



For More Information Contact:

705 Olive Street, Suite 614
St. Louis, MO 63101-2208
Telephone (314) 231-4181
facsimile (314) 231-4184

Bruce Morrison
Great Rivers Environmental Law Center
705 Olive Street, Ste. 614
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 231-4181
www.greatriverslaw.org

April 9, 2014

Mississippi River Joins List of Most Endangered Rivers in America

American Rivers, with its partners Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, named the Mississippi Rivers one of America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2014 due to a controversial and environmentally harmful project proposed for the River in Missouri.

The New Madrid Floodway is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' boondoggle project that would close 75,000 acres of backwater floodplain habitat important to Mississippi River fish and wildlife and could very likely affect the operations of a critical floodway designed to protect communities along the Mississippi during catastrophic floods. The Corps would waste \$165 million taxpayer dollars to close the last remaining connection the Mississippi River has to its floodplain in Missouri.

Even though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Protection Agency have both come out against this project, the Corps continues to plan for the destructive project.

The significance of this area to wildlife cannot be overstated. The Fish and Wildlife Service says, "About 40,000 ducks and 10,000 Canada Geese use the periodically flooded areas of the St. Johns Bayou/New Madrid Floodway project area in late winter...Hundreds of thousands of dabbling ducks, coots and geese have been observed at the proposed project area. Wetlands available during these periods provide habitat to maintain birds in peak condition prior to winter and, even more importantly, provide essential dietary components to prepare for reproduction in the spring."

"It is a shame the Mighty Mississippi has been added to American River's Most Endangered Rivers list," said Bruce Morrison, General Counsel of Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. "The Corps should abandon its boondoggle project and stop planning to waste such a huge amount of taxpayer dollars."

American Rivers and Great Rivers Environmental Law Center hope that the inclusion of the Mississippi River on this list in 2014 will help persuade the Corps of Engineers to abandon this project.

Great Rivers is a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free and reduced-fee legal services to those working to promote reduced climate change emissions, clean air, water and energy, preservation of open space, floodplains and wetlands. Its web address is: www.greatriverslaw.org.