

GLMRIS

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY

GLMRIS NEPA Scoping Document Submittal Form

Complete this form, and attach it to your document. Turn this form in with your document when you go to speak or at the welcome desk.

SUBMITTING PERSONAL INFORMATION: You must submit your first name, last name and zip code for your comment to be considered. Any other information is optional.

WITHHOLDING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal information with your comment, you should be aware that your entire submittal, including your personal information, will be posted on the GLMRIS Web site and included in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.

If you wish the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withhold your personal information from public view from the GLMRIS Web site and the NEPA documents, check the appropriate box below.

However, information withheld from the Web site and NEPA documents will be disclosed if required by law. Requests for disclosure of information collected will be handled through the Freedom of Information Act. Comments and information, including the identity of the submitter, may be disclosed, reproduced, and distributed. Submissions should not include any information that the submitter seeks to preserve as confidential.

Please note, all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Select your Privacy Preference:

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First Name(required): Glynnis Last Name(required): Collins

Organization/Tribe (Official Representatives only): Prairie Rivers Network

Street Address: 1902 Fox Drive, Suite G

City: Champaign State: IL Zip Code (required): 61820

Public Scoping Meeting Location: _____

Date of Comment: _____

Comment Number: PR1



US Army Corps
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**PUBLIC COMMENT AT NEPA SCOPING MEETING FOR
USACE GREAT LAKES MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY**

**Metro Area of St. Louis, MO
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
2:00pm—8:00pm
National Great Rivers Museum
#2 Locks & Dam Way
Alton, IL**

Good afternoon. My name is Glynnis Collins. I am Executive Director of Prairie Rivers Network, Illinois' only statewide river conservation organization.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide input on the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study, or "GLMRIS." I appreciate the extensive public comment period you have elected to provide on this issue.

Much of the focus on GLMRIS has been on the Asian carp threat to the Great Lakes, and understandably so. The monstrous bighead carp and the flying silver carp provide great fare for front page photographs and youtube clips. But at this meeting here in the Mississippi River basin, it is important to look beyond the carp. As you know, implementing the end result of GLMRIS isn't going to help the carp problem here. Our basin is already infested with Asian carp, and has been for years. In Illinois, all of our rivers that can be infested are, with the notable exception of the upper reaches of the Illinois river and the connected Chicago Area Waterways – not yet, at least.

Here especially, it is important to highlight that successful completion of GLMRIS isn't just about Asian carp. It's also about the zebra mussel that has infested our basin after migrating here from the Great Lakes, via Chicago. It is about the quagga mussel, the zebra mussel's more-evil cousin, that many scientists believe is poised to follow the same path.

We need our great river to be protected from the endless procession of aquatic invaders that an ongoing connection with the Great Lakes basin means. With that primary goal in mind, I submit the following comments regarding the scope and timing of the GLMRIS study:

1. The study should focus solely on options and technologies available to **prevent** the spread of invasive species **through the waterways**, as mandated by Congress – with an emphasis on prevention and the aquatic pathway.
2. Physically separating the basins (often referred to as "hydroseparation") is the only 100% effective way to achieve this goal. Lesser measures, such as chemical or acoustic barriers will only delay the inevitable.

3. The portion of the study focused on Chicago should be on the fast track, aiming for completion within 18-months. Although Asian carp are not the only concern, they are the most immediate threat, and every month of delay subjects the Great Lakes to the real possibility that we will have acted too late.

4. To speed the Chicago portion of the study, efforts should focus on comparing costs for permanently separating the basins at several well-chosen locations, identifying the least costly option. A full benefit/cost analysis is not required, because the benefit, preventing the spread of aquatic invasives, is identical for every option.

Finally, we urge the Corps to engage with the Great Lakes Commission Chicago Waterways Study. With similar goals, the processes and products of both efforts will only be improved through open, constructive collaboration.

Thank you for your consideration.