

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

Our presentation will begin momentarily

Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study –  
Quarterly Public Update

View the study website at:  
[www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/LMRComp/](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/LMRComp/)



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Study Website



# SOUND CHECK



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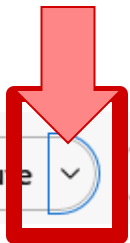
If you cannot currently hear the music, please follow these instructions to adjust your audio settings.

1

Check that your computer speakers are turned on and volume is turned up.

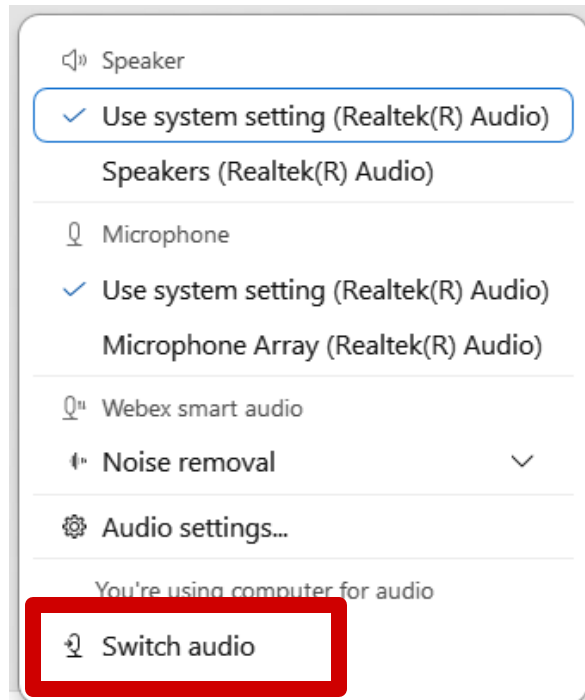
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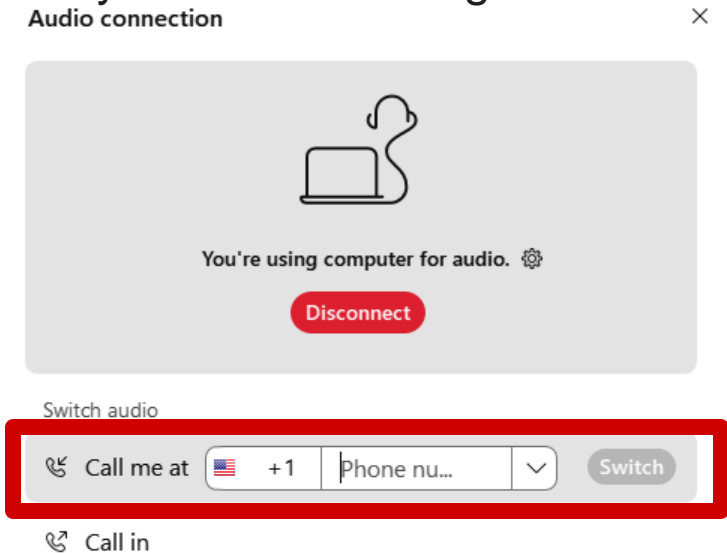
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Select a different speaker from the dropdown list OR select "Switch Audio" to join by phone.



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Phone: 1-844-800-2712

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(you will be automatically muted when you join)

# LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY

QUARTERLY PUBLIC UPDATE  
20 JUNE 2024

Ann Hijuelos, Senior Project Manager  
Programs and Project Management Division  
New Orleans District

Cherie Price, Senior Planner  
Regional Planning and Environment Division South  
New Orleans District



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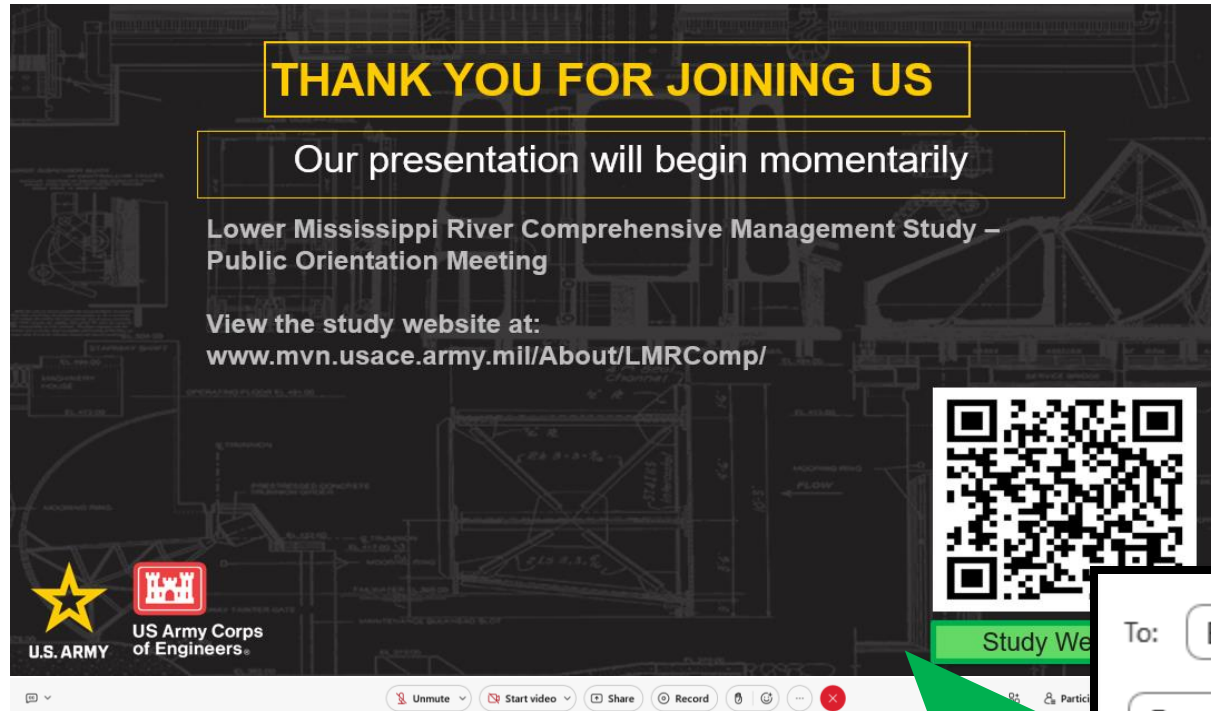
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# HOW CAN YOU SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TODAY?

1



To: Everyone

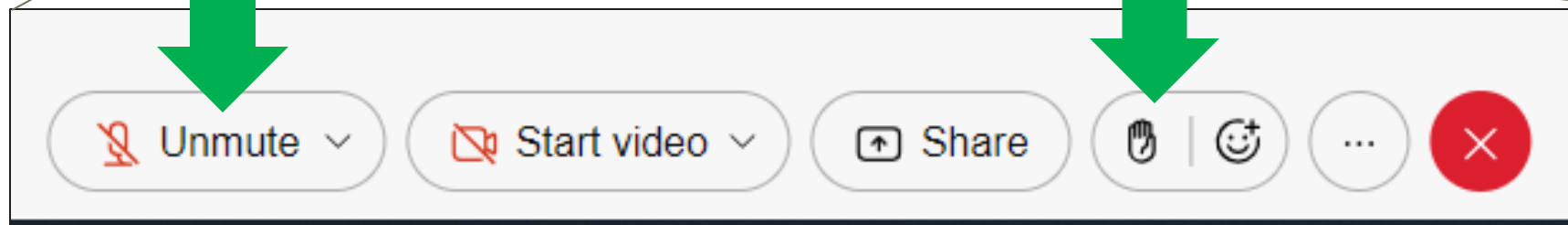
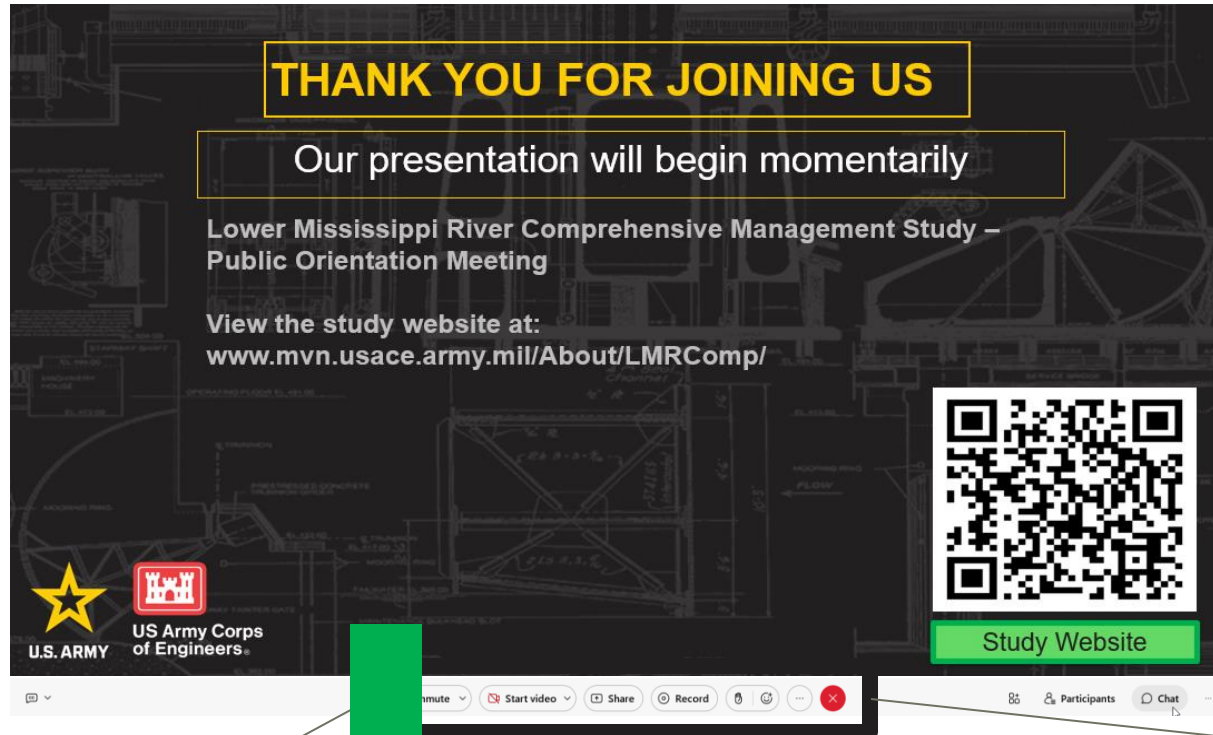
Enter your comment here and press enter.

Participants Chat



# HOW CAN YOU SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TODAY?

2





# HOW CAN YOU SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TODAY?

3

Email Us:

[LMRComp@usace.army.mil](mailto:LMRComp@usace.army.mil)

Subject Line:

[Quarterly Public Update](#)



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# AGENDA

7



**What is the study purpose (Recap)**

**Where are we in the study process?**

**What did we hear during the scoping meetings?**

**Where are we headed?**

**Questions and Comments**

**Feedback on this webinar.**



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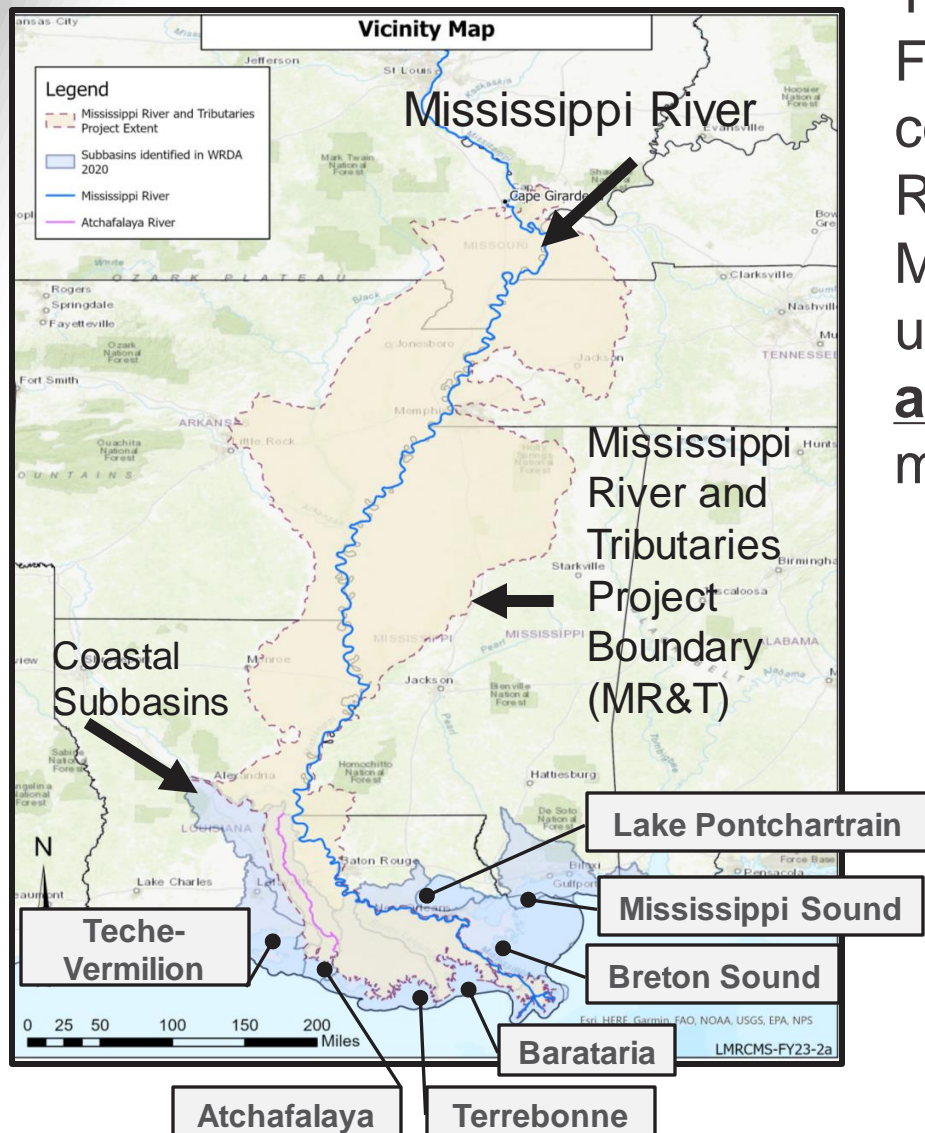
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# WHY ARE WE STUDYING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?

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, to 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 the purposes of –

- 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
- G. Other purposes as determined by the Secretary





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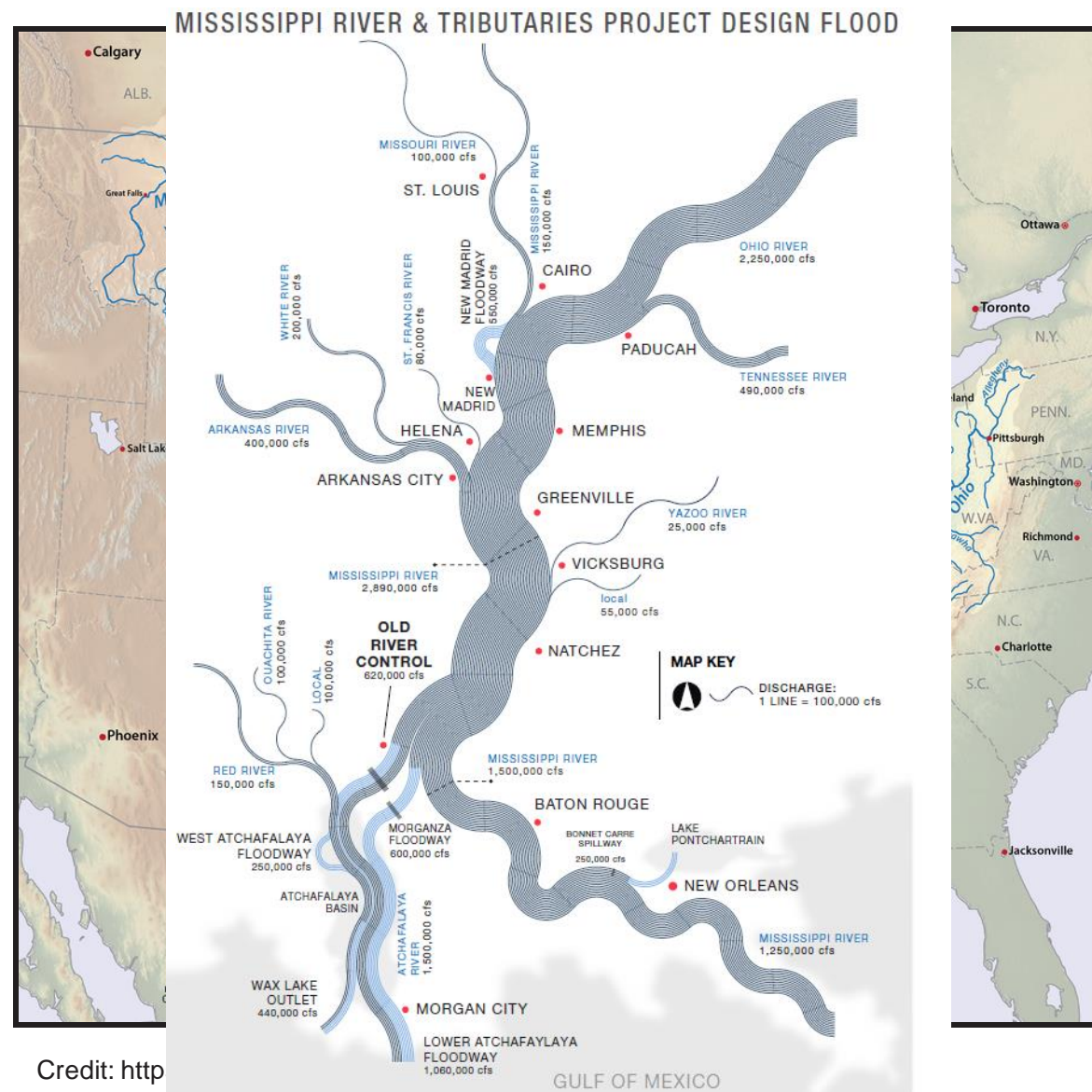
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# WHY ARE WE STUDYING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?

9

- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> largest river basin in the world (outranked only by Amazon and Congo rivers)
- ❖ Drains 41% of the continental United States
- ❖ Home to over 59 endangered birds, reptiles, mammals, and other species.
- ❖ Provides designated critical habitat for many of these protected species.
- ❖ 44 National Wildlife Refuges, comprising more than 100,000 acres of native wildlife habitat.
- ❖ Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project
  - Provides flood risk management for 4.1M people from the “project design flood.”
  - 589M tons of annual cargo movement
  - Return on Investment of \$109 to \$1, since 1928.





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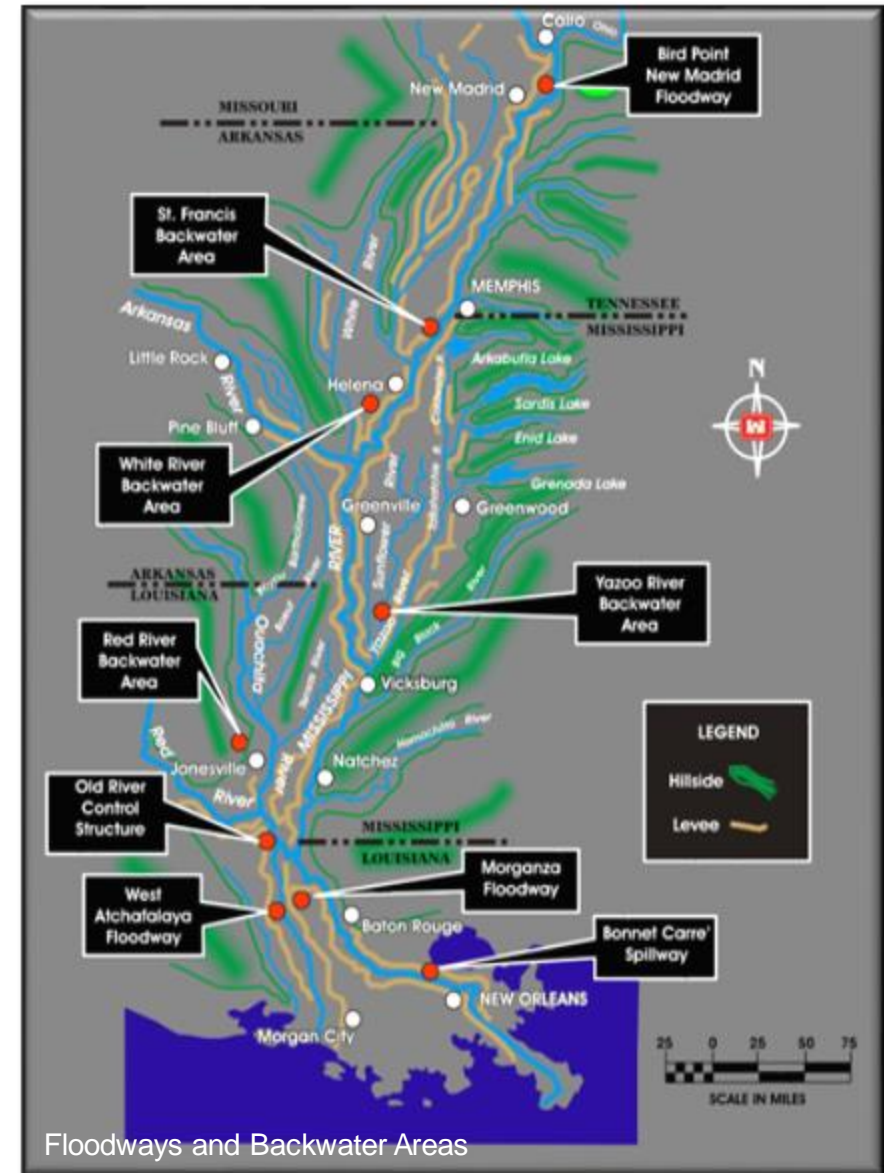
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# WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS MAY COME FROM THE STUDY?

10

1. Construction of new projects
2. Modifications to existing projects (structurally or operationally)
3. Monitoring of or adaptive management measures for existing projects
4. Improving the efficiency of operational and maintenance dredging
5. Whether changes are necessary to the MR&T Project;
6. Other Federal and non-Federal actions, where appropriate
7. Follow-up studies and data collection and monitoring to be carried out by the relevant Federal or State agency





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# STUDY AREA BOUNDARY

11



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



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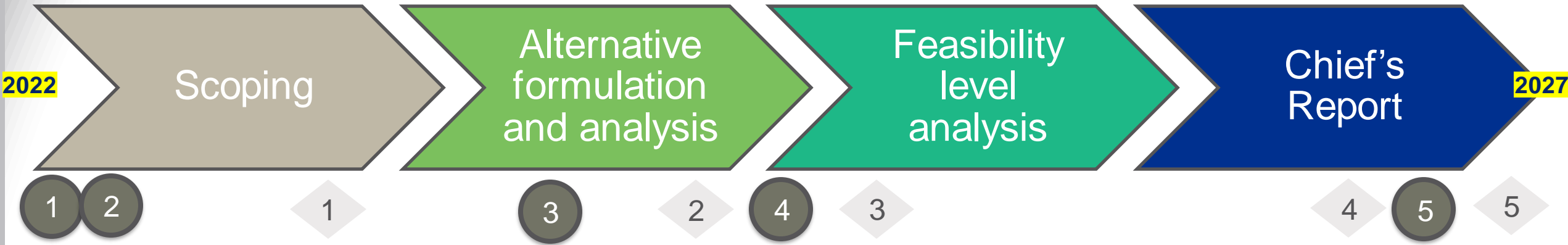


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# HOW ARE WE CONDUCTING THE STUDY?

12



## Feasibility Study Process

- 1 Alternatives Milestone
- 2 Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone
- 3 Agency Decision Milestone
- 4 State and Agency Review
- 5 Chief of Engineer's Report with Final NEPA Documentation

## National Environmental Policy Act Process

- 1 Identify Need for Action
- 2 Begin Scoping
- 3 Begin Drafting NEPA documentation
- 4 Release Draft NEPA documentation for Public, Technical & Policy Review
- 5 Publish and Distribute Final NEPA documentation



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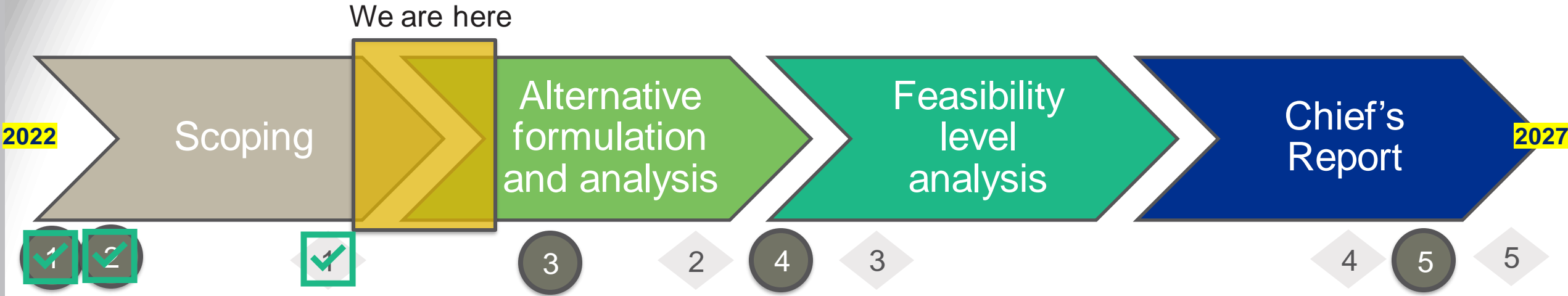


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# WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE

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## Feasibility Study Process



Alternatives Milestone

2

Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone

3

Agency Decision Milestone

4

State and Agency Review

5

Chief of Engineer's Report with Final NEPA Documentation

## National Environmental Policy Act Process



Identify Need for Action

2

Begin Scoping

3

Begin Drafting NEPA documentation

4

Release Draft NEPA documentation for Public, Technical & Policy Review

5

Publish and Distribute Final NEPA documentation



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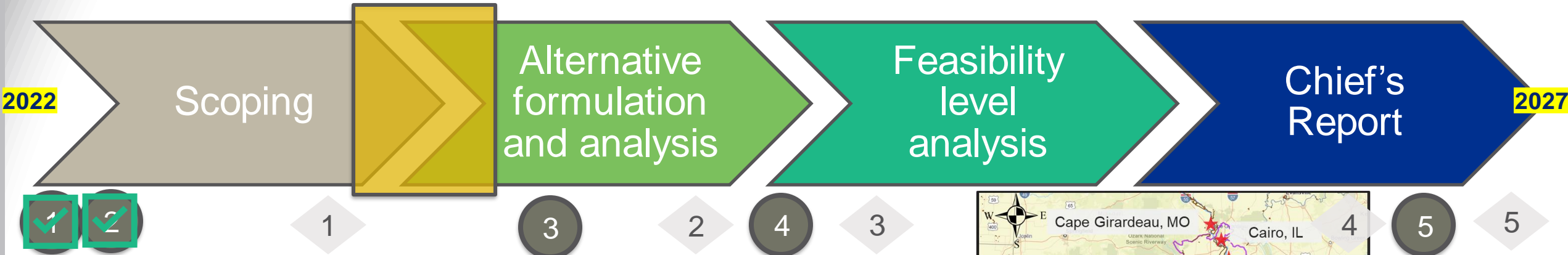
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# WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE

14

We are here



## Public Orientation Meeting (23 January 2024)

### 32 Public Meetings (Feb-Mar 2024)

- 29 In-person Meetings in 15 Cities across 7 States (~410 Participants)
- 3 Virtual Meetings (~50 participants)

### Tribal Nations Meetings (April 2024, May 2024, and ongoing)





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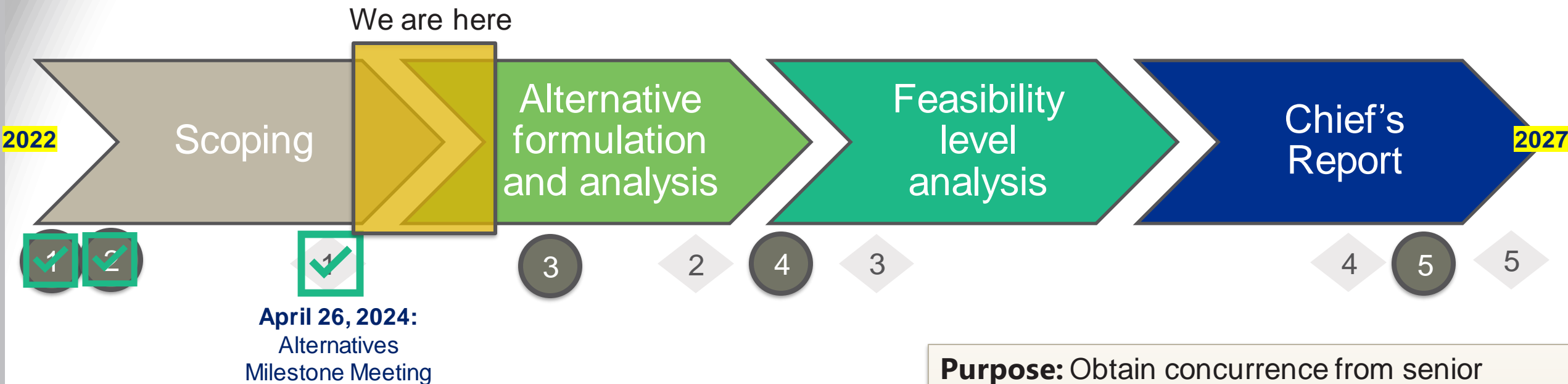


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# WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE

15



## Feasibility Study Process



Alternatives Milestone

2

Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone

3

Agency Decision Milestone

4

State and Agency Review

5

Chief of Engineer's Report with Final NEPA Documentation

**Purpose:** Obtain concurrence from senior USACE Leadership on the plan for completing the Study and in moving forward to the next milestone, the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)

- ✓ Define Problems & Opportunities
- ✓ Identify Study Objectives
- ✓ Inventory & Forecast
- ✓ Scoping
- ✓ Formulate Alternative Plans



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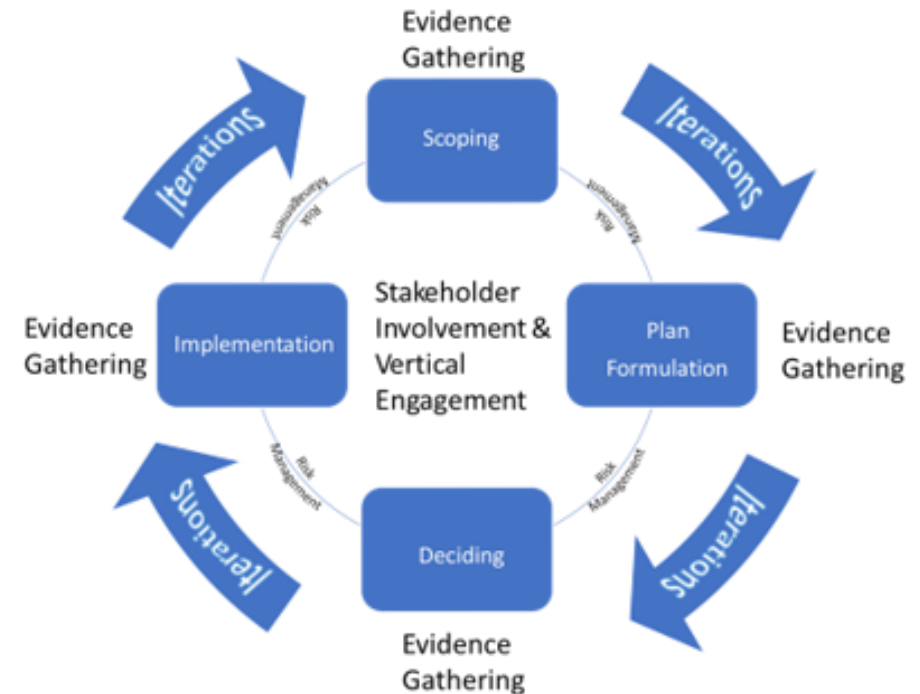
# SCOPING AND THE ITERATIVE RISK INFORMED PLANNING PROCESS

16

We are here



- ❖ Process is iterative!
- ❖ As more information becomes available, our understanding improves, and it is often necessary to go back, elaborate, refine, or correct something to make it better.
- ❖ We will continuously refine the study scope and reduce and clarify risks and uncertainties.





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# WHAT DID WE HEAR DURING THE SCOPING PERIOD?



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# PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS

- ❖ The following slides represent a summary of the comments, bucketed by themes, that were received during the public scoping period.
- ❖ Not every comment could be depicted in the slides. Themes are intended to illustrate the diversity of comments across the study area.
- ❖ Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.
- ❖ All public scoping comments will be posted on the Study website with the release of the Public Scoping Report in July.
- ❖ All public scoping comments have been reviewed by the Study Team and will be used to inform the scope of the Study.





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# PUBLIC SCOPING THEMES

Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

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Flood Risk  
Management

Navigation

Ecosystem  
Restoration  
(incl. Wildlife &  
Fisheries)

Water Supply  
(incl. Water  
Quality)

Recreation

Socioeconomics  
& Environmental  
Justice

Climate Change  
& Greenhouse  
Gases

Study Objectives  
& Opportunities

Study Approach

Scope of  
Analysis

Public & Agency  
Involvement

Impact Analysis  
Methodologies

Mitigation &  
Adaptive  
Management



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# PUBLIC SCOPING THEMES

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## Flood Risk Management

- Infrastructure Updates and Modernization for Flood Risk Management
- Operations Updates for Current and Future Conditions
- Sediment Management for Flood Risk Reduction
- Development in Floodways

## Navigation

- Infrastructure Updates and Modernization for Navigation
- Operations for Navigation Purposes
- Dredging and Sediment Management for Navigation
- Safety Concerns

## Ecosystem Restoration (incl. Wildlife & Fisheries)

- Restore Floodplains and Riparian Habitats
- Restore Coastal Habitats
- Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species
- Conservation of Migratory Birds
- National Wildlife Refuges
- Wildlife Impacts and Protection

## Water Supply (incl. Water Quality)

- Contaminants, Nutrient Loading, and Hypoxia
- Groundwater Recharge
- Water Supply for Agriculture
- Enhance the resiliency of Municipal and Drinking Water Supplies in Coastal Areas to saltwater intrusion and sediment.
- Identify Data Gaps and Implement a Monitoring Program

## Recreation

- Restore Riverfronts and Channels to Expand Recreational Opportunities
- Implement Walking/Biking Paths on Levees
- Establish More Boat Ramps and Outfitter/Guide Services Along the River
- Address Coastal Water Quality and Sedimentation Issues for Recreational and Tourism Benefits

## Socioeconomics & Environmental Justice

- Equitable Project Delivery and Environmental Justice
- Equitable Consideration of Agricultural, Community, and Industry Stakeholders
- Job Training

## Climate Change & Greenhouse Gases

- Incorporate Climate Change into River Management
- Use Up-to-Date Climate Data and Models
- Assess How Subsidence and Sea Level Rise Are Causing Saltwater Intrusion in Water Supply
- Maintain Authorized Navigation Depths to Reduce GHG Emissions

## Study Objectives & Opportunities

- Revise Study Objectives to be Inclusive of Residents, Businesses, and Farms in the Mississippi Corridor
- Objectives and Opportunities for Floodplain Restoration and Species Protection

## Study Approach

- Ensure a Comprehensive and Transparent Study Process
- Implement Flexible and Holistic Management
- Coordinate Across Districts, Disciplines, and Agencies
- Maintain political Independence and Integrity

## Scope of Analysis

- Assess Adverse Effects of River Discharges
- Implement Wetlands Restoration in Plaquemines Parish
- Address Impacts from Bonnet Carré Spillway Operations
- Expand Study Area in Key Places

## Public & Agency Involvement

- Involve All Ages and Stakeholders
- Communicate Information Clearly and Continuously Collaborate with Local Entities

## Impact Analysis Methodologies

- Use Advanced Models and Data
- Incorporate Existing Data and Research
- Coordinate with Existing Initiatives and Experts

## Mitigation & Adaptive Management

- Implement Long-Term Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plans
- Avoid or Mitigate Impacts on High-Value Habitats



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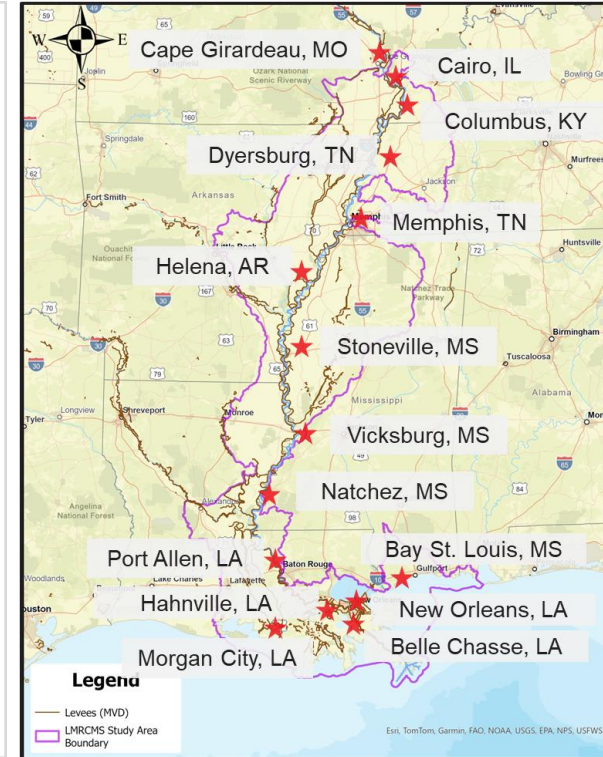
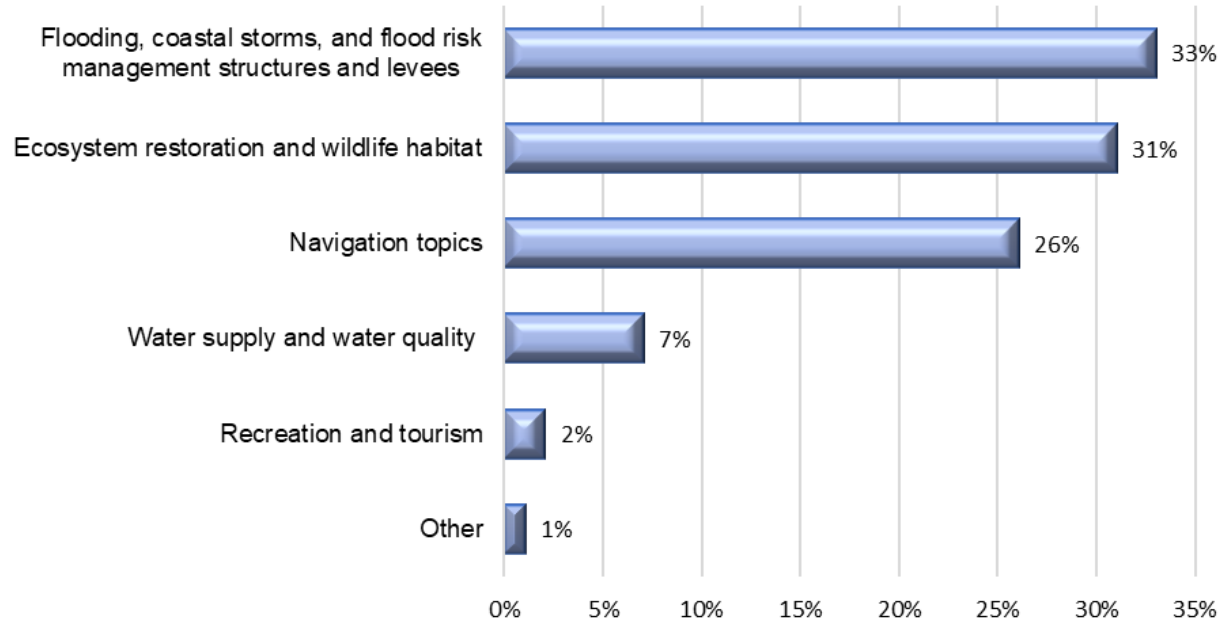


# PUBLIC SCOPING THEMES

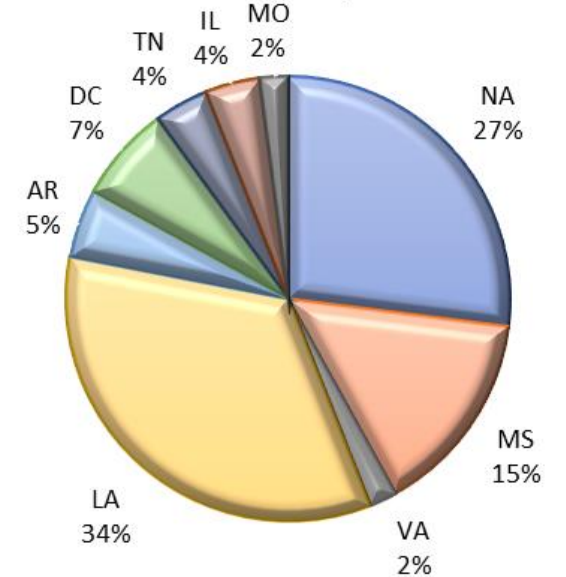
~200 individuals submitted comments

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## Major Themes mentioned in Comments



## Comments by State





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# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT



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# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

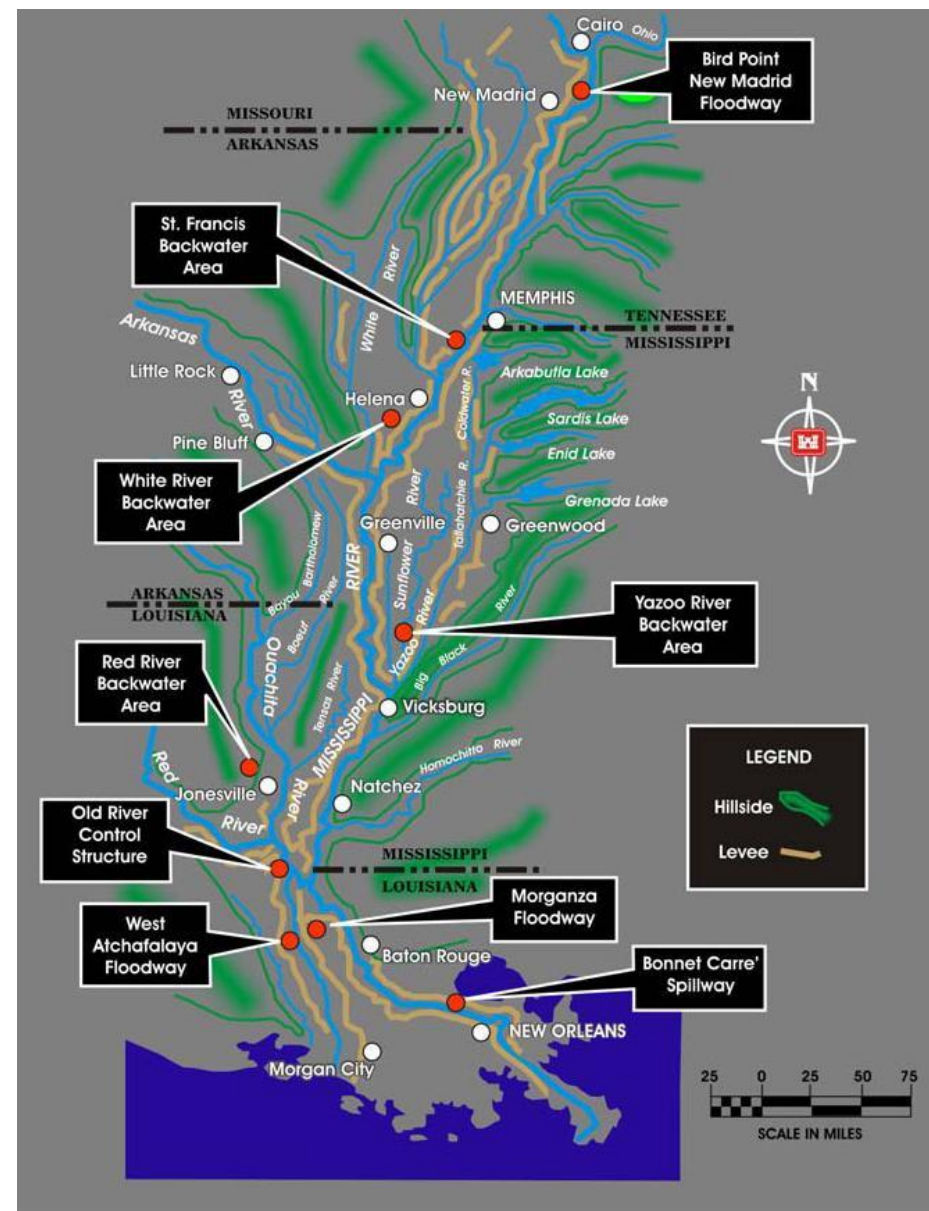
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## Levees

- Focus the Study on finishing the authorized Mississippi River & Tributaries (MR&T) Project
- Pass legislation to provide money to the Coast Guard to protect levees from vessel damage

## Floodways

- Fully assess the optimal operation of designated floodways and backwaters to reduce flood damages, improve public safety, and restore habitat.
- Consider acquiring land to hold water in the upper basin to reduce flood stages downriver.
- Prevent people from developing land in flood hazard areas.
- Take a systematic approach to managing development along waterways
- Provide assistance to interested landowners to participate in conservation programs.





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# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

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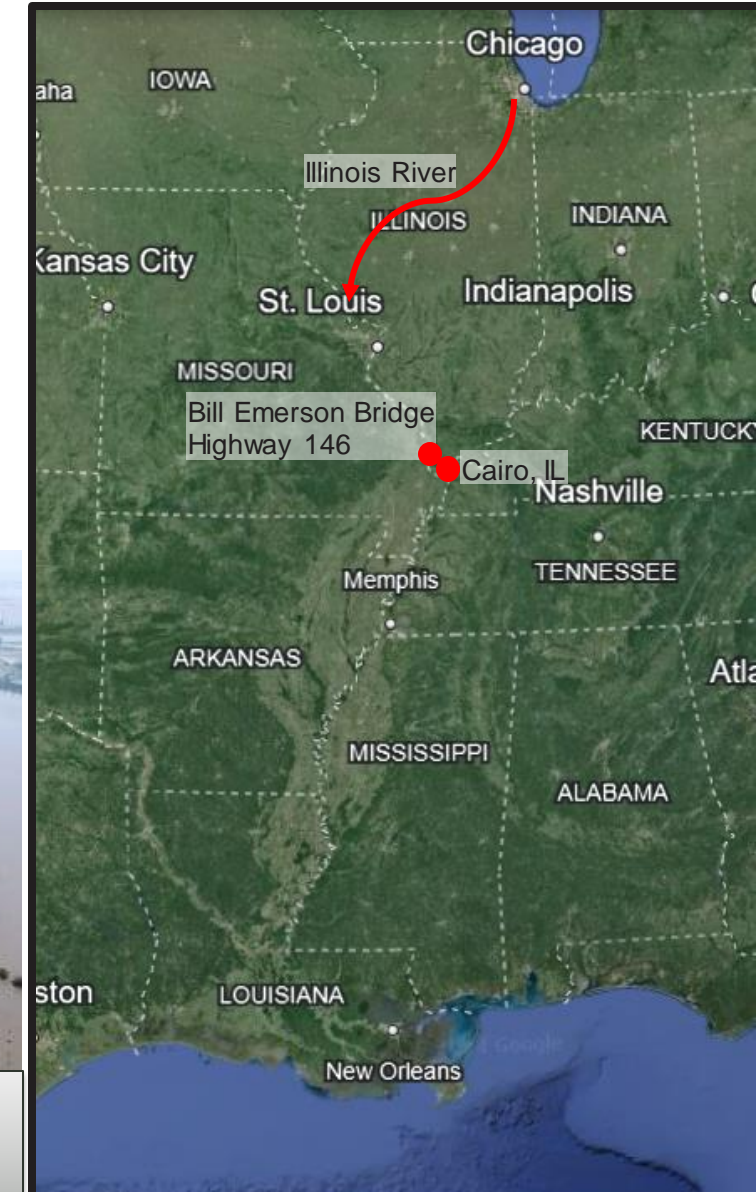
## Cairo/East Cape Girardeau, Illinois vicinity:

- Infrastructure:
  - Upgrade damaged pumping stations to address the flooding crisis in Cairo, Illinois.
  - Install permanent pumps on either side of Highway 146 just over the Bill Emerson Bridge to avoid extreme flooding in East Cape Girardeau, IL
- Operations:
  - Update and revise water releases on the Illinois River

Cairo, Illinois. (Source: Landsat.com)



Cairo, Illinois. Ohio River on left, Mississippi River on right. (Source: The Southern Illinoisan, March 29, 2012)





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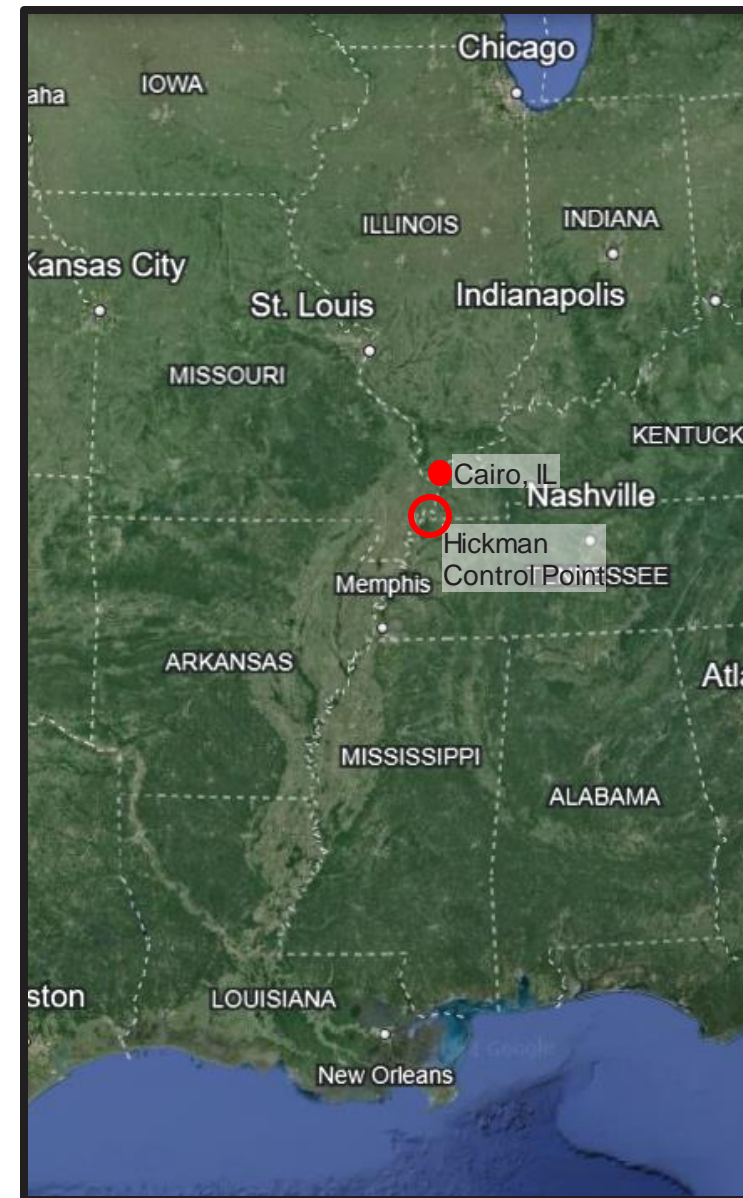
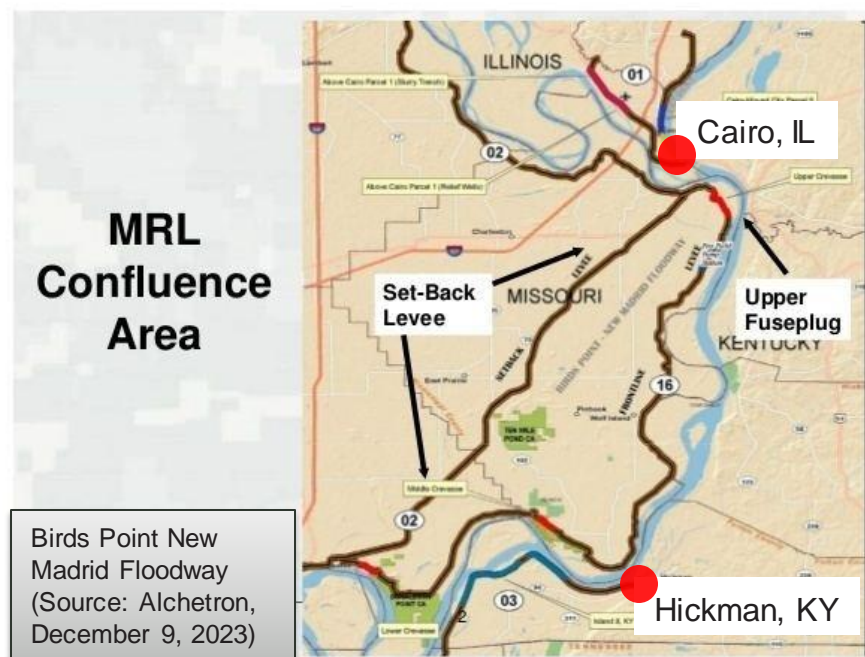
# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

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## Cairo, Illinois to Hickman, Kentucky:

- Infrastructure
  - Fortify Cairo, Illinois and Hickman, Kentucky so the Bird's Point-New Madrid Spillway can overtop instead of requiring explosive activation.
  - Maintain current federal levee system in Southeast Missouri.





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# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

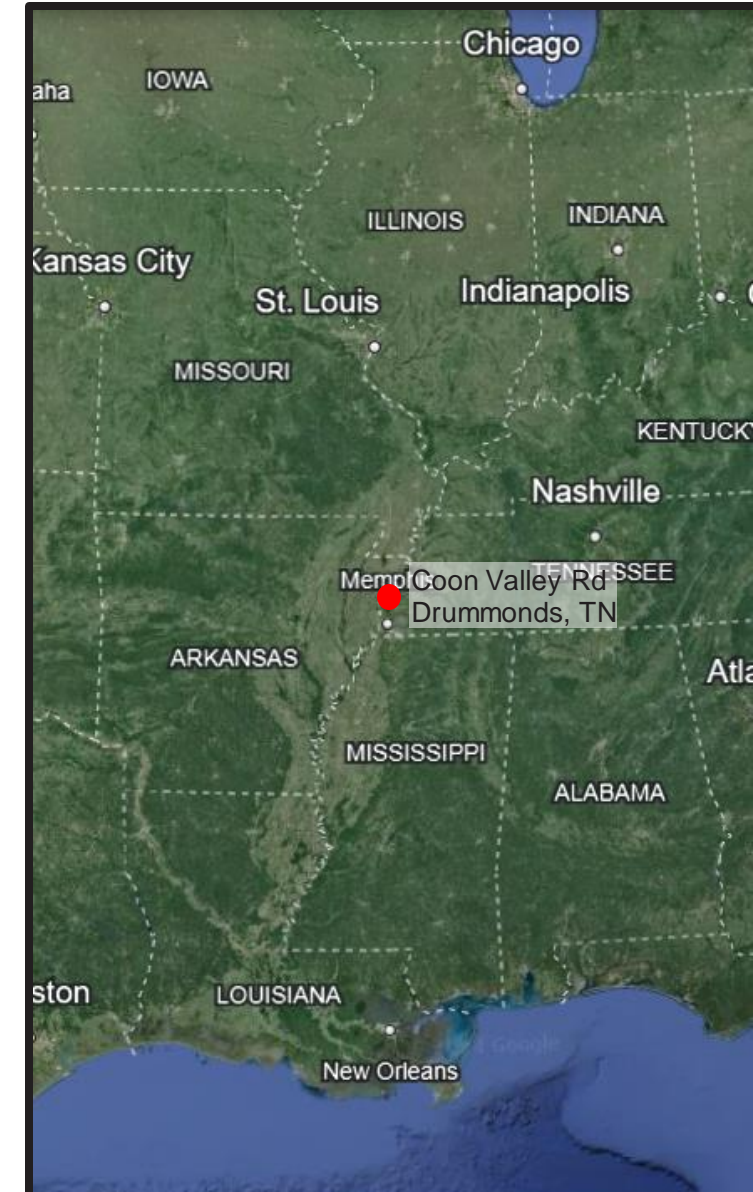
Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## Memphis, Tennessee vicinity:

- Infrastructure
  - Near Drummonds, Tennessee, construct a partial levee or spur between the Mississippi River and Coon Valley Road



Coon Valley Rd nr Drummonds, TN (Source: Bing)





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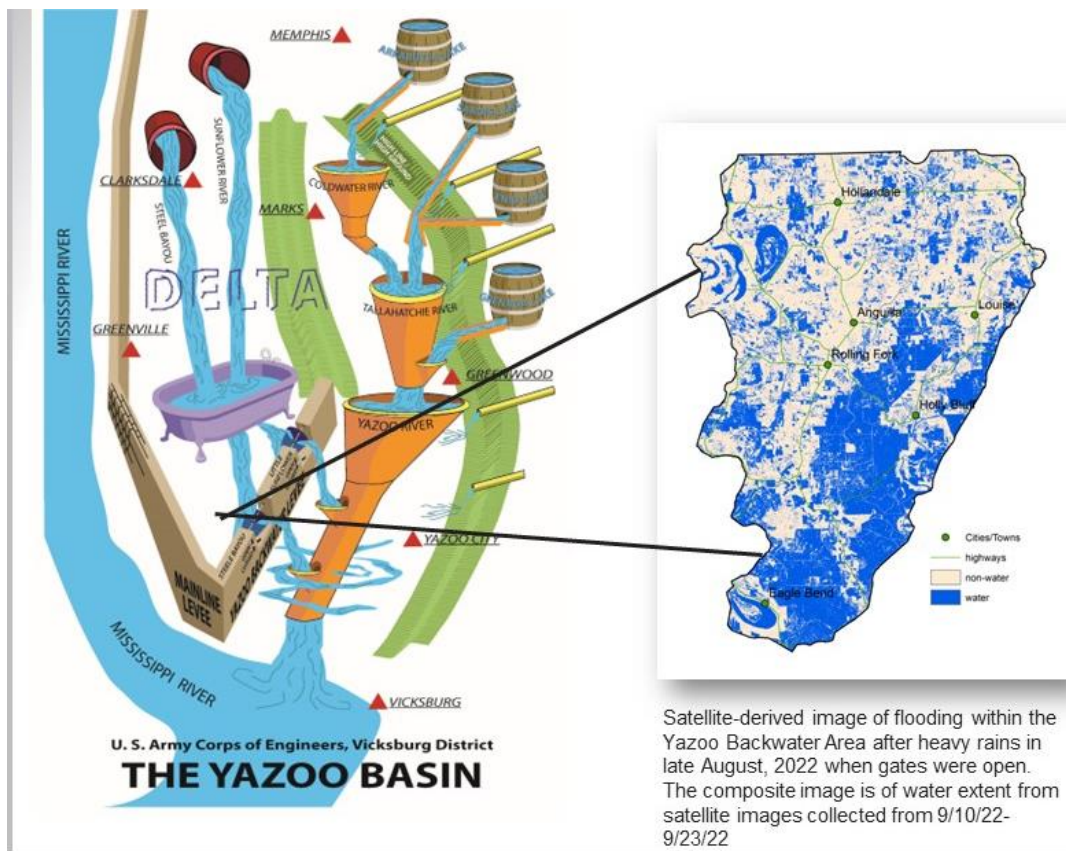


# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

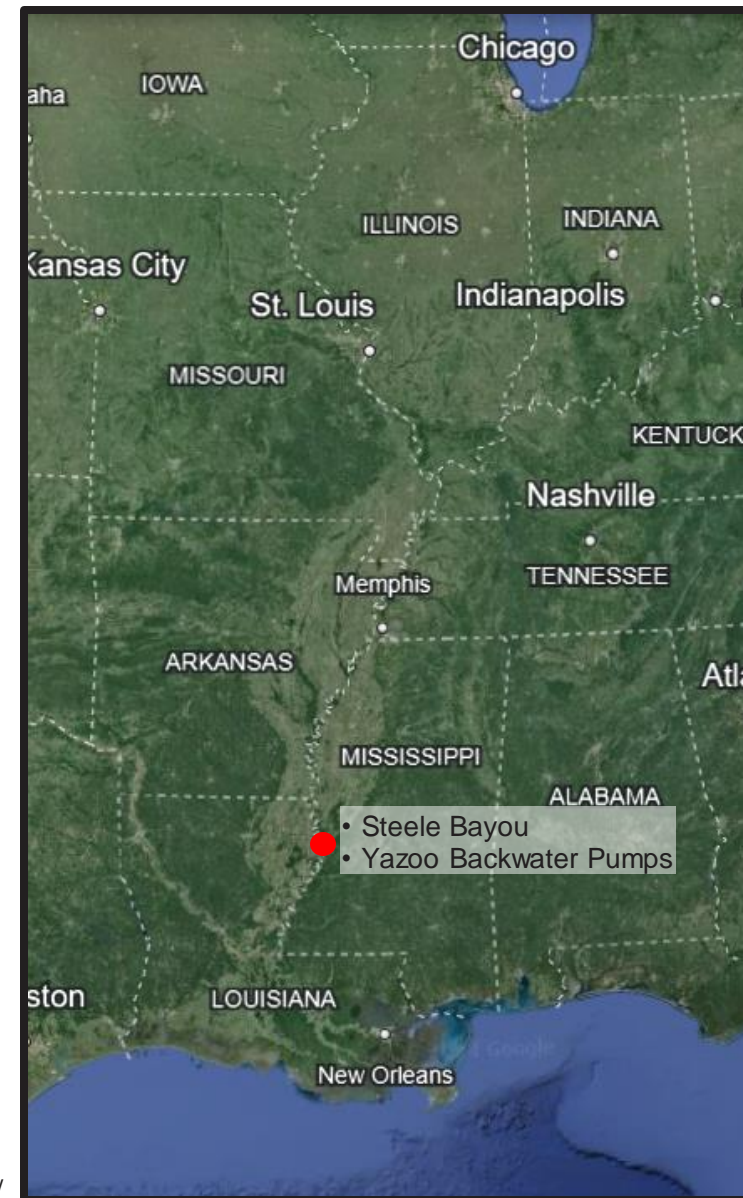
Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## Vicksburg vicinity:

- Infrastructure
  - Finish Yazoo Backwater Project and the Steele Bayou pumps



Satellite-derived image of flooding within the Yazoo Backwater Area after heavy rains in late August, 2022 when gates were open. The composite image is of water extent from satellite images collected from 9/10/22-9/23/22





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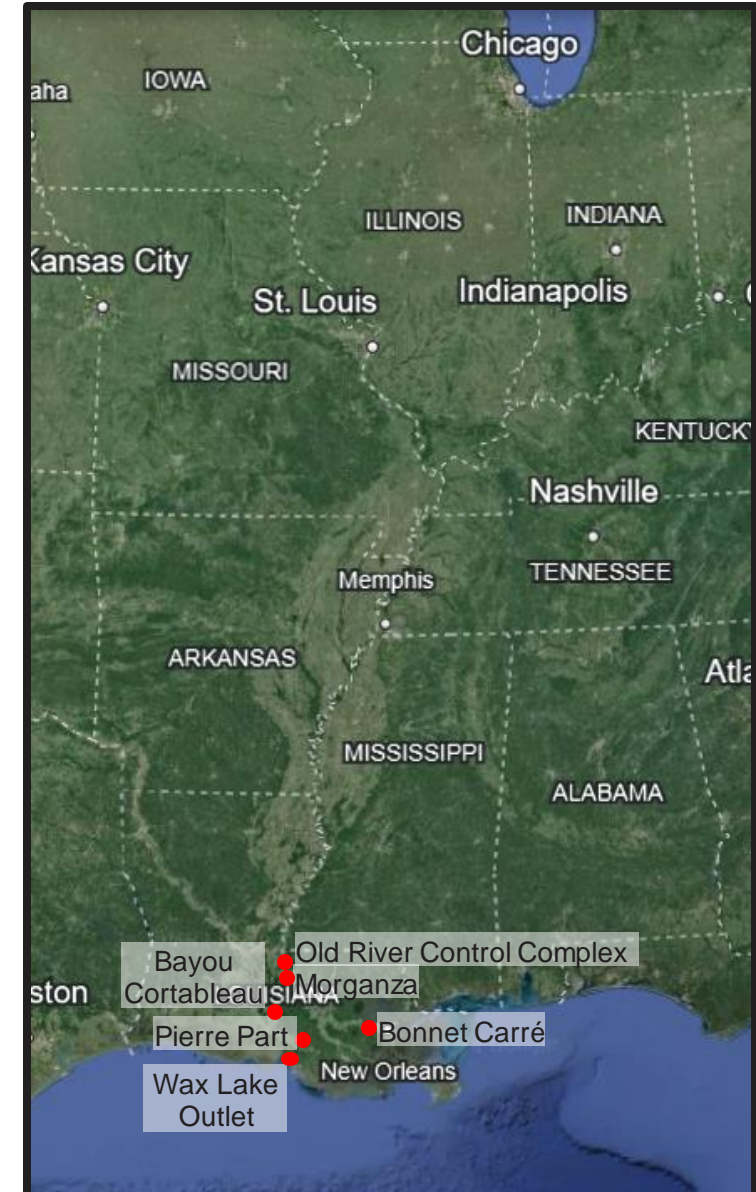


# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## South Louisiana vicinity:

- Infrastructure
  - Increase capacity of the Wax Lake Outlet
  - Investigate increased flooding in Pierre Part, Louisiana
- Operations
  - Morganza Floodway:
    - Revise trigger operation to put more water down the Atchafalaya River
  - Old River Control Complex:
    - Revert to an annual 70/30 flow split at the Old River Control Complex instead of daily.
    - Reconsider the timing of the mandated 70/30 flow split at the Old River Control Complex.
  - Bayou Courtableau:
    - Revise the operations manual to allow operations to avoid flooding in Lafayette
  - Bonnet Carré Spillway:
    - Acknowledge and address the impacts caused by Bonnet Carré Spillway operations to the natural resources of the Mississippi Sound and the citizens of coastal Mississippi.





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# NAVIGATION



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# NAVIGATION COMMENTS

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Barge traffic during low water

(Source: USCG)



Navigating low water levels in July '23

(Source: Gerald Herbert/AP)



Barkley Lock and Dam

(Source: Wikipedia)



Buoy Management and Lights

(Source: Scott Olson/Getty Images)



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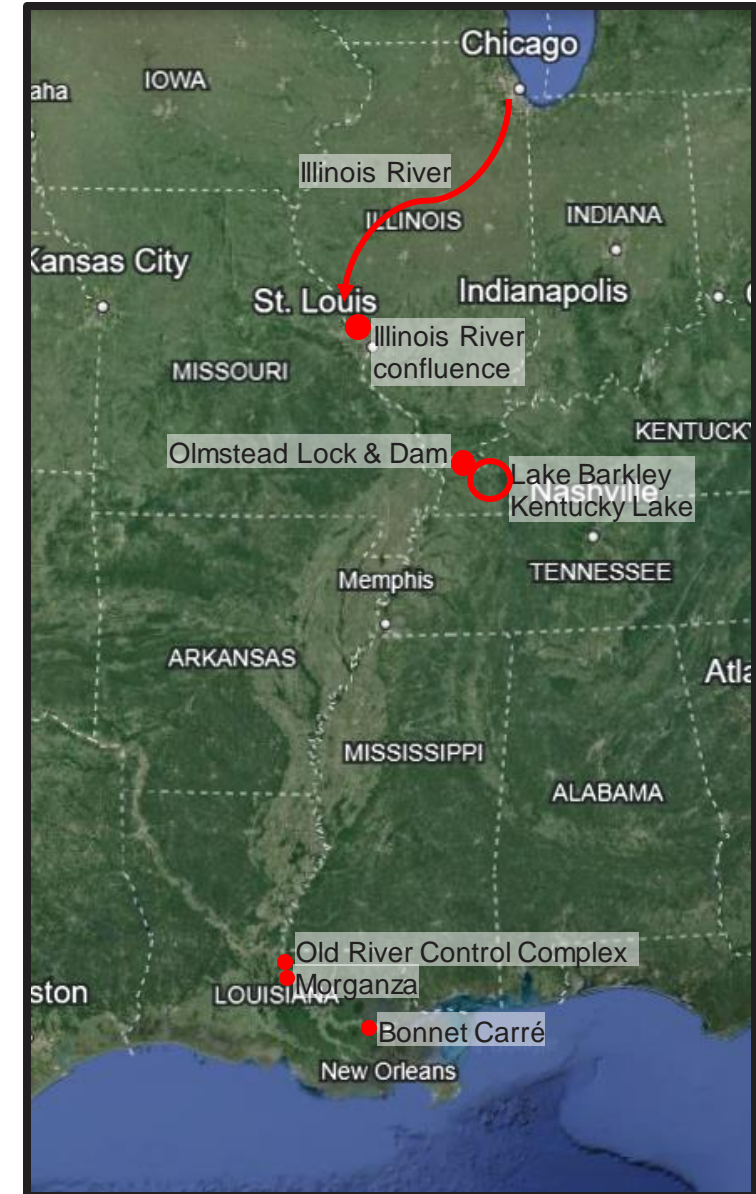


# NAVIGATION COMMENTS

Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## Structure Operations:

- Reconsider Lake Michigan/Illinois River constraints
- Update river operations across Corps District Boundaries
- Review Kentucky and the Barkley Dam purposes for navigation purposes during droughts
- Collaborate with Tennessee Valley Authority to control water levels downstream of Olmstead Lock, preventing sudden changes that hinder navigation
- Evaluate impacts on navigation when opening spillways such as the Morganza Floodway and Bonnet Carré.





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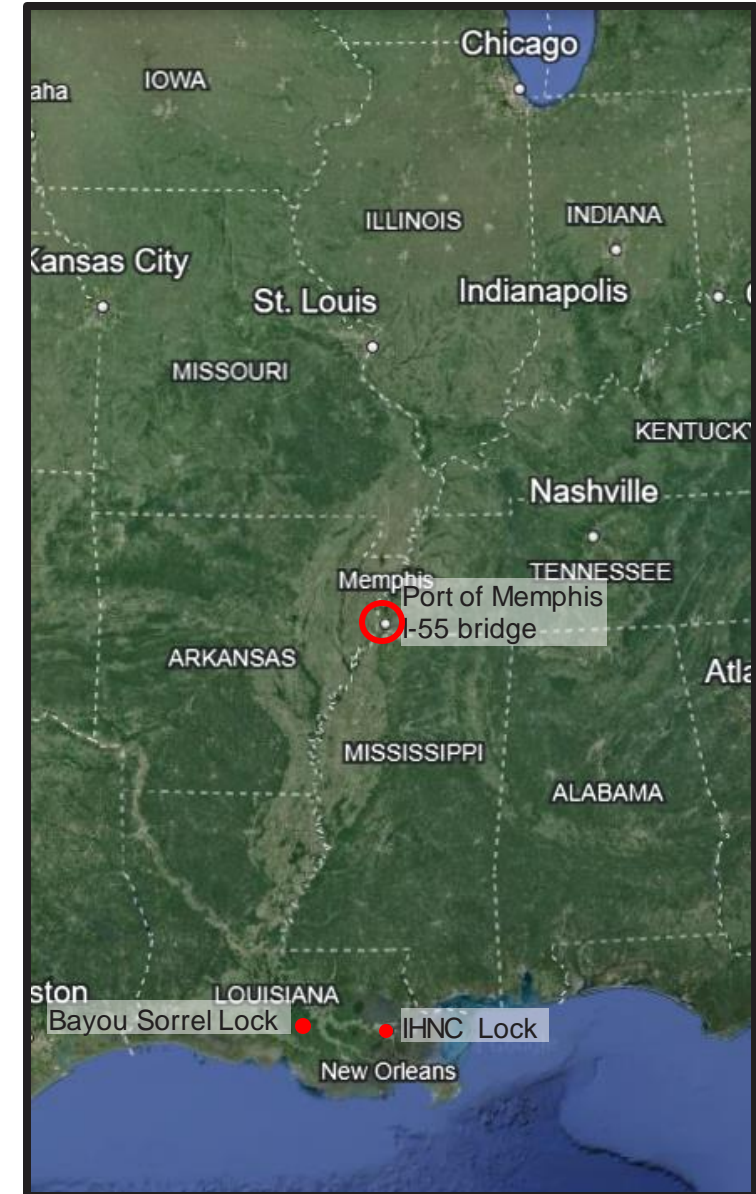


# NAVIGATION COMMENTS

Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## Structure Modernization:

- Enhance structures for extreme weather, preventing harbor closures during low water (e.g., Port of Memphis)
- Ensure Tennessee Department of Transportation (DOT) considers navigation concerns in bridge design of the proposed I-55 Bridge in Memphis
- Modernize Bayou Sorrel Lock
- Replace Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock to improve flood protection and transportation efficiency.





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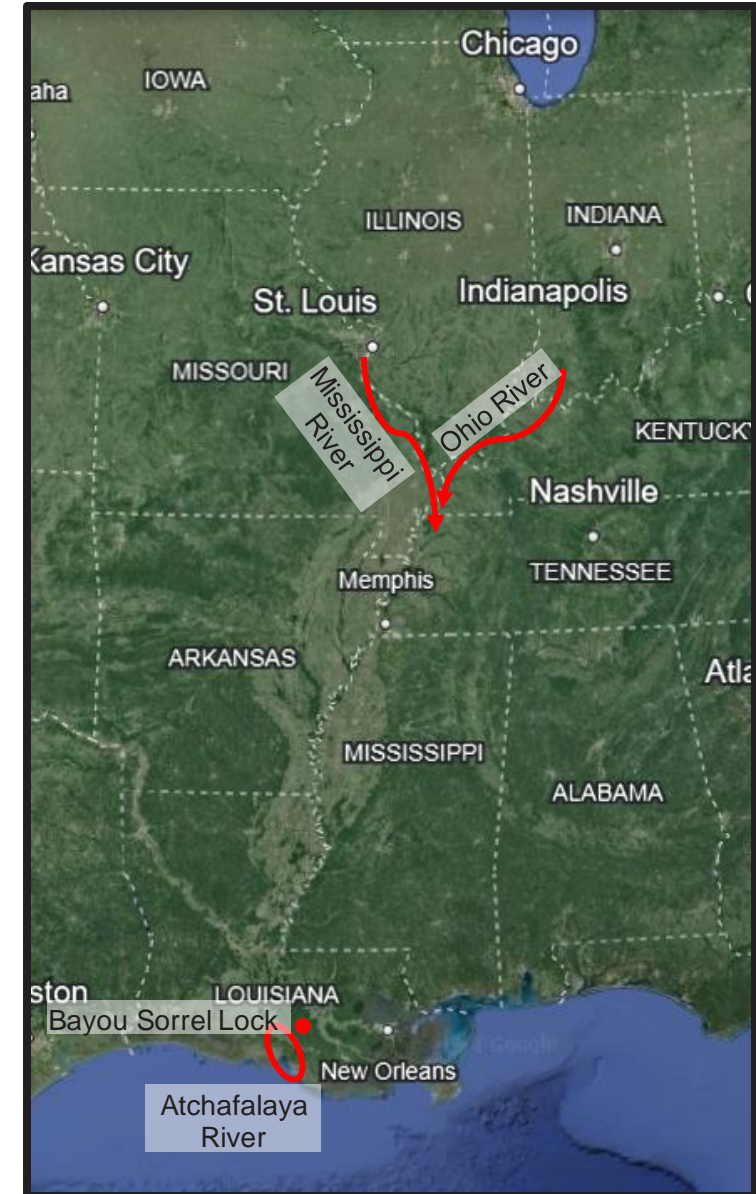


# NAVIGATION COMMENTS

Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## Dredging and Sediment:

- Dredge the main channels of Mississippi and Ohio Rivers regardless of droughts and water levels
- Dredge the Intercoastal Waterway at the Bayou Sorrel Lock.
- Assess sediment levels in the Atchafalaya River.





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# NAVIGATION COMMENTS

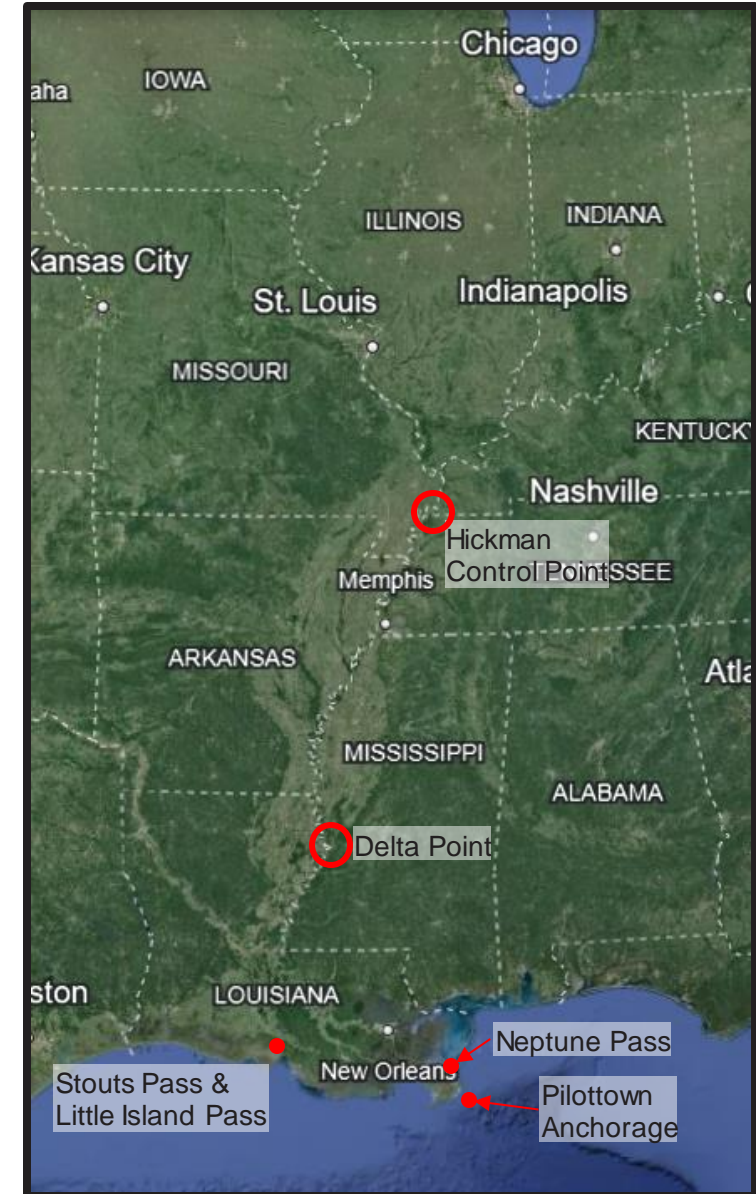
Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## Safety Concerns:

- Reject the proposed Delta Point Project due to impacts on vessel transit.
- Address navigation challenges near Hickman Control Point.

## Route Configuration:

- Add to the existing sandbar along the Mississippi River to replace the Pilot Town Anchorage, enhancing river flow to reduce shoaling and sedimentation in the navigation channel.
- Create a hopper dredge disposal area at the confluence of the Mississippi River and the uncontrolled Neptune Pass
- Move the federal channel along the Atchafalaya River





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# ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (INCL. WILDLIFE & FISHERIES)



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# ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

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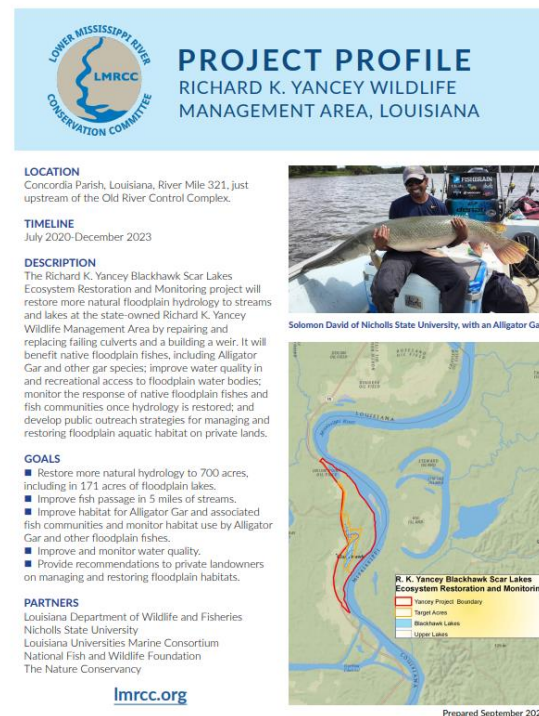
## Restore Floodplains/Riparian Habitat

- Incorporate the Remaining Seven Reaches Identified in the 2015 Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment.
- Reconnect Rivers to Floodplains
  - Reconnect the floodplain to the Mississippi River where possible
  - Remove or modify targeted river training structures
  - Realign levee segments farther away from the river
  - Integrate grey and green infrastructure



Assessment of  
Natural Resource Habitat Needs

Final Report  
January 2015





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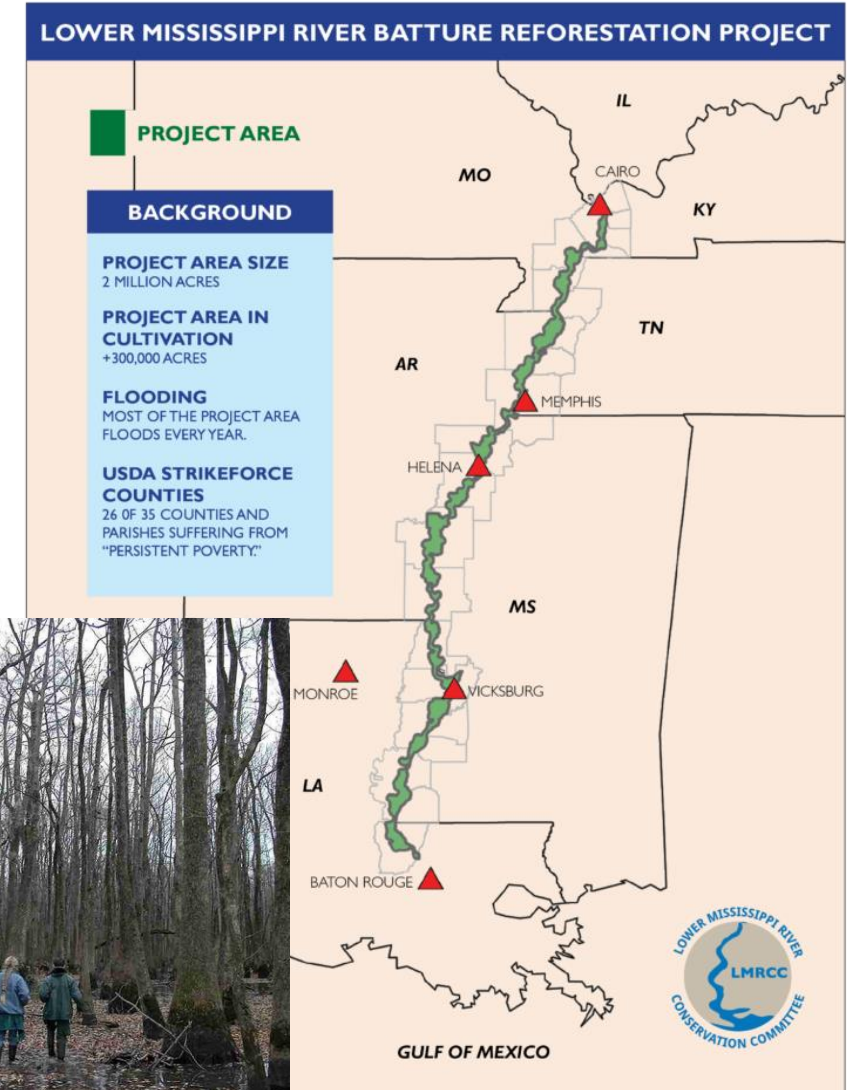


# ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## Restore Floodplains/Riparian Habitat

- Enhance and Restore Natural Vegetation
  - Identify opportunities for reforestation and other nature-based solutions
  - Restore wetland buffers
  - Preserve cypress swamp/bottomland hardwood habitat along the river from Little Rock to Memphis
  - Address invasive species on the river to benefit native species, including privet abatement and kudzu control.
  - Leverage existing batture reforestation initiatives
  - Restore native River Cane



<https://www.lmrcc.org/the-river/>



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# ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Disclaimer: Summary of public comments and concerns submitted during scoping. Language or characterizations in the comments reflect the views of the commenters and not the views of USACE.

## Restore Floodplains/Riparian Habitat

- Enhance Aquatic Channels
  - Improve low-flow conditions to benefit fish and wildlife
  - Restore flow through secondary channels via notching of dikes.
  - Conduct Aquatic Habitat Ecosystem Restoration studies
  - Conduct an ecological survey of the islands on the Mississippi River
  - Improve in-river and side channel habitat
  - Implement projects already authorized to address invasive species on the river.



Notching of dikes along  
secondary channels



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# ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

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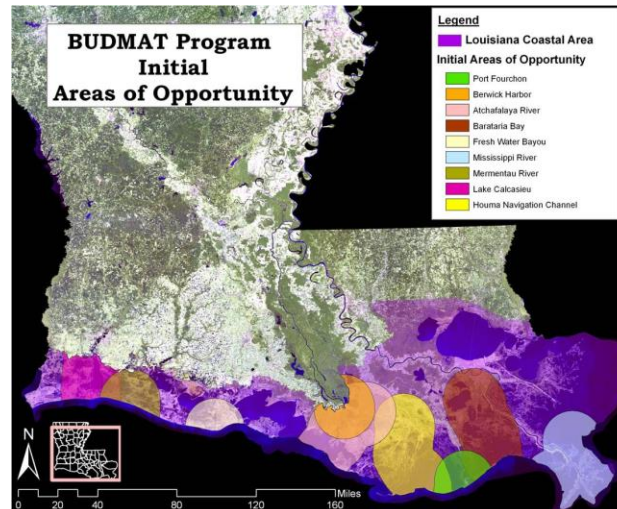
## Restore Coastal Habitat

- Implement specific measures in the Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan for sediment management
- Beneficial Use of Dredged Material in Southeast Louisiana and Mississippi Sound
- Operation of Spillways and Diversions in Louisiana and Mississippi Sound
- Implement Wetlands Restoration in Plaquemines Parish

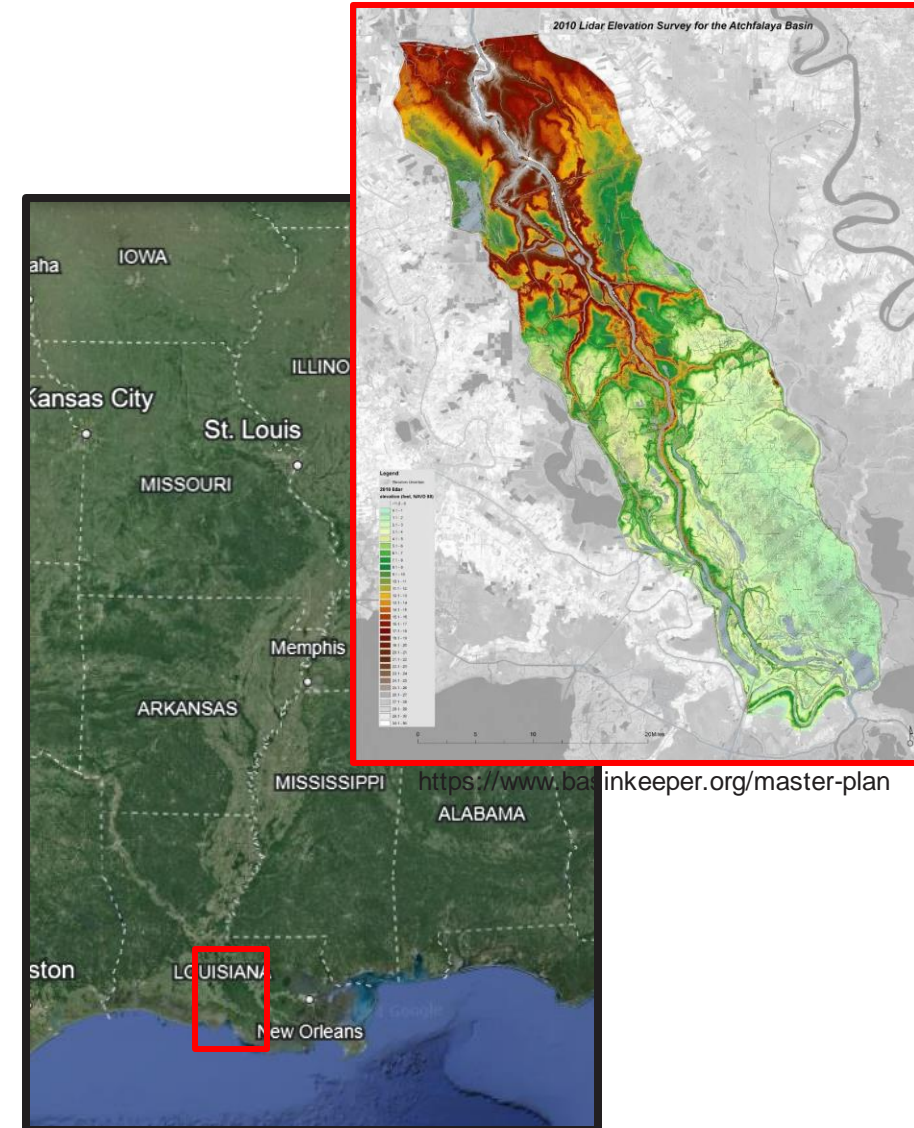


Bonnet Carré Spillway  
opening, Feb 27, 2019

Photo by Michael DeMocker, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune



<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Louisiana-Coastal-Area/Beneficial-Use-of-Dredged-Material/>





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# WILDLIFE INCLUDING THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

40

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## Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species Conservation of Migratory Birds



Mississippi Flyway

Moderate Vulnerability

High Vulnerability Species

64

Species

69

Low Vulnerability Species

53

Stable Species

99



Lesser Scaup



Bufflehead



Common Goldeneye



Spruce Grouse



Eared Grebe



Eastern Whip-poor-will



Yellow Rail



Whooping Crane



Piping Plover



Franklin's Gull



Northern Goshawk



Great Gray Owl



Boreal Owl



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Adult Fat Pocketbook mussels  
(Source: Bruce Reid)



Least Tern and nest  
by Tom Grey



Pallid Sturgeon Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Source: <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees/flyway/mississippi>



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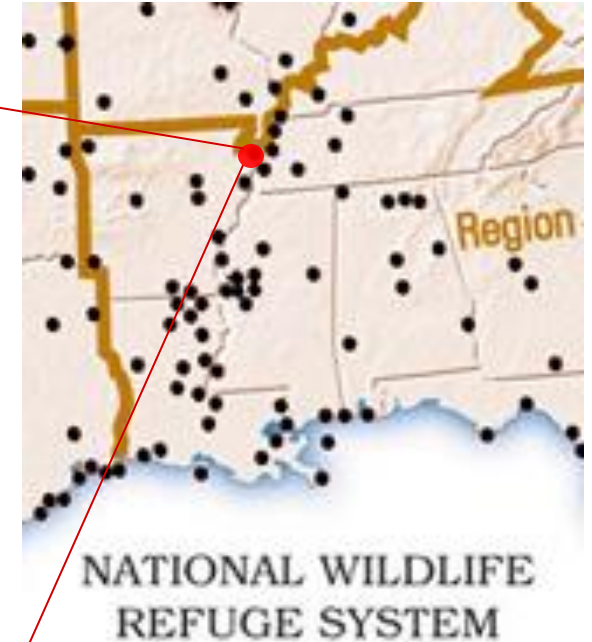
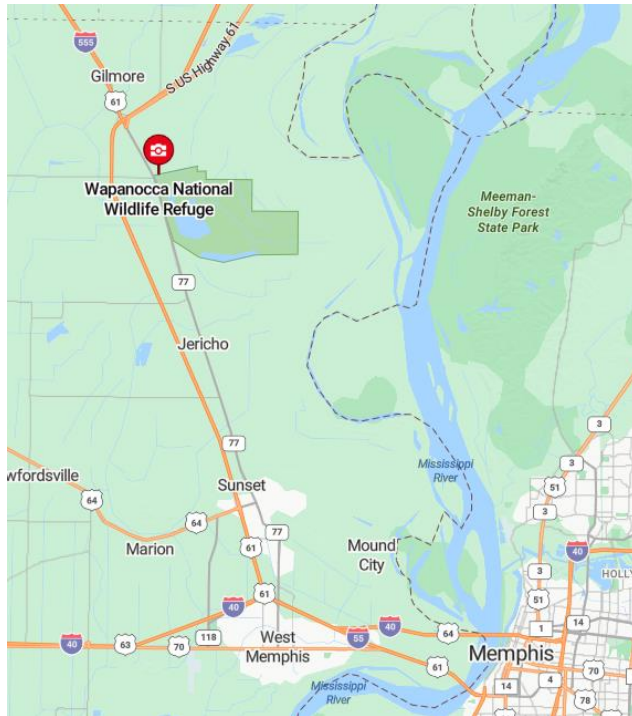


# WILDLIFE INCLUDING THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

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## National Wildlife Refuges Wildlife Impacts and Protection

41



Location of National Wildlife  
Refuges along the Lower  
Mississippi River

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1428/vandegraft/index.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_Lake\\_National\\_Wildlife\\_Refuge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Lake_National_Wildlife_Refuge)



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# WATER SUPPLY & WATER QUALITY



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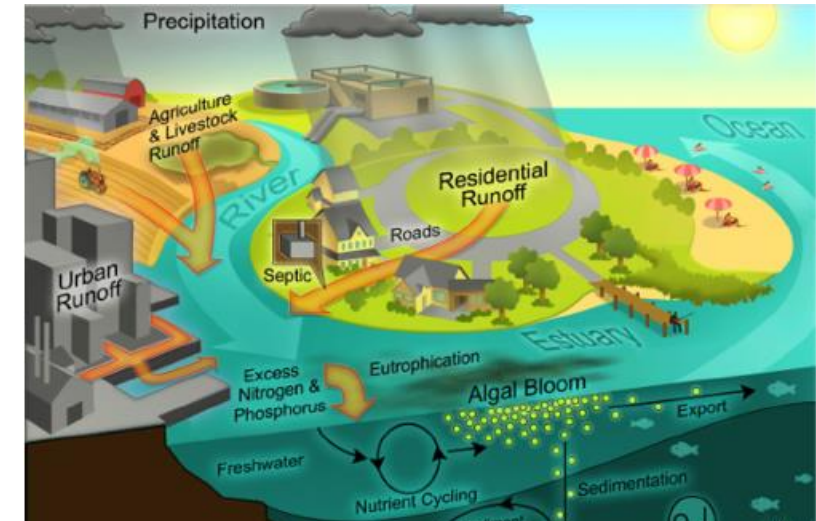


# WATER SUPPLY AND WATER QUALITY

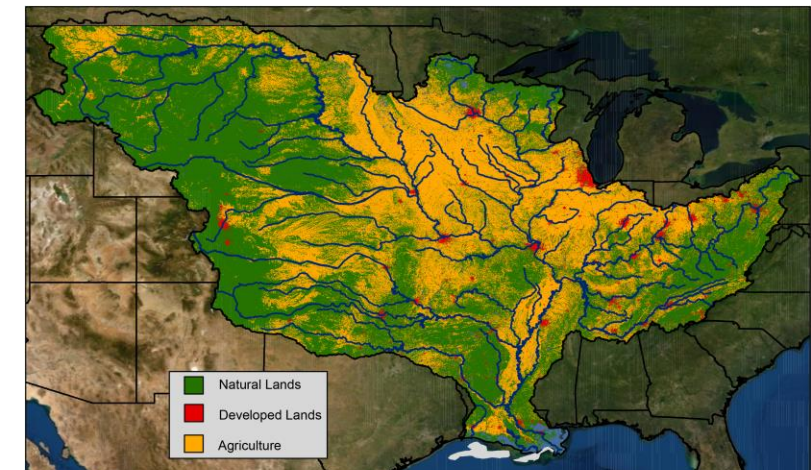
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## Contaminants, Nutrient Loading, and Hypoxia

- Consider how municipal, industrial, and stormwater discharges affect water quality
- Consider closing the road crossing the Old River Control Structure to protect against hazardous cargo spillage.
- Implement a Mississippi River-wide circular economy master plan to ensure river-adjacent municipalities adhere to policies that reduce waste at its source to prevent it downstream.
- Acknowledge the effects of and find strategies to prevent nitrogen and phosphate pollution in the Mississippi Sound
- Manage the basin's nutrient loading and hypoxia through nature-based solutions and improved floodplain connectivity in the lower river.



Urban and agricultural runoff. (Hypoxia Task Force 2023 Report to Congress)



Mississippi River Watershed showing Natural, Developed and Agricultural lands and Hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Image credit USGS



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# WATER SUPPLY AND WATER QUALITY

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## Groundwater Recharge

- Recognize the interconnectedness of surface water and groundwater in managing the Mississippi River and the impact of significant declines in aquifers throughout the Mississippi River basin with withdrawals exceeding recharge rates.
- Add weirs to our Interior Streams for water supply, groundwater aquifer recharge, and channel maintenance.





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# WATER SUPPLY AND WATER QUALITY

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## Water Supply for Agriculture

- Water from the Mississippi River should be used during growing season to help offset areas throughout the delta. Pumping water into Moon Lake (an oxbow lake in Mississippi) and letting it travel down through the delta should be considered.
- Consider impacts to farmers when considering alternative management strategies, including decisions about the Morganza Spillway.



Image credit: American Sugar Cane League



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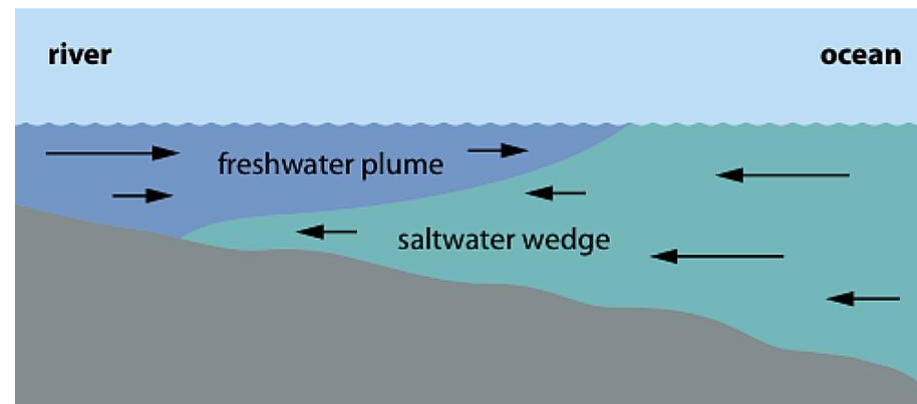


# WATER SUPPLY AND WATER QUALITY

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Enhance the resiliency of Municipal and Drinking Water Supplies in Coastal Areas to saltwater intrusion and sediment.

- Investigate subsidence and sea level rise contribution to saltwater intrusion.
- Collaborate with local government partners to implement operations and new technologies and facilities that would address the threat of saltwater intrusion and provide for reliable water supply.
- Collaborate with Tribal Nations to determine how to increase waterflow in the lower Atchafalaya Basin to enhance drinking water supplies and water quality.
- Expedite repair of the crevasses on the east side of the river in Plaquemines Parish.
- Study solutions to protect municipal water supply including a desalination facility that could serve the greater New Orleans region.



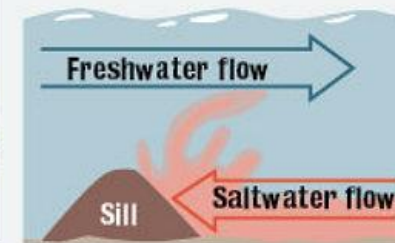
## STOPPING THE SALTWATER

An underwater sill barrier is being constructed to block upriver flow of saltwater in the Mississippi River that is threatening area water supplies.



### HOW THE SILL WORKS

Because saltwater is heavier than fresh water, the sill is placed at the bottom of the river to stop the saltwater from traveling farther upriver.





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# RECREATION & TOURISM



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# RECREATION AND TOURISM

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## Restore Riverfronts and Channels to Expand Recreational Opportunities

- Improve flows/conditions along Cape Girardeau riverfront to improve recreation.
- Improve flows/conditions within the Wolf River in Memphis.

## Implement Walking/Biking Paths on Levees

- Investigate the feasibility of implementing walking/biking paths on levees in the Mississippi River watershed.



<https://greatruns.com/new-orleans-mississippi-river-trail/>

Recreation on the Wolf River (Source: [www.wolfriver.org](http://www.wolfriver.org)).



Cape Girardeau riverfront (Photo Credit: Skyy).



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# RECREATION AND TOURISM

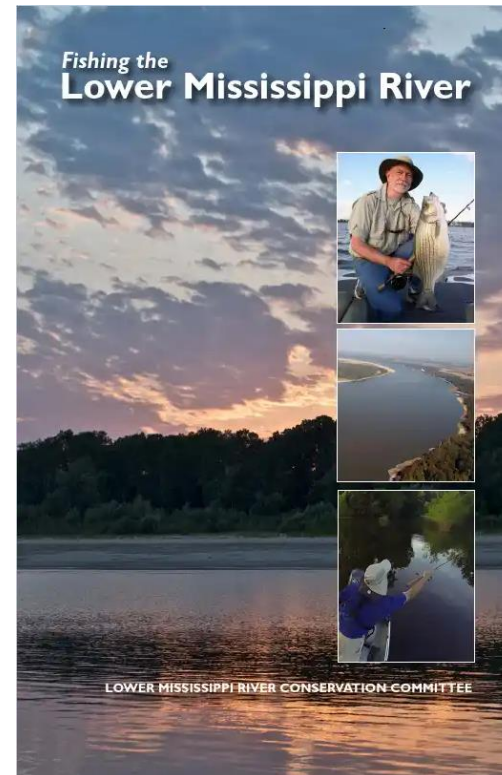
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## Establish More Boat Ramps and Outfitter/Guide Services Along the River Address Coastal Water Quality and Sedimentation Issues for Recreational and Tourism Benefits



### ✓ LAUNCH

- ☐ Make sure your boat's drain plug is installed.
- ☐ Make sure your boat's tie-down straps are disconnected.
- ☐ Check the boat ramp for sand, mud and debris.
- ☐ Do not launch your boat when a towboat is passing. Wait for waves to subside.
- ☐ Back your trailer into the water no farther than necessary.
- ☐ Start your boat's motor before entering the current.
- ☐ If the river is predicted to rise, park your vehicle where the water will not reach it.



### Fishing the Lower Mississippi River

*A Sport Fishing Guide*

Produced by  
The Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee  
2524 South Frontage Road, Suite C  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180



August 2013, Second Edition



The Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee is a coalition of 12 state natural resources conservation and environmental quality agencies representing Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. It provides the only regional forum dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the Lower Mississippi River floodplain and focuses on habitat restoration, long-term conservation planning and nature-based economic development.

*This guide was produced with support from the Walton Family Foundation.*



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# ADDITIONAL THEMES

## Socioeconomics & Environmental Justice

- Equitable Project Delivery and Environmental Justice
- Equitable Consideration of Agricultural, Community, and Industry Stakeholders
- Job Training

## Climate Change & Greenhouse Gases

- Incorporate Climate Change into River Management
- Use Up-to-Date Climate Data and Models
- Assess How Subsidence and Sea Level Rise Are Causing Saltwater Intrusion in Water Supply
- Maintain Authorized Navigation Depths to Reduce GHG Emissions

## Study Objectives & Opportunities

- Revise Study Objectives to be Inclusive of Residents, Businesses, and Farms in the Mississippi Corridor
- Objectives and Opportunities for Floodplain Restoration and Species Protection

## Study Approach

- Ensure a Comprehensive and Transparent Study Process
- Implement Flexible and Holistic Management
- Coordinate Across Districts, Disciplines, and Agencies
- Maintain political Independence and Integrity

## Scope of Analysis

- Assess Adverse Effects of River Discharges
- Implement Wetlands Restoration in Plaquemines Parish
- Address Impacts from Bonnet Carré Spillway Operations
- Expand Study Area in Key Places

## Public & Agency Involvement

- Involve All Ages and Stakeholders
- Communicate Information Clearly and Continuously Collaborate with Local Entities

## Impact Analysis Methodologies

- Use Advanced Models and Data
- Incorporate Existing Data and Research
- Coordinate with Existing Initiatives and Experts

## Mitigation & Adaptive Management

- Implement Long-Term Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plans
- Avoid or Mitigate Impacts on High-Value Habitats



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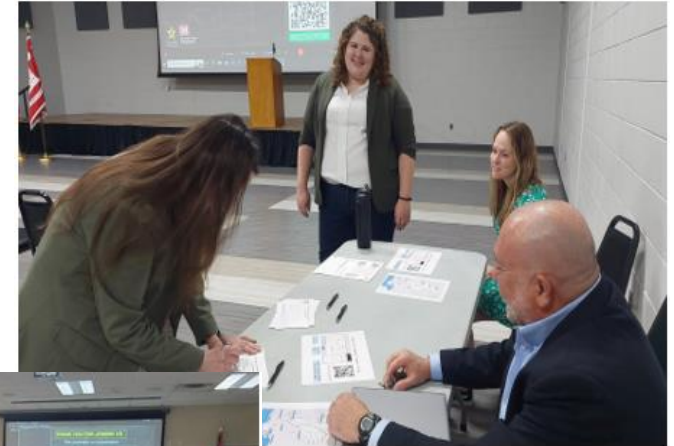
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# ADDITIONAL THEMES

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- ❖ Equitable Project Delivery and Environmental Justice
- ❖ Ensure a Comprehensive and Transparent Study Process
- ❖ Implement Flexible and Holistic Management
- ❖ Collaborate with Local Entities
- ❖ Involve All Ages and Stakeholders
- ❖ Coordinate Across Corps Districts, Disciplines, and Agencies
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- ❖ Use Advanced Models and Data
- ❖ Incorporate Existing Data and Research
- ❖ Coordinate with Existing Initiatives and Experts





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**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**



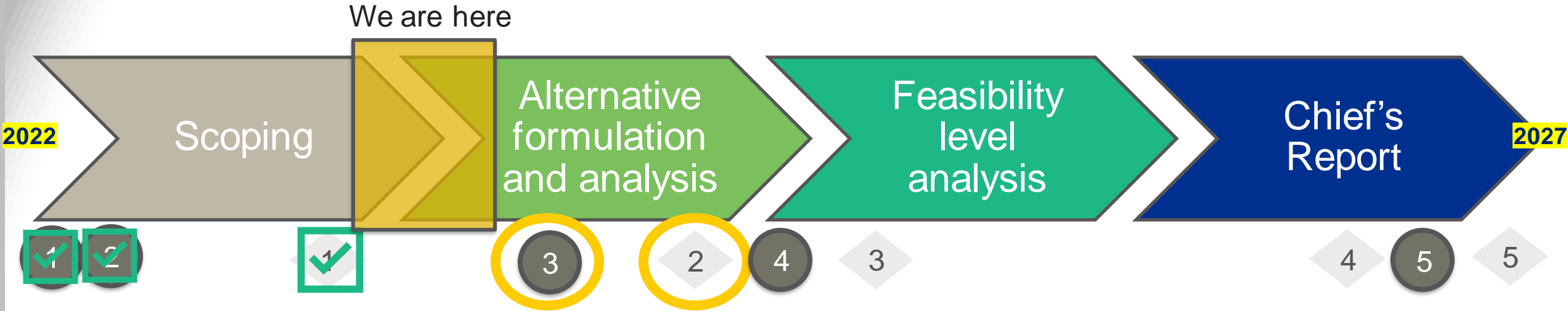
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# NEXT STEPS



## Feasibility Study Process

- ☒ Alternatives Milestone
- ☐ Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone
- ☐ Agency Decision Milestone
- ☐ State and Agency Review
- ☐ Chief of Engineer's Report with Final NEPA Documentation

## National Environmental Policy Act Process

- ☒ Identify Need for Action
- ☐ Begin Scoping
- ☐ Begin Drafting NEPA documentation
- ☐ Release Draft NEPA documentation for Public, Technical & Policy Review
- ☐ Publish and Distribute Final NEPA documentation



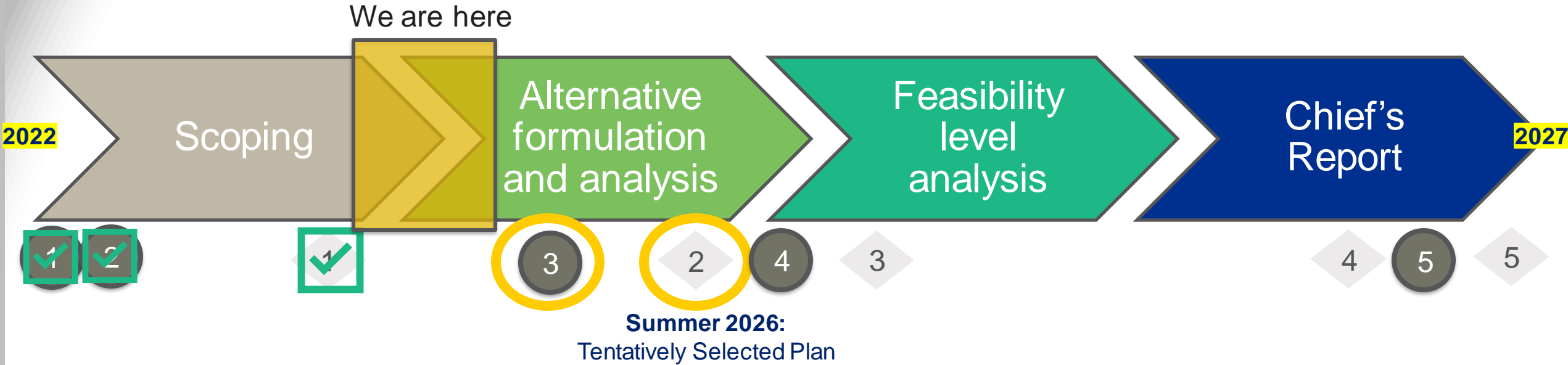
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# NEXT STEPS



- ✓ Conduct additional meetings with the Public and Agencies
- ✓ Develop the "Future without Project Condition"
- ✓ Analyze, Evaluate, and Compare Alternatives
- ✓ Begin preparing the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Documentation
- ✓ Select Tentatively Selected Plan



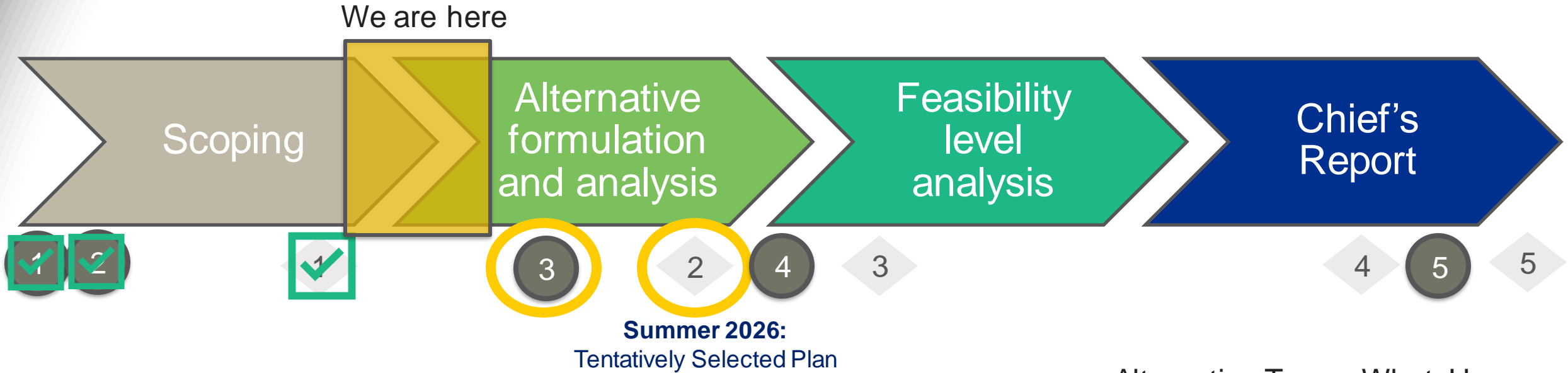
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# NEXT STEPS



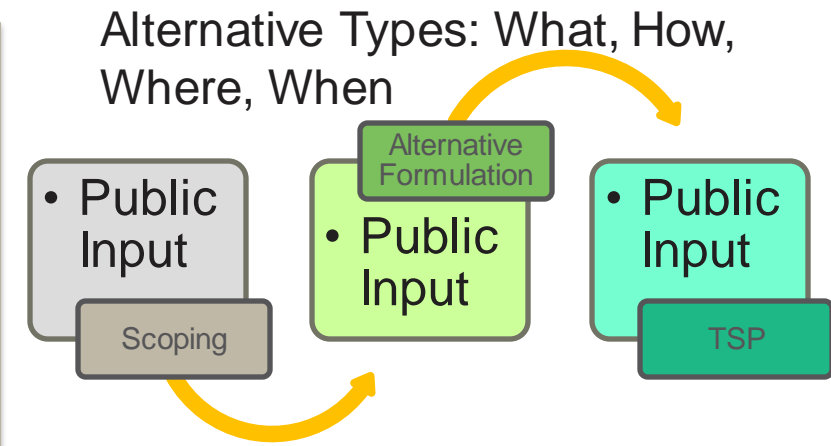
## Phased plan formulation approach to get to the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)

- ☐ **Phase 1:** Systems focused – water and sediment resource allocation
- ☐ **Phase 2:** Evaluate measures/solutions and identify an array of alternatives across all mission areas for comprehensive river management
- ☐ **Phase 3:** Evaluate and compare the final array of alternatives and identify a Tentatively Selected Plan

### Outcomes:

**Tentatively Selected Plan:** multipurpose actionable and programmatic plan

**Tiered Studies:** new phase/investment; 3x3 feasibility study; new and existing study authorities





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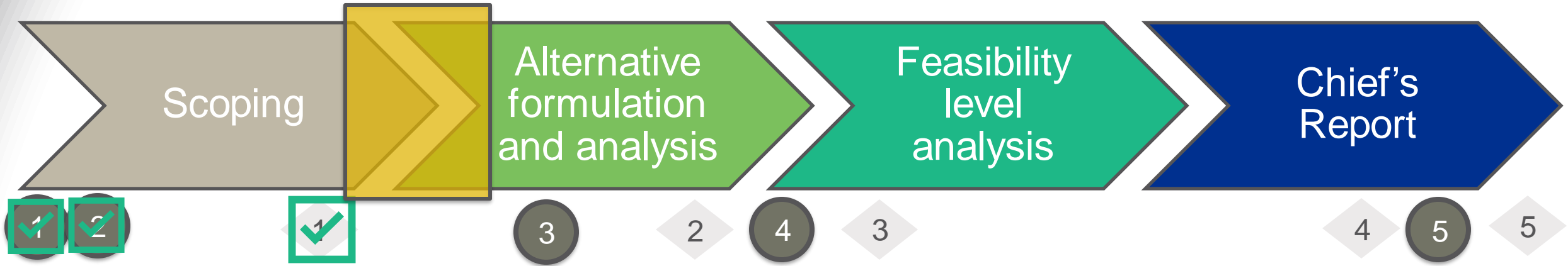


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# NEXT STEPS

We are here



**STAY TUNED!**

Next Quarterly Public Update will be  
in September 2024

# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS SESSION

Before you log off, please fill out this  
short questionnaire on today's webinar!

Quarterly Public Update 1 - Lower  
Mississippi River Comprehensive  
Management Study



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# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING

## Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study – Quarterly Public Update

View the study website at:

[www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/LMRComp/](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/LMRComp/)

Email us at:

[LMRComp@usace.army.mil](mailto:LMRComp@usace.army.mil)

Quarterly Public Update 1 - Lower  
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