

**America's Great Outdoors
Notes from Listening Session**

Location: Godfrey, IL

Date: August 20, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session sorted by Discussion Question. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

Discussion Questions

1. What works: Please share your thoughts and ideas on effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors.
2. Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
3. Federal government role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
4. What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

Discussion Question 1-4	Comment
1	Regional planning efforts: The river ring here is a 600-mile web. Parks and conservation are important.
1	Agencies take what public thinks for granted. 2009 survey- 95% say Missouri outdoors make for happier lives, 90% say parks make people healthy. Parks should be a budget priority.
1	St. Vincent Greenway connects forest park through the most impoverished areas. Land and water conservation fund will help with this crime ridden, gang controlled park.
1	We need to connect people to outdoors. This helps health, sustainability, and livability. River ring efforts are a great example. Forest Park is the largest urban park. Forest Park Forever is a non-for profit that takes care of it. Columbia Bottoms was owned by St. Louis. It was sold to state and restored. It's a great example of a successful effort where people in an urban area can

	enjoy the outdoors.
2	USACE and USFWS manage over 300K acres. Need to fund a long-term program of stewardship for these resources otherwise any success is short term. Reconnection is directly related to the quality of stewardship. Adaptive management does not have to be difficult.
2	Access needs to be improved.
2	Tremendous framework of local entities already exists here. We don't use this framework as well as we could. Need to use the local communities to reconnect people to the river. Don't focus on St. Louis, but think more regionally. Don't ignore the barges or commerce.
2	We do a lot of commenting on permits and other USACE actions. Kids want to help and they are ready. The challenge they see is climate impact in the future on them. Don't scare the kids and tell them the adults are working on it. We have to improve the outdoors for the children and the future generations. Take it to the next level. The younger generation needs to be involved in much greater and more important ways.
1	95% of America lives within 50 miles of a USACE project. This is a unique area. This area best demonstrates partnerships coupled with interests like navigation.
1	Land & water conservation fund is very important. Legislation is in Congress to make this fund permanent. Language about gulf oil spill will be included. Efforts to revitalize the ARCH have moved amazingly fast. These ideas will really help to focus efforts on regional initiatives, like the river ring on a parallel track with the Arch project. These efforts are equally important. You make believers out of people when you can show results.
1	We have developed an MOU between 2 regions of both NPS and USFWS. MOU seeks to connect over 50 parks and refuges on the river. We have opportunities for recreation and education that need to be marketed together. It should cover the whole Mississippi River.
1	Efforts will address access, history, conservation, stewardship, and education.
4	Worried about a constituency being involved in the future. Need to motivate kids. Need something "cooler" than Ken Burns National Parks documentary to get kids interested. Need shows that are geared towards the youth and that talk about fun activities like rafting. Need to ensure that kids learn about the outdoors. Would like to see mandatory national service of some kind for kids

	coming out of high school, other than the military.
4	80K sites on the historic places register in Illinois. Fund the preservation fund. Historic preservation is a form of sustainability. Historic preservation is sustainable by encouraging reuse of buildings. It's a different way to look at historic preservation.
2	Losing IL River to sediment. Need appropriations from WRDA to fix this. Planning on how to fix the problem is done. We just need funding to put it into action. This is the most important thing for IL River.
4	Want to get kids outdoors. Make sure we have another generation ready to be stewards and ambassadors to the outdoors. Need upgraded version of things like Smokey Bear and Ranger Rick. We need more media attention.
4	We need full funding of land and water conservation fund. Need state money from this fund. 85% is diverted to non-conservation uses. Half to federal and half to state agencies are needed.
2, 4	AmeriCorps teams have partnered with state, federal and NGO for invasive species removal, cleaning, studies, trail maintenance, etc. AmeriCorps program is extremely cheap and you get a lot from utilization. The program targets youth and directly gets them involved. This program is already in place, it just needs more staff positions funded.
1	Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary: Established in 1989 by the Corps of Engineers as the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area to showcase low-cost restoration potential of large river floodplains.
1	Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary: Serves as a river habitat types with restored grassland, forests and wetlands providing resting and nesting habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds.
1	Managed by Corps biologists and partners utilizing prescribed burning and gravity feed water control structures to maintain the grasslands habitat and over 300 acres of wetlands.
1	Received \$2,999,891.37 in ARRA funding to replace the access tour control facility with upgraded Class C Visitor Information Center. National Audubon Education Partnership with Riverlands Environmental Education Facility to promote the Corps message and education for the migratory bird sanctuary.
1	The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary (RMBS) is a 3775- acre migratory bird refuge located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The Sanctuary was first established in 1989 by the Corps of Engineers as the

	Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area to showcase low-cost restoration potential of large river floodplains. The Sanctuary also provided quality open space for the American public as a place they could enjoy the outdoors and learn about the importance of rivers and the habitat this ecosystem provides.
1	The Sanctuary, once primarily utilized for agriculture, is now a mosaic of river habitat types with restored grassland, forests and wetlands providing resting and nesting habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds.
1	Beginning in 1989, twelve hundred acres of native grasses, aquatic plants and trees have been planted in an attempt to restore the site. The current landscape is representative of the way this confluence floodplain looked over 200 years ago before Europeans settled here.
1	The area is managed by Corps biologist and partners utilizing prescribed burning and gravity feed water control structures to maintain the grassland habitat and over 300 acres of wetlands.
1	The benefits of this more than 20-year- old restoration project are evident throughout the seasons. Tens of thousands of people visit the Sanctuary every year to reconnect with the river and enjoy the diversity of wildlife that lives or visits the area.
1	Iconic birds like the Bald eagle, American white pelican and the trumpeter swan can commonly be seen here at the right time of year.
1	Partners with the St. Louis Audubon Society and the Webster Groves Nature and Corps biologists have recorded 299 different species of birds at the Sanctuary over the past 20 years. In 2005 the Sanctuary was designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society for the habitat provided at this crucial resting spot on the Mississippi Flyway.
1	Outdoor recreation like biking, hiking, paddling and fishing are also popular within the sanctuary and draw a multitude of people to the area.
1	In 2005 a world record blue catfish was caught on the Mississippi River just on the boundary of the Sanctuary. This catch along with other exciting sport fishing opportunities draw people throughout the year to the Sanctuary targeting river fish like paddlefish and catfish.
1	With several miles of hiking and biking trails and 100's of acres of paddlable waters the Sanctuary is an ideal outdoor recreation destination within minutes of the large metropolitan St. Louis community.

1	Management of the Sanctuary's natural assets for the benefit of wildlife in balance with enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities will continue into the future through partnership efforts. In the fall of 2010 the Corps in partnership with the Audubon will open a new sanctuary orientation center that will serve as the Corps hub for environmental education in the Sanctuary and will house the Audubon Center at Riverlands effort for National Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign. This partnership effort will provide one more opportunity for the public to continue reconnecting with their rivers.
1	Has had more than 500,000 visitors since opening; 65,727 visitors in FY2010 (thru June), 6% increase from FY09.
1	ARRA projects: - The St. Louis District has two task orders that are providing exhibits and exhibit maintenance at the National Great Rivers Museum. We have an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) Exhibit contract with Formations, Inc. from Portland Oregon. - The total for the two task orders for work at the National Great Rivers Museum is \$183,869.64 - Both contracts will be completed September 30, 2010.
1	Each year, millions of people travel to the Mississippi River to learn and experience its history and learn about its impact on our Nation. The National Great Rivers Museum at Melvin Price Locks and Dam provides a unique opportunity to tell the river's story in a comprehensive, meaningful and relevant way. The museum is dedicated to telling the story of the Mississippi River – from its grand history and cultural significance to its ecological importance and role as a transportation corridor.
1	Opened in October of 2003, the museum is a 12,000 square foot facility with a 7,000 square foot exhibit gallery, a multi-purpose classroom and a 110-seat theater. Exhibits and the learning experience continue outside to the river water feature in front of the museum and along the lock tour route and main lock overlook. Free public tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam are given daily (weather permitting) at 10 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM.
1	The National Great Rivers Museum is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with assistance from the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, a non-profit friends group that operates a museum store and assists with special events and fund-raising activities for the museum.
1	LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification at the

	platinum level candidate.
1	Since its inception, NGRREC has funded more than \$285,000 in research and maintains an expert staff involved in research funded by other sponsors.
1	Research conducted here will expand our understanding of the structure and function of floodplain-river ecosystems.
1	Illinois Governor Pat Quinn awarded Lewis and Clark Community College \$16.3 million for the Confluence Field Station.
1	NGRREC is formed by a unique partnership of the University of Illinois, the Illinois Natural History Survey and Lewis and Clark Community College. In addition to the scientific advances and educational opportunities that NGRREC staff members provide, they also stimulate the local and regional economy by obtaining funding from federal, state and private sources, the majority of which is used to employ people in the area and to purchase equipment and supplies from local vendors. LCCC is a USACE partner.
1	The Field Station, strategically located near the confluence of the Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri rivers, will serve as an international center for science, education and public outreach, related to key issues that will improve sustainable management of large rivers.
1	The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center hosts international conferences, symposiums and information exchanges aimed at discovering linkages in existing research and acquiring new information to fill knowledge gaps related to large rivers and the human communities that depend on these ecosystems.
1	The field station will provide researchers with access to the river and the riverine mesocosms and wet lab facilities will allow researchers to conduct unique experiments to expand our understanding of the structure and function of floodplain-river ecosystems, information that is vital to the development of conservation strategies to sustain the natural resources these systems provide and economic benefits derived from these resources.
1	The Field Station building itself incorporates many green elements, including solar, wind and hydro-kinetic systems, internal and external water recycling systems, a vegetative roof and more. The project's goal is to attain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification at the platinum level, which is the highest rating possible.
1	Lewis and Clark Community College (LCCC) is one of the founding members of

	<p>the Illinois Green Economy Network and is a leader in sustainability initiatives and green efforts in the community. The College is currently working to reduce its carbon footprint and encourage recycling.</p> <p>Serves more than 25,000 students annually.</p> <p>Boasts the state's largest Associate Degree Nursing, dual credit and workforce training programs.</p>
1	<p>The college is dedicated to the environment and creating a green campus, helping the underserved areas of the community get proper healthcare through their Mobile Health Unit and Nurse Managed Center (which is the only one of its kind operated by a community college) and their constant innovation in education.</p>
1	<p>Obtains most or all of its energy from clean renewable energy systems .</p> <p>Uses eco-friendly substances and materials .</p> <p>Minimizes the use of, and properly disposes of, hazardous materials.</p> <p>Conserves energy and other non-renewable resources.</p>
1	<p>Educates students, employees, local citizens and others on the importance of conservation, recycling and other sustainability practices.</p>
1	<p>Provides training in green-related occupations such as installing and maintaining solar technology, hydro-kinetic turbines and other hydro-powered technologies, wind turbines, geothermal systems, alternative fueled vehicles, wastewater management, pollution and water quality management, carbon / GHG footprint analyses, and energy audits.</p>
1	<p>It is my opinion that if the President's Initiative is to accomplish great things in our public land, and increase the involvement of youth and the public at large, all while taking into consideration the constraints on our budget, the funding of programs that are already in existence and proven to be effective is imperative. The AmeriCorps program is one such program, designed to be utilized fully in times of economic hardship to revitalize our public lands, provide jobs, and give the younger generations a chance to take direct action for positive change in our environment. Just as its predecessor program the, Civilian Conservation Corps, was utilized during the Great Depression to provide jobs and training while accomplishing great public works, so too should the AmeriCorps program be considered today. The AmeriCorps St. Louis program, as well as NCCC programs throughout the nation are proof enough that the funding works in our region. The labor that they provide can be utilized to cheaply accomplish the reforms that are needed, as well as address the needs that are identified by local land management agencies and conservation groups as a priority. All that is needed is funding and more</p>

	positions can be filled, providing jobs and training for young adults, opportunities for higher education and debt reversal, and the maintenance and stewardship of our public lands.
3	Another focal point for our conservation efforts is the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri's largest national park, which has come to be threatened by ever more aggressive private development, illegal motorized/off road vehicle access, abuse of scenic easement land, and a lack of enforcement by park management for laws that would have prevented the degeneration of this important resource. More attention should be focused on making this park and the area a park worthy of the National Park System. The Big Spring Area should be designated as a wilderness area, as "wilderness is a resource that can shrink, but not grow" as Aldo Leopold wrote.
3	Horse owners in Illinois represent a large segment of the economy, but unfortunately, not nearly as vocal as some other groups. There is a significant need for additional equine access to federal and state lands.
1	I will be out of town and unable to attend the session, but I would like to congratulate the local officials of our area for the tremendous improvements made to our riverfront, especially the cities of Alton and Grafton.
3	I would appreciate an opportunity to speak about the 375 acre casino complex being proposed just 500' from the southern boundary of Columbia Bottom Conservation Area which is located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in Spanish Lake. Many of us believe that this important area along these great rivers should be preserved in perpetuity as a national park.
3, 4	I would like to speak at this session and provide testimony about the importance of the National Park Service's program for historic preservation and historic sites. In Illinois, there is only one National Park, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield. The site speaks directly to the importance of historic places in the national collection of America's great outdoors and indoors. The NPS has a special role in assuring that historic places are accounted for in the collection of Americas "great places" through several key programs and policies. Foremost among these is the Historic Preservation Fund, which established and sustains the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) across the country. This is a shared federal and state responsibility that stems from

	<p>the National Preservation Act of 1966. The NPS has been a leader in creating and supporting this partnership. The continued funding and even the potential full authorized funding of the HPF grant to SHPOs should be an NPS priority.</p>
3	<p>Interested in role of floodplains & levees in protecting environmentally-sensitive areas used for recreation, farmland & parks, e.g. Howard Bend district in Maryland Heights. Also interested in providing community access to MO River, wetlands and international flyways for bird migration.</p>
1	<p>Looking forward to this great opportunity to talk about America's first national park area to protect a wild river system and the gem of our state - Ozark National Scenic Riverways!</p>
1	<p>One strategy for actually accomplishing maintenance and construction of new trails and management of our natural areas and public land that has worked exceedingly well in Missouri is the utilization of highly trained volunteers, namely AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps teams in Missouri have partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Forest Service, Park Service, Department of Natural Resources, as well as many non-profit groups throughout the state. They have completed a variety of tasks ranging from removal of invasive species, maintenance and creation of trails, removal of storm debris, wildfire suppression, assisting in biological studies, stream cleaning, and a host of other valuable conservation tasks.</p>
3	<p>Supporting Memorandum of Understanding by and between the National Park Service (2 regions), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2 regions) and Mississippi River Trail, Inc. (10 states) to connect federal, state, and local public lands, parks and refuges via the Mississippi River Trail system.</p>
1	<p>The benefits of the AmeriCorps program are far reaching, as the cost of maintaining a full time professional, factoring in training, wildfire bonus compensation, the cost of a salaried position with benefits, and overtime, are many times more than the cost of an AmeriCorps volunteer trained to the same level of service. The program targets youth and involves them directly with conservation issues, accomplishing tasks at a price far below what is needed to pay professional workers, and at a level of training you cannot get from a normal volunteer, all while providing jobs for high-school graduates and college age individuals. It also encourages them to continue their experience into college with the Segal education award, and provides them with leadership experience and skills to be applied in the field of conservation if they choose to seek a profession in our great outdoors.</p>

1, 3	<p>The Ozark Regional Land Trust (ORLT) encourages the administration to support the work of land trusts. There are several ways in which this can be done. First, federal tax policy can be used to encourage landowners to conserve important farmland, forests, and wildlife habitats. ORLT urges the renewal of the enhanced tax incentive for donated conservation easements as well as renewed estate tax exclusion for land subject to a conservation easement. These policies represent a modest investment for the leveraged conservation gains that are obtained through private landowner generosity. Second, ORLT encourages federal agencies to work with land trusts to further their statutory mandates. For example, much can be done in a cooperative fashion with private landowners to protect endangered species habitats by supporting conservation easement projects. ORLT has a current project in Missouri that is acquiring conservation easements on habitat essential for recovery of the federally threatened Ozark cavefish. This also represents a modest investment with significant long term gains should it continue to be supported. Federal land management agencies can also further their missions in cooperation with land trusts by protecting critical buffers around wildlife refuges, Wilderness areas, or national parks. ORLT thanks the administration for its commitment to conservation and for your consideration of these comments. I look forward to attending the listening session.</p>
1	<p>The Tourism Bureau Southwestern Illinois supports outdoor recreation in many forms around Carlyle Lake. The visitor market that we look to attract to our region enjoys many activities, including: boating, sailing, fishing, hiking, biking, golf and many other forms of recreation. These visitors spend money in our region. They buy gas, meals, stay in our lodging establishments and entertain their families in our area for much of the spring, summer and fall. Economic development through tourism is a great way to create that highly sought after visitor spending.</p> <p>Kudos to the City of Carlyle and the US Army Corps of Engineers for their continued support and work in developing permanent and sustainable bike trails in Carlyle and areas around the Lake. It is a great way to attract/retain visitors and create new citizens through relocation. This truly is a great quality of life addition to our community.</p>
1	<p>This sounds like an admirable initiative, but instead of starting new programs, it would be better to fund those already authorized such as WRDA 2007. The Kaskaskia Watershed Association has been working to get the planning study for this program started since 2007 to no avail to date. I would like to expand on this comment during the 20 August session.</p>

1	We are trying to deconstruct unused, dangerous low-head dams (also known as "drowning machines") in Jefferson County Missouri and turn them into rapids for kayakers, canoes, fishermen, swimmers, tubers, etc. to enjoy. The website: www.missouriwhitewaterpark.com has a little more information on what we are trying to do. The areas we are interested in are owned by Jefferson County Parks and Recreation. We hope that this meeting will provide us with some insight on how to successfully complete this project and obtain funding for the project.
3	Supporting MOU by and between NPS, USFWS and Mississippi River Trail, Inc. to connect Federal, State, and local public lands, parks and refuges via the Mississippi River Trail System
3	River revitalization and restoration should be prioritized as well as the establishment of national water trails (blue ways). They connect people to outdoors; they are cost effective because they are already there.
1, 3, 4	The watershed covers 10% of IL and has multiple partner types. They are concerned about rapid erosion runoff. Erodes banks and the sediment clogs rivers. WRDA 2007 and grants are being used to help with this. We have language to study it, but it needs funding. 3 years have gone by since authorization, but it still has received no funding. Kaskaskia can be a model for similar rivers in the U.S. IDNR is willing to be a cost sharing partner.
2, 3	Need better trails for kids to learn and love horses. Paving trails isn't good for horses. National Forests have horse amenities but there are no local areas for horses. Need to convince people that horses are a lifestyle, part of economy. Greenways that are good for horses are good for people too. Need local help.
3, 4	150 million dollars invested in reconnecting people to rivers. 11,000 acres of open space in the area and hundred miles of trails. Museums and visitor centers in bunches. Cahokia Mounds, Mary Meacham Freedom Crossing, Habitat Restoration with AmeriCorps on North Riverfront. These efforts are great for reconnecting people to rivers. We need sustained or increased funding for these types of activities.
3	What happens next for the children? Community colleges are important. 700K people graduating in IL every year from community colleges. 1 in 10 people have gone to a Community College. Profound convening platforms, which is perfect for getting students into the outdoors. Community College presidents are collaborating together. We need more collaboration between federal agencies. We can talk to agencies separately, but it would be more beneficial to talk to them together and look at the whole system. Community

	colleges can have an enormous impact with federal collaboration.
3	Floodplain management. Terracing steps, walking paths, etc. have been built to work on reconnecting people with the river. The path has been covered (flooded) 4 times this year alone. We need bigger marketing efforts. Mississippi River is very important to us and we would like everyone to know about all of the trails, community cleanups, and services that are available on and around the river. USACE is helping the community greatly; please help USACE and other agencies, to be able to work with us.
3	Citizens voted for a tax to create trails in the bi-state area. River Ring of 600 miles of trails is the goal. We are trying to collaborate with different greenways, federal, state and local for the education of parks and trails. Also to educate the youth in a more efficient and effective way, so those individuals get engaged in the preservation and stay engaged. We need to look at how we can do more education efforts, especially in economically depressed areas. Make these people realize they are part of the system too.
3	Grew up on the river. The river is cool. Very passionate about the river. Need to get people connected. One take away should be that the region is at a tipping point. Typically we have historically ignored the river. This has changed and we are really trying to move the opposite direction. There are numerous great efforts that you need to be aware of. These things happen because people get engaged. Help work with current landowners around the confluence from development. Casinos and developments aren't the only way to create jobs. Eco-tourism is an option. When planning roads and other developments, keep in mind space for cyclists, horses, people, etc.
3	Winfield to the Gulf of Mexico, 15K river miles canoed. Kids need physical interaction with the river to learn about it. Surprised to see that the Secretary of Education isn't more involved. Kids need more than video games. Need federal recognition of the Mississippi River as a water trail. It starts with stopping the building of casino in the only 11 non-navigable miles on the Mississippi River. Need to get more people here. I clean the river with kids. These cleanups help kids to learn how to change their everyday activities like recycling because they are aware of what happens when you do.
3, 4	Owns a family farm that has been around for 188 years. Farmers have done a tremendous job of providing conservation measures. Still have a lot of problems private landowners can help with. USDA programs can help do this. Work conserving private lands will never be done. Good information can help. Need more staff, technical experts and incentive programs (keep them

	funded and increase).
3	Current River. Citizens were able to stop a dam on the Current River, NPS helped enormously. Love/hate relationship with locals and NPS has always existed. Disagreements occur, but respect still existed between the groups. Recent managers haven't been as great as they were in the past. Need help getting attention for Ozark River ways. We feel it is being neglected unlike in the past. The park has fallen into disrepair. Turned into a party river instead of family vacation destination.
3	80K acre national park. It has been managed under ad hoc policies for decades. These contradict NPS policies. ATV vehicles cause damage to the land and a plethora of inappropriate park uses that degrade its natural resources. Need strict adherence to NPS management policies.
3	We are lucky to live in such a resource rich area. It is a very unique place. We are working in partnerships in this area. Gives a glimpse of the bigger picture of what could happen. Public land up and down the river with private structures (cabins). USACE has been working on removing many of these. Is there a timeline to finish this work?
3	Echo's previous comments of the Ozark National Scenic River ways. Concerned citizens have signed postcards to make the Ozarks more of a priority. Postcards were given Secretary of the Interior after the Session
3, 4	Losing IL River to sediment. Need appropriations from WRDA to fix this. Planning on how to fix the problem is done. We just need funding to put it into action. This is the most important thing for IL River
2	I'm against Casino's, but I still don't feel secure in any of our outdoor areas.
2, 4	Tests water quality at ten sites along the Mississippi River. E-coli are more often than not, bad. USACE oversees more water than almost anyone else and are great advocates for water safety. Would like the government to mandate them to be as equally concerned with safe water quality. St. Louis has combined sewer overflows that were designed over 100 years ago. Raw sewage can escape into our rivers. MSD estimates that this happens 50 times a year on average. Need billions of dollars to fix this or it will only get worse.
3	Want to safeguard communities from climate change. Need to protect large buffer areas like Ozark National Scenic River ways. Want to increase the involvement of parents and kids thinking it is cool to be outdoors. Need to make an emphasis on urban rivers because not everyone can get to rural

	areas.
3	Over 1200 mayors have signed onto this program. It is an in depth assessment of carbon footprint of a city. Alton and Edwardsville have signed this. Hope other area cities in the area sign this. Promote this program.
3	Confluence area in Spanish Lake of the MS and Missouri rivers. Spanish Lake has the only Lewis Clark site in St. Louis City/County. Columbia Bottoms is in the Spanish Lake area too. Took her 30 years to get to the confluence because it was a private hunting lodge. It is now in public ownership. A casino is proposed for 500 ft south of Columbia Bottoms. Want the federal government to take a hard look at the land from I-270 North to preserve this land
3	350k kids were out fishing this year. My front yard is the Ozark Scenic River ways. Our program gets kids out cleaning, learning and loving the river. The kids feel there is no respect for the park. Can USACE speed up the AKERS Ferry permit? Kids must get up earlier to get to school because of the inoperable ferry. Vehicles are using the gravel bar to cross and it is ruining the river. Need the gravel bar removed so that the ferry can operate.
3	Filed petition to apply to Clean Water Act for all water bodies in the state. Federal government, urban and rural non-source water pollution must be better addressed. Opposed to the casino and we need help.
3	Make a note for all of the special areas and programs in the area. Take this to the next level. Protect ecosystems. MRAPS study is going on. USDA Mississippi River Basin Initiative too. Midwest Natural Resources group are looking for projects. General Walsh is promoting a 200 year vision. Gulf wetlands. All of these issues are connected and bring together many diverse groups.
3	Need to actually monitor the river. Need better info and make it more accessible, understandable. Farm subsidy programs are an issue. There is little about conservation easements in the farm bill, which could filter nutrients and improve erosion. Clean Water Act needs to be implemented throughout Missouri. Stop the Casinos. We need fewer levees too.
3	Want to get kids outdoors. Make sure we have another generation ready to be stewards and ambassadors to the outdoors. Need upgraded version of things like Smokey the Bear and Ranger Rick. We need more media attention. What happened to outreach the public like this?
3, 4	We need full funding of land and water conservation fund. Need for state

	money from this fund. 85% is diverted to non- conservation uses. Half to federal and half to state agencies are needed.
1, 4	AmeriCorps teams have partnered with state, federal and NGO for invasive species removal, cleaning, studies, trail maintenance, etc. AmeriCorps program is extremely cheap and you get a lot from utilization. The program targets youth and directly gets them involved. This program is already in place, it just needs more staff positions funded.