



SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

WORKSHOP EXERCISES SUMMARY --
WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT
THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?

! PARTICIPANT RESPONSES
! STATEMENT PREFERENCES

RIVERFORUM ONE
APRIL 30, 1998

RIVERFORUM TWO
JUNE 24, 1998

RIVERFORUM THREE
JULY 29, 1998

RIVERFORUM FOUR
SEPTEMBER 16, 1998

INTRODUCTION

The information in this document was developed through citizen input at three RiverForum meetings.

RIVERFORUM ONE APRIL 30, 1998

Participants at this meeting were asked to describe, using short phrases of 1-5 words, what they felt were the significant or unique qualities and characteristics of the Mississippi Wild and Scenic River study area.

RIVERFORUM TWO JUNE 24, 1998

Participants at these two meetings were asked to review statements prepared from the significance phrases (see appendix) identified by attendees of RiverForum One. Participants completed two tasks:

AND

RIVERFORUM THREE JULY 29, 1998

1. Indicate whether they agreed, had no opinion, or disagreed with the statement on a wall chart. A tally of the 'votes' is recorded under the appropriate columns.

2. Select their top 5 most important statements and indicate their preferences on a wall chart. A tally of the 'votes' was taken and recorded in the column labeled "Importance". Those statements that received 10 or more total votes for importance have been marked with an **asterisk (*)** in the following tables.

RIVERFORUM FOUR SEPT. 16, 1998

Participants at this meeting approved revisions to the significance statements and agreed to use the 19 statements in this report to guide future discussions and decision making in the development of the revised management plan for the Mississippi River.

MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI

1. The Mississippi is a world-class resource by virtue of the size of its watershed, historical significance, folk lore and world-wide recognition.

2. River users and visitors come from around the world to experience the Mississippi.

AESTHETICS, SCENERY, AND SOLITUDE

* 3. The opportunity to experience quiet and peaceful surroundings exists on and along the river.

4. Stretches of the river are high in scenic quality, which can be attributed to:

- 4.1 River bluffs and high banks,
- * 4.2 Natural and undeveloped shorelines,
- 4.3 Streams and creeks running into the river,
- 4.4 Native vegetation along the banks such as prairie remnants, wildflowers, large trees,
- 4.5 Rural character and appearance,
- 4.6 Islands and island complexes.

5. Changes in the river from wide to narrow; from still waters to rushing rapids; from high to low river flows; from rural to urban land use; from open farmland to forested, make the river corridor unique and interesting.

WILDLIFE

6. The variety of wildlife and opportunities to observe wildlife such as bald eagles, are a significant part of the river corridor experience.

* 7. The river corridor is an important flyway for migrating waterfowl and migratory song-birds as well as an important corridor for the movement of wildlife such as deer, turkey, fox, muskrat, otter and turtles.

8. The NSP power plant at Monticello cooling water discharge provides open water in the winter months allowing waterfowl such as eagles, ducks and geese to remain in the area throughout the winter.

FISHERIES

9. Some of the best fishing opportunities in the region exist on the river.

10. There are a great variety of fish in the river which enhances the river fishing experience.

BOATING, RECREATION AND ACCESS

11. Canoeing, kayaking, and the use of small motorboats are important water recreation activities.
12. The river is accessible through a variety of means such as boat launches, trails and roads.
13. The total number of watercraft on the river at any one time is minimal and large power boats are not used.
- * 14. Opportunities for peaceful, quiet and relaxing boating, canoeing, kayaking or tubing experiences are a unique aspect of the river.

PARKS

15. Unique and scenic settings for parks, trails and public open spaces exist in the river corridor; while the river landscape enhances the recreational experiences available.

HISTORY

16. The river corridor has had a significant impact on the cultural and history of the region; many cultural and historic sites exist

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

17. Relatively few bridges and other river crossings exist in the river corridor which helps maintain a natural river character
18. People caring for their homes and property are an important of the river corridor landscape.
- * 19. Large tracts of land in public and corporate ownership that remain natural, undeveloped, and provide reasonable public access and use are positive additions to maintaining a natural river character.