

## Warm Water Rivers and Streams Priority Setting

**Goal:** Set criteria and establish water quality priorities for five major water resource types – lakes, cold water streams, warm water (ww) streams, wetlands and vulnerable groundwater.

Select priorities based on key criteria of technical feasibility, benefits to people and the environment, and local participation/support. Include economic, health, recreation and natural resources benefits in the analysis.

### **Issues:**

- Public use and economic valuation data/information are lacking for ww streams
- There are multiple uses/benefits of ww streams to consider
- Stream access is predominantly controlled by private landowners
- There are many types of ww streams, the quantity of resource is very large
- Recreational uses and water quality goals vary with stream size
- Creating a public/political demand for aquatic diversity
- Watershed size ranges from thousands of acres to thousands of square miles
- Local interest is a key to success but is often not applicable to a watershed scale

### **Potential Approach and Steps:**

1. Assemble an internal technical advisory committee
  - Define and describe the resource and associated benefits/uses/values
  - Seek and evaluate available use data/information
  - Identify potential socio-economic indicators of benefits/uses/values
  - Identify appropriate goals and in-stream/riparian/watershed indicators linked to attainment of benefits/uses/values
  - Seek and evaluate ww stream restoration examples from Iowa and elsewhere
  - Construct prioritization framework, including criteria and steps for determining restoration suitability
  - Apply framework to streams having adequate data/information to demonstrate prioritization process
2. Receive outside input on the draft prioritization framework (goals, criteria, process, priorities, implementation recommendations)
  - Identify and circulate draft document to key representative stakeholders (e.g., agricultural, citizen, conservation, industrial, and municipal interests)
  - Conduct stakeholder meeting to discuss feedback
  - Post draft document to DNR web page and announce availability of draft document for public review and comment
3. Summarize stakeholder and public input, revise and finalize prioritization document

### **Tentative Schedule:**

- April-June 2007: monthly meetings of subcommittee to identify goals and develop draft criteria for restoration
- November 2007: draft document with criteria and implementation recommendations
- November-February: internal/external stakeholder review, document revisions
- March 2008: final document

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