







For over 35 years, the Upper Mississippi River Restoration program partnership has **implemented innovative and sustainable restoration, research, and monitoring** techniques for a healthier Upper Mississippi River System.




photo by Robert J. Hurt


A WORKING RIVER IN NEED

The mighty Mississippi River is one of the world's most famous rivers, flowing through America's heartland to the Gulf of Mexico. It provides critical and nationally important :

 Drinking water & power supply	Recreation & ecotourism 
 Habitat for fish & wildlife	Commercial navigation & transporation 

 **Dams & levees, climate change, and land use changes in the Upper Mississippi River System contribute to: *altered water cycle, decreased amount and quality of habitat, and reduced water quality.***

A partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals work together to address these past and ongoing challenges through the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) program.

 **The UMRR program supports Upper Mississippi River restoration, research, and monitoring.**

RESTORING OUR RIVER

Through Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) and Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREPs), the UMRR program successfully restores habitat to combat degradation.

WHY MONITOR? By collecting and evaluating LTRM water, fish, land use, and vegetation data over decades, scientists can assess the health of the river and target habitat restoration projects and management actions for the greatest benefit of the river and the public.

WHY RESTORE? Humans have changed the river; habitat restoration techniques address the negative impacts of past and ongoing changes.

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| Connecting and Protecting the Upper Mississippi River System in 5 STATES through | ▶ shoreline protection |
| | ▶ island creation |
| | ▶ water level management |
| | ▶ dredging |
| | ▶ habitat enhancement |

The UMRR program uses state-of-the-art research and monitoring to understand changing environmental conditions of the river. Using effective and science-based restoration methods, the UMRR supports a healthier and more resilient Upper Mississippi River System.





**Upper Mississippi
River Restoration**
Leading · Innovating · Partnering

The Upper Mississippi River System is a NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE

NATURAL RESOURCES

Habitat projects have **restored and connected more than 100,000 acres** along the Upper Mississippi River, with an additional 65,000 acres of habitat projects planned for the next decade. These projects provide vital habitat for diverse fish and wildlife species, **including rare and endangered species.**

FISH & WILDLIFE

50



mussels

154

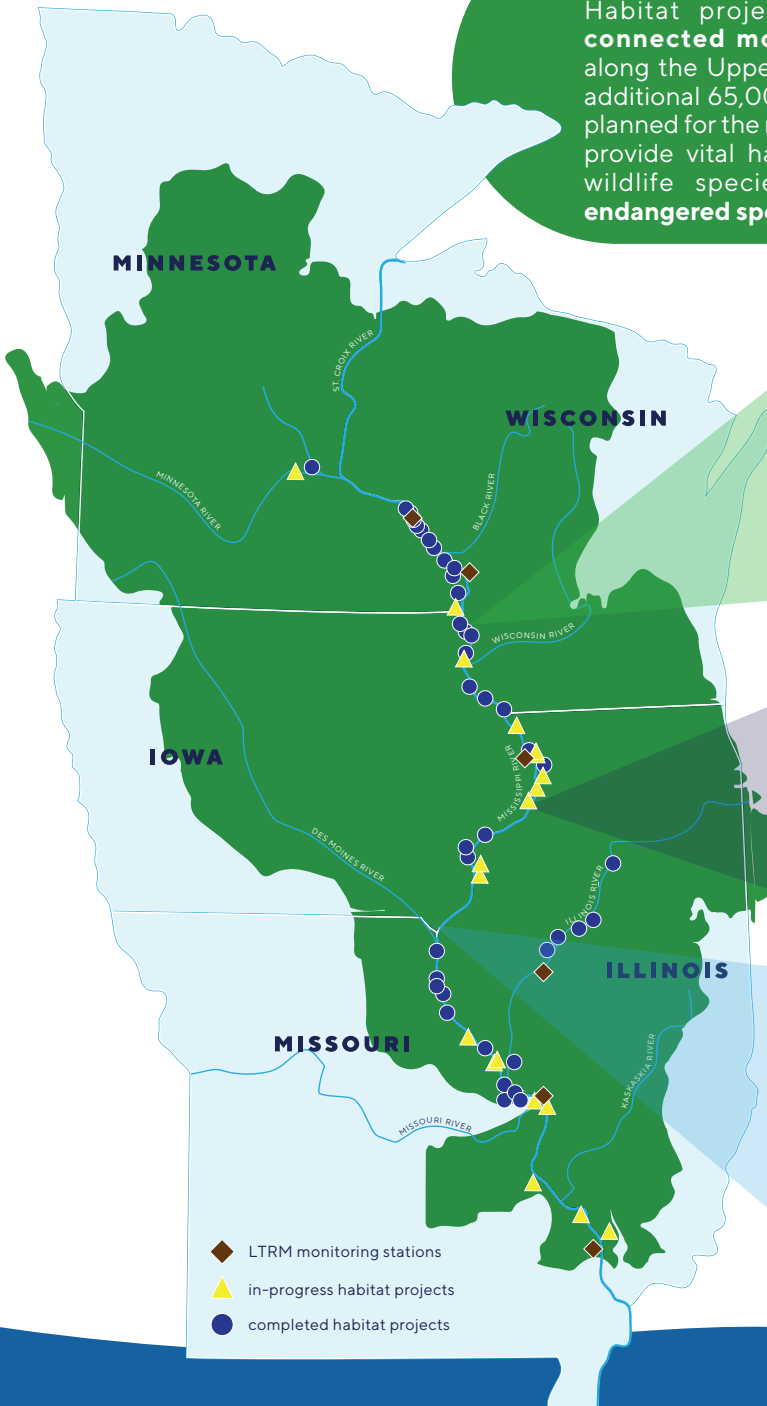


fish

325



birds



BIRDS

More than 40% of North American migrating birds use the Mississippi River corridor as their migration route. Restoring forests and wetlands improves bird habitat and provides opportunities for hunting and birdwatching.



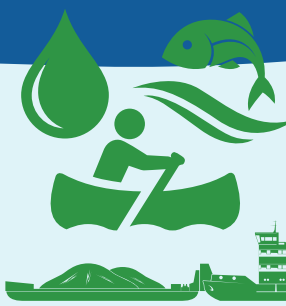
AQUATIC LIFE

Wetlands and backwater lakes provide habitat for many valued fish and aquatic species. Millions of people enjoy fishing and boating on the Upper Mississippi River System each year.



FORESTS

Forest corridors provide habitat for wildlife species, opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting, and connect communities and animals to the river. The health of floodplain forests and wet prairies along the river contribute to improved quality of drinking water for millions of people.



The Upper Mississippi River System provides cultural, recreational, ecological, and economic value to communities and Tribal Nations who reside in the river's watershed. The UMRR program and partnership improves and supports these values for present and future generations.