



Mississippi River Flooding Natural Solutions for an Unnatural Disaster

**Protecting and restoring *natural defenses* is critical to
a safe, affordable and sustainable flood protection system**

Washington, DC (May 18, 2011) – “In the 20th century, we built a system of levees and other flood control structures on the Mississippi River that gave a false sense of security to communities,” said **John Kostyack**, vice president of wildlife conservation for the National Wildlife Federation. “Now, we have an opportunity to provide real security to millions of people by using wetlands, floodplains and other natural defenses to buffer communities from flood waters.”

In a new report, [*Mississippi River Flooding: Natural Solutions for an Unnatural Disaster*](#), the National Wildlife Federation identifies five ways government actions are contributing to the extraordinary flooding, and five specific recommendations for policymakers to avoid or minimize catastrophes like this. Key recommendations include:

- **Floodplain development**

According to **David Muth**, Louisiana state director for the National Wildlife Federation, “restoration of the Mississippi River floodplain and delta ecosystems will reduce flood threats to communities, improve opportunities for commercial uses of the river, and save the American taxpayers billions in the long run.”

- **Modernize Federal Water Policy Guidelines**

“The Administration could make a real difference for Mississippi River communities by releasing new water resources planning guidelines that use natural solutions to maximize flood protection and minimize human suffering,” said **Melissa Samet**, senior water resources council for the National Wildlife Federation. “With the right guidelines in place, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies can help revitalize communities devastated by flooding and better manage water projects along the Mississippi River and throughout the country.”

- **Protect Wetlands and Streams from Development**

“Rivers like the Mississippi flood worst where unwise planning, engineering and political decisions have been made,” said **Dr. Nicholas Pinter**, professor of Geology at Southern Illinois University. “A vital first step in improving U.S. river management is to require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use the best available science in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of river projects.”

- **Reduce Carbon Pollution**

To avoid increased damage from heavy intense rainfall events and other impacts of human-caused climate change, Americans must begin taking steps to reduce carbon pollution.

Resources to help now

Aidmatrix Network

<http://www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/CashDonations/Default2.aspx?ST=FEMA#>

Web resource lists all the organizations that are involved in the flood relief effort that you can donate to.

American Red Cross

https://american.redcross.org/site/Donation2?idb=1995159195&df_id=1086&1086.donation=form1

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-435-7669)

Text "REDCROSS" to 90999 to make a \$10 donation

The Salvation Army

https://secure20.salvationarmy.org/?projectId=USS-2011_Floods

Call 1-800-SAL-ARMY

Text "GIVE" to 80888 to make a \$10 donation

United Way

<http://news.uwmidsouth.org/donations-for-flood-relief-2011/>

FEMA

<http://www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/fema/>

Call 1-202-355-5475

AmeriCares:

https://secure.americares.org/site/Donation2?idb=543755568&df_id=1520&1520.donation=form1&JServSessionIdr007=b7mlb5z6s6.app13b

Call 1-800-486-HELP (1-800-486-4357)

Contact:

Mékell Mikell, Ph.D., 703.438.6273, mikell@nwf.org

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