

## RIVERS INITIATIVE

- Protects and restores America's rich legacy of rivers for people & wildlife
- Enhances river recreation and access
- Supports tourism & outdoor recreation jobs
- Makes the federal government a better partner to enable communities to take action to secure economic, social, recreational, and ecological benefits of having a healthy river
- Supports four conservation and recreational opportunities: demonstration projects, the National Blueways System, the National Water Trails System, and overarching tools and resources for rivers

### RIVER DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS (51)

- Identifies 51 river conservation and recreation projects that involve Bureau programs and resources
- Displays the technical expertise and diversity of work being performed by the Bureaus
- Shares lessons learned, which will improve implementation efficiency and project success
- Supports two types of projects: recreation and restoration
  - *Connecting Communities and Rivers* – improves recreational access, and/or connects communities to nearby rivers, or builds appreciation and use of rivers through education, interpretation and/or outreach
  - *Restoring Rivers through Collaboration* – restores aquatic and riparian habitat, fish passage, natural flows, water quality, and/or habitat function

### EXAMPLE OF TANGIBLE OUTCOMES

- National Water Trail designation
- National Blueways System designation
- Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration
- Fish passage
- Invasive species control
- Endangered, threatened, and native species recovery
- Land protection and acquisition
- River access construction and improvements
- River trail development

### NATIONAL BLUEWAYS SYSTEM

- Develops a national designation that recognizes communities and landscape partnerships that are engaging in conservation and recreation efforts that are watershed-driven, partnership-based, and managed adaptively
- Promotes a large landscape approach to watershed management - from "source to sea"
- Promotes river conservation, recreation, education, and stewardship
- Develops evaluation process with designation criteria

### NATIONAL WATER TRAIL SYSTEM

- Administered by the National Park Service
- Develops a Secretarial designation for exemplary water trail on entire or segments of rivers
- Promotes stewardship and conservation through recreational and educational opportunities
- Promotes best management practices that focuses on recreational opportunities, education, conservation, community support, public information, trail maintenance, and water trail planning
- Serves as a catalyst for protecting and restoring the river and surrounding lands
- Establishes a community that mentors and promotes the development of the water trail and shares the best management practices

### TOOLS AND RESOURCES

- Provides resources to facilitate conservation and recreation partnerships
- Supports communication of conservation and recreation ideas
- Improves conservation and recreation implementation efficiency and project effectiveness and success
- Tools and resources under consideration, includes a website that is an inventory of the Bureaus' technical and financial assistance programs and a GIS-based

### ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INVENTORY

- Develops a website that identifies the technical and financial assistance programs available within the Department
- Facilitates partnerships by connecting potential partners with Bureau programs
- Promotes leveraging of technical and financial resources

### RIVER ATLAS

- Develops a GIS-based watershed planning tool that allows communities to plan and implement river conservation and recreation activities
- Promotes collaboration and leveraging of technical and financial resources
- Serves as a potential outreach tool that promotes conservation accomplishments and recreational opportunities