“Conservation – the Other Economy”

LEIGHANN GIPSON – USACE MEMPHIS DISTRICT
RON NASSAR – SE REGION USFWS
Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee
ECONOMICS & THE RIVER

• 113 COUNTY CORRIDOR IN 7 STATES
• $128 BILLION
• 900,000 JOBS

• TOURISM
• $13 BILLION
• 180,000 JOBS

WWW.LMRCC.ORG
OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
2006 ECONOMIC REPORT

• $628 BILLION ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

• 5.5+ MILLION JOBS (1 IN 17 U.S. JOBS)

• GENERATES ~$77 BILLION FEDERAL/STATE TAXES

• 7+% OF CONSUMER SPENDING
## JOBS & TAXES GENERATED BY ACTIVITY CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>JOBS(M)</th>
<th>TAXES(B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAMPING</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>$36.4 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BICYCLING</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>$17.7 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRAILS</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>$11.2 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHING</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>$4.1 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILDLIFE VIEWING</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>$2.7 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADDLING</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>$4.8 B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GEOTOURISM

Tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of the place being visited – its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well being of its residents

100 MILLION - 2010

55 MILLION GEOTOURISTS - 2003

TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA - MAY 2002
Natural Resource-Based Economic Development
239 RESTORATION PROJECTS

- **Improved Access** – Boat ramps, land acquisition, easements
- **Floodplain Lake Restoration** – weirs, rehabilitation of connecting channels, reforestation
- **Increase Channel Habitat Diversity** – chevrons, hard-points, dike notching
- **Side Channel Restoration** – notch closing structures, dredging, reforestation
- **Create Sandbar Channels** – dike notching
RESTORING AMERICA’S GREATEST RIVER (TM)
ISLAND 63 FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

River Mile 640.5
Phillips Co., AR
Quapaw Ldg
Coahoma Co., MS
AQUATIC HABITAT REHABILITATION
HELENA (RM 664)

106 RIVER MILES

Lower MS River Fishing & Boating Trail

AR CITY (RM 558)
“Conservation – the Other Economy”

Healthy Lower MS River

River-related recreation

River-related expenditures

create

demand

River-dependent economy

generate

create