

## Lake Restoration Prioritization Process and Program

### Key Concepts and Facts

- Six of ten Iowans visit lakes each year; they will visit these lakes eight times during the year
- Iowans prefer lakes with better water quality
- Statewide our lakes generate \$1.6 billion in annual spending by Iowans
- A lake is a reflection of both watershed and lake management
- Lake restoration starts in the watershed; it relies on strong local involvement and voluntary participation of landowners

### Current Prioritization and Program

- Modeled after the Federal Clean Lakes Program established in the 1970s
- DNR provided the 2006 legislature with a priority list of 35 lake candidates
  - Priorities based on a 5-year ISU/DNR assessment of water quality
  - Technical feasibility of restoration
  - Potential economic benefits
  - Use by Iowans, and local interest/involvement
- Projects require a lake and watershed restoration assessment and plan
- Projects require local resources in combination with state and federal funds
- Local groups can petition to have their lake added to the priority list
- Project Status
  - 24 Completed or near completion
  - 22 Active projects in-progress
  - 13 Initial public outreach, evaluation or planning stage
- DNR provides an annual progress report to the legislature that includes a work plan and budget

### Water Quality Goals

Stipulated in 2006 State Legislation (HF2782):

- Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the watershed will be controlled before lake restoration begins
- Shallow lakes management will be considered among options for restoration
- Water quality targets
  - Clarity. 4 ½ foot Secchi disc transparency 50% of the time from April – September
  - Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic community must be maintained
  - Impairment. Water quality impairments must be eliminated
  - Sustainability. The water quality and public use benefits must be sustained for 50 years

### Lake Restoration Program Budget

- Funding from FY2007 through FY2016 of \$80.2 million (approximately \$8.0 million per year) has enabled the DNR to improve many Iowa's lakes and proceed with implementing projects at a number of our other priority systems

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Web Page: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/About-Fishing-in-Iowa/Lake-Restoration-Program>