

Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Study

Sustaining our Past – Securing our Future

Briefing for the Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus

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April 6, 2011

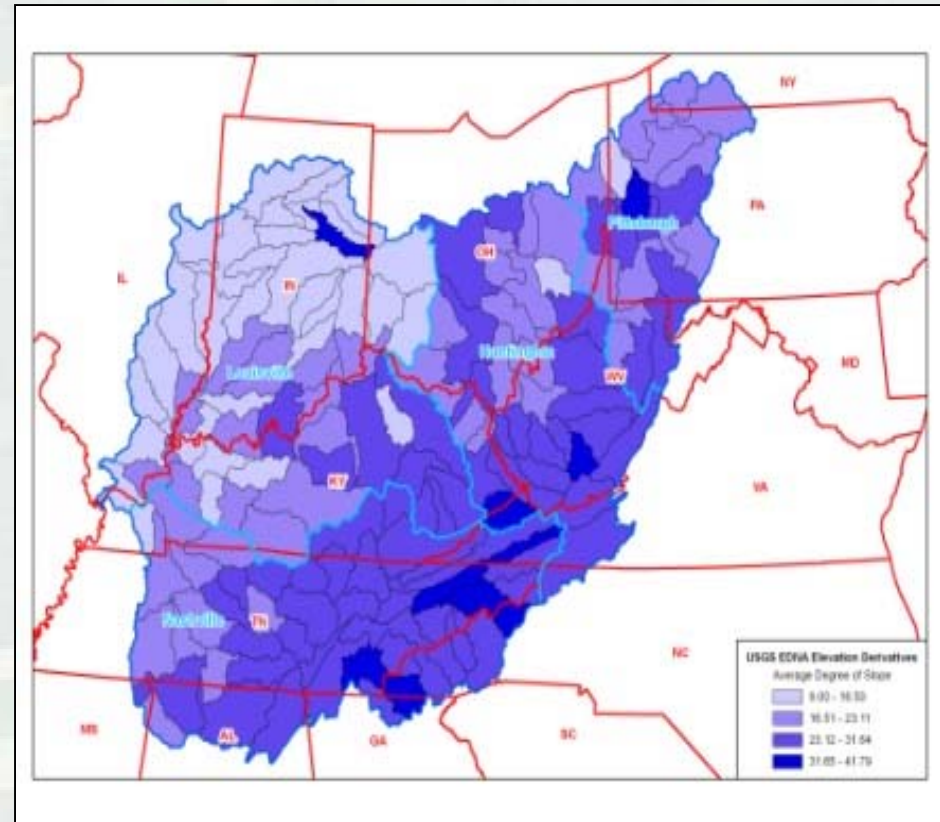


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Why This Place? – Why Now?

- 1969 Ohio River Basin Study
 - ▶ Sporadic implementation of 1969 study recommendations
 - ▶ Fragmented approach to water resources planning since 1986 WRDA – a project-centered process
- 27 million residents concerned about water resources
 - ▶ Infrastructure in failing condition
 - ▶ Inadequate water supplies
 - ▶ Ecosystem deterioration
 - ▶ Deteriorating water quality and other issues
- Climate change
 - ▶ An emerging issue



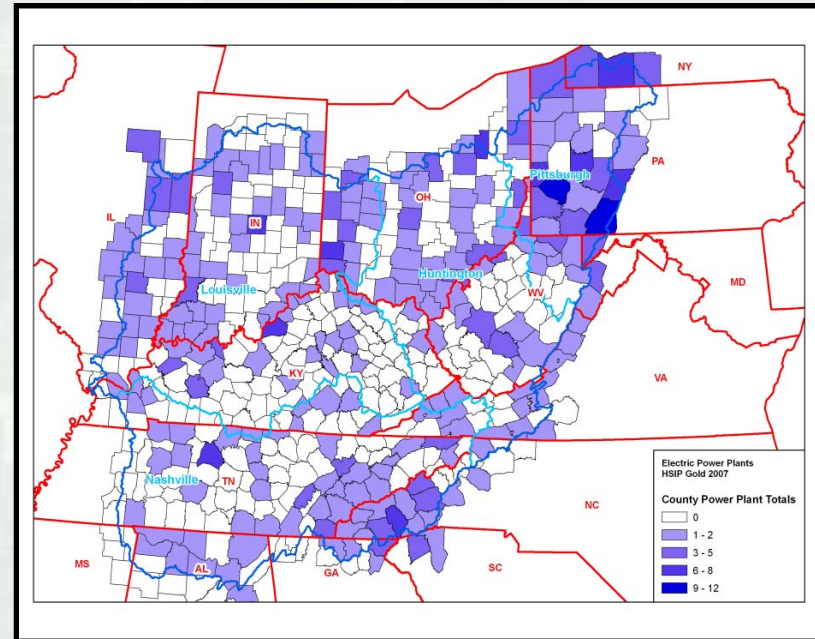
Basin Land and Water Issues

- Water quality
- Water supply
- Ecosystem deterioration (aquatic)
- Infrastructure sustainability
- Stormwater management
- Land development practices
- Nutrient loading and sedimentation
- Reservoir operations
- Recurring flood damages
- Floodplain management
- Invasive species
- Affects of climate change on water resources management



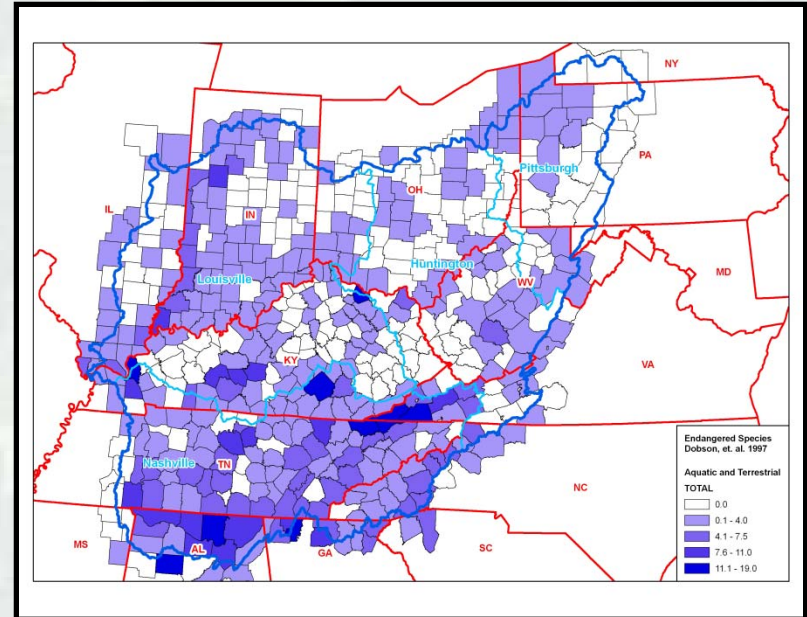
Economic Considerations

- Maintaining a consistent flow into the mainstem & tributaries provides:
 - ▶ Navigation that supports coal for 42 electric power generating plants
 - ▶ Supply of water for basin industries & materials processing, including cooling water (power plants, steel plants, etc)
 - ▶ Provides water supply from the Mainstem alone for 5 million people
 - ▶ Habitat for thousands of aquatic species that attracts tourists & fishermen
 - ▶ Emerging intermodal transportation of containers (rail/river/truck) – a potential river connection to new Heartland Corridor between Norfolk & Columbus within the Huntington Port area



Environmental Considerations

- Maintaining a consistent supply of fresh water & flows sustaining aquatic habitat provides:
 - ▶ A world renowned diversity for Threatened & Endangered mussels and fishes for the Tennessee & Cumberland Rivers
 - ▶ Several large Threatened & Endangered large river fish species including sturgeon on the Ohio River mainstem
 - ▶ Ecosystem services to over 27 million people in the basin



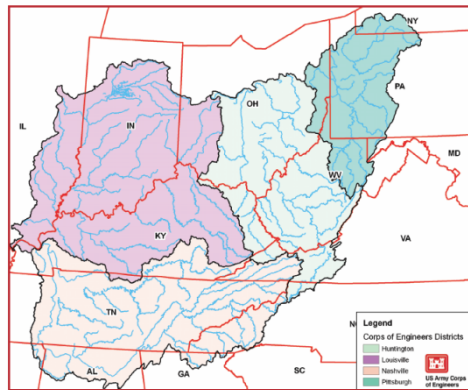
Reconnaissance Report

Identified 20 separate recommendations



December 2009

Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Reconnaissance Report



US Army Corps of Engineers
Pittsburgh–Nashville–Louisville–Huntington
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division



December 2009

Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Reconnaissance Report Appendices

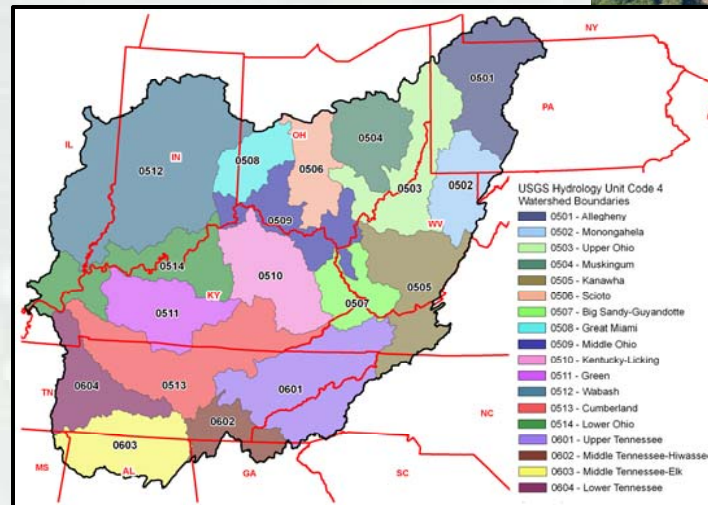


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Four Priority Recommendations

- Basin-wide Water Management Study
- Infrastructure Reinvestment Plan
- Watershed Management Plans
- Formation of a Collaborative Organization



Ohio River Basin Alliance

- Steering Committee
- Four Working Groups
- www.OhioRiverBasin.org
- Over 80 Agencies & Organizations
- Four Successful Conferences
 - ▶ Covington, KY – Oct 09
 - ▶ Columbus, OH – Feb 10
 - ▶ Charleston, WV – Aug 10
 - ▶ Indianapolis, IN – Mar 11
- **Guiding Principles**
 - ▶ Inclusiveness
 - ▶ Capitalize on existing collaborations
 - ▶ Do not impede or infringe on the mission of any organization



ORBA Steering Committee with Guest
(3 members not pictured)

Ohio River Basin Alliance

■ Working Groups

- ▶ Enterprise & Infrastructure (Lead: Harry Stone, URS Consultants, Inc.)
- ▶ Sustainability, Growth, & Competitiveness (Lead: Kari Mackenbach, Battelle)
- ▶ Restoration & Protection (Lead: John Stark, TNC)
- ▶ Water Availability & Management (Lead: John Hoopingarner, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District)

Vision: The Ohio River Basin

Collaboration Initiative will support and implement integrated management of the Ohio River Basin's resources to achieve sustainable economic growth, ecological integrity and public safety.



Future Horizons - Corps

- Continued support of the emerging collaborative & cooperative partnership through the Ohio River Basin Alliance
- Participate in the development of a Unified Vision for the Ohio River Basin's water resources



***Develop an Ohio River Basin Strategy
to accomplish authorization and
budgetary goals***

