

# DISASTER RECOVERY JOBS PROGRAM

# DRIVER





**JOBS**  
MISSOURI DISASTER RECOVERY JOBS PROGRAM



# Contents

**Background 4**

**Opportunity 6**

**Testimony 8**

**Regions 10**

**Partners 22**

**Video Attached**

# Background

**TO** say Missouri people and their communities are resilient is... an understatement. In 2011, Missouri was slammed with natural disasters truly testing the mettle of all Missourians. From thousands of acres of land flooded by the Missouri River in the northwest, to thousands more flooded by the Mississippi River in the southeast, to an EF-4 tornado striking St. Louis, and one month later an EF-5 tornado literally ripping across the cities of Joplin and Duquesne ... "resilient," at best, is an understatement.

At every turn, Missourians and their affected communities immediately rose to the challenge putting their lives back together. Thousands of miles of roadway and bridges were destroyed or damaged by floodwaters, and thousands of homes and businesses were erased from the landscape by the deadliest U.S. tornado in 65 years. As serious as the tornado that hit St. Louis April 22, 2011, was, it was dwarfed by the powerful EF-5, multiple-vortex twister that devastated Joplin and Duquesne May 22, taking 161 lives, and injuring more than 1,000 people. One common denominator was evident—people were displaced, and they needed help.

The U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) approved a National Emergency Grant (NEG) for \$5.8 million to the Division of Workforce Development (DWD) on May 27, and the Disaster Recovery Jobs Program (DRJP) was created. DRJP would initially provide 400 temporary laborers to remove debris in Joplin and Duquesne. More than 17 months later, the program combines two grants, totaling \$39.2 million, operating more than 100 Worksites in over 30 counties. Expectations are the program will employ more than 2,450 participants, as well as thousands more benefitting from their labors.

DRJP was made possible through a collaboration with the Missouri National Guard (MONG); Worksites consisting of city, county, and non-profit agencies; nine Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs); US DOL; local businesses; educational institutions; and DWD. The benefits of DRJP went far beyond employment. In repairing more than 1,500 miles of gravel roads and levees, removing hundreds of tons of debris, restoring parks, coordinating volunteers, and managing donations, many lives have been profoundly altered.

The stories have—and continue to be—amazing! DRJP gave many participants a sense of pride and accomplishment, including those who had "the perfect job" and lost it all in the tornado. Others already had been searching for employment for short and long periods of time. DRJP gave hundreds of participants a second chance and allowed them to upgrade skills at the Worksites or get a "foot in the door" for future employment.

The City of Joplin, the biggest Worksite, has repeatedly stated it would not be where it is in recovering and rebuilding without this large workforce. County commissioners across Missouri rejoiced at having their "own" unemployed people working again and helping to clean-up their communities. The affected State Parks have been able to reopen to millions of visitors and attendant tourism revenue. Local businesses were able to stay open due to DRJP purchases and now enjoy better economic conditions. Local residents like to see tax dollars working in their "own backyard." The perception of the plight of unemployed has changed in many areas, and the long-lasting partnerships established are too numerous to count.

DWD continues to take a lot of pride in the DRJP, and the agency hopes you enjoy this brochure and video.

Sincerely,



Jeriane Jaegers  
National Emergency Grant Coordinator  
Division of Workforce Development



Julie Gibson  
Director, Division of Workforce Development  
Department of Economic Development



Steve Danner  
Major General  
Missouri National Guard



*Flooding in northwest (above) and southeast Missouri (below right) was a sharp contrast to the devastation experienced by the communities of Joplin (left and below left) and Duquesne when they were hit with an EF-5 tornado May 22, 2011.*



# Opportunity



**FROM TOP LEFT:**  
Workers in the Ozark Region; Participant flags traffic during roadwork in South Central Region; Debris workers in Duquesne; Participants at local partnership in Joplin organize donations for tornado victims.



## Life Changing Opportunity: A Participant Story

If someone were to describe Kasi Mallatt's story in one word it would be "opportunity." Just before the Joplin tornado hit Mallatt was buying drugs from a friend, little did she know in a matter of minutes her life would be changed forever. Seeing her community surrounded by destruction and loss, she saw the tornado as a sign to turn her life around for the better. Since that day Mallatt has not used drugs and was hired on as a participant for the DRJP, later gaining full-time employment in Joplin. Mallatt's story is unique, but she is not alone among the numerous participants that have used this program to make a positive change in themselves and their community.

extatic work. When I got the call to work. This opportunity has been AMAZING for me & I am honored to say I was apart of such a wonderful program.  
Kasi Mallatt

Saint Louis County Region: EF-4 Tornado hits  
April 22, 2011

## Local Project Operators

WIB Director Melissa Robbins and DRJP Project Coordinator Truett Ray, manage the DRJP project in the South Central Region. They say they have seen positive impacts from all aspects including: participants, local residents, businesses and the overall economy. Ray, credits the programs uniqueness in that both long-time workers and those just entering the workforce are able to learn skills that lead them to gainful employment. Robbins agrees, adding that without the program many would still be without work.



*Workers clean up downed trees from flooding in the West Central Region. Flood waters caused trees to block roadways and ditches.*

**Southern Flooding: 434 road closures and city evacuations**

**April 26, 2011**

**Southern Flooding: New Madrid levee is breached with 500,000 acres of land under water**

**May 2, 2011**

# Testimony

“I would love to hire all of them if and when Scott County can afford it.”  
--Jamie Burger, Presiding Commissioner for Scott County, Southeast Region

“... a sense of pride in my community”

“... it stimulated the economy”



**FROM TOP LEFT:**  
*Participants departing after debris removal in Duquesne; cleanup in the heart of town in Ozark Region.*

“I think it is a good idea-giving folks jobs and helping clean-up storm damage. I got lucky.”  
--Donald Henderson, Howell County, South Central Region

Saint Louis County Region: FEMA 1980 Declaration announced  
May 9, 2011

Southwest Region: EF-5 Tornado hits Joplin and Duquesne  
May 22, 2011

**“Everything is real good down here. This program has helped a lot. I had no job, no income. I’m glad to work.”**

**– Cortez Wallace, Debris Removal, Sam A. Baker State Park**

Being a family man, I have prided myself on being a hard worker and have always sought out gainful employment, but with the decline in the economy I found myself with very few prospects of any employment throughout the small rural area where I live.

With bills piling up and not knowing what lies ahead I found the opportunity to enter a work program through the Washington County Work Connection. I was placed on the Disaster Recovery Jobs Program with the City of Potosi.

This program allowed me to get a "foot in the door" and prove my worth as an employee. As luck would have it a job opened up with the City of Potosi and I was hired full time.

My family and I owe a debt of gratitude to staff and programs. In this difficult time when good jobs are hard if not impossible to find I am grateful I was afforded this chance to re-enter the workforce.

Sincerely,

Byron Lyons

Water/Sewer Department, City of Potosi, Central Region





**FROM TOP RIGHT TO BOTTOM LEFT:**  
*Tornado destruction in Joplin; Workers remove debris impeding water runoff in South Central Region; Floodwaters near Popular Bluff in Southern Missouri; Remains of St. John's Hospital sits under a rainbow before it's demolition.*

Gov. Nixon: Directs the Missouri National Guard to coordinate and supervise clean up in Joplin

May 26, 2011

Southern Flooding: FEMA adds 13 counties to Declaration 1980  
US DOL: Approves MO-34 grant for \$5.8 Million

May 27, 2011

# Southwest

On May 22, 2011 an EF-5 tornado with greater than 200 mph winds hit Joplin which has approximately 49,000 residents and resulted in 165 fatalities and more than 1,000 injured. The twister was the deadliest since modern record-keeping began in 1950 and is ranked 8th among the deadliest tornadoes in U.S. history. The path of the tornado is estimated at 13 miles long and more than half of a mile wide. The tornado leveled 30 percent of Joplin spilling over into the neighboring town of Duquesne, destroying 70 percent. In Joplin, there were 8,000 buildings and 30 percent of housing destroyed.

Many businesses were destroyed including St. Johns Hospital. Several Joplin schools sustained significant damage including Joplin High School which had just celebrated graduation earlier that day. Total debris spread 3 million cubic yards, larger than the World Trade Center's debris at two million cubic yards. Facing large scale disaster clean-up DRJP participants were hired taking to the streets and office to provide recovery.

Barton	Dade
Jasper	Lawrence
Newton	Barry
McDonald	

## DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,400 hires
- 400 tons and 700 blocks of debris removed
- 35 miles of roadways and ditches cleared
- 1,686 trees planted
- 149,950 pounds of clothing distributed
- 31,418 volunteers and victim families served meals
- 1,151 tornado related calls answered
- 6,408 demolition and building permits processed

Southwest DRJP Jobs End 6/30/2013

Southern Flooding: FEMA adds 20 counties to Declaration 1980

June 1, 2011

Northwest Flooding: Levees rupture in Iowa

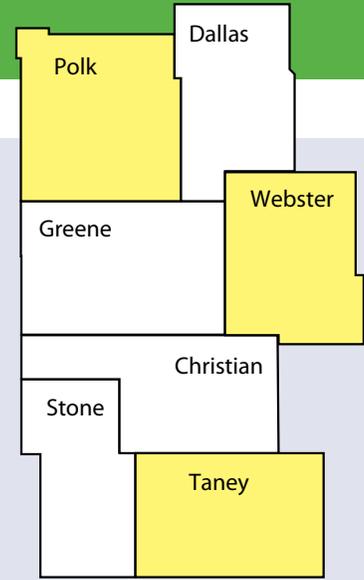
June 13, 2011



There is a different sense of pride in how they carry themselves right down to their work boots.

— Jim Weatherly, DRJP Project Coordinator

# Ozark



*Workers spread gravel on a roadway damaged in the flooding.*

In the Ozark Region, projects began in February 2011. DRJP Coordinator Jim Weatherly states that while some of the participants have a background in construction most learn skills on the job. Weatherly believes the program's job training skills component is a driving force in getting participants out and back to work in the community. "You come three to four months into the program and they are standing a little taller and have more confidence," Weatherly said.

## DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

- 94 hires
- 2,670 culverts cleaned
- Over 20 miles of gravel spread
- 68 projects completed
- 431 miles of road repaired



*Polk County workers remove storm debris from a ditch.*

Ozark DRJP Jobs End 9/30/2013

DWD: Added southern counties to MO-34 grant and requested \$14 million in additional funding

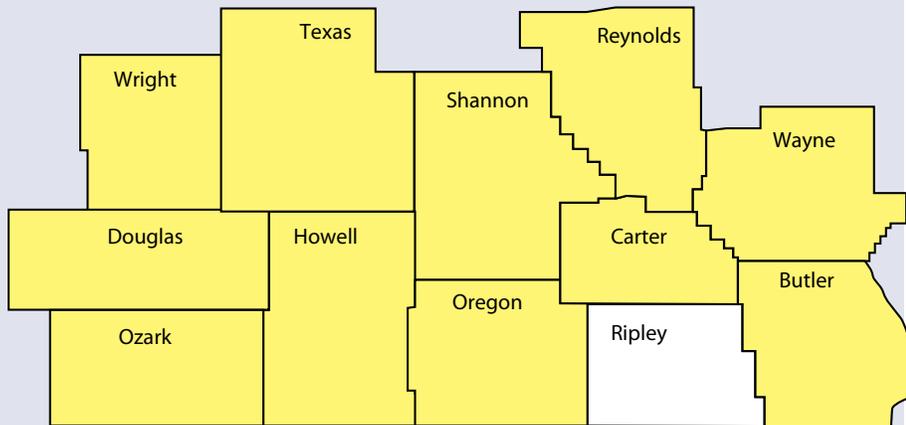
June 29, 2011

US DOL: Approves MO-34 grant, total \$19.8 million

June 30, 2011

# South Central

In the South Central Region participants in the DRJP were put to work in both humanitarian and debris positions. Flood waters destroyed two state parks that contribute to the economic growth in the area. The program is restoring the parks to their original beauty while putting residents to work.



## Participant Testimonial

Glenda Clifford was a DRJP participant at Sam A. Baker State Park in the South Central region. Clifford said she went to her local Career Center looking for employment and was happy to get the position with the program after being laid off from her previous job. After getting the title of lead, she was hired on by the park permanently after her hours with the DRJP were complete. She said the program allowed her to learn supervision and trail tools skills that got her the full time position with the park. "I think it's been wonderful," Clifford said. "It stimulated revenue back into the local economy."



Workers clear ditches in Texas County.

South Central DRJP Jobs End 9/30/2013

### DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

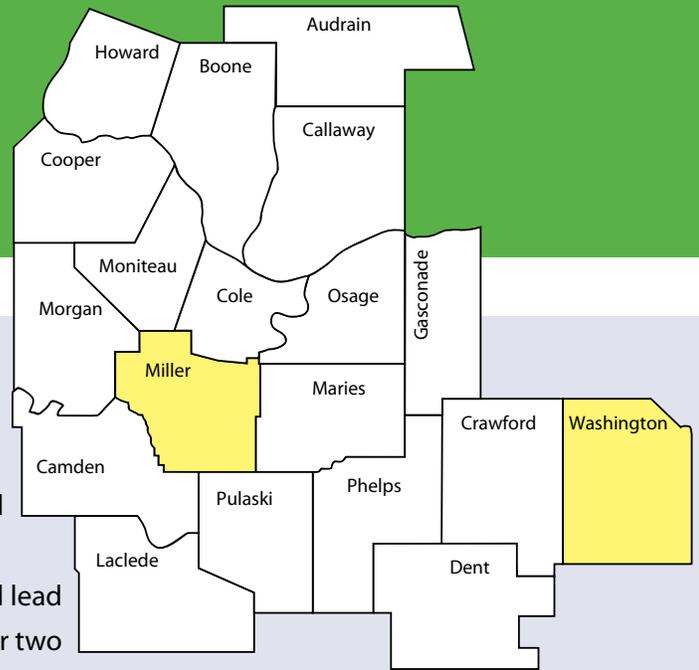
- 400 hires
- Hundreds of miles of road cleared
- 2 State Parks, receiving a total of one million visitors each year, have been restored

Southeast Region: First DRJP participants start July 7, 2011

Central Region: First DRJP participants start July 13, 2011

Southwest Region: 100 participants employed in humanitarian aid and 200 in debris removal July 16, 2011

# Central



Participants are filling in the gaps caused by the flooding with work crews rotating between Miller and Washington Counties. Through the Washington County project participants are able to get their CDL license to operate heavy equipment said Alex Blackwell, DRJP coordinator for the Central WIB. With this certification she explains they are able to add experience that will lead them to long-term employment in the future. Blackwell said so far two participants found full-time employment with the City of Potosi and three participants are employed with the counties.

## Participant Testimonial



Joseph Hinch Sr. is a supervisor for the DRJP in Miller County. He says the program has given him and others, who were once unemployed due to layoffs, a chance to learn new skills while earning an income. "Guys would come here and not know how to operate a dump truck, skid steers or chainsaws. Now they are learning, and it gives them skills that puts them to another job" said Hinch. He believes the program works simultaneously helping people like himself while cleaning up the county so residents can use roadways and parks.

### DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

- 100 hires
- More than 750 miles:
- Debris Cleared
- Gravel roads, culverts and bridges repaired
- Downed trees removed



*Participants work on clearing debris from a county road.*

Central DRJP Jobs End 9/30/2013

South Central Region:  
First DRJP participants start

Northwest Flooding: FEMA Declaration 4012  
announced for 11 counties

Ozark Region: First DRJP  
participants start

DWD: Requests grant for temporary  
labor for Northwest flooding

July 27, 2011

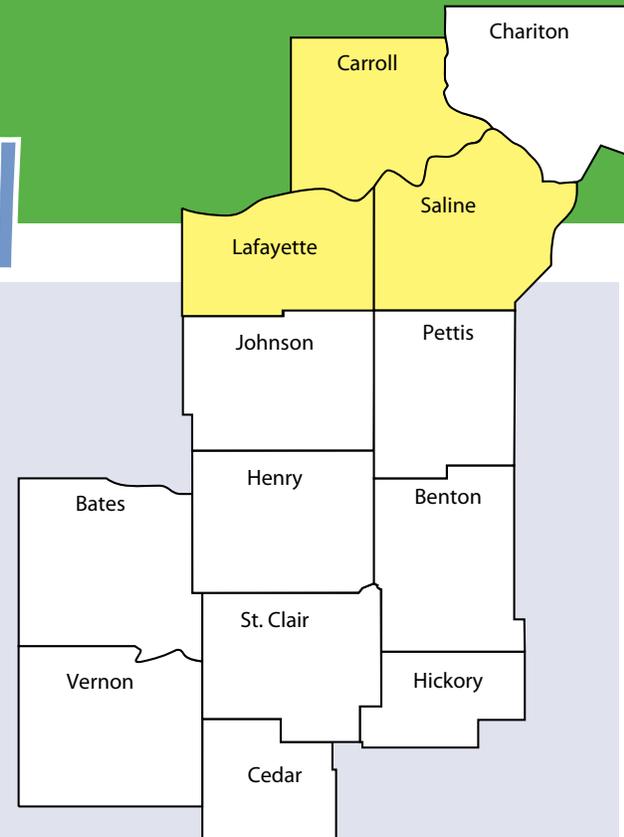
August 12, 2011

August 25, 2011

September 21, 2011

# West Central

In the West Central Region, the floodwaters left many of the levees and roadways in need of repair. In total there were five different levees that needed repair. "Due to the district's non-profit standing, our funds are limited and we are still in debt from the 2007 flood. Without the help in supplying equipment and labor to help stabilize the levee banks we would have lost the levee to the river. We very much appreciate the services and the professional manner of the participants" Kelly Thorp, Saline Levee district president said. Participants and city workers are still hard at work clearing drainage ditches and removing silt.



*Participants operating heavy equipment at Malta Bend levee.*

## DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

- 31 hires
- Thousands of sandbags removed from Cherry Valley Levee
- Silt removed from a 50 foot and a 3/4 mile drainage ditch in Malta Bend Levee
- 1,000 feet of the Saline Levee reinforced with heavy equipment

West Central DRJP Jobs End 12/31/2012

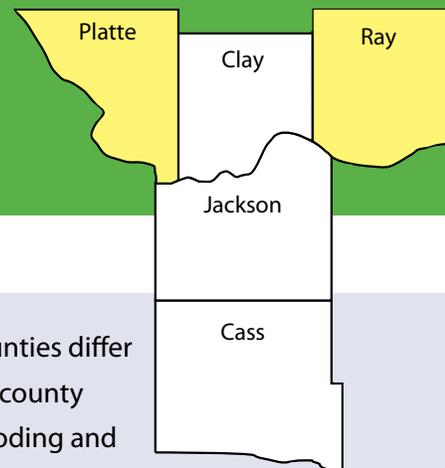
Tornado and Southern Flooding: Total of 1,144 participants employed

September 30, 2011

US DOL: Approves MO-35 grant for first increment of \$1.1 million

October 24, 2011

# Kansas City



The Kansas City area experienced flooding in both Ray and Platte counties. The counties differ greatly, Ray county has one of the highest unemployment rates in the State and Platte county has one of the lowest. In Ray county, participants are removing log jams caused by flooding and which will prevent future flooding, crops from being destroyed and the financial implications that go along with the destruction from flood waters. In Platte County, the restoration of the park, playgrounds, stages and trails will ensure that the thriving community continues to attract visitors.

## Participant Testimonial

Kenneth Veech and Tom McConnell are both supervisors for the Ray County DRJP projects. They say the program has been invaluable in teaching them logging skills, as well as how to lead a team and plan a job. Both are optimistic about their working future and credit the program for their confidence boost. McConnell says "It's a great feeling of accomplishment for yourself and the community."

Veech, who had no prior logging experience before getting hired with the program, hopes he can use his new skills to get a full-time job better than the one he had before he was unemployed. They are excited to see the program stimulating the workforce in their county.



## DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

- 80 hires
- 17,267 working hours complete
- 3 workers found full-time employment
- Levees repaired in Platte and Ray Counties



*Workers in Ray County clear debris from flood waters under a bridge.*

Kansas City DRJP Jobs End 6/30/2013

Tornado and Southern Flooding: Total of 1,349 DRJP participants employed

December 31, 2011

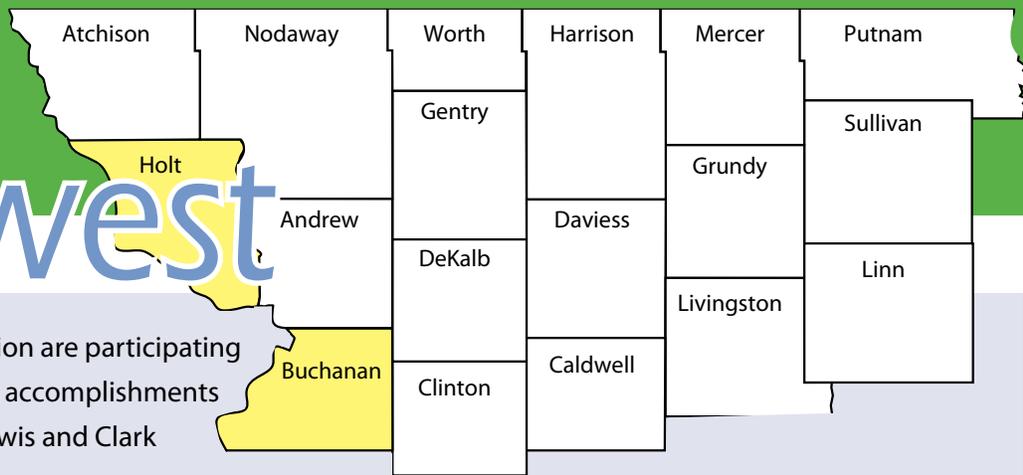
Saint Louis County Region: 7 debris workers begin 2-month project

February 23, 2012

Northwest Flooding: First DRJP participants start

February 28, 2012

# Northwest



Two counties in the Northwest Region are participating in the DRJP. One of the largest program accomplishments in the area was helping clean up the Lewis and Clark State Park.

“Having the extra workers here allowed us to complete projects much faster and more efficiently than we could have done with our small park staff. Tasks were completed in enough time to allow us to open our campground this year, which is something we were not sure was going to be possible” Amber Terry, park superintendent said. The park is an important part to the economy in the Northwest region. Terry thought it was nice that the park got some workers with previous experience in the skills needed to clean-up the park. “We didn’t have to spend as much time training and watching over the workers as we would have done with volunteers of a younger age or smaller skill set,” Terry said.



*Hundreds of miles of roads and highways throughout the region were impacted by the flooding.*

## DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

- 30 hires
- 6,800 saplings planted in Bottomland Forest Area
- Debris removed from a 4-mile area in Holt County
- Debris removed from 15 miles of levee in Holt County
- Over 30 campsites cleared of debris



*Many state parks sustained flood damage.*

Northwest DRJP Jobs End 12/31/2012

Kansas City Region: First DRJP participants  
March 26, 2012

West Central Region: First DRJP participants  
March 29, 2012

Northwest Flooding: 28 DRJP participants  
March 31, 2012

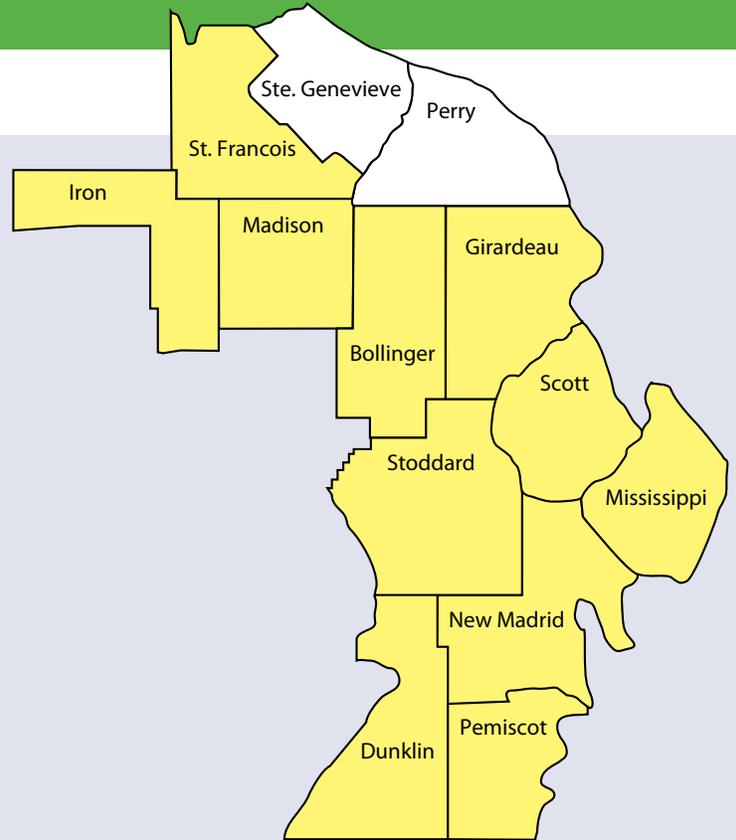
Working in the DRJP gave me the skills I needed for a permanent job that I wasn't qualified for prior to the program.

— Leah Michelsen, Former DRJP Participant

# Southeast

The Southeast Region was the forerunner in DRJP participants beginning work in the flooded Regions. The damages sustained in this Region would not have been addressed without the DRJP. According to Allysia Long, DRJP Project Coordinator, "The Scott County Highway Department continuously attributes its progress to the DRJP and has made tremendous progress hiring two participants." Leah Michelsen was a previous participant in the DRJP program. She strived to be an asset to the assigned humanitarian site and her administrative skills significantly improved.

Eventually, Michelsen received a call for an interview from a local school to provide assistance to students with special needs. Due to her enhanced skills, she was offered and accepted the position.



## DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

- 280 hires
- 1,500 potholes filled
- Over 30 miles of debris removed
- 1,000 damaged trees removed
- 240 culverts cleared
- 4,300 affected families assisted



Debris workers clear a ditch with heavy equipment.

Southeast DRJP Jobs End 6/30/2013

Northwest Flooding: 100 DRJP participants start

DWD: Requests second increment of \$1.1 million for MO-35

US DOL: Approves total MO-35 grant for \$2.2 million

June 30, 2012

August 8, 2012

August 17, 2012

# Saint Louis County



*The tornado left many homeowners with debris in rural St. Louis County.*

Seven St. Louis County area unemployed residents became DRJP participants in February 2011. After resolutions were passed through the County and right-of-entries were obtained, these participants began an 8 week project removing large amounts of debris in

Ferguson. The Ferguson Public Works Supervisor, Ed Giancola, thought the program was beneficial for

both the participants and community clean-up.

Each participant received a recognition certification from the DRJP Program Coordinator acknowledging their service to the Ferguson Community. These participants remain actively engaged with the St. Louis County Missouri Career Center through various employment and training services.

**Personally, I feel proud to be a part of this program. Each of the participants did a great job.**

— Ed Giancola, Public Works Supervisor

## DRJP BY THE NUMBERS

- 7 hires
- Nine properties restored
- Dozens of miles of debris and downed trees removed

Saint Louis County DRJP Jobs End 3/30/2012

DRJP: More than 2,200 participants statewide

September 26, 2012

DWD: Requests additional \$641,000 for MO-35

November 12, 2012

US DOL: Approves total MO-35 grant for \$2.9 million

December 3, 2012

# Partners in collaboration

The Alliance of Southwest Missouri  
Resource Recovery Center  
Joplin Family Worship Center  
Faith Assembly of God Habitat for Humanity  
The Hope Chest  
Crosslines  
Salvation Army



CITY OF DUQUESNE



FEMA



Natural disasters began in the Spring of 2011 with widespread flooding and storms in Southern Missouri. In response to the devastation, State Agencies determined funding available from every possible resource. It was at this time the DWD anticipated applying for a Disaster National Emergency Grant and began holding meetings in coordination with WIBs in the impacted Counties. The Joplin and Duquesne tornado's FEMA declaration for public assistance occurred prior to these Southern Counties being declared, so the first grant application included only the tornado. As other Counties were declared, the grant and the number of partners grew and the bonds formed will remain intact long after the program is complete. The immediate benefits of these partnerships and the massive workforce has allowed record time recovery. The partners include: US DOL, DWD, WIBs, MONG, Worksites and local businesses.

The DRJP would not be possible without the US DOL which quickly approved the grant requests and continues to provide technical assistance. The DWD is the Project Operator and has been all across the State during program start-up and monitors on a regular basis to ensure programmatic success. The nine WIBs act as the local Project Operators ensuring Worksite needs are met and the Missouri Career Centers have provided the participants necessary for the jobs.

On May 26, 2011, Governor Jay Nixon signed Executive Order 11-14 which directed the MONG to coordinate and

supervise clean-up in Joplin. This executive order led to a unique partnership with the MONG and DWD in coordinating the DRJP. Without the MONG, the City of Joplin and Duquesne would not be restored to this point as they provided the supervision and aided in the logistical support to over 1,000 debris workers. In addition, they provided safety training during program startup and continue to provide this and other logistical supports in certain flooded Regions.

The debris Worksites which include: Road, Bridge and Levee Districts, Cities, Counties, Townships, etc. have worked directly with the WIBs to provide the Scope of Work to be accomplished and the necessary supplies and personnel to complete it. In many instances these Worksite supervisors are directly supervising the participants and teaching them valuable skills, in addition to the skills they are learning from each other. This has allowed the clean-up to occur according to County or City priorities and standards.

The non-profit Worksites have reaped the benefits of participants as they had a consistent workforce. This workforce ensured they could handle the influx of victims and in many instances, these organizations can continue to serve the low-income populations while participants assist disaster victims. The participants in these positions have learned a variety of skills that will benefit them as they move onto future positions and training. ■

# Timeline

Date	Occurrence
April 22, 2011	Saint Louis County Region: EF-4 Tornado hits
April 26, 2011	Southern Flooding: 434 road closures and city evacuations
May 2, 2011	Southern Flooding: New Madrid levee is breached with 500,000 acres of land under water
May 9, 2011	Saint Louis County Region: FEMA Declaration 1980 announced
May 22, 2011	Southwest Region: EF-5 Tornado hits Joplin and Duquesne
May 23, 2011	Southwest Region: Jasper and Newton counties added to FEMA Declaration 1980
May 24, 2011	DWD: Requests grant for temporary labor in Joplin
May 26, 2011	Gov. Nixon: Directs Missouri National Guard to coordinate and supervise clean up in Joplin
May 27, 2011	US DOL approves MO-34 grant for \$5.8 million • Southern Flooding: FEMA adds 13 counties to Declaration 1980
June 1, 2011	Southern Flooding: FEMA adds 20 counties to Declaration 1980
June 13, 2011	Northwest Flooding: Levees rupture in Iowa
June 15, 2011	Southwest Region: First humanitarian aid participants working
June 29, 2011	DWD: Added southern counties to MO-34 grant and requested \$14 million in additional funding
June 30, 2011	US DOL: Approves MO-34 grant total \$19.8 million
July 7, 2011	Southeast Region: First DRJP participants start
July 13, 2011	Central Region: First DRJP participants start
July 16, 2011	Southwest Region: 100 participants employed in humanitarian aid and 200 in debris removal
July 27, 2011	South Central Region: First DRJP participants start
August 12, 2011	Northwest Flooding: FEMA Declaration 4012 announced for 11 counties
August 25, 2011	Ozark Region: First DRJP participants start
September 21, 2011	DWD: Requests grant for temporary labor for Northwest flooding
September 30, 2011	Tornado and Southern Flooding: Total of 1,144 participants employed
October 24, 2011	US DOL: Approves MO-35 grant for first increment of \$1.1 million
December 31, 2011	Tornado and Southern Flooding: Total of 1,349 DRJP participants employed
February 23, 2012	Saint Louis County: 7 debris workers begin 2-month project
February 28, 2012	Northwest Region: First DRJP participants start
March 26, 2012	Kansas City Region: First DRJP participants start
March 29, 2012	West Central Region: First DRJP participants start
March 31, 2012	Northwest Flooding: 28 DRJP participants employed
June 30, 2012	Northwest Flooding: 100 DRJP participants employed
August 8, 2012	DWD: Requests second increment of \$1.1 million for MO-35
August 17, 2012	US DOL: Approves total MO-35 grant for \$2.2 million
September 26, 2012	DRJP: More than 2,200 participants statewide
November 12, 2012	DWD: Requests additional \$641,000 for MO-35
December 3, 2012	US DOL: Approves total MO-35 grant for \$2.9 million

Missouri National Guard  
floods revitalization  
Northwest community  
storms levees teamwork  
DEPT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
public entities equipment  
rebuild Central assistance  
Kansas City partnerships  
US DEPT OF LABOR non-profits  
workforce St. Louis County  
pride GOVERNOR JAY NIXON jobs  
West Central local elected officials  
Disaster Recovery Jobs Program  
humanitarian aid recovery  
DIV OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT worksite  
tornado restoration Southeast  
hard work tourism Corps of Engineers  
Southwest Ozark South Central repairs  
skills  
WIB

