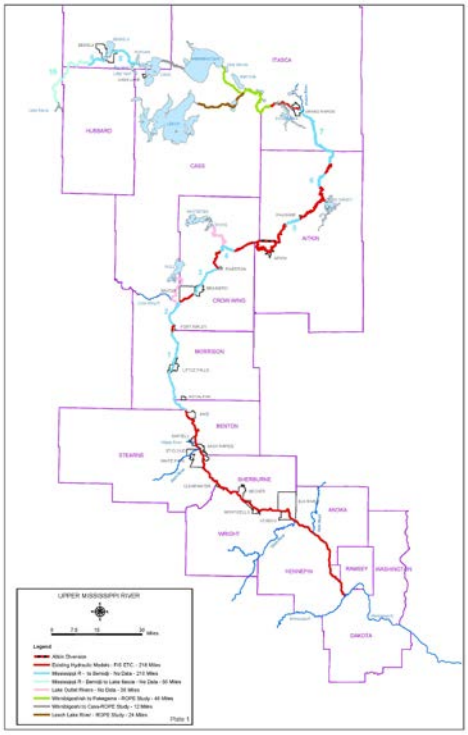
US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Upper Mississippi River Basin: Regional Discharge-Frequency Study



Upper Mississippi River basin

Contact

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Location/Description

The Upper Mississippi River corridor is a popular vacation and retirement area and is experiencing continued growth. Much of the area has not been previously studied, and flood risks have not been adequately defined.

The Upper Mississippi River Regional Discharge-Frequency study is conducting hydrologic analyses for development of a consistent set of frequency distributions for discharge and elevation for the Upper Mississippi River from the headwaters area of Lake Bemidji downstream to St. Paul, Minnesota. This study will directly inform floodplain management decisions in 13 counties in Minnesota.

Status

Start-up funding was provided in fiscal year 2010, and the project has been initiated. It is estimated that the complete study will cost $300,000 and will be done in phases, depending on availability of funds.

The objective of the study is to develop discharge-frequency curves for general use and to provide the most current information possible for new and updated Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance maps.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Corps of Engineers are coordinating work efforts so that study products will be compatible with the ongoing FEMA RISKMAP flood insurance map program.

Work is progressing using regional technical resources.

Authority

The study is authorized by Section 206 of the 1960 Flood Control Act (Public Law 86-645), as amended. The study is being conducted under the Corps of Engineers Floodplain Management Services Program.

Fiscal

The following is a summary of the funds received for the Upper Mississippi River Regional Discharge-Frequency study:

Total estimated project cost:	$300,000
Total Federal funds through Sept 2012:	$220,000
Federal funds required to complete:	$80,000