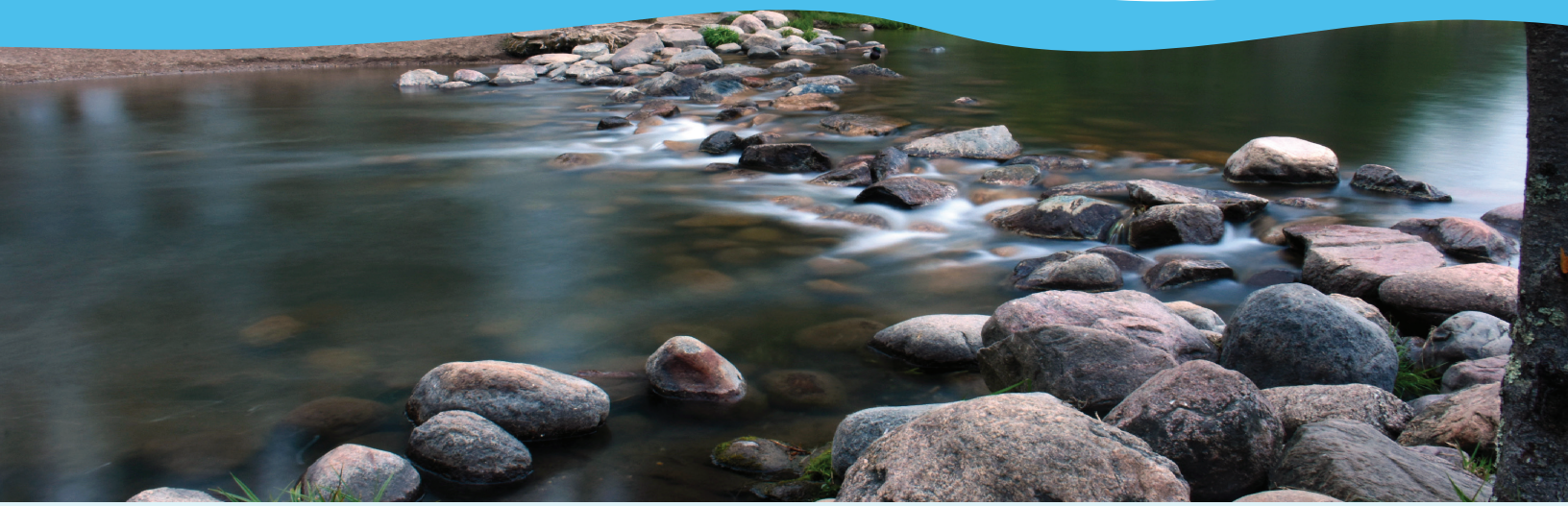
SUSTAINABLE RIVERS PROGRAM

The Sustainable Rivers Program is a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy that was established in 2002.



Our Vision

The mighty Mississippi River is one of the world's most important rivers, flowing through America's heartland to the Gulf of Mexico. Critical and nationally important, the river is connected with:

- Water supply & water quality
- Habitat for fish & wildlife
- Tribal trust
- Recreation & ecotourism
- Flood risk management

We hope to develop a deeper, shared understanding of our missions to include flood risk management and reservoir operations to help chart a course toward a brighter future for generations to come.

The Sustainable Rivers Program attempts to improve the ecosystem by adjusting USACE-managed reservoir operations. No changes are currently proposed or planned, but we do want to hear your ideas and input.

SUSTAINABLE RIVERS PROGRAM

The Sustainable Rivers Program is a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy to evaluate existing Corps of Engineers dams and reservoirs for opportunities to adjust operational flows that benefit the environment while maintaining the original project purposes.

WHY THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER HEADWATERS?

The Mississippi Headwaters reservoirs, managed by the St. Paul District, are an ideal location to explore ways to improve reservoir management and identify opportunities to provide greater benefits to people and nature, while ensuring the ecological health of the system and the Mississippi River Headwaters remain naturally resilient to future changes.

Measured improvements

- Improve the ecological and biological health of the rivers
- Enhance economies and quality of life
- Benefit Indigenous, local and other water connected communities

US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Department of Natural Resources

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

NGOs

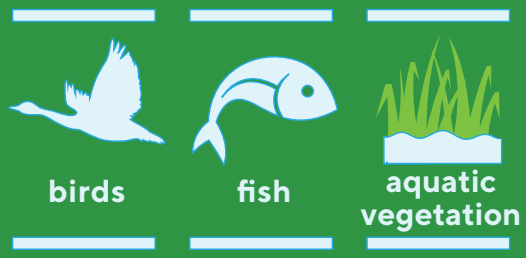
PUBLIC

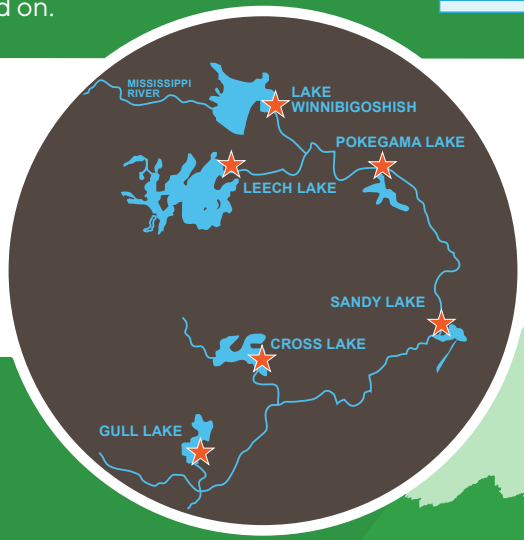
www.mvp.usace.army.mil/SustainableRiversProgram

THE SUSTAINABLE RIVERS PROGRAM

Sustainable Rivers Program
Prescription for a brighter future

The program is all about fine-tuning reservoir operations to benefit both the communities that live and recreate in these waters and the ecosystem that wildlife and flora depend on.





BIRDS

More than 40 percent of North American migrating birds use the Mississippi River corridor as their migration route. Improving their habitat provides opportunities for hunting and birdwatching.

FISH

Rivers, wetlands and lakes provide habitat for many fish and aquatic species. Millions of people enjoy recreating within the Mississippi Rivers Headwaters every year.

AQUATIC VEGETATION

In the Ojibwe language, wild rice is translated as manoomin, meaning good berry, harvesting berry or wondrous grain. Wild rice is just one type of important aquatic vegetation found within the Mississippi River Headwaters.

The St. Paul District manages six reservoirs within the Mississippi River Headwaters. They include Leech Lake, near Federal Dam, Minnesota; Lake Winnibigoshish, near Deer River, Minnesota; Big Sandy Lake, near McGregor, Minnesota; Cross Lake, near Crosslake, Minnesota; Gull Lake, near Brainerd, Minnesota; and Pokegama Lake, near Grand Rapids, Minnesota.