

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project Team Meeting

Monitoring Breakout Session September 29, 2016

Instructions

BACKGROUND: In the past 30 years, 55 Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREPs) have been completed. Many of these projects have been monitored and assessed to summarize and evaluate the project performance on the basis of specific project goals and objectives. Post project monitoring efforts are identified in the feasibility stage, and are updated post construction as needed. Physical and chemical monitoring are the most frequent methods used, although limited biological monitoring has also been obtained.

The earliest post project monitoring was completed in the early 1990s and continues through today. Some of the methods identified early in the program may no longer be effective in answering the question of how well the project objectives have been met. Newer monitoring techniques may be available and may better serve to answer these questions.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify HREP monitoring that provides valuable information for determining the relative success of a project, or can provide information for developing future projects. This includes identifying monitoring that currently works well or that we should start performing.
2. Identify HREP monitoring that does not provide useful information for determining the relative success of a project, or is not useful for developing future projects. This includes identifying monitoring that currently does not work well or that we should no longer perform.
3. Engage with colleagues and subject matter experts regarding HREP monitoring of floodplain forests, aquatic and wetland vegetation, fisheries, wildlife (migratory birds, amphibians, furbearers, etc.), water quality, sedimentation and geomorphology, and mussels.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Topic Selection:** Choose a table based on which topic you are most interested. Note that some topics will have more than one table. If your first choice is full, choose another table. Each table will have a maximum of 8 people to ensure that groups remain small enough for everyone to participate. The table topics are
 - **Floodplain Forests (3 tables)**
 - **Aquatic and Wetland Vegetation (3 tables)**
 - **Fisheries (3 tables)**
 - **Wildlife (migratory birds, amphibians, furbearers, etc.) (3 tables)**
 - **Water Quality (2 tables)**
 - **Sedimentation and Geomorphology (2 tables)**
 - **Mussels (1 table)**
- Volunteer Leaders:** Identify three volunteers from your table to take on the roles of scribe, note-taker, and reporter. The facilitator is a subject matter expert and has already been selected to lead your table.
 - **Facilitator:** Subject matter expert. Keep discussion on track; make sure everyone participates; keep an eye on the time. Ensure the Monitoring Report Out Forms are complete, legible, and collected.
 - **Scribe:** Capture discussion points and thoughts for table participants.
 - **Note-taker:** Record notes to capture group discussion highlights for verbal report out. Complete Monitoring Report Out Forms for team meeting documentation.
 - **Reporter:** Verbally report highlights from table's group discussion to the full group.
- Monitoring Discussion:** Select Discussion Questions from the list on the next page, and discuss them with your table group. You will have **45 minutes** to discuss the questions you choose. You may choose to discuss as many questions as time allows, but at a minimum choose at least two.
- Verbal Report:** Verbally report your table's Discussion Questions, highlights, and recommendations to the full group. Each table will have **5 minutes** to report back, including time for questions. You may only have time to verbally report out on two to three questions even if your table discussed additional questions.
- Written Reports:** Complete a Monitoring Report Out Form for each Discussion Question discussed at your table. Complete one cover sheet form per table. Return the forms to Sharonne Baylor at the end of the team meeting. Your Report Out Forms can include more questions and information than what was shared in the verbal report out.

Information from the Monitoring Report Out Forms will be compiled and distributed to the HREP Team Meeting attendees in the near future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some aspects of HREP monitoring that we are currently doing that lend themselves well to a study design, execution, and assessment?
2. What are some aspects of HREP monitoring that we are currently doing that do not lend themselves well to a study design, execution, and assessment?
3. What are some HREP monitoring activities we are currently performing that help determine if a project is meeting the project objectives?
4. What are some HREP monitoring activities we are currently performing that do not help determine if a project is meeting the project objectives?
5. What are some HREP monitoring activities we are not currently performing, but could/should be doing?
6. Should we monitor the species or the habitat we create to attract the species?
7. What is the most important monitoring we should be doing, but are not?
8. What monitoring should we stop doing?
9. What monitoring should we prioritize?
10. What are things we do well?
11. What are things we don't do well?
12. What are things we should start doing?

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**Monitoring Report Out Form
Cover Sheet**

Complete one cover sheet form per table.

Table Topic:	
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Table Participants	Role
1.	Facilitator
2.	Scribe
3.	Note-Taker
4.	Reporter
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

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Monitoring Report Out Form

Complete one Report Out Form for each Discussion Question discussed at your table.

Table Topic:

Facilitator:

Discussion Question:

Findings:

Recommendations: