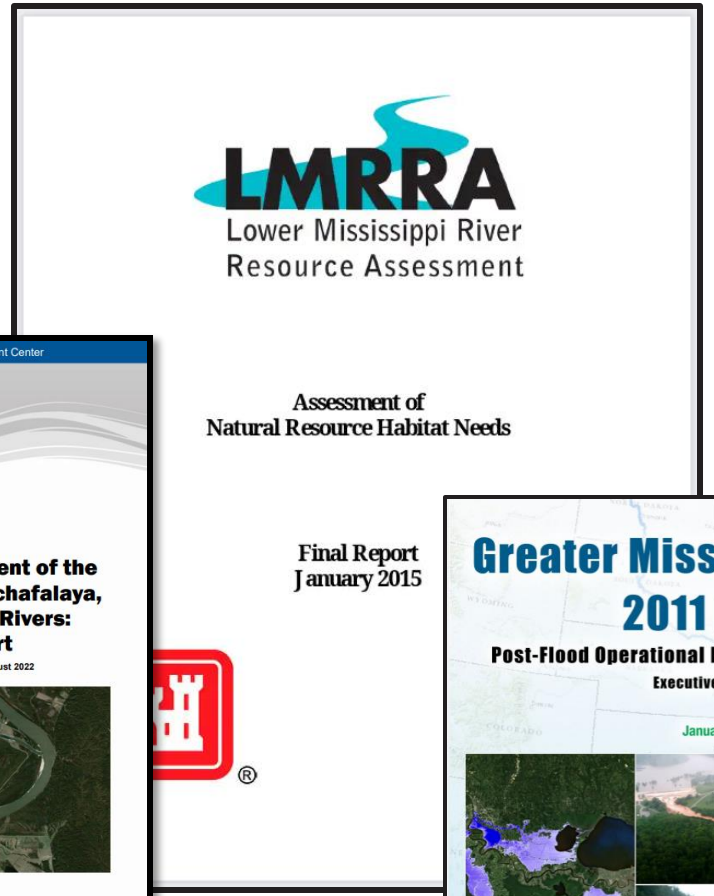
Ongoing land change in coastal Louisiana

HAS USACE STUDIED THE RIVER BEFORE?

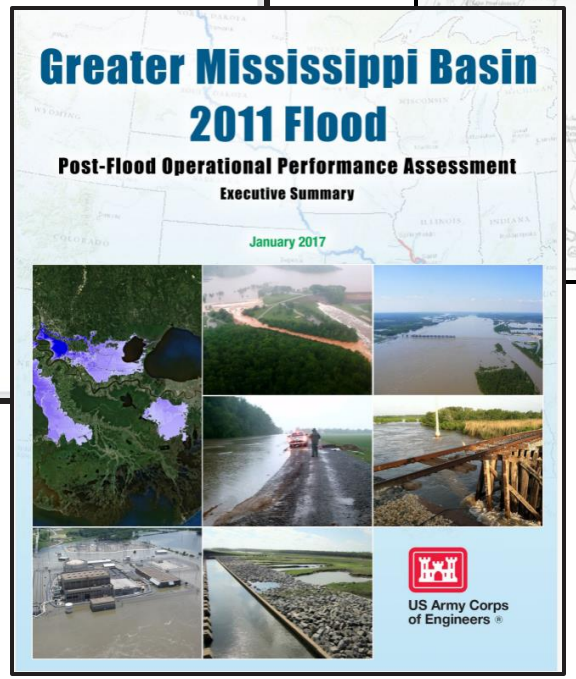
Hydro Delta Management Study, 2019



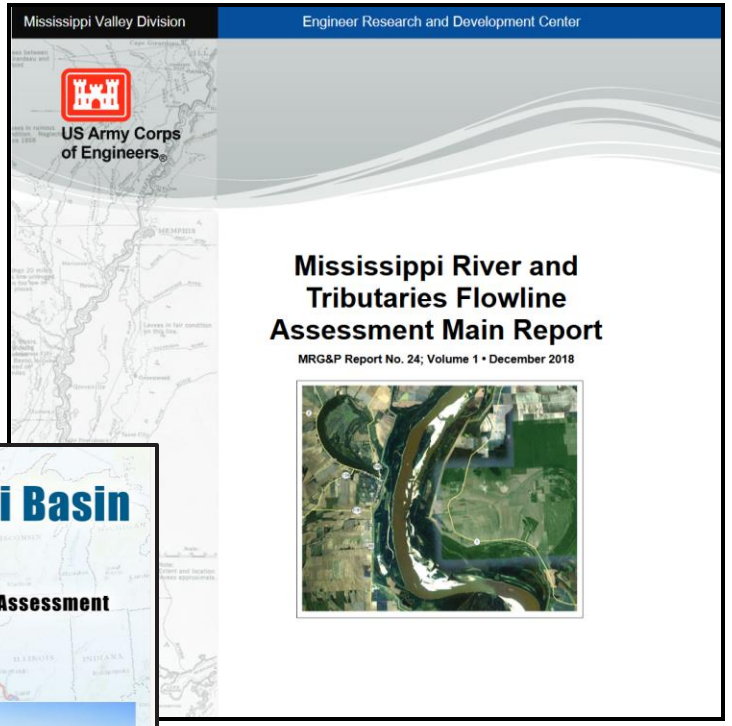
OMAR Report, 2022



LMRRA, 2015



2011 Post Flood Report, 2017



Flowline Assessment, 2018

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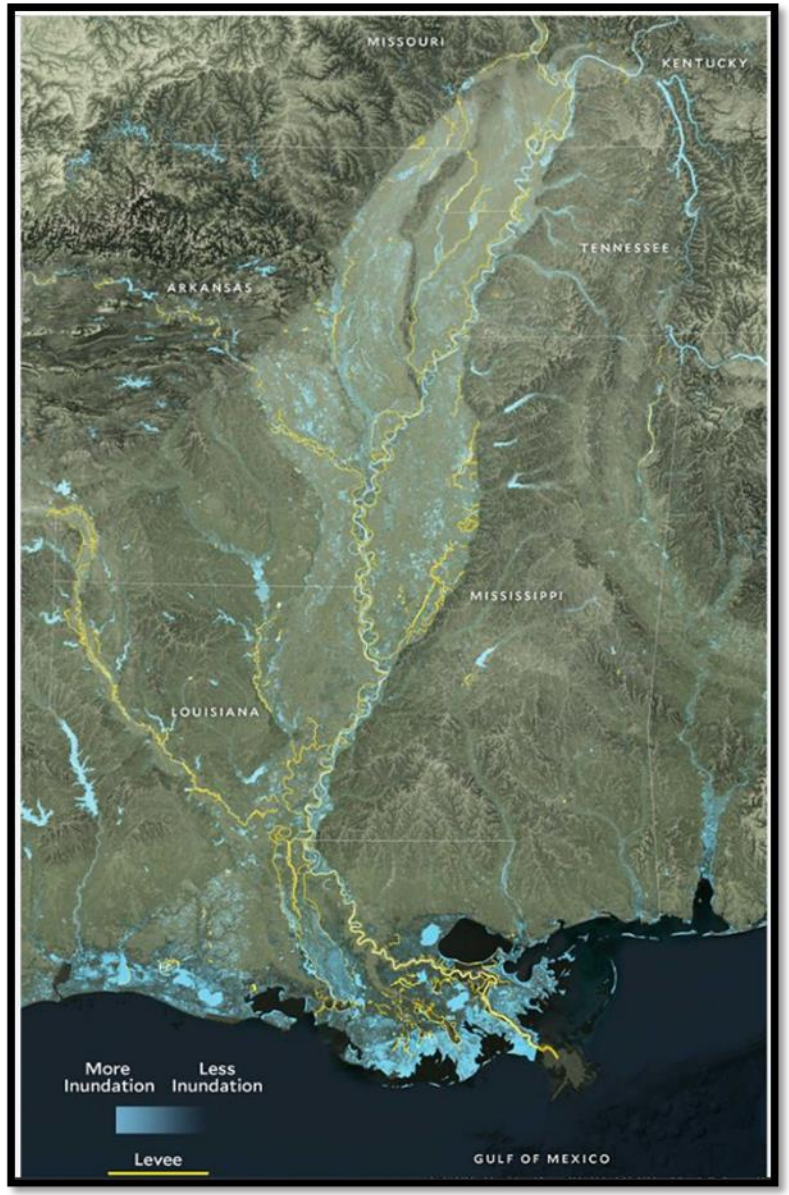
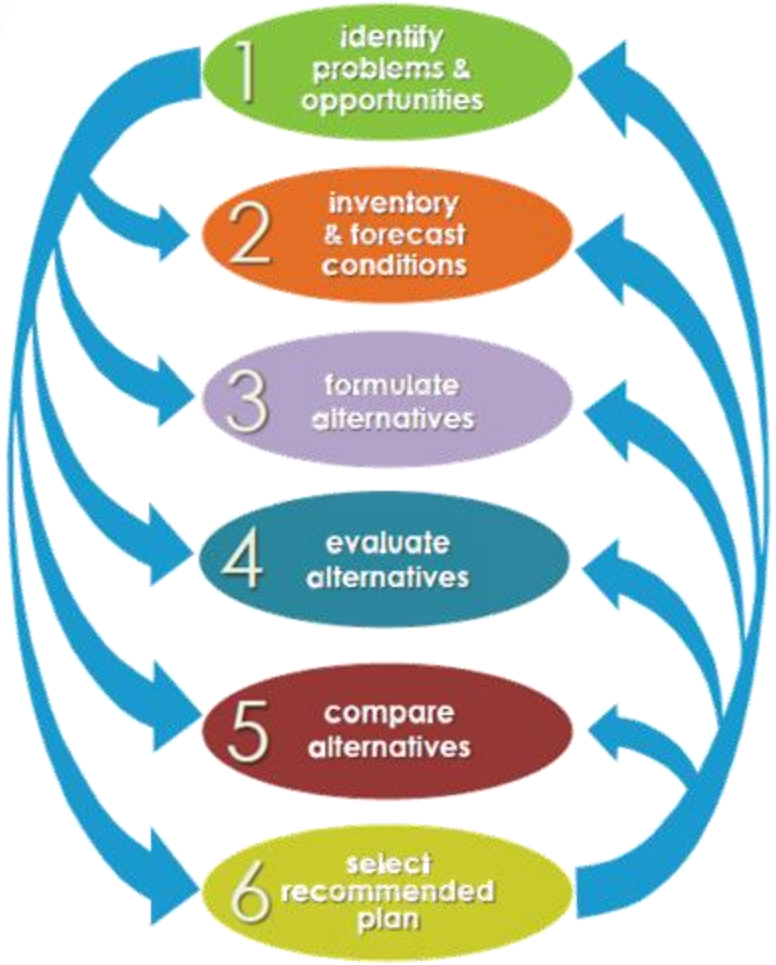
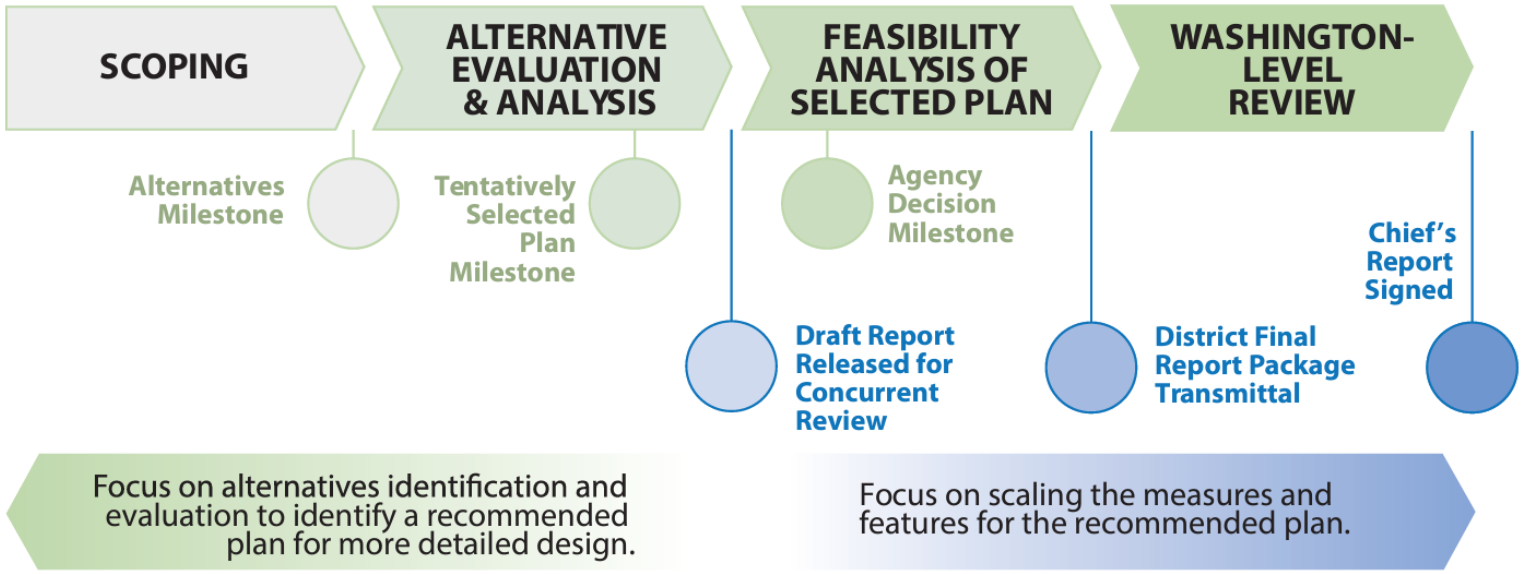


HOW ARE WE CONDUCTING THE STUDY?

SMART Planning

Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Risk-Informed, Timely





Note: The duration of each phase of a feasibility study is unique for each study. Not to scale.

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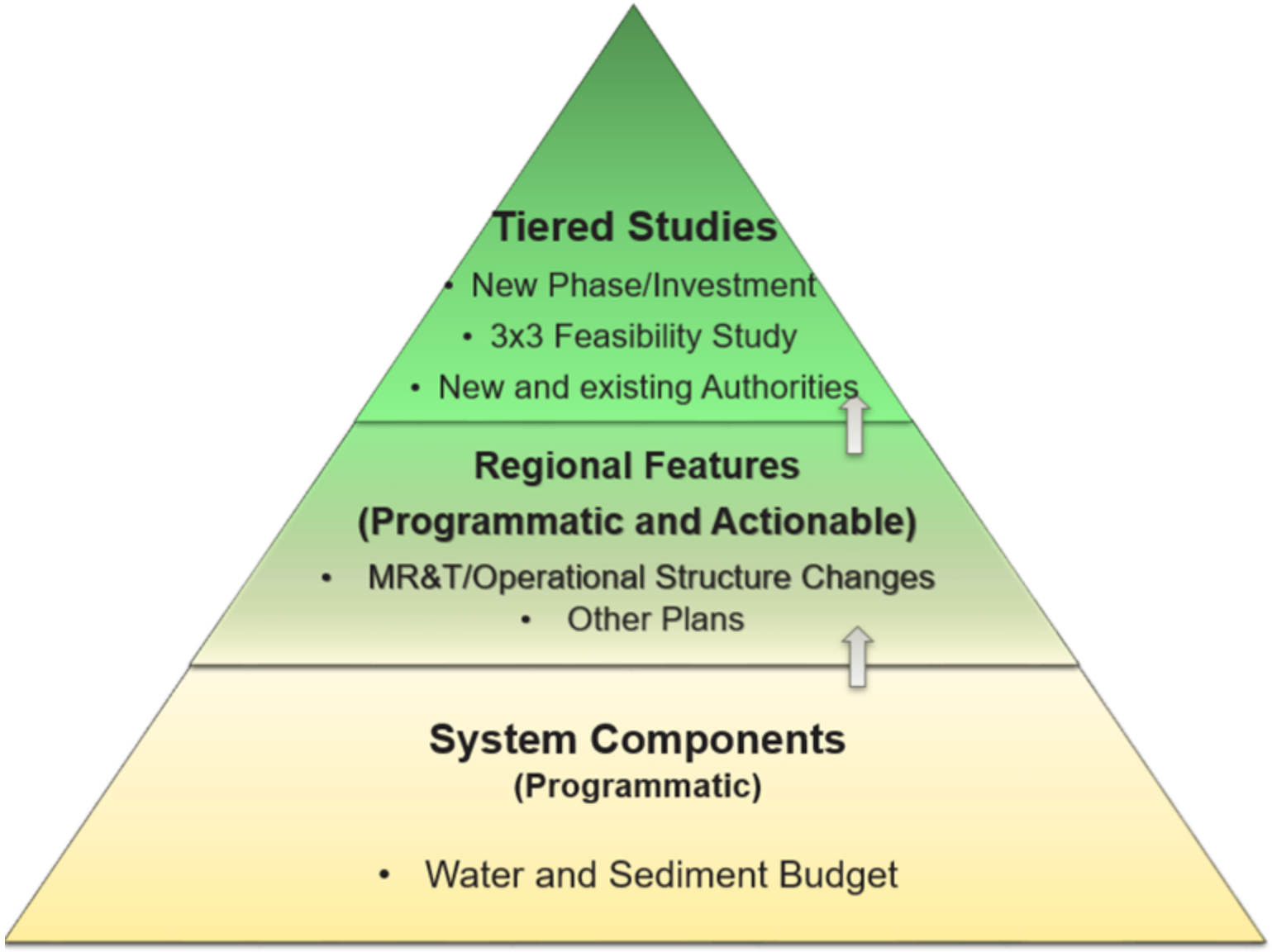
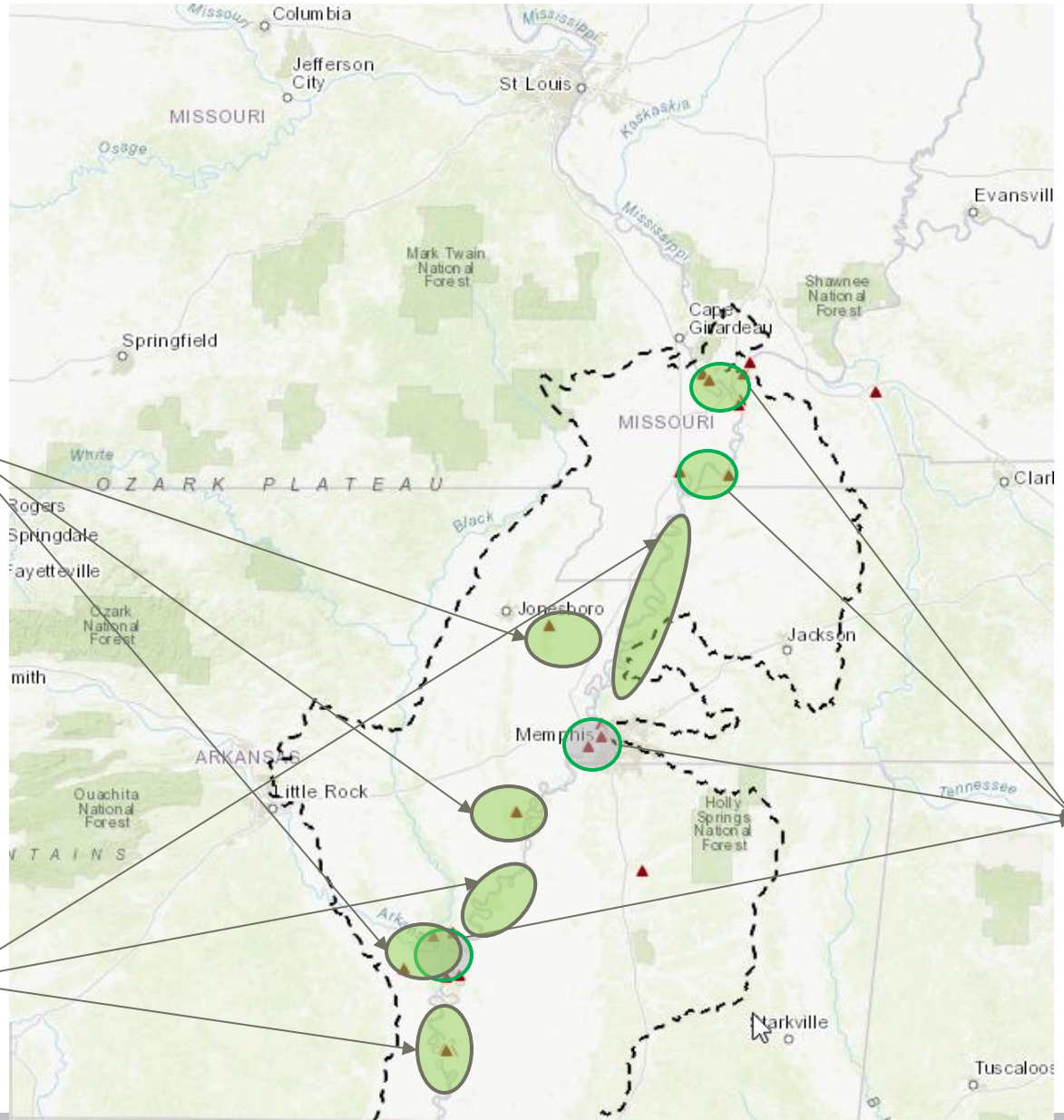


WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES THE STUDY?

Eco	FRM	Rec
Nav	CSRM	Water Supply/Hydro

Optimize individual and coupled/combined use and operation of designated levees, floodways and backwater areas (Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway, Morganza Floodway, Bonnet Carre Spillway, and West Atchafalaya Floodway, Yazoo, White, Red, and St. Francis Backwater areas), proposed river diversions, and river control structures (Old River Control Complex), on the MR&T system to pass flow for purposes of flood risk management, while supporting navigation and ecosystem function.

Maximize river-floodplain connectivity where possible to support ecosystem function.



Maximize channel stabilization near tipping points of geomorphic change and facilitate or improve channel resilience to reduce and/or mitigate for adverse impacts to navigation and flood risk.

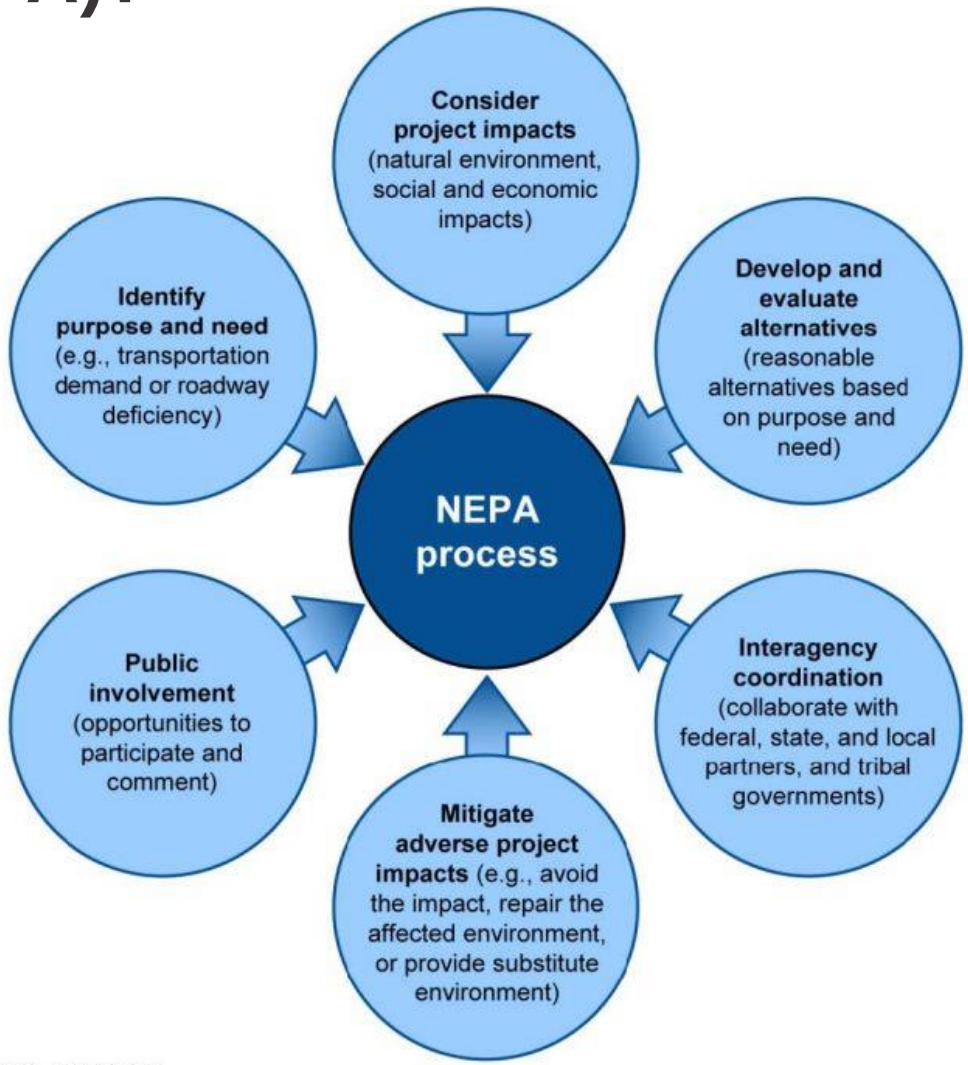
WHAT ARE SOME POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS?

What is a measure? Building blocks or features of alternatives.
What is an alternative? Different solutions to water resource problems.

- ❑ Dredge aggraded areas upriver to improve flow capacity.
- ❑ Change flow distribution at the Old River Control Structure Complex for the purposes of flood risk management, while supporting navigation and ecosystem function.
- ❑ Develop a system-wide approach/policy to promote native vegetative plantings along levee systems to provide ecosystem and habitat benefits.
- ❑ Restore specific oxbows and meanders.
- ❑ Levee setbacks along specific reaches of the river.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)?

- Requires all federal agencies to:
  - ❖ Consider the environmental impacts of any proposed action;
  - ❖ Develop a range of alternatives;
  - ❖ Provide opportunities for the public to provide input; and
  - ❖ Document the decision-making process so that interested and affected stakeholders can understand how the agency came to a decision.



Source: GAO. | GAO-15-71

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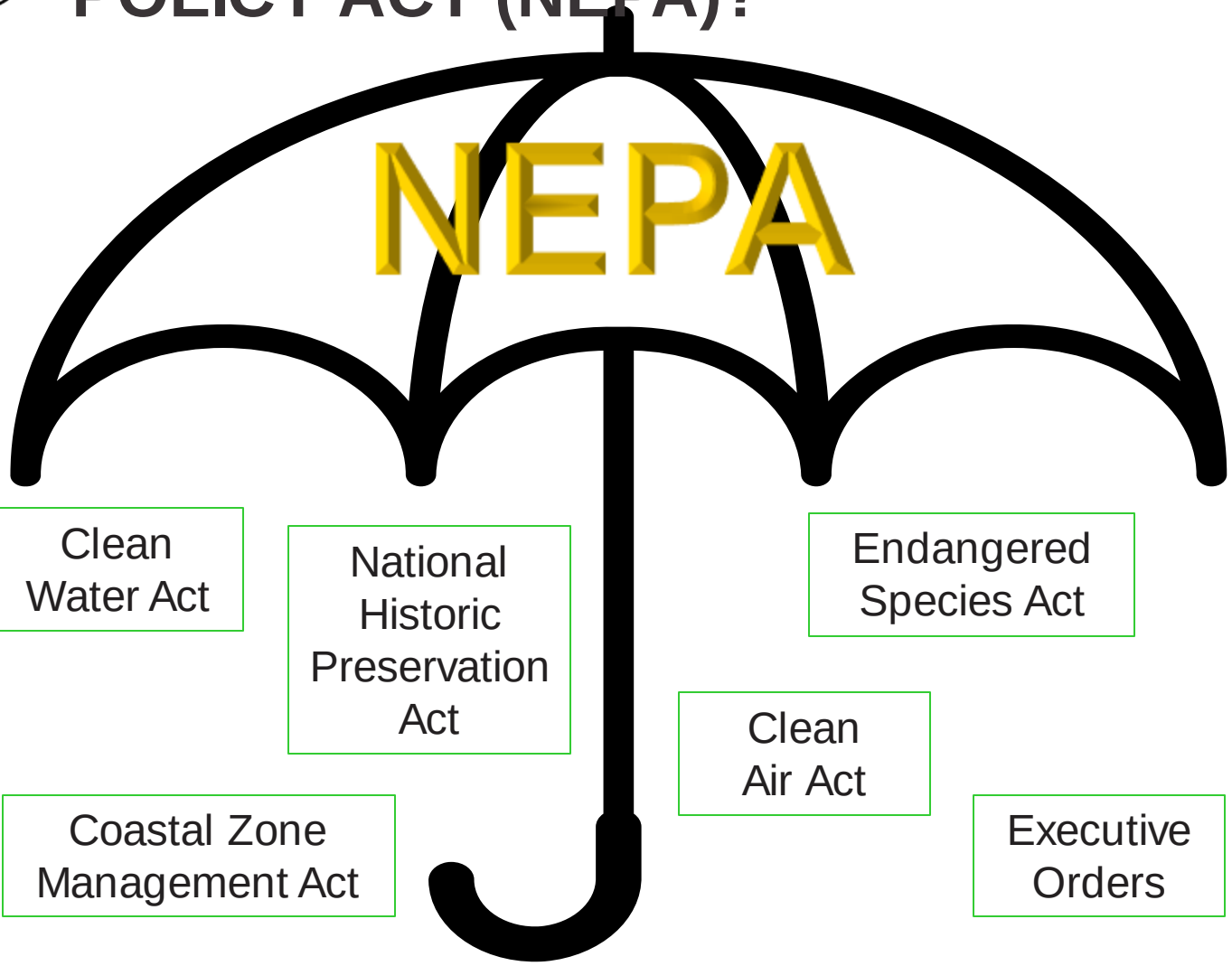

Other federal, state and local environmental laws policies, and regulations

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 is the primary law governing law the preservation of cultural resources in the United States, including but not limited to archaeological sites and historic structures.
  - Section 106 of the NHPA requires that federal agencies identify and assess the effects of its actions on historic properties.

- USACE consults with State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), federally recognized Native American Tribes, and other interested parties on cultural resources within its jurisdiction.

- This law asks federal agencies to "take into account" impacts of their projects on Historic Properties (Historic Buildings, Structures, Districts, Sites, and Objects)

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AGENDA

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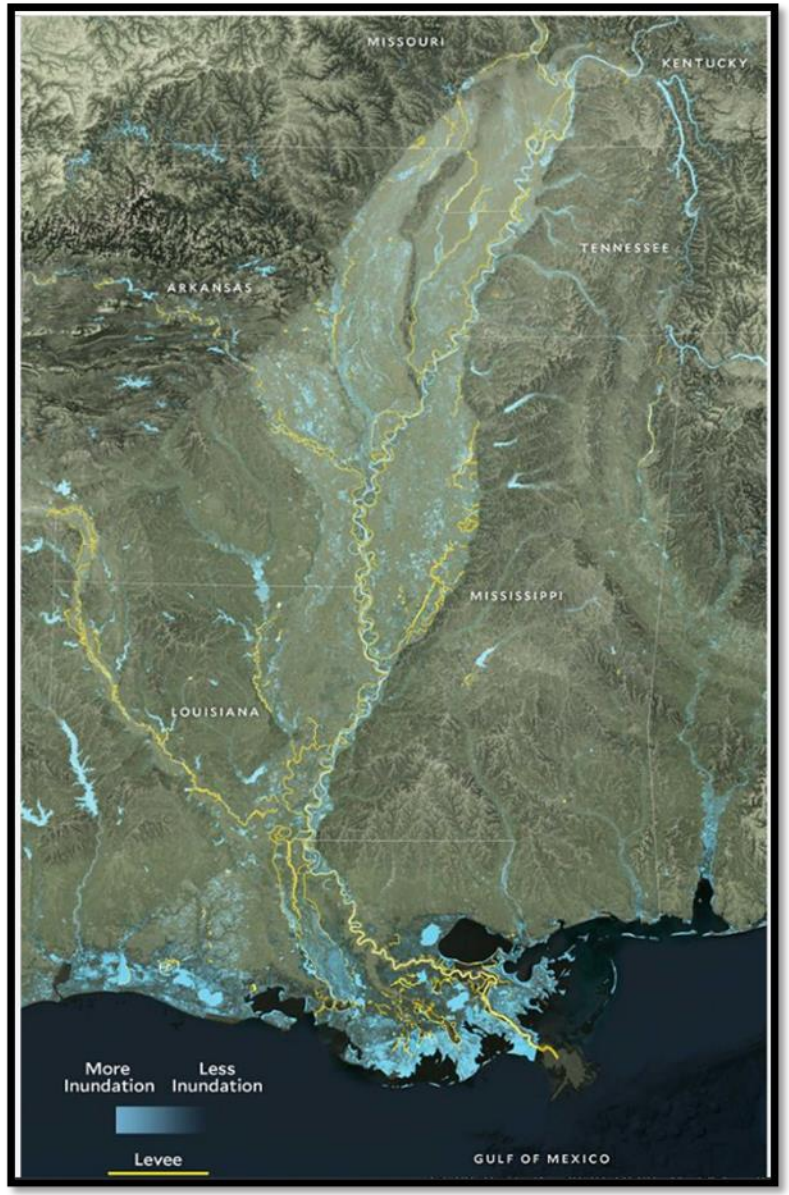
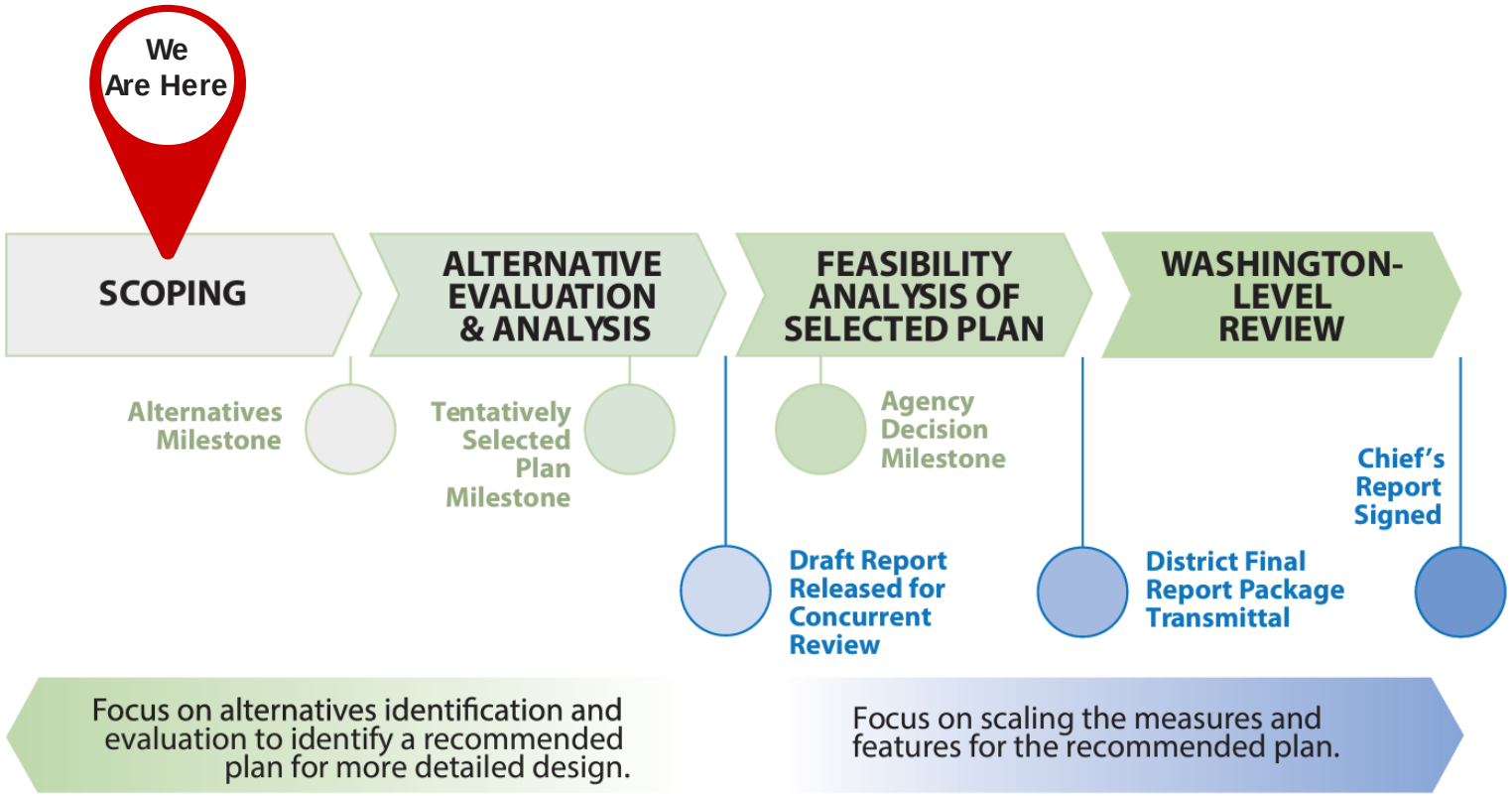


WHAT IS THE STUDY SCHEDULE?

- ✓ January 23, 2024: Public Orientation Session - Virtual
- ❑ February – March 2024: Public Meetings and Open House - In-Person (multiple locations) and Virtual



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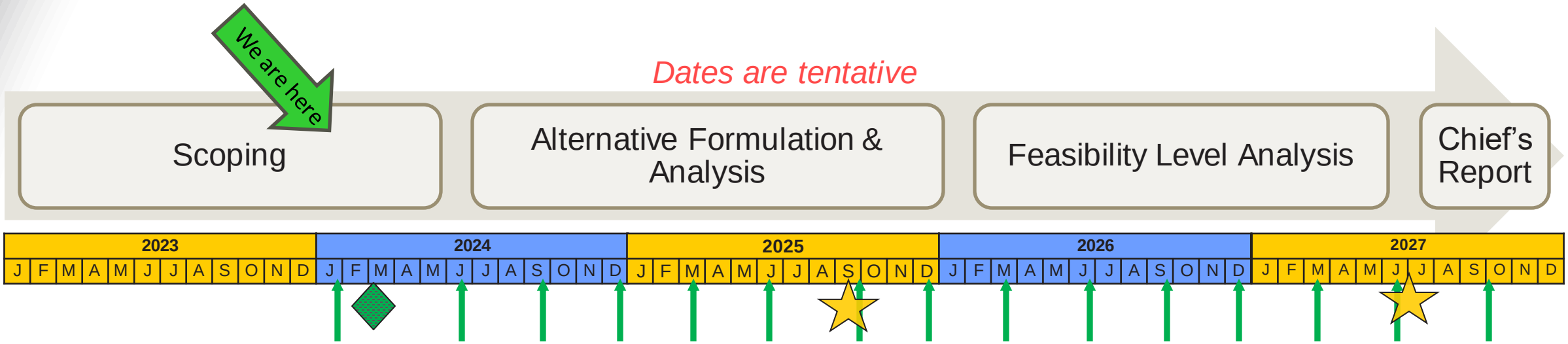

NEPA Public Scoping Meetings

Quarterly Updates to the Public

Approximate Dates For Release of Draft and Final Reports

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Participate in the Public Scoping Meetings in late February and early March either in-person or online.

During the Public Scoping Meetings, we want to learn from you:

- Regional NEEDS or PLANS that we should be aware of and take into consideration
- OPPORTUNITIES you'd like to see realized (or not see)
- Recommendations for how to address the major CONCERNS you have about the Lower Mississippi River
- CHANGES you'd like to see to the management of the Lower Mississippi River
- Ideas for how we should COMMUNICATE with you throughout the Study process

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

We look forward to seeing you at the Public Scoping Meetings in February and March.

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