



February 22, 2016

Mr. Greg Conover
Mr. John Goss
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9053 Route 148
Marion, Illinois 62959

Dear Mr. Conover and Mr. Goss:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to prioritize funding for activities that will do the most to protect the Upper Mississippi River Basin from the further spread of invasive Asian carp.

In particular, Lock and Dam #19 is a critical location due to the number of Asian carp in that location and the ability for any work there to inform work elsewhere on the Mississippi River. We urge the agency to designate sufficient funds to advance important work at this location.

Additionally, much work remains to protect the native fish species in the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers in Minnesota and Wisconsin. With the support of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), actions have been taken to control the spread and minimize the impacts of invasive carp in these waters, including closure of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock. However, there are several promising projects at Locks 2, 5, and 8 and other work identified in the Minnesota Invasive Carp Action Plan that the MN DNR can pursue if provided the appropriate resources. We urge the FWS to support this critical work.

We recognize the FWS for its valuable leadership role in advancing key initiatives to stop and/or slow the spread of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. We thank you for considering our requests to prioritize some of these efforts.

Sincerely,

Stop Carp Coalition

Coalition Members:

Christine Goepfert, Senior Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association

Jason Dinsmore, Regional Representative
National Wildlife Federation

Gary Botzek, Executive Director
Minnesota Conservation Federation

Deb Ryun, Executive Director
St. Croix River Association

Scott Strand, Executive Director
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Jeffrey S. Broberg
President, Minnesota Trout Association and Vice Chair, National Trout Center

Rick Chapman, President
Midwest Marina Association

Katie Nyberg, Executive Director
Mississippi Park Connection

Jeff Forester, Executive Director
Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Barb Halbakken Fischburg, Director
MN Coalition of Lake Associations (MNCOLA)

Barry Drazkowski, President
Izaak Walton League of America - Minnesota Division

Kevin ChapdeLaine, Board President
Friends of Pool 2

Whitney Clark, Executive Director
Friends of the Mississippi River

Lance Ness, President
Anglers for Habitat and Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance

Deanna White, State Director
Clean Water Action Minnesota

Paul Austin, Executive Director
Conservation Minnesota

Scott Sparlin, Executive Director
Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

John P. Lenczewski, Executive Director
Minnesota Trout Unlimited