

319(h) Nonpoint Source Monitoring Proposals
Focused in Priority Watersheds
USEPA Region 6

Jane Watson, Ph.D.,
Associate Director
Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division



Problem...Data Gaps

- Resources allocated to State routine monitoring programs are often limited to adequately determine whether watershed restoration efforts are improving water quality
 - Routine Monitoring programs rely on collection of monthly chemistry grab samples at fixed locations for standards attainment decisions
 - Often employ a rotating basin monitoring cycle where some watersheds are not sampled every year

- Two Region 6 States have submitted proposals requesting 319(h) funds to monitor water quality improvements resulting from implementation of nutrient reducing BMP's through USDA's MRBI



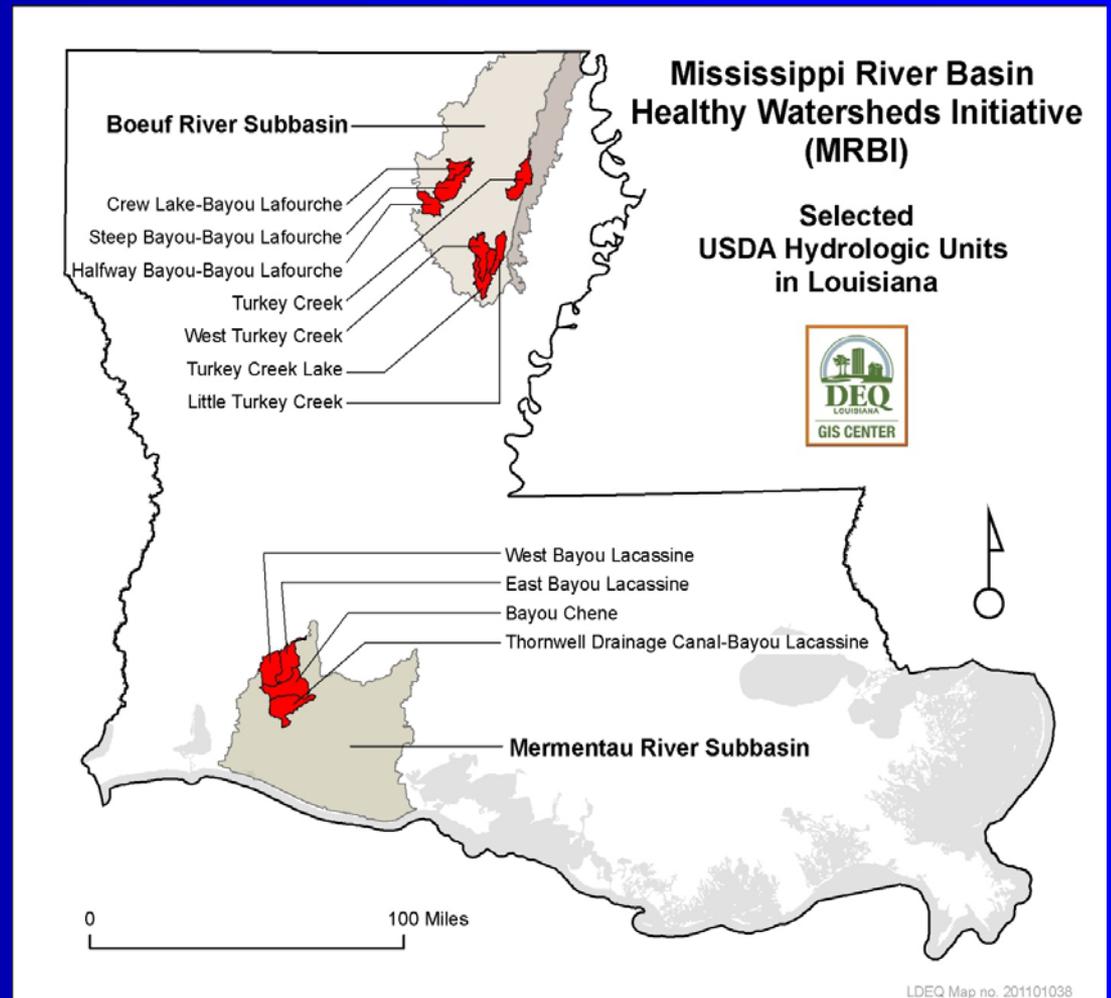
Regional and National Priority to Compliment MRBI Efforts

- The Region was able to allocate unspent Section 319(h) funds which could be used to fund projects competitively and non-competitively.
- Meetings took place between EPA-Region 6, State Agency and NRCS management to build collaborative partnership and solicit project proposals.



LDEQ Monitoring Proposals for the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI)

Four monitoring proposals submitted by LDEQ requesting 1.1 million in 319(h) funds to collect weekly chemistry and biannual biological data in eleven impaired priority 12- digit HUCs



Proposal Objectives

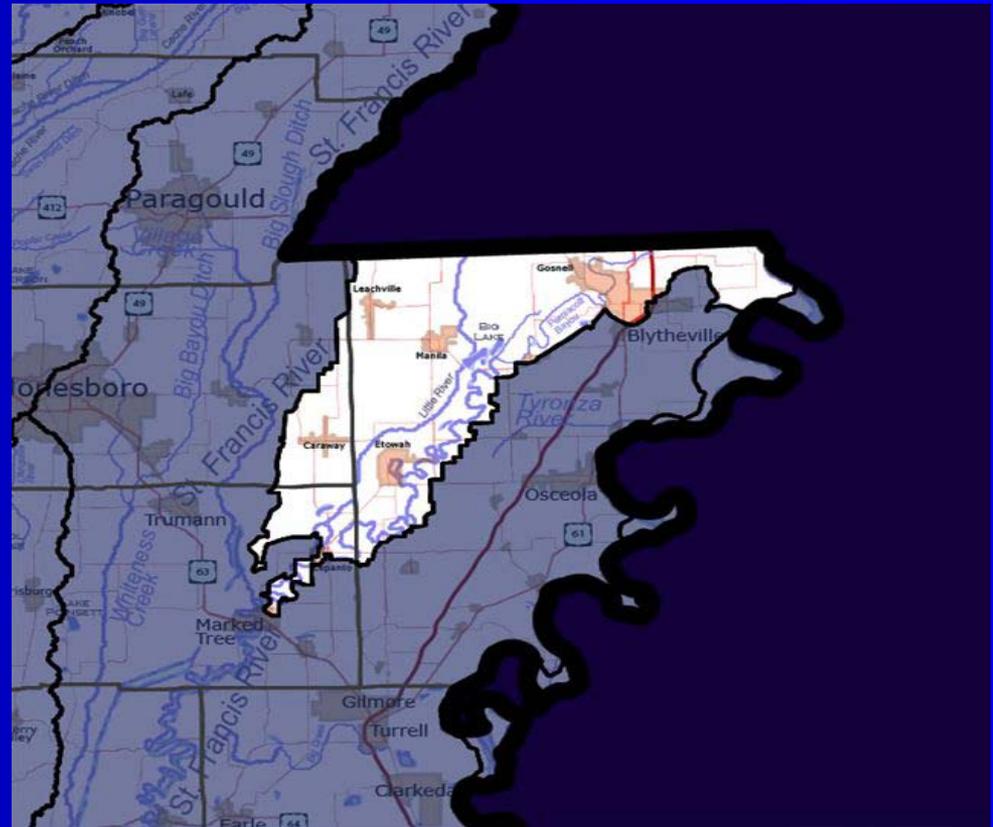
- Demonstrate water quality improvements resulting from nutrient reducing BMP's implemented through USDA's MRBI through....
 - The collection of weekly chemistry measurements over two year period in each 12 digit HUC (DO, BOD, TSS, TS, TDS, phosphorus, nitrate-nitrite)
 - Collection of biannual biological data (fish and macroinvertebrates)

- Chemistry and biological data will used to document watershed restoration measures (SP-12 measure) and NPS success stories (WQ-10)



Arkansas 319(h) Monitoring Proposal-Little River Ditches Watershed (LRDW)

- Project area includes 6 adjacent sub-watersheds in the LRDW located in Craighead and Poinsett Counties
- LRDW was identified by NRCS as a target watershed in the MRBI to reduce sediment and nutrient loading to the MS
- Proposal complements the MRBI Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)



Project Objectives

- Partnership with USDA, Arkansas State University and ANRC to measure the effectiveness of MRBI on water quality
- Intensive collection of water samples over a two year period
- Focus collection efforts in three sub-watersheds above and below BMP implementation to show water quality improvements in LRDW
- Assess water quality improvements through the reduction of sediment and nutrient loading in Delta Streams
- Document restoration through NPS success stories



LA/AR Proposal Strengths

- Monitoring efforts focused in priority watersheds with TMDLs and known NPS nutrient reduction targets
- Intensive sampling effort (weekly chemistry, biannual biological collection) will assist in determining incremental improvements by...
 - tracking individual pollutants
 - crediting partial restoration
- Opportunity to forge partnerships with State Agriculture Departments, Universities and NRCS in further developing monitoring strategy

