

# Emriver, Inc.

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## Sole Source Statement

### Emriver moveable bed geomodels and flumes

#### Utility of moveable bed river models

Emriver, Inc. offers Emriver [**emulated river**] moveable bed river models (MBRM) and flumes. MBRMs and flumes are small-scale physical models of rivers using recirculated flowing water and moveable media. These models overcome science teaching challenges by connecting river science and conservation to everyday life. They realistically and dynamically simulate a wide range of river processes, including sediment transport, meander development and movement, floodplain formation, flow around structures, and fluid dynamics. The models move beyond hands-on learning; most students find it difficult to keep their hands *off* these river models. Emriver models excite the imagination and strongly motivate students to explore and understand river conservation issues.

Photographs, video, and full specifications of Emriver models are available at [emriver.com](http://emriver.com).

#### Sole Source Justification

There are several other MBRMs and flumes on the market. All have limitations that greatly restrict their usefulness. In particular, they are much smaller than Emriver models, the largest MBRM being only 12 square feet in size. The Emriver Em2 is 2.75 ft. x 6.3 ft., giving a surface area of 17 square feet, the Emriver Em3 is 3.25 ft. x 10 ft. giving a surface area of 32.5 square feet, and the Emriver Em4 is 12.14 ft. x 3.9 ft, giving a surface area of 47.3 square feet. The narrow widths of even the largest competitors (26 inches) are inadequate to properly show river meandering processes. The smaller size and box perimeter of the other models also greatly limit the number of students who can observe the model. The Emriver Em2 can easily accommodate a dozen students, while the Emriver Em3 accommodates at least 15 students, and the Emriver Em4 at least 20 students.

The Emriver models and flumes are designed and built for many years of hard use with very little maintenance. They are optimized for size and portability. All other MBRMs use lightweight plastic boxes or tubs to contain the modeling media and water. Emriver models use very strong, engineered aluminum boxes. The Emriver model's supports (most other models provide no support and must be used on a table) are very durable and capable of safely supporting several hundred pounds. The Emriver model's pumping, metering, and flow control systems use the highest quality components. The models use a durable 12-volt brushless DC

pump, which allows field use of Emriver models using battery power. This is not possible without using generators with other models.

Emriver models use a precise electronic controller to control flow rates, and Emriver also offers a digital flow controller to measure flow rates; none of the other models provide flow metering.

All other models employ sand as a modeling media. The Emriver models use plastic modeling media for river modeling, which is much lighter than sand. It is safe and clean, and its bright, varied colors show sediment transport processes better. It is also made from postindustrial materials. Our color-coded by size modeling media is unique worldwide. Its four colors, each a different particle size, demonstrate sediment transport processes with accuracy at the compressed space and time scale of the Emriver stream tables. Sand is not able to accurately show sediment transport processes at such small scales.

The Emriver models come with a comprehensive instruction manual with exercises and demonstrations suitable for both academic and informal education. Emriver, Inc. offers high-quality technical support and a one-year guarantee against manufacturer defects.

To the best of our knowledge, these features are offered **exclusively** by Emriver models:

- Design and construction specifically aimed at ease of travel and storage
- Specially manufactured thermoset plastic modeling media
- Strength and durability for a lifetime of use including frequent travel and rough treatment
- The Em2 has a 17-square-foot working area able to accommodate over a dozen students
- The Em3 has a 32.5-square-foot working area able to accommodate at least 15 students
- The Em4 has a 47.3-square-foot working area able to accommodate sophisticated research and at least 20 students
- A trouble- and maintenance-free high-quality 12-volt pump capable of field demonstrations using a 12-volt deep-cycle battery
- Adjustable standpipe drain for base level demonstrations and experiments
- Precise flow metering (optional with digital flow controller)
- Recirculation of water through 27-gallon reservoirs; sediment trapping
- Extensive Use and Care Manual and Lab Manual that includes dozens of exercises
- Strong and ongoing technical support