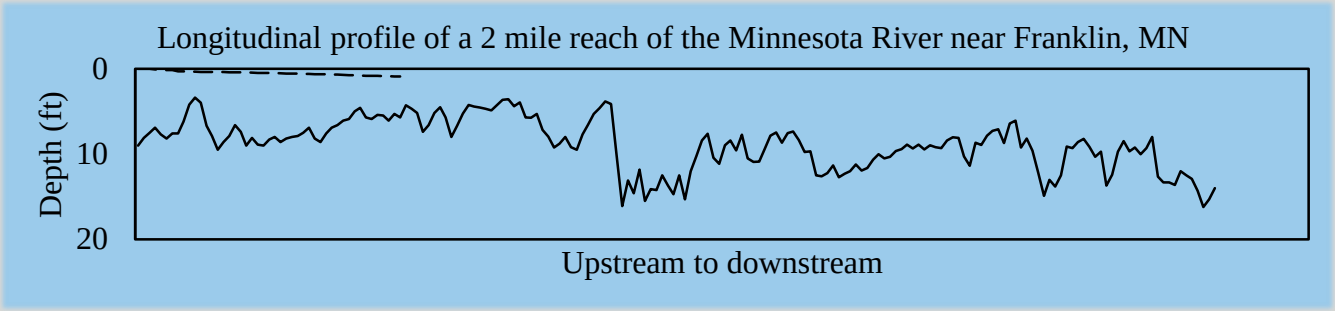
Project Summary—
Enhancing understanding of Minnesota River aquatic ecosystem

Activity 2: Quantify physical habitat characteristics of the Minnesota River

Collected measurements of river morphology and physical habitat features at 12 sites to better understand how human-caused and natural disturbances impact the physical characteristics of the Minnesota River.

Cross section & longitudinal profile—

A cross section is a measure of river width and depths for a particular transect that crosses the river. The longitudinal profile is a map of depths along the lowest point of the river from upstream to downstream.

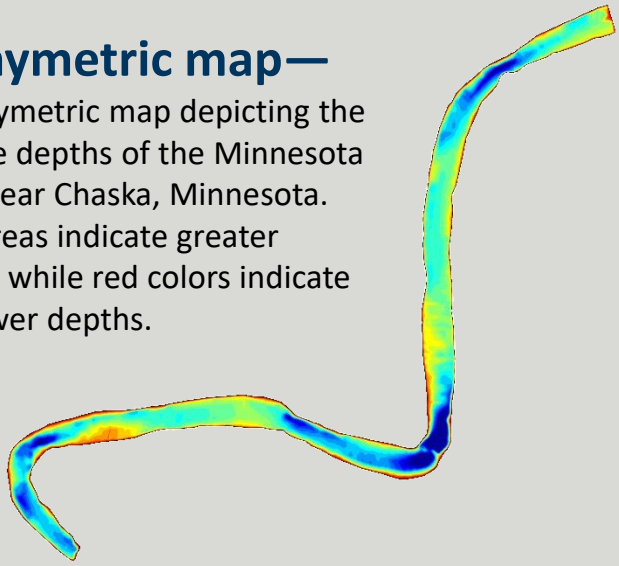


Woody habitat—

Woody debris such as fallen trees and log jams provide valuable nutrients and habitat for small aquatic insects to large fish such as Flathead Catfish.

Bathymetric map—

A bathymetric map depicting the relative depths of the Minnesota River near Chaska, Minnesota. Blue areas indicate greater depths while red colors indicate shallower depths.



Watershed changes—

As a consequence of draining wetlands and installing artificial drainage systems, more precipitation reaches the Minnesota River faster, resulting in a larger river that is widening and straightening.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 03ib

Department of Natural Resources

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