

Thank you for your comment, Bobby Reed.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50490.

Comment Date: March 29, 2011 10:14:05AM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50490

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold my personal information from the website and NEPA documents

Attachment: MICRA comments on GLMRIS.pdf

Comment Submitted:



March 29, 2011

GLMRIS Scoping  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
111 N. Canal, Suite 600  
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

I am writing on behalf of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) to submit a public comment regarding the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) as part of the NEPA scoping process. MICRA is an association of 28 state departments of conservation and natural resource organized in 1991 as a partnership to improve interjurisdictional river resource management in the Mississippi River Basin.

The spread of invasive species has become one of the dominant natural resources issues in the Mississippi River Basin (and the nation). Numerous aquatic invasive species (AIS) are established in the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins and interbasin connections such as the Chicago Area Waterways result in both ecosystems being threatened with continued invasion of AIS from the other.

MICRA has historically supported and previously requested (February 2005) a federally funded investigation and the implementation of actions to establish permanent separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins for the purpose of protecting both basins from all life stages of non-native AIS that may be transferred between these two basins. MICRA continues to support permanent separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins to prevent the spread of AIS, but stresses the need for solutions that address

- all pathways, not just the Chicago Area Waterways,
- all AIS and life forms at risk of moving or being transported between the basins, and
- the exchange of organisms in both directions between these two basins.

Separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins is but one important step in the fight to protect these ecosystems from the ecologic and economic effects of AIS. There are numerous other pathways that AIS may be transferred between or introduced into these basins and management programs that address all vectors are urgently needed. Furthermore, separation of the basins, although important, does not address the continuing need to control and manage AIS within each of these economically and ecologically significant watersheds.

MICRA supports separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins, however basin separation must not preclude the efforts needed to control and manage existing populations of AIS.

Existing populations of Asian carp within the Mississippi River Basin threaten to expand their range into new watersheds and reaches within the Basin. As outlined in the national *'Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States'* similar levels of federal involvement and resources are warranted to prevent intrabasin movements, limit distribution, and to develop methodologies and programs for controlling existing populations of Asian carp, and other important AIS.

Finally, MICRA cannot stress enough the need to expedite GLMRIS and to expedite actions to separate the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins via the Chicago Area Waterways and other pathways.

MICRA appreciates your consideration of our views and your attention to protecting and restoring the great ecosystems of both the Mississippi River Basin and the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobby C. Reed". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bobby Reed  
MICRA Chairman