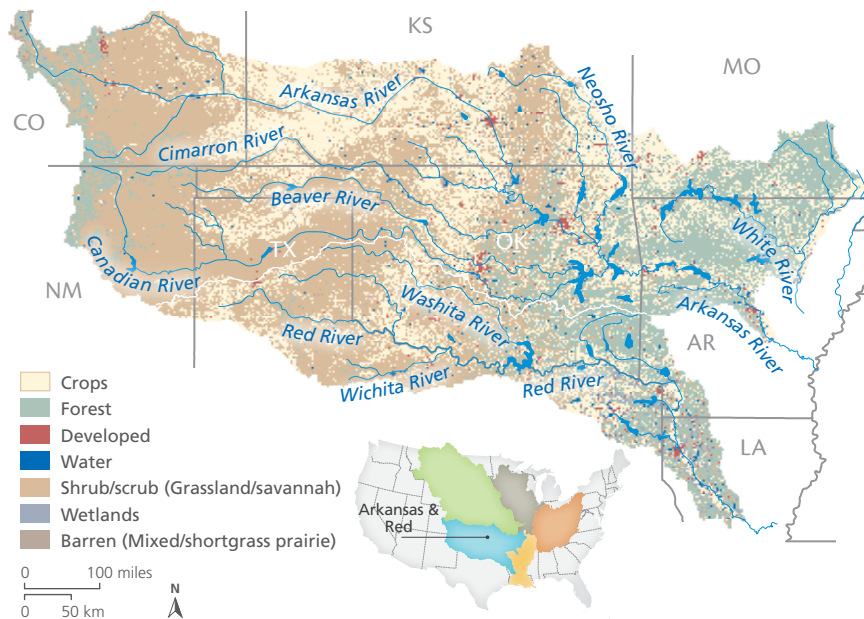




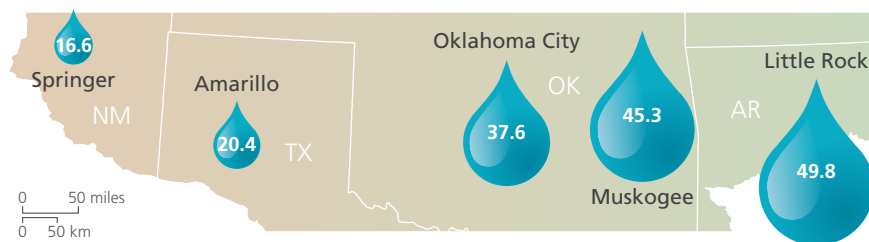
Report card workshop

Arkansas River & Red River Basins

America's Watershed Initiative is a collaboration of organizations, businesses, and agencies which will bring a basin-wide perspective to the Mississippi River Basin's greatest challenges. Developing a comprehensive watershed report card is an important component of the Initiative. It will summarize and communicate the status and trends in achieving objectives for six broad management goals. The report card results will encourage people and organizations to engage in issues affecting the watershed.



The America's Watershed Initiative Report Card project continued with a regional workshop for the Arkansas River and Red River Basins, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 14–15, 2014. At the workshop, stakeholders and experts from social, economic, and environmental sectors identified easily understood and transparent ways to measure status and trends for the Arkansas River and Red River Basins in relation to six broad goals. Similar workshops will be convened in each of the remaining basins and results will be integrated into a report card for the entire Mississippi River Basin.



The map (top) shows land use in the Arkansas River and Red River Basins. The graph (bottom) shows the gradient of average annual precipitation (in inches) across the basins from west to east.



Bassmaster Classic fishing tournament on the Red River. Image courtesy of Shreveport–Bossier Sports Commission



Cattle grazing in Oklahoma. Image courtesy of Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.



Aerial view of the Port of Catoosa in Tulsa. Image courtesy of Tulsa Port of Catoosa.

Droughts, reservoirs, and diversity

The **Arkansas River**'s headwaters are fed by melting snowpack in the Colorado Rockies. From Colorado, the Arkansas River flows east and southeast through Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas before reaching the Mississippi River. At 1,469 miles, it is the sixth-longest river in the U.S. and the second-longest tributary in the Mississippi watershed. Beginning in Oklahoma, there are 18 locks and dams which are part of the McClellan–Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) that enables commercial navigation and enhances recreational use. The system also provides water supply, hydroelectric power, and flood control for the lower Arkansas River Basin. Above the MKARNS, there are two other multipurpose reservoir projects on the Arkansas River.

Arkansas before reaching its confluence with the Mississippi River in Louisiana. The Red River Compact between Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas apportions the waters of the Red River and its tributaries. High levels of naturally occurring chloride in some surface waters of the basin are a concern, and federally funded chloride control projects have been operating there since 1962. Denison Dam on the Red River near the Texas–Oklahoma border forms Lake Texoma, the 12th largest reservoir in the U.S. The dam was authorized for construction in 1938 for authorized project purposes of flood control, water supply, hydroelectric power, regulation of Red River flows, improvement of navigation, and recreation.

From its headwaters in New Mexico, the **Red River** flows along the Texas–Oklahoma border and into

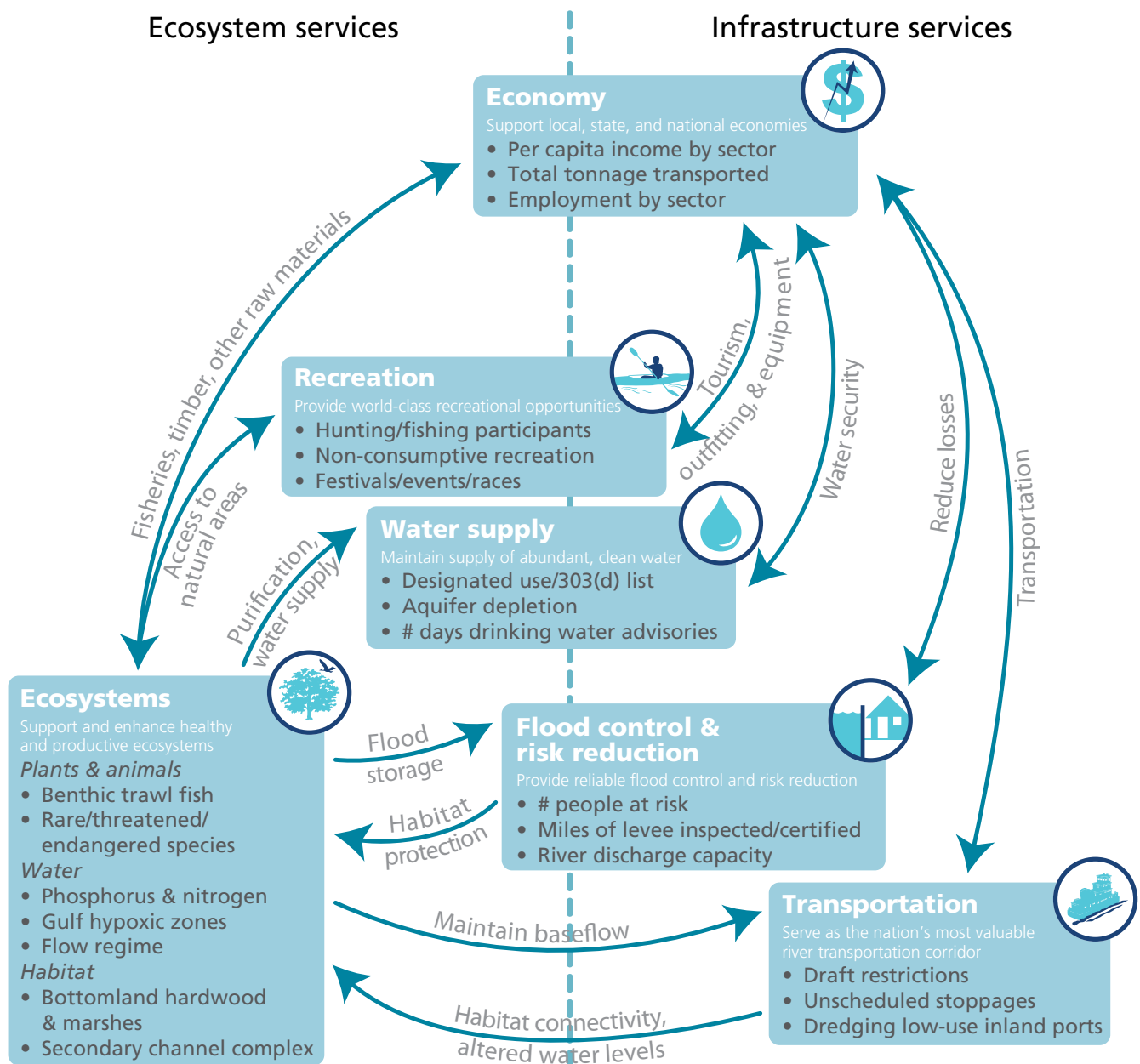


Arkansas River & Red River basins features				
Corn farming	Hydropower	Shipping/navigation	Locks and dams	Waterfowl flyways
Winter wheat (Crop farming)	Birding	Biodiversity	Steel manufacturing	Trout
Cattle grazing	Hunting	Logging	Fishing tournaments	Water supply
Forest	Rare, threatened, endangered species	Pig farming	Recreation	Chicken farming

A conceptual diagram illustrates the main threats and key features of the Arkansas River and Red River Basins.

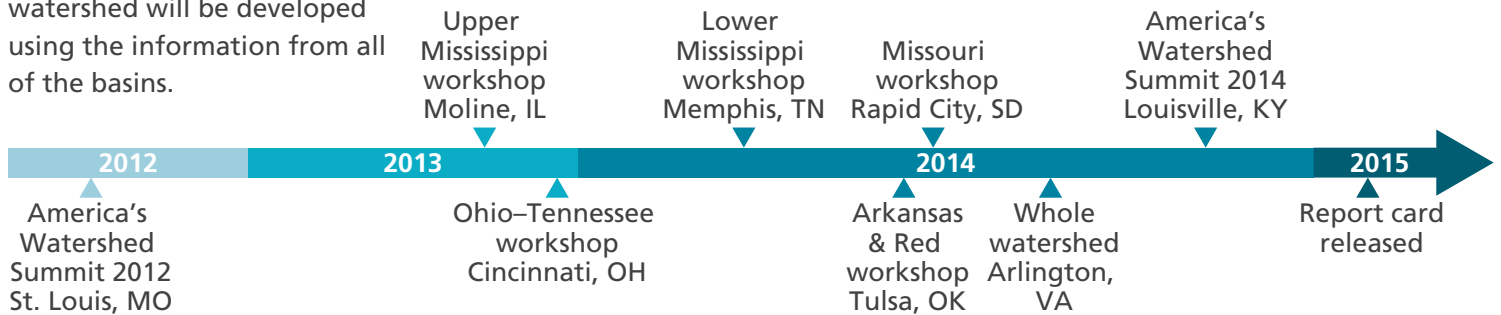
Potential indicators for the Arkansas River & Red River Basins

America's Watershed Report Card is designed to report on the status of achieving six broad goals developed at the America's Watershed Summit in September 2012. The goals were developed to reflect the things that people value in the watershed. Potential indicators for each goal were determined at the Arkansas River and Red River Basins workshop. The final list of indicators will be determined by several factors, including data availability and how well they represent the goals.



The report card process and timeline

Generating a report card requires participation from managers, scientists, researchers, subject experts, and other stakeholders knowledgeable about resources and available data. The process requires broad representation across sectors and geographic areas throughout each basin. These experts provide input on goals, values, desired conditions, and indicators of watershed health in each of the basins. The workshop process brings different groups together to create a product and promotes broad perspectives, dialogue, and collaboration among different sectors and participants. Information and feedback from other sources unable to attend the workshops will be sought to strengthen the report card. The Mississippi River watershed includes parts of 31 states and two Canadian provinces. The watershed includes six basins, which will each have their own indicators, scores, and report card results. Stakeholders from all sectors will participate in workshops in each basin. A report card for the whole watershed will be developed using the information from all of the basins.



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League), David Engle (Oklahoma State University), Ed Fite (Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission), JD Strong (Oklahoma Water Resources Board), William Hobgood (Ouachita River Valley Association), Richard Brontoli (Red River Valley Association), Colin Brown (Red River Waterway Commission), Herbert Graves (State Association of Kansas Watersheds), Kelly Holligan (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), Ruben Soils (Texas Water Development Board), Michael Fuhr (The Nature Conservancy), David Yarbrough (Tulsa Port of Catoosa), Jacob Brister, Thomas Hengst, Lori Hunninghake, David Jenkins, Michael Abate, Colonel Courtney Paul, Colonel Richard Pratt (US Army Corps of Engineers), David Taylor (Waurika Master Conservancy District)

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