

The MNRG achieves this overarching goal through enhanced communications, coordination and collaboration on mutually recognized resource issues and by providing timely interagency assistance where needed for the benefit of the American public.

Purpose

The MNRG seeks opportunities for collaboration and communication by:

1. Sharing best practices and identifying common issues, coordinating actions, resolving conflicts, and enhancing the effectiveness of natural resource efforts;
2. Committing to new opportunities for cooperation, collaboration and action;
3. Promoting efficient use of agency resources without creating new levels of bureaucracy;
4. Improving the ability of agencies to achieve their strategic plans;
5. Reporting cooperative accomplishments to promote greater understanding and awareness of environmental and socio-economic values and needs of the region's natural resources;



6.

Garnering federal focus and fiscal support toward the enhancement of these resources; and

7. Providing accountability to the public and better use of limited resources to reap benefits for the natural resources, environment and people of the Midwest.

Where We Work

The MNRG region extends over 12 Midwestern states and includes 13 major watersheds plus the



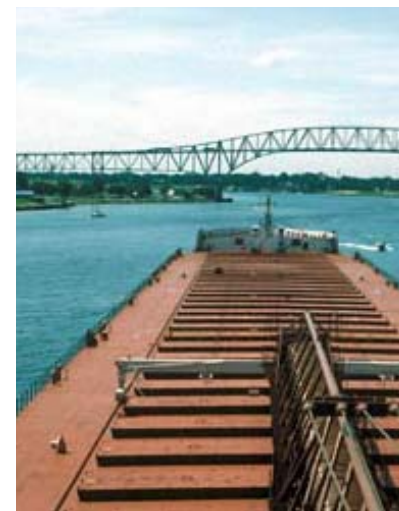
Great Lakes in the United States.

Guiding Principles

Five principles were established to guide the MNRG in achieving its goals. Adhering to these guiding principles serves to keep the MNRG relevant and effective. These principles are:

1. The value of the MNRG is realized by the participation of its leaders;
2. Member agencies recognize that the strength of the MNRG is derived from the diversity of member agency roles and missions;

3. Success of the MNRG is measured by its contributions toward promoting the health, vitality and sustainable stewardship of natural resource systems within the region's watersheds;



4. The MNRG is results driven; and
5. The MNRG builds relationships on mutual resource issues through effective interagency communication, collaboration and cooperation and timely interagency assistance where needed for the benefit of the American public.

MNRG Accomplishments

Since its inception, the MNRG has supported a number of accomplishments for the benefit of natural resources within the Midwest as well as for the American people. Descriptions, together with illustrations and contact information can be found on the Web at

<http://www.mnrg.gov/accomplishments.htm>

[Cumulative Impact Analysis](#) – Seventy participants from 14 agencies attended an MNRG workshop to learn about improved methods and tools for environmental impact analysis and planning.

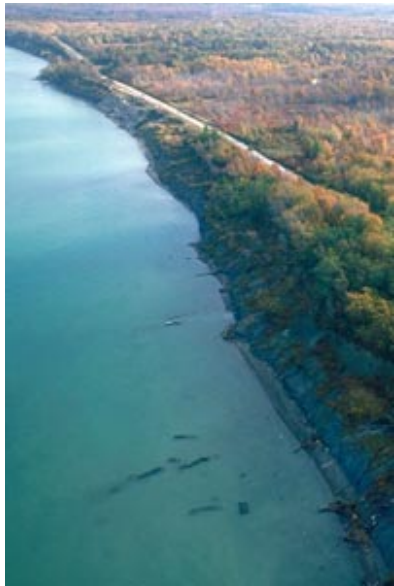
[Greater Cleveland Decision Support System](#) – A pilot project in the Cleveland area to integrate watershed planning with transportation planning, while supporting urban development.

[Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge](#) – MNRG supported the establishment of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge in 2001. The refuge is North America's only international wildlife refuge in the industrial heartland.

[Garlic Mustard Eradication Project](#) – With funds from the MNRG member agencies, meetings informed county and state officials, community organizations and the public of the threat garlic mustard poses to national forest and national park ecosystems.

[Invasive Species Memorandum of Agreement](#) – MNRG managers signed an Invasive Species Memorandum of Agreement providing for collaborative efforts to prevent, detect early, rapidly respond to, and control non-native invasive plants, animals and aquatic species, while providing the public with the information, understanding, and opportunities needed to join MNRG in these efforts.

[Action Plan for Addressing Terrestrial Invasive Species Within the Great Lakes Basin](#) – MNRG established a team charged with developing an action plan to effectively coordinate and develop inventories, mapping and treatment of terrestrial invasive species for the Great Lakes basin.



[Illinois River Restoration](#) – MNRG members have made substantial contributions to protecting, restoring, and sustaining natural resources within the Illinois River watershed.

[Watershed Planning Guidelines](#) – MNRG agencies jointly developed guidelines as a tool to provide a broad framework of considerations and processes in watershed projects and programs.

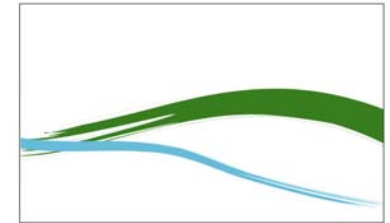
[Yellow River Initiative](#) – A holistic approach to promoting resource stewardship at the small watershed scale through web-based "democratization" of resource information and empowerment of local citizens and organizations.

For more information, visit: www.mnrg.gov

Member Agencies



M·N·R·G



Midwest Natural Resources Group

Dedicated to Environmental Excellence in the Midwest

The Midwest Natural Resources Group was formally established in 1998 as a forum for federal agency executive leaders to proactively coordinate activities and clearly establish the proper role of federal agencies in the Midwest.

For more than a decade federal agencies of this group have provided enhanced accountability and better use of limited resources to promote effective natural resource stewardship across the MNRG region. The MNRG is committed to bringing results to the American public in the Midwest.



This multi-federal agency partnership is working together to advocate excellence in federal activities in support of the health, vitality, and sustainable stewardship of natural resource systems within the Midwest, including the Upper Mississippi River, Missouri River, Ohio River and Great Lakes watersheds in the United States.