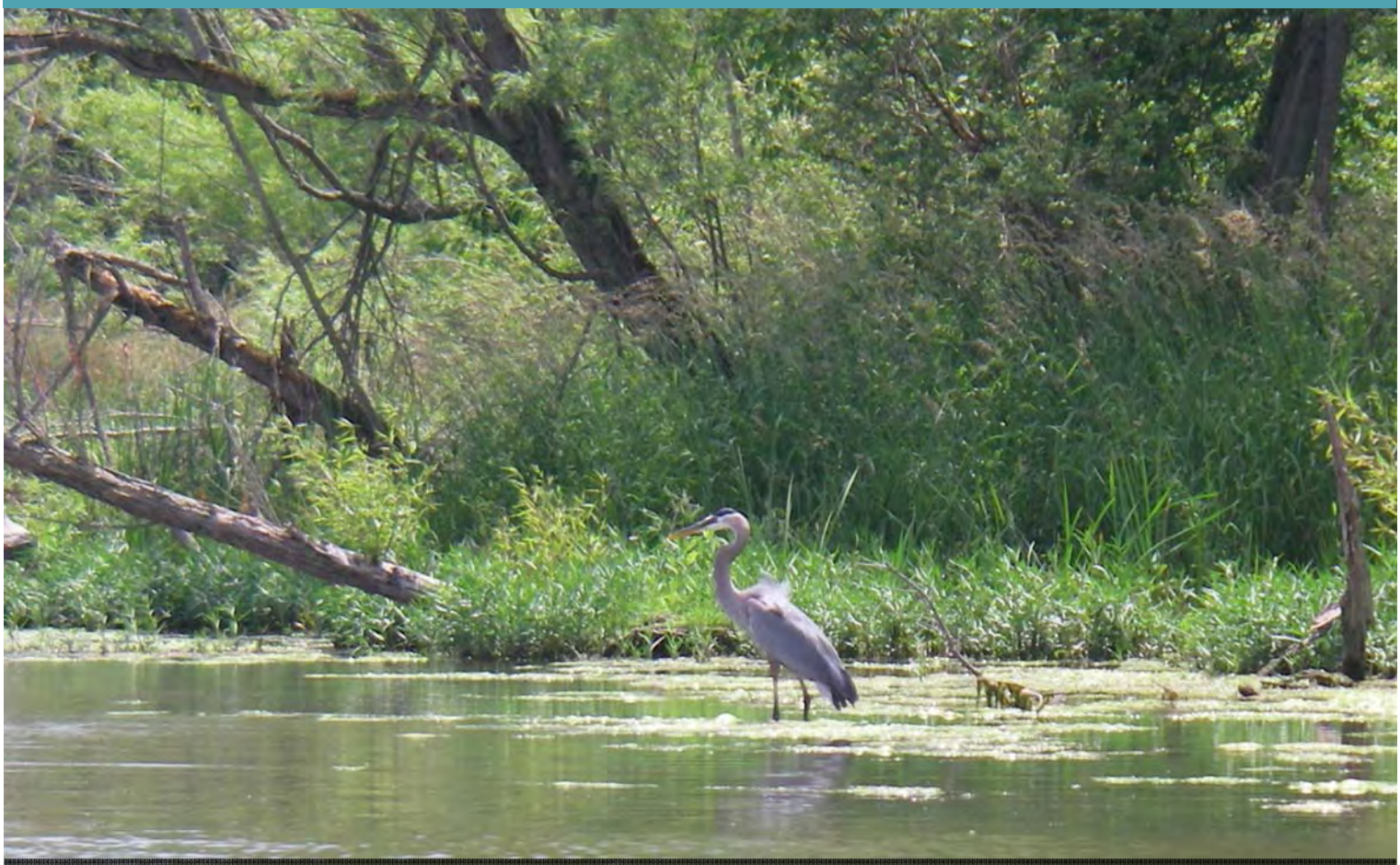

Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan

Delaware, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Madison and Marion Counties, Indiana

Prepared by:
V3 COMPANIES

Prepared for:
UPPER WHITE RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

GEIST WATERSHED ALLIANCE

February 2011

Executive Summary

The Upper White River Watershed Alliance and the Geist Watershed Alliance has received funding from the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife Lake and River Enhancement Program for a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the Geist Reservoir and the Upper Fall Creek Watershed. The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed is located in Central Indiana, northeast of Indianapolis. Upper Fall Creek has its origins in northwest Henry County and flows southwest through Madison, Hamilton, and Marion Counties. The watershed also encompasses portions of Delaware and Hancock Counties. The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed consists of approximately 140,194 acres of mixed land use of which approximately 1,900 acres is Geist Reservoir.

Following the drought and subsequent toxic blue-green algal bloom during the summer of 2007, a number of concerned residents came together and began seeking solutions to prevent Geist Reservoir's problems from escalating; they formed the Geist Watershed Alliance (GWA). The Geist Watershed Alliance is a non-profit organization focused on the improvement and protection of Geist Reservoir's water quality. Its membership consists of many types of stakeholders seeking to ensure that the reservoir will remain a healthy recreational and drinking water resource within the Central Indiana region. As a means for achieving the goals GWA, the Alliance is operating in partnership with the Upper White River Watershed Alliance (UWRWA), and in alignment with local and state agencies/organizations goals in the development of this Watershed Management Plan. A Steering Committee of stakeholders within the watershed was organized to work with GWA and UWRWA to develop and implement the Watershed Management Plan.

The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is intended as a guide for the protection and enhancement of the environment and quality of the Watershed while balancing the different uses and demands of the community on this natural resource. The plan will address items such as:

- education and outreach;
- increasing preservation, restoration and protection of this vital system;
- increasing cooperation, coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders in the Watershed; and
- maintaining a solid organization to look after the welfare of this important natural resource.

The WMP follows the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requirements for watershed management plans, including sections on: watershed inventory, identifying problems and causes, identifying sources and calculating loads, setting goals and identifying critical areas, choosing measures and BMPs to apply, creating an action register and schedule, and tracking effectiveness.

Watershed Inventory

The watershed inventory is a comprehensive inventory that quantifies, describes, and summarizes all available watershed data. This inventory is used to determine the current conditions of the watershed and identify the link between the stakeholder concerns and those watershed conditions. Part one of the watershed inventory focuses on the data at a watershed-wide scale and includes broad topics not easily summarized at the subwatershed scale. Part two of the watershed inventory provides detailed water quality data gathered at the subwatershed scale. And part three of the watershed inventory summarizes and explains the relationships of the data gathered in parts one and two.

Identify Problems and Causes

Problem statements were developed during the planning process in an effort to link watershed concerns with existing and historical water quality data. Six major concern categories were identified during this process.

1. Stakeholders in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are not knowledgeable about their daily impact on the watershed and its water quality.
2. Nutrient concentrations within all subwatersheds frequently exceed water quality standards thereby aiding the growth of algae within the reservoir.
3. Soil erosion and sedimentation within the watershed is degrading the water quality and limiting the aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and aquatic health of the streams and reservoir within the watershed.
4. There is a lack of funding for the implementation of Best Management Practices within urban areas.
5. Excessive growth of exotic aquatic plants within the reservoir is negatively impacting the recreational uses of the reservoir and the survival of native species.
6. *E. Coli* levels in the watershed regularly exceed the state standard, based on current and historical water quality data results, and often exceed safety standards for recreational use in streams.

Watershed Goals

Based on the identified concerns and possible sources, goal statements were developed for each problem statement. Implementation of policies and programs to meet these goal statements will improve watershed management in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. The goal statements indicate the ultimate goal for a specific project. In some cases this goal may not be obtainable in the short term; therefore there a list of short term and long term objectives were included with each goal.

1. Develop and implement an education and outreach program within the watershed.
2. Reduce *E. Coli* concentrations to meet the state standard of 235 CFU/100mL.
3. Reduce the nutrient loads so that there are no exceedances of EPAs suggested targets for Nitrate + Nitrite of 1.6 mg/L and Total Phosphorus of 0.076mg/L.
4. Reduce sediment loads to meet the IDEM statewide draft TMDL target of 30 mg/L for TSS.
5. Reduce and control the growth of exotic plants within the reservoir.
6. Identify and utilize existing BMP funding sources and encourage the development and enhancement of additional and non-traditional funding sources.

Watershed Critical Areas

Critical areas are defined as areas where project implementation can remediate current water quality impairments or reduce the impact of future water quality impairments. The critical areas within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek watershed were identified based on the Watershed Inventory, the identified problems and the goals of the Watershed Management Plan. Critical areas were split into two categories: Subwatershed Critical Areas and Specific Source Critical areas.

<u>High Priority Subwatersheds</u>
Thorpe Creek
Honey Creek
Flatfork Creek
Sly Fork

<u>Medium Priority Subwatersheds</u>
Deer Creek
Prairie Creek
Headwaters Lick Creek

<u>Low Priority Subwatersheds</u>
McFadden Ditch
Foster Branch

<u>Specific Source Critical Areas</u>
Livestock Access
Absent or Insufficient Stream Buffers
Excessive Streambank Erosion
Agricultural Areas Practicing Conventional Till

Best Management Practices

To choose an appropriate BMP, it is essential to determine in advance the objectives to be met by the BMP and to calculate the cost and related effectiveness of alternative BMPs. Once a BMP has been selected, expertise is needed to insure that the BMP is properly installed, monitored, and maintained over time. BMPs identified for implementation within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed were divided into two categories: Agricultural/Rural and Urban, with cost estimates and pollutant removal rates provided for each BMP.

Action Register and Schedule

The success of a watershed management plan can be measured by how readily it is used by its intended audience and how well it is implemented. The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek WMP is very ambitious and continued implementation of the plan will require and even greater degree of cooperation and coordination among partners and funding for projects. The action register is a tool used to easily identify each objective, milestone, estimated cost, and possible partners for easier implementation of the plan.

Acknowledgements

The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan was made possible with funding from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Fish and Wildlife – Lake and River Enhancement Program with cost share funds provided by the Upper White River Watershed Alliance and the Geist Watershed Alliance. DNR staff that provided information in preparation of this plan include: Gwen White, Angela Sturdevant, Greg Biberdorf, Rod Edgell, and Doug Nusbaum. Upper White River Watershed Alliance assistance was provided by Dr. Lenore Tedesco, Jill Hoffmann and Kelly Levengood. Scott Rodgers with the Geist Watershed Alliance was also involved in the preparation of the Watershed Management Plan.

Additional Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed stakeholders who participated in the study by attending meetings, providing input for the creation of the plan, etc., included: Kevin Kenyon, Ball State Facilities; Kent Duckwall, Geist Marina; Cindy Newkirk, Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District; Shaena Reinhart, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District; Kent Ward and Bob Thompson; Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Kellie Harding, Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District; Richard Byers, Henry County Surveyor; Bonny Elifritz and Ernest Johnson, Indiana Department of Environmental Management; Angela Cowan, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis – Center for Earth and Environmental Science; Marija Watson, Indiana Wildlife Federation; Stephen Schmidt, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District; Patrick Manship, Madison County Surveyor; Glenn Lange and Ron Lauster, Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District; Sharon Ferguson, Shorewalk Condo Association Dredging Committee; Bowden Quinn, Sierra Club; Jason Armour, Town of Fishers; Tim McClintick and Doug McGee, Town of Pendleton; Paul Whitmore, Veolia Water Indianapolis, LLC; Crist Blassaras and Judy DeLury, White River Watchers; Jo Biggers, Stephanie Box, Glenn Brown, William Ellingson, Dear Farr, Sarah Kempfer, Jhani Laupus, Matthew Newell, Nina Sidibe, Janice Snell, Wendy Thanisch, Victor Wakley, Watershed Residents. Authors of this report include Jessica Spurlock, Carrie Pintar, and Greg Wolterstorff, V3.

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Section 1 – Watershed Community Initiative

Intentions of the Watershed Management Plan

The Upper White River Watershed Alliance and the Geist Lake Coalition/Geist Watershed Alliance has received funding from the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife Lake and River Enhancement Program for a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the Geist Reservoir and the Upper Fall Creek Watershed in Delaware, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Madison and Marion Counties, Indiana.

The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is intended as a guide for the protection and enhancement of the environment and quality of the watershed while balancing the different uses and demands of the community on this natural resource. The plan will address items such as:

- education and outreach;
- increasing preservation, restoration and protection of this vital system;
- increasing cooperation, coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders in the watershed; and
- maintaining a solid organization to look after the welfare of this important natural resource.

The WMP follows the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requirements for watershed management plans, including sections on: Watershed Inventory, Problems and Causes, Sources and Loads, Setting Goals and Identifying Critical Areas, Action Register and Schedule, and Tracking Effectiveness.

Public input is essential for the sustainability and success of the watershed improvement effort. Stakeholder and public input was sought and included during all aspects of the planning process. This local input was essential for developing a plan that would have broad appeal throughout the watershed and garner continued support. A steering committee and three sub-committees were developed to address the diverse needs in the watershed.

The Geist/Upper Fall Creek WMP is intended to be comprehensive; identifying problem areas and suggesting improvement measures for both water quality and quantity concerns. The watershed is large and diverse, and thus has a variety of issues and concerns that need to be addressed. To address some of these issues, the Steering Committee will work with local stakeholder groups to pursue Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will result in the improvement of water quality within the watershed. Because of the size of the task at hand, this plan will also be used as a platform upon which to pursue additional grants and other funding for implementation of the many different improvement measures recommended in the plan.

Community Involvement

Geist Lake Coalition/Geist Watershed Alliance

The Geist Lake Coalition was established in 2000 and evolved from a property owners association Lake Committee. Following the drought and subsequent toxic blue-green algal bloom during the summer of 2007, a number of concerned residents came together and began seeking solutions to prevent Geist Reservoir's problems from escalating; they formed the Geist Watershed Alliance (GWA).

The Geist Watershed Alliance is a non-profit organization focused on the improvement and protection of Geist Reservoir's water quality. Its membership consists of many types of stakeholders seeking to ensure that the reservoir will remain a healthy recreational and drinking water resource within the Central Indiana region.

As a means for achieving the goals of public awareness and improved water quality, the Alliance is operating in partnership with the Upper White River Watershed Alliance, and in alignment with other community watershed groups in the development of this Watershed Management Plan. To help achieve their objectives three sub-committees have been formed to spearhead and guide the activities necessary. These sub-committees include:

1. Education and Outreach/Awareness and Communications Sub-Committee
2. Fund Raising Sub-Committee
3. Product/Services Sub-Committee

Upper White River Watershed Alliance

The Upper White River Watershed Alliance (UWRWA) was formed in 1999 through a local municipal initiative. Not long thereafter, a substantial fish kill occurred as a result of a pollution incident along the White River near Anderson, Indiana. Public and municipal concern regarding overall water quality in the river continued to rise. Current urban development pressures, concern for the quality of area water supplies, and other use impairments drive the Alliance's activities.

The Geist Reservoir and Upper Fall Creek Watersheds lie within the Upper White River watershed boundary, and therefore the information within this WMP is important to incorporate into the ongoing work for the Upper White River. The watershed coordinators and other members of the UWRWA have participated in the Geist/Upper Fall Creek Steering Committee and helped facilitate communication between each group. The website for the Geist/Upper Fall Creek Steering Committee is hosted by the UWRWA so that communication at a single point could occur. The improvements recommended by this WMP and implemented within the Geist/Upper Fall Creek watershed will ultimately provide benefit to the Upper White River. Additionally, these communities have very similar demographics and a coordinated education and outreach program between the Upper White and Geist/Upper Fall Creek will help get a broader message to the people that live within these watersheds.

Steering Committee

Mission/Vision Statement

As part of the watershed planning process, the Steering Committee developed a mission statement in order to clearly define the groups' goals and objectives. The mission statement was referenced during the development of this watershed management plan and is included below.

The Geist Watershed Alliance mission is to create ecological awareness, unite private citizens, public groups, and government agencies and promote outreach and stewardship in a collaborative effort to protect water quality, achieve environmental standards, and maintain all beneficial uses of the Geist Reservoir and its watershed.

The Upper White River Watershed Alliance's vision is to become the principal regional watershed leader by creating resources, education programs and partnerships, that promote, protect, and enhance the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the White River ecosystem.

The stakeholders of the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed have many important partners in conservation including:

- Geist Watershed Alliance (GWA),
- Upper White River Watershed Alliance (UWRWA),
- Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) – Center for Earth and Environmental Science (CEES),
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) ,
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM),
- Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF),
- White River Watchers,
- Sierra Club,
- Veolia Water Indianapolis, LLC,
- Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District,
- Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District,
- Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District,
- Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District,
- Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District,
- Hamilton County Surveyor,
- Madison County Surveyor,
- Town of Fishers, and
- Town of Pendleton

All County SWCD representatives and Surveyor's were invited to the initial Steering Committee meetings. Not all counties chose to participate in the plan process. A task item for further coordination with Ag stakeholders in the watershed is included in the Public Participation/Education and Outreach goal. A complete list of stakeholder groups and related organizations is available in Appendix C of this document.

A representative from each of the stakeholder groups listed above, along with individual residents, comprises the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Steering Committee. The steering committee's purpose is to review the concerns from the public meetings, guide the development of the management plan, and provide additional data as requested. They meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to accomplish these goals. The Steering Committee meeting agendas, sign-in sheets and minutes are available in Appendix D.

Steering Committee Planning Process

As stated previously, public input is essential for the sustainability and success of the watershed improvement effort. A steering committee was formed to review the concerns from the public meetings and guide the development of the management plan.

Plan Development

The steering committee was directly involved in all aspects of the development of the plan, including input at public meetings, steering committee meetings, and completion of the windshield surveys. The following steps were used in the development of the plan for the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed.

- Outreach to stakeholders
- Develop watershed management partnership with relevant stakeholders
- Identify and collect existing studies and other watershed data
- Solicit public input on watershed problems and opportunities
- Summarize existing watershed data
- Formulate project goals and objectives for watershed plan
- Collect new data where needed
- Complete assessment of watershed conditions
- Identify best management practices and policies appropriate for the watershed
- Develop an action plan recommending watershed improvement projects and policies
- Identify potential funding sources for watershed improvements
- Obtain public official and general public input from review of draft watershed plan
- Develop implementation schedule and complete final watershed management plan

Public Meetings

A Public Meeting was held on May 21, 2009 at Geist Elementary School to address the concerns of stakeholders in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Twenty-six people were in attendance which included members of the steering committee, industrial and commercial businesses representatives, governmental entities, and home owners along Geist Reservoir.

A second Public Meeting was held on January 20, 2010 at the Pendleton Community Public Library to address the concerns of stakeholders in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Ten people were in attendance which included members of the steering committee and representatives from governmental agencies. It should be noted that there were no land owners/stake holders in attendance at this meeting and therefore stake holder input was not provided.

At the public meeting, stakeholders were informed of the purpose of a Watershed Management Plan, informed on the planning process, updated on the Steering Committee progress, and given the opportunity to evaluate the priority resource concerns for the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed.

The priority resource concerns that were identified during the public meetings are listed below. Specific concerns were taken from the stakeholders and later listed in categories to aid understanding of the issues. The information will be used to prioritize watershed issues and aid in the planning and implementation process. Once stakeholders finished identifying issues and concerns they were given the opportunity to rank their top three issues. A value of 3 represented their highest priority issue. Ranking is provided in parenthesis in the format of: (total value / number of votes).

Water Pollution/Water Quality Issues:

- Quality of drinking water (3/1)
- Organic debris entering waterways
- Quality of surface water runoff

Development/Urban Issues:

- Erosion control and enforcement – Rule 5 (5/3)
- Sediment from storm drains (4/2)
- Encourage and improve public perception of native landscaping (4/2)
- Maintenance of culverts and roadways (1/1)
- Changing actions/perceptions towards fertilizer use
- Dredging in the reservoir

Wildlife/Habitat Issues:

- Enhance wildlife habitat and recreational uses of reservoir (1/1)

Watershed Education and Outreach:

- Encourage public participation (16/7)
- Outreach that is solution based (6/3)
- Education to the public (5/2)
- Education to the recreational users at marinas

Aquatic Plant Issues:

- Exotic species control – Eurasian Watermilfoil (3/2)
- Public concern over blue – green algae

Administrative Issues:

- Legislative action on phosphorus ban (21/9)
- Lack of funding sources for urban areas (16/7)
- Recognition of problems at State level (4/4)
- Lack of phosphorus regulations

The Public Meeting agendas and sign-in sheets are available in Appendix E.

During the development of the Watershed Management Plan, concerns that were not identified during the Public Meetings were added based on input from the Steering Committee and/or watershed data analyzed. These additional concerns are listed below:

- Lack of agricultural stakeholders
- Lack of sufficient buffers
- Streambank erosion
- Lack of conservation tillage
- Livestock access to streams

Section 2 – Watershed Inventory

The Watershed Inventory is a comprehensive inventory that quantifies, describes, and summarizes all available watershed data. This inventory will be used to determine the current conditions of the watershed and identify the link between the stakeholder concerns and those watershed conditions.

Part One of the Watershed Inventory focuses on the data at a watershed-wide scale and includes broad topics not easily summarized at the subwatershed scale. Part Two of the Watershed Inventory provides detailed water quality data gathered at the subwatershed scale. And Part Three of the Watershed Inventory summarizes and explains the relationships of the data gathered in parts one and two.

Part One of the Watershed Inventory

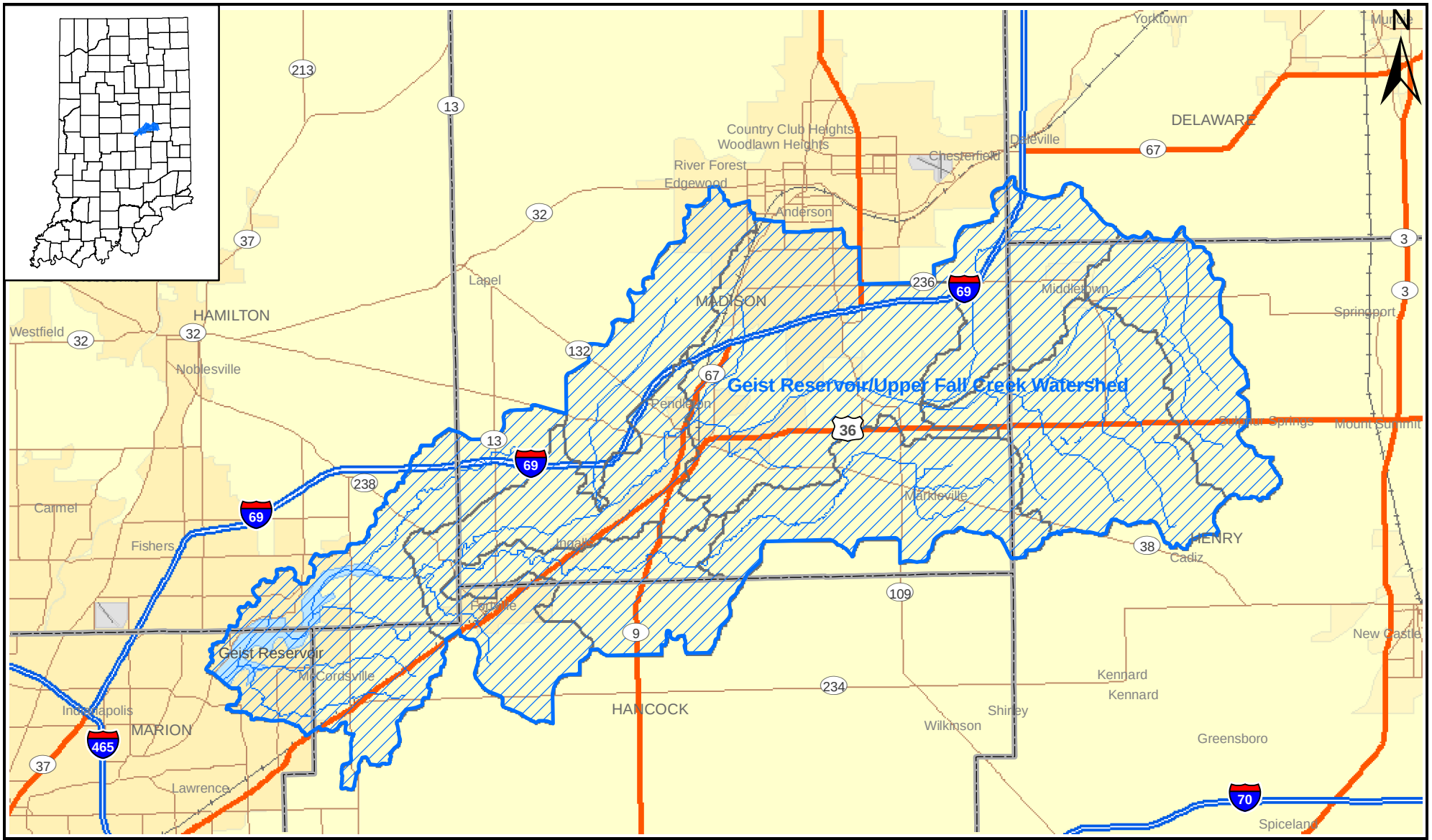
Relevant Relationships

A healthy watershed is essential for a healthy environment and economy. The watersheds we live in provide us with drinking water, jobs, recreation, food and shelter. Watersheds are a unique, dynamic complex combination of natural resources; air, water, soil, plants and animals. Each characteristic of a watershed plays a role in the overall health of a watershed. How these characteristics interact with each other can not only negatively impact certain characteristics within the watershed but can also impact the watershed itself.

For example, sandy soils allow the ground to soak up water faster. This reduces surface runoff, but can affect ground water. Clay soils, on the other hand, are tighter and do not allow as much water infiltration. This can lead to more runoff and soil erosion. Similarly, wetlands utilize nutrients and tie up sediment to help improve water quality. Wetlands also act as natural sponges to absorb peak flows of water and reduce flooding. Many fish and wildlife species rely on wetlands for rearing their young, and for food and shelter. The combination of population centers and septic tank unsuitable soils may be a source of an *E.coli* problem. These are some of the ways that watershed characteristics are related to each other.

Location, Characteristics and Size

Upper Fall Creek (HUC 0512020108) has its origins in northwest Henry County and flows southwest through Madison, Hamilton, and Marion Counties (Exhibit 1). The watershed also encompasses portions of Delaware and Hancock Counties. The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed consists of approximately 140,194 acres of mixed land use of which approximately 1,900 acres is Geist Reservoir. The distribution of watershed area within each county is shown in Table 1.



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Woodridge, IL 60517
630.724.9200 phone
630.724.9202 fax
www.v3co.com

TITLE: **Location Exhibit**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 1	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 20,000'

Table 1: Counties Within the Watershed		
County	**Acres**	**Percentage**
Delaware	2,489	1.8%
Hamilton	10,584	7.5%
Hancock	17,907	12.8%
Henry	31,919	22.8%
Madison	73,349	52.3%
Marion	3,946	2.8%
Total	140,194	100%

Approximately 140.5 linear miles of cumulative waterways are contained in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Some of the cities and towns located in the watershed include: Middletown, Anderson, Markleville, Pendleton, Ingalls, Fortville, McCordsville, Lawrence, Fishers, and Indianapolis.

Geology/Topography

The bedrock geology of Indiana formed primarily during the Paleozoic Era. The principal bedrock formations in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are associated mainly with rocks of Silurian and Devonian age, and consist mainly of limestone and dolomites with some shale or argillaceous zones, whereas the Silurian material consists of limestone, dolomite, and much more argillaceous material than in the Devonian age rock.

The topography of Upper Fall Creek, which lies in the Tipton Till Plain physiographic unit, consists of a flat to slightly rolling plain. Streams tend to have very low gradients, and lie only a few feet below the general land surface. Extensive alteration of the drainage system has occurred via ditching and the installation of drainage tiles. This has resulted in excellent land for agricultural production. Some rolling and hummocky areas may be present and are related to glacial activity. The gradient throughout the watershed ranges from an elevation of 1090 feet at the eastern edge of the watershed in Henry County to an elevation of 785 feet at the spillway of Geist Reservoir in Marion County, or a change of 305 feet.

Hydrology

Climate

The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed is within a humid continental climate region. The humid continental climate is marked by variable weather patterns and a large seasonal variance. Summers are often warm and humid with frequent thunderstorms and winters can be very cold with frequent snowfall and persistent snow cover.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Climatic Data Center publishes the normals of average monthly and annual maximum, minimum, and mean temperature, monthly and annual total precipitation (inches), and heating and cooling degree days (base 65 degrees F) for individual locations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Pacific Islands.

The monthly precipitation and temperature normals were obtained for Indiana for the time period of 1971 – 2000. Out of the 113 climate stations within Indiana, none fall within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed, however one is located immediately

downstream of the watershed. Table 2 summarizes the temperature and precipitation data for the Oaklandon Geist Reservoir station.

Table 2: NOAA Monthly Normals for Oaklandon Geist Reservoir, 1971- 2000		
Month	**Average Temperature (^{o}F)**	**Average Precipitation (in.)**
January	25.3	2.42
February	29.4	2.42
March	39.5	3.28
April	50.4	3.92
May	61.3	4.86
June	70.3	4.15
July	74.2	4.49
August	72.1	4.06
September	65.3	3.32
October	53.4	3.02
November	42.0	3.77
December	30.5	3.14

Geist Reservoir

Construction of Geist Reservoir was completed in 1944. The primary purpose of the reservoir was to provide a consistent source of water supply to the Indianapolis Water Company's Fall Creek Water Treatment Facility. In the early 1980's real estate development began around the reservoir, resulting in development along most of its 35 miles of shoreline. The reservoir has a maximum depth of approximately 48 feet, a storage capacity of 6.9 billion gallons, and a surface area of approximately 1,900 acres. In addition to water supply, Geist Reservoir is currently widely used for recreation purposes including swimming, boating, and fishing (Exhibit 1).

Geist Reservoir is characterized as a shallow turbid water body and has an average depth of 11 feet. Geist Reservoir is elongated with many branches representing the tributaries of the former stream or river. Geist Reservoir is a popular recreational lake due to its size and fishing opportunities. The majority of Geist Reservoir's shoreline is developed with a concrete, sheet pile seawall, or rock wall utilized for shoreline protection. Geist Reservoir is a man made water body, as it was formed by an impoundment of Fall Creek, and as such has upland soils that are not typically found as lake bottom substrates which also impacts the ability of aquatic vegetation to establish.

Geist Reservoir is rated as mesotrophic by IDEM. Mesotrophic lakes are lakes with an intermediate level of productivity, greater than oligotrophic lakes, but less than eutrophic lakes. These lakes are commonly clear water lakes and ponds with beds of submerged aquatic plants and medium levels of nutrients.

Based on information provided in previous studies (US EPA) for Geist Reservoir, the volume within the reservoir is completely replaced by the input volume (surface water, groundwater, direct precipitation, etc.) every 58 days. Therefore, meaning the hydraulic

retention time for the direct tributary area to the watershed is 58 days. Based on the size of the reservoir and tributary area, this is somewhat of a short retention time which ultimately suggests that the reservoir will respond in a short time after implementation of upstream BMPs for pollutant reduction.

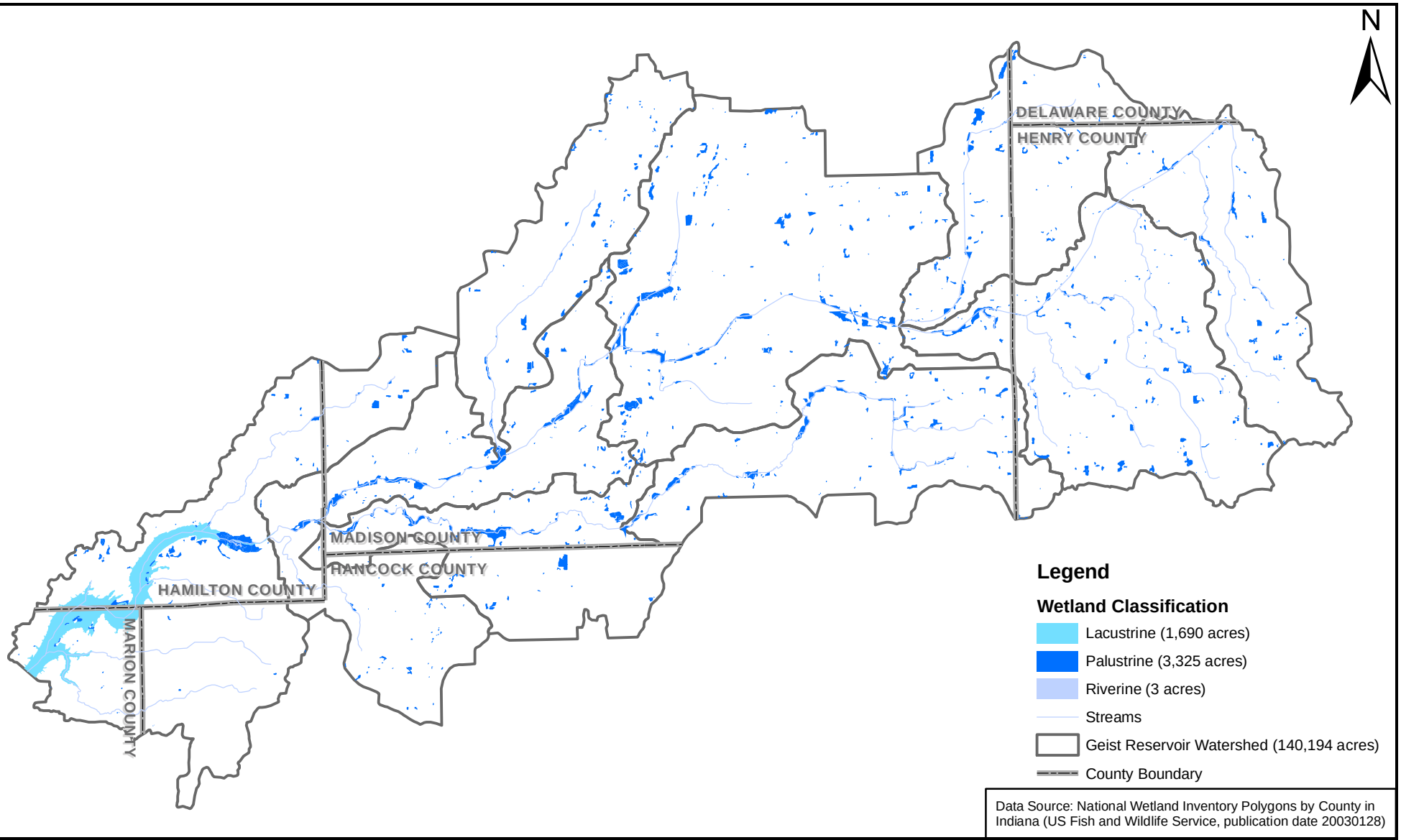
Wetlands

Wetlands are a valuable resource not only for the habitat they create but for the water detention/retention and filtration they provide within a watershed. Wetland classifications are based on attributes which can be measured and when combined, help to define the nature of a specific wetland and distinguish it from others. According to the National Wetland Inventory, the three wetland classifications within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed include lacustrine, palustrine, and riverine. There are 5,018 acres (3.6% of the watershed) of wetlands scattered throughout the watershed. Among the three wetland classifications, 1,690 acres are considered lacustrine, 3,325 acres are palustrine, and 3 acres are riverine (Exhibit 2).

As defined by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, lacustrine wetlands are associated with lakes and are characterized by a lack of trees and a dominance of emergent and submersed aquatic vegetation. Lacustrine wetlands typically extend from the shoreline to depths of 6.5 feet or until emergent vegetation no longer persists. Lacustrine wetlands are important in removing sediment and nutrients as well as providing habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates which are a vital food source within a lake ecosystem. The Lacustrine System includes wetlands and deepwater habitats with all of the following characteristics: (1) situated in a topographic depression or a dammed river channel; (2) lacking trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens with greater than 30% areal coverage; and (3) total area exceeds 20 acres. Similar wetland and deepwater habitats totaling less than 20 acres are also included in the Lacustrine System if an active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature makes up all or part of the boundary, or if the water depth in the deepest part of the basin exceeds 6.6 feet at low water.

Palustrine wetlands are related to marshes, swamps and bogs. Palustrine habitats are wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, and emergent mosses or lichens. Palustrine habitats have structural features that provide feeding, breeding, nesting, over wintering and migration habitat for wildlife in addition to their natural filtration properties. Riverine wetlands occur in floodplains and riparian corridors in association with stream channels. Riverine wetlands are directly affected by streamflow including overbank and backwater conditions. Riverine wetlands are very important in sediment retention as well as pollutant removal.

Wetlands provide numerous valuable functions that are necessary for the health of a watershed. They play a critical role in protecting and moderating water quality. Water quality is improved through a combination of filtering and stabilizing processes. Wetland vegetation adjacent to waterways helps to stabilize slopes and prevent mass wasting, thus reducing the sediment load within the river system. An unprotected streambank can easily erode, which results in an increase of sediment and nutrients entering the water. Additionally, wetland vegetation removes pollutants through the natural filtration that occurs, or by absorption and assimilation. This effective treatment of nutrients and physical stabilization leads to an increase in overall water quality to downstream reaches.



Data Source: National Wetland Inventory Polygons by County in Indiana (US Fish and Wildlife Service, publication date 20030128)

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TITLE: **National Wetland Inventory Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: National Wetland Inventory		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 2	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

In addition, wetlands have the ability to increase storm water detention capacity, increase storm water attenuation, and moderate low flows. These benefits help to reduce flooding and reduce erosion. Wetlands also facilitate groundwater recharge by allowing water to seep slowly into the ground, thus replenishing underlying aquifers. This groundwater recharge is also valuable to wildlife during the summer months when precipitation is low and the base flow of the river draws on the surrounding groundwater table.

Although wetlands occupy a small percentage of the surrounding landscape, these areas typically contain large percentages of wildlife and produce more flora and fauna per acre than any other ecosystem. As a result of this high diversity, wetlands provide many recreational opportunities, such as fishing, hunting, boating, hiking and bird watching. Many of these recreational activities are available in the wetland areas within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. However, wetlands within this watershed have experienced degradation as a result of urbanization and development. Development projects that have wetlands present or adjacent to the property are applying for and receiving Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permits to fill and develop wetlands. This practice reduces the amount of wetland acreage in the watershed.

Isolated and adjacent wetlands are regulated through IDEM and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), respectively. Although wetlands are typically avoided during the development phase, permits have been given to fill wetlands that cannot be avoided. Some isolated wetlands are being converted to detention/retention basins in new residential developments. Some development and agency permits require on-site mitigation, which includes the creation of wetlands and natural areas on the same piece of land where wetland impacts occur. Some development projects that impact wetlands are allowed to mitigate for wetland impacts at an approved off-site wetland mitigation bank facility. In this case, the wetland impacts are offset through the purchase of wetland mitigation credits at an approved wetland mitigation bank. For Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) projects, in general the Federal and State requirement is to mitigate for impacts to wetlands associated with roadway improvements within the same watershed. Stream enhancement and stream mitigation are some of the options that INDOT utilizes to offset wetland/stream impacts.

Threatened or Endangered Species

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Nature Preserves was contacted to provide any Indiana Natural Heritage Data or related records for all listed threatened, endangered (T&E) or rare species documented within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Their response indicated that the watershed is home to a number of Species of Special Concern to Indiana, a number of State Endangered Species, and a number of Federally Endangered Species (Table 3).

Table 3: Threatened or Endangered Species			
Type	**Common Name**	**State Status**	**Federal Status**
Bird	Loggerhead Shrike	Endangered	
	Least Bittern	Endangered	
	Red-shouldered Hawk	Species of Special Concern	
	Osprey	Endangered	
	Black-crowned Night Heron	Endangered	
	King Rail	Endangered	
	Cerulean Warbler	Endangered	
	Upland Sandpiper	Endangered	
Mammal	American Badger	Species of Special Concern	
	Bobcat	Species of Special Concern	
	Least Weasel	Species of Special Concern	
Mollusk	Clubshell	Endangered	Endangered
	Wavyrayed Lampmussel	Species of Special Concern	
	Little Spectaclecase	Species of Special Concern	
	Kidneyshell	Species of Special Concern	
	Purple Lilliput	Species of Special Concern	
Vascular Plant	Cucumber Magnolia	Endangered	
	Goose-foot Corn-salad	Endangered	
	Butternut	Watch List	
	Bog Bluegrass	Watch List	
High Quality Natural Community	Mesic Upland Forest Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park	Significant	
	Central Till Plain Flatwoods Stout Woods Nature Preserve	Significant	

The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center maintains the most comprehensive and up-to-date information about federal and state endangered, threatened, and rare species, high quality natural communities, and significant natural areas in Indiana. Requests for this information is assessed a fee based on the time needed to complete the request. This information is required by most regulatory agencies prior to issuing development permits.

Nuisance Wildlife and Exotic Invasive Species

According to IDNR, many wild animals in Indiana have become displaced as the result of urban growth and removal of their habitat. While some species may move to other areas where natural habitat exists, some species actually thrive in urban settings. Species such as raccoons, opossums, Canada geese and even red foxes are becoming more common in urban areas and are frequently seen by people. However, these animals can also cause problems when they use a person's attic for shelter, destroy shingles and soffits, utilize lawns as homes, and eat their garbage.

Canada geese are a particular problem within the watershed, specifically for the reservoir. As stated by the DNR, many people enjoy seeing Canada geese, but problems can occur when too many geese concentrate in one area. Typically, developers and landowners unknowingly cause the problem by creating ideal goose habitat. Geese are grazers and feed extensively on fresh, short, green grass. Add a permanent body of water adjacent to their

feeding area and you have the created the perfect environment for geese to set up residence, multiply and concentrate. Geese, including their young, also have a strong tendency to return to the same area year after year. Once geese start nesting in a particular place, the stage is already set for more geese in successive years. The problem is further exacerbated when well-intentioned people purposefully feed geese. Artificial feeding of geese tends to concentrate larger numbers of geese in areas that under normal conditions would only support a few geese. Artificial feeding can also disrupt normal migration patterns and hold geese in areas longer than what would be normal. With an abundant source of artificial food available, geese can devote more time to locating nesting sites and mating. Artificial feeding can also concentrate geese on adjacent properties where their presence may not be welcomed, resulting in neighbor/neighborhood conflicts.

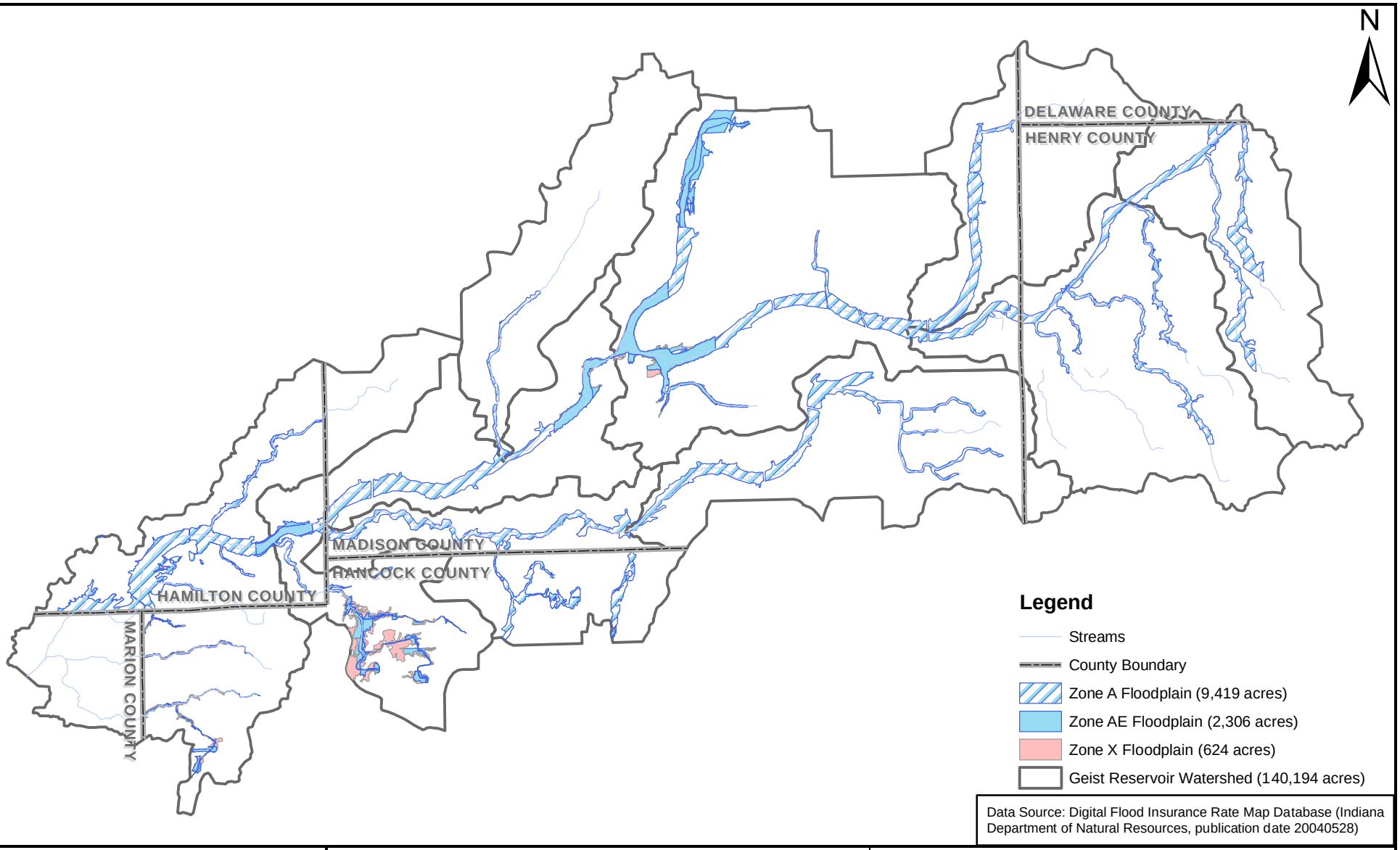
Congregating geese can cause a number of problems. Damage to landscaping can be significant and expensive to repair or replace, while large amounts of excrement can render swimming areas, parks, golf courses, lawns, docks, and patios unfit for human use. Since they are active grazers, they are particularly attracted to lawns and ponds located near apartment complexes, houses, office areas and golf courses. Geese can rapidly denude lawns, turning them into barren, dirt areas. Most of the problems in metropolitan areas occur from March through June during the nesting season. Breeding pairs begin nesting in late February and March. Egg-laying begins soon after nest construction is complete.

Based on information obtained from the DNR website, the Indiana Legislature created an Invasive Species Task Force in October 2007 to study the economic and environmental impacts of invasive species in Indiana and provide findings and recommendations on strategies for prevention, early detection, control and management of invasive species to minimize these impacts. Based on the Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan completed by V3 as a part of this project, Blue-Green Algae and Eurasian Watermilfoil have been reported in the Geist Reservoir. Zebra mussels were also report in the reservoir early spring of 2010.

Invasive plant species are a threat to natural areas. They displace native plants, eliminate food and cover for wildlife, and threaten rare plant and animal species. Many agencies and organizations have joined together to form the Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (IPSAWG) to assess which plant species threaten natural areas in Indiana and develop recommendations regarding the use of that specific plant species. The IPSAWG's goal is that all partner agencies and organizations would utilize the species assessment when recommending or selling plants.

Regulatory Floodplain

Flooding is one of the most common hazards in the United States. Floods can occur on a local level, or can affect entire river basins. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for many parts of the country in order for individuals and governments to assess the risk of flooding in specific areas. These maps also indicate what insurance rates property owners may need to pay to develop property in these areas. The current FIRM panels for the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are shown on Exhibit 3. It should be noted that Indiana is in the midst of revising the floodplain maps on a county wide basis through the FEMA Map Modernization program. The floodplain maps will need to be reevaluated during the feasibility phases of implementation projects.



Data Source: Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map Database (Indiana Department of Natural Resources, publication date 20040528)

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TITLE: **FEMA Floodplain Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: FEMA Floodplain		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 3	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

There are three flood hazard areas identified within the watershed. Zone A, which is defined as an area inundated by 100-year flooding for which no base flood elevation (BFE) has been established comprises 9,419 acres (6.7% of the watershed). In this zone there is a 1% chance of annual flooding, and a 26% chance that the area will be inundated at sometime during the life of a 30-year mortgage. Zone AE, which is defined as an area inundated by 100-year flooding for which a BFE has been determined, comprises 2,306 acres (1.6% of the watershed). Chance of flooding in Zone AE is the same as in Zone A. However, Zone A floodplain boundaries are based off of approximate methods, and Zone AE floodplain boundaries are based off of detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, establishing BFEs and making the delineation more accurate. Zone X, which is defined as an area that is either determined to be outside the 100-year floodplain but within the 500-year floodplain (0.2% chance of annual flooding) or have a 1% chance of sheet flow flooding where the average depths are less then 1 foot, comprises only 624 acres (0.4% of the watershed). These areas are considered to have a moderate or minimal risk of flooding, and the purchase of flood insurance is available but not required.

The rainfall data used to create these maps is based on Bulletin 71 rainfall depths. Bulletin 71 is a study that relied primarily on data from 275 daily reporting stations of the National Weather Service cooperative network, which had records exceeding 50 years. Based on USGS information, Central Indiana has experienced two 500-year floods in the last 18 years. Teams of USGS hydrographers have traveled to 40 streamflow-gaging stations to keep station instruments operating and to verify streamflow data needed for National Weather Service (NWS) flood forecasts. USGS personnel have worked closely with Federal, state, and local agencies during the flood to provide flood information for emergency managers, the media, and the public.

Identifying the location of floodplain areas within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed allows for targeted areas for floodplain management and/or restoration. Floodplain management is the operation of a community program of corrective and preventative measures for reducing flood damage. These measures take a variety of forms and generally include requirements for zoning, and special-purpose floodplain ordinances.

Developments within flood prone areas are regulated by local, state and federal agencies. Depending on the floodplain boundaries depicted on the FEMA FIRM for the area proposed to be developed, floodplain designation (Zone A, AE, etc.), if there is floodway present and how much tributary drainage area (less or more than one square mile) there is to the proposed site, permits from the local municipality, County, IDNR-Division of Water, and FEMA would be required.

In addition to stormwater runoff, flooding can negatively affect water quality as large volumes of water transport contaminants into water bodies and also overload storm and wastewater systems. Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground and ultimately increases during periods of flooding. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, and streams.

Regulated Drains

Regulated drains consist of creeks, ditches, tiles (underground pipe systems), and other structures intended to move run-off water. Regulated drains are under the jurisdiction of the local county drainage board and/or the County Surveyor's office. Regulated drains are common throughout the watershed and are mainly tiles and open ditches. Regulated drain locations were obtained from Hamilton, Hancock, and Madison Counties and are shown on Exhibit 4.

Regulated drains are typically maintained by the County Surveyors office. This maintenance includes dredging with large construction equipment, removal of debris, and management of vegetation both within the regulated drains and within the riparian zone associated with the drains. Based on the unpredictable maintenance schedule of regulated drains within the watershed, it is difficult to assign a priority rating to these areas for potential improvement of wildlife habitat, water quality improvement measures, and erosion control measures within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. However, the selected BMPs and Action Registers include measures and implementation projects that include regulated drains. Coordination with the County Surveyors Office will be necessary during the implementation project evaluation phase.

BMPs within regulated drains in the watershed should be evaluated prior to implementation. If regulated drains are considered for BMP measures (i.e. two-stage ditches, stabilization, etc), the Steering Committee should coordinate with the local County Surveyor's offices of Delaware, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Madison, and Marion Counties.

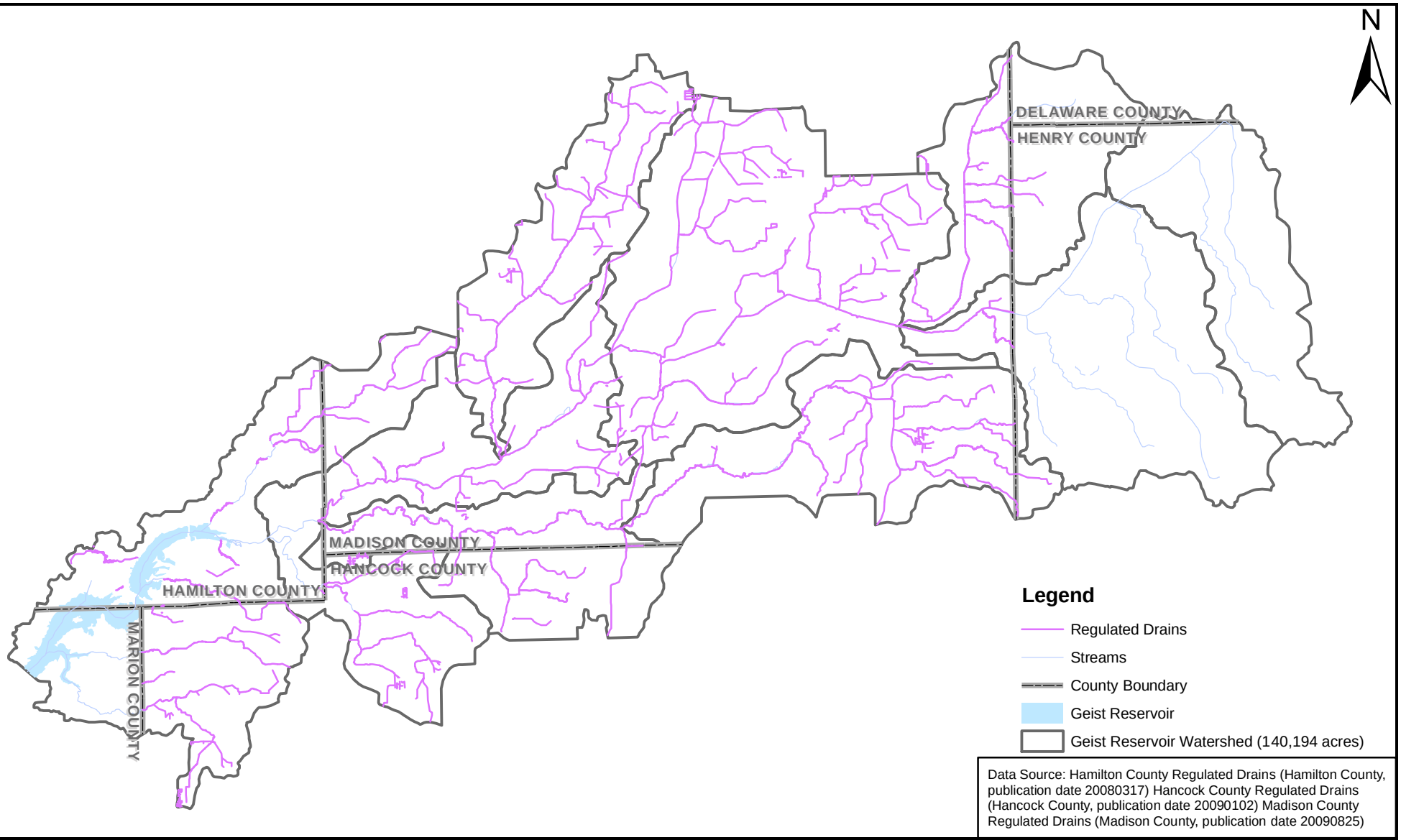
Wellhead Protection Areas

The IDEM Ground Water Section administers the Wellhead Protection Program, which is a strategy to protect ground water drinking supplies from pollution. The Safe Drinking Water Act and the Indiana Wellhead Protection Rule (327 IAC 8.4-1) mandates a wellhead program for all Community Public Water Systems. The Wellhead Protection Programs consists of two phases. Phase I involves the delineation of a Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA), identifying potential sources of contamination, and creating management and contingency plans for the WHPA. Phase II involves the implementation of the plan created in Phase I, and communities are required to report to IDEM how they have protected ground water resources.

Information pertaining to wellhead protection and its delineations/restrictions will be important during the implementation phases of the plan. Approved Wellhead Protection Areas are no longer available on-line due to recent legislation classifying this type of information as Confidential.

Soil Characteristics

There are many different soil types throughout Indiana based on their unique characteristics. Many counties arrange these soil types by like characteristics into groups, or major soil associations. A soil association is a geographic area consisting of landscapes on which soils are formed. Soil associations are groups of soil types that generally share one or more common characteristics; such as parent material or drainage capability. These soil associations provide general characteristics for the specific soil association, and can be used for conceptual locations of best management practices. Information pertaining to the clay



Data Source: Hamilton County Regulated Drains (Hamilton County, publication date 20080317) Hancock County Regulated Drains (Hancock County, publication date 20090102) Madison County Regulated Drains (Madison County, publication date 20090825)

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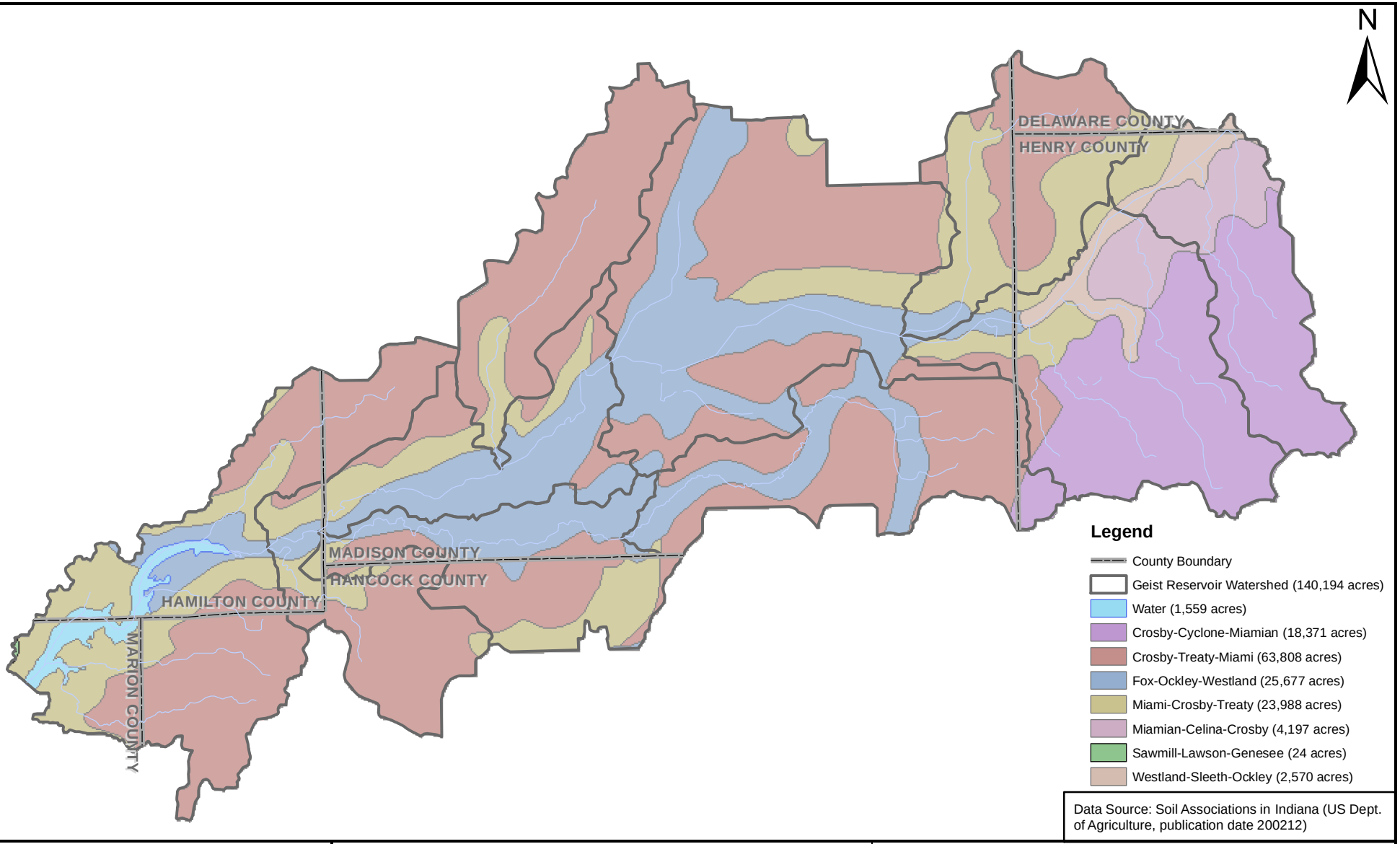
TITLE: **Regulated Drain Map**	PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**		
BASE LAYER: Regulated Drains	PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 4	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206	QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'



Data Source: Soil Associations in Indiana (US Dept. of Agriculture, publication date 200212)

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TITLE: **Soil Associations Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: State Soil Geographic Data Base		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 5	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

content, permeability and even groundwater characteristics are helpful when identifying locations that are feasible for infiltration practices or other best management practices to improve the water quality within the watershed. It should be noted that soil tests in these specific areas should be performed for more project specific detailed information. The major soil associations in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are shown in Exhibit 5. Table 4 includes the major characteristics of the four soil associations that make up the majority (94%) of the watershed.

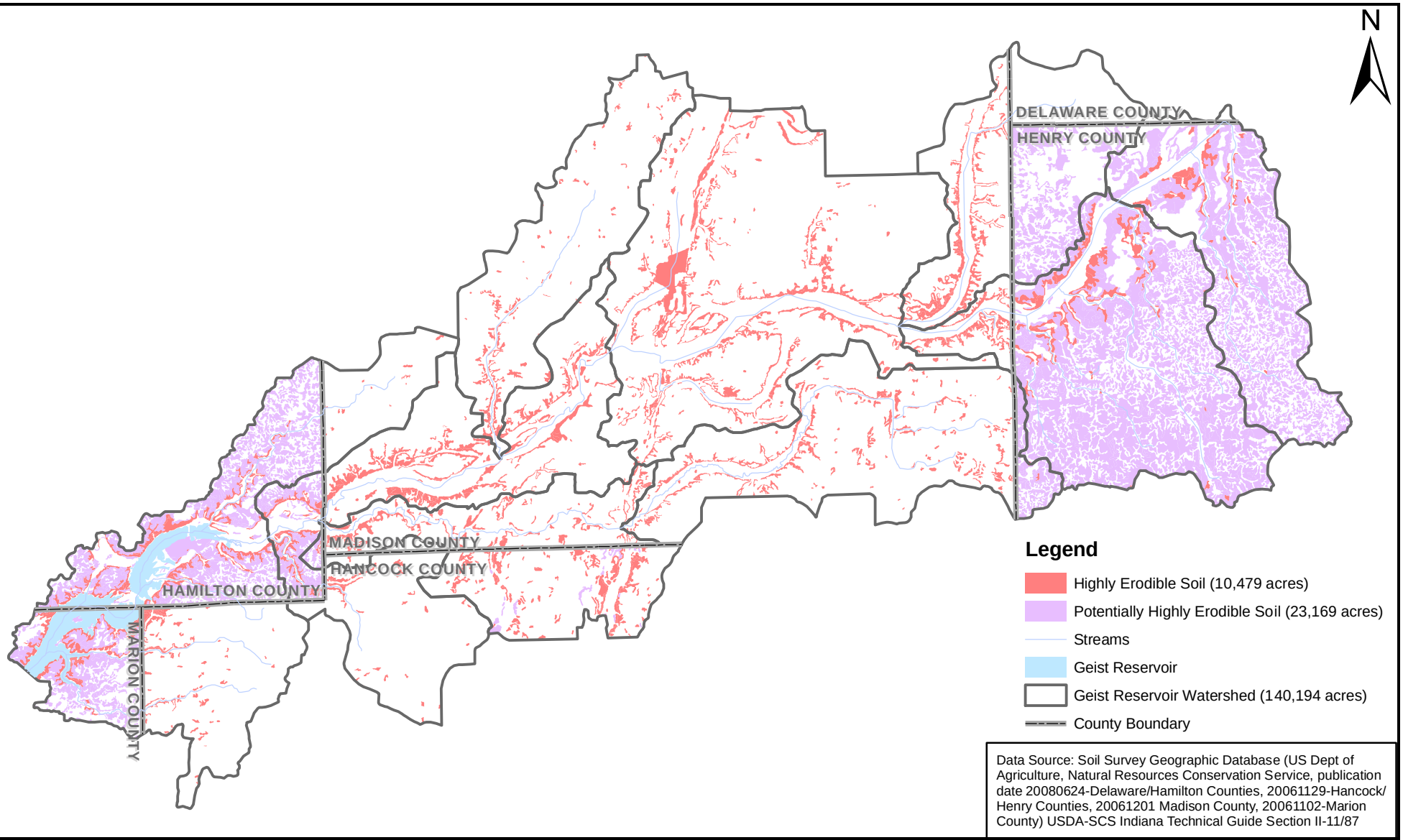
Table 4: Soil Associations		
Name	**Characteristics**	**Acres**
Crosby-Treaty-Miami	Deep, somewhat poorly to poorly drained soils	63,808
Fox-Ockley-Westland	Deep, well drained soils	25,677
Miami-Crosby-Treaty	Deep, moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained soils	23,988
Crosby-Cyclone-Miamian	Deep, somewhat poorly to poorly drained soils	18,371

The data source for the Soil Association Map is from the Department of Agriculture Soil Associations in Indiana GIS shapefile with a published date of December 2002. Based on this data and the time it was obtained, the water area is a total of 1,559 acres which includes the reservoir. This could be due to the fluctuation of the draw down period of the reservoir.

Highly Erodible Land

Erosion is a natural process within stream ecosystems; however excessive erosion negatively impacts the health of the watershed. Erosion throughout the watershed increases sedimentation of the streambeds which impacts the quality of habitat for fish and other organisms. As water flows over land and enters the stream it carries pollutants and other nutrients that are attached to the sediment. Sediment suspended in the water blocks light needed by plants for photosynthesis and clogs respiratory surfaces of aquatic organisms. Therefore, erosion also impacts water quality as it increases nutrients and decreases water clarity. Highly erodible land (HEL) and potentially highly erodible soils in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are mapped in Exhibit 6. The data used to create Exhibit 6 is from the USDA-SCS Indiana Technical Guide Section II-C and was collected from the NRCS website for Delaware, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Madison, and Marion Counties. A total of approximately 10,479 acres or 7.5% of the watershed is considered highly erodible and 23,169 acres or 16.5% of the watershed is considered potentially highly erodible. It should be noted that the areas of potentially highly erodible soils appear to be significantly greater in Hamilton, Henry, and Marion Counties when compared to Delaware, Hancock, and Madison Counties. This discrepancy can be attributed to the difference in the classification of soils between the counties. For example, Miami soil (MMB2) in Hamilton County is considered potentially highly erodible however the same soil in Madison County is considered not highly erodible. Appendix M contains the USDA-SCS Indiana Technical Guide Section II-C documentation obtained for this analysis.

Highly erodible soils are especially susceptible to the erosional forces of wind and water. Wind erosion is common in flat areas where vegetation is sparse or where soil is loose, dry, and finely granulated. Wind erosion damages land and natural vegetation by removing productive top soil from one place and depositing it in another.



Data Source: Soil Survey Geographic Database (US Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, publication date 20080624-Delaware/Hamilton Counties, 20061129-Hancock/ Henry Counties, 20061201 Madison County, 20061102-Marion County) USDA-SCS Indiana Technical Guide Section II-11/87

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TITLE: **Highly Erodible Lands Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: NRCS Soil Survey		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 6	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

In areas with highly erodible soils special care must be taken to insure that land use practices do not result in severe wind or water erosion. Although natural erosion cannot be prevented, the effects of runoff can be moderated so that it does not diminish the health of the watershed. There are no specific requirements for developments within highly erodible soils. However IDEMs Rule 5 regulates stormwater discharges during construction where temporary best management practices are required until construction activities are completed and the site has been stabilized as to not impact receiving waters with sediment.

Hydric Soils

Soils that remain saturated or inundated with water for a sufficient length of time become hydric through a series of chemical, physical, and biological processes. Once a soil takes on hydric characteristics, it retains those characteristics even after the soil is drained. Approximately 46,779 acres or 33.4% of the soils in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are considered hydric (Exhibit 7).

The three essential characteristics of wetlands are hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Criteria for each of the characteristics must be met for areas to be identified as wetlands. Undrained hydric soils that have natural vegetation should support a dominant population of ecological wetland plant species. Hydric soils that have been converted to other uses should be capable of being restored to wetlands. However, a large majority of the soils in the watershed have been drained for either agricultural production or urban development. Removing the subsurface drainage systems would allow for restoration of these wetland areas.

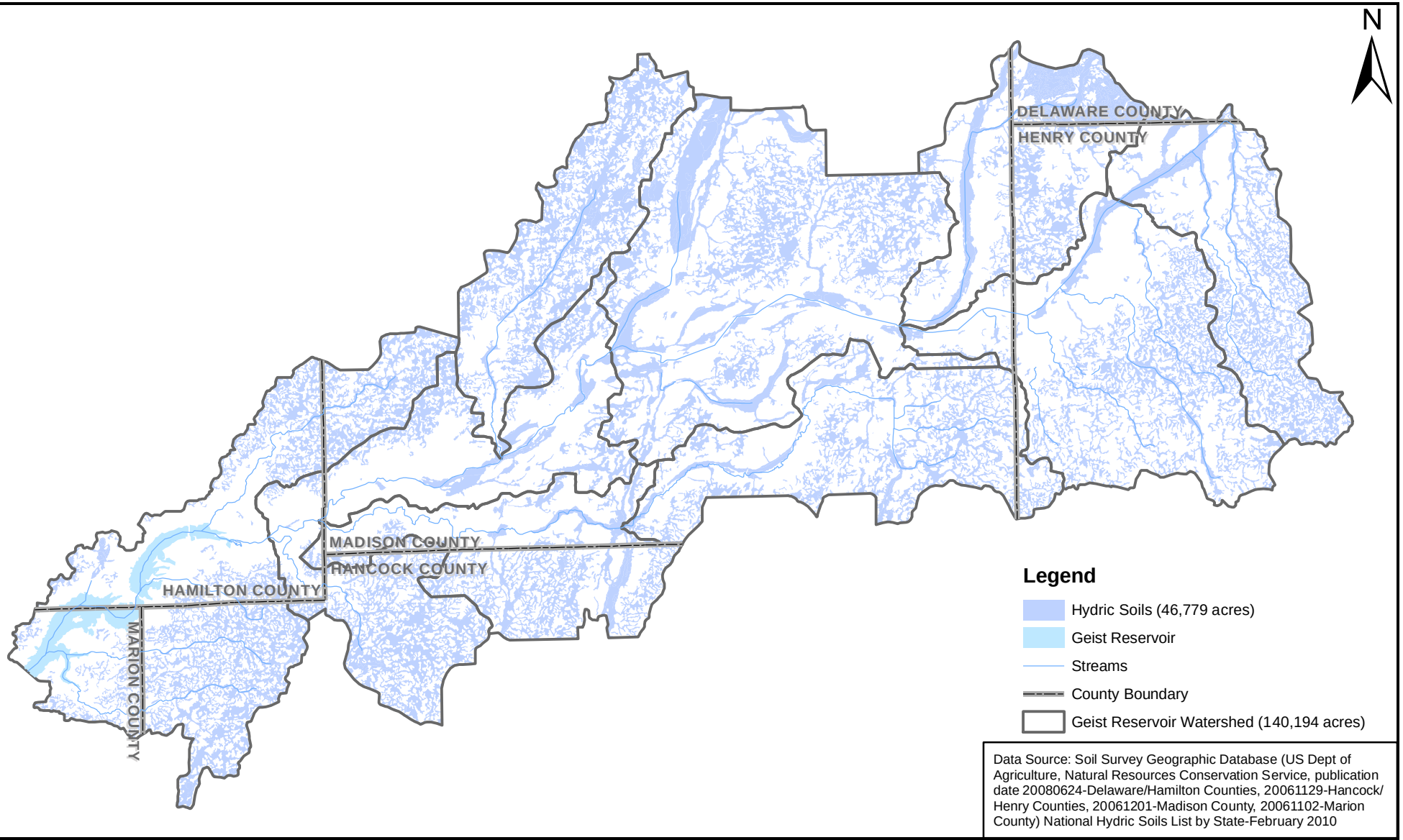
Septic Tank Suitability

In rural areas, households often depend on septic tank absorption fields. These waste treatment systems require soil characteristics and geology that allow gradual seepage of wastewater into the surrounding soils. Seasonal high water tables, shallow compact till and coarse soils present limitations for septic systems. While system design (i.e. perimeter drains, mound systems or pressure distribution) can often overcome these limitations sometimes the soil characteristics prove to be unsuitable for any type of traditional septic system. Heavy clay soils require larger (and therefore more expensive) absorption fields; while sandier, well-drained soils are often suitable for smaller, more affordable gravity-flow trench systems.

The septic disposal system is considered failing when the system exhibits one or more of the following:

1. The system refuses to accept sewage at the rate of design application thereby interfering with the normal use of plumbing fixtures
2. Effluent discharge exceeds the absorptive capacity of the soil, resulting in ponding, seepage, or other discharge of the effluent to the ground surface or to surface waters
3. Effluent is discharged from the system causing contamination of a potable water supply, ground water, or surface water.

Prior to 1990, residential homes on 10 acres or more of land -- and at least 1,000 feet from a neighboring residence -- did not have to comply with any septic system regulations. A new septic code in 1990 fixed this loophole but many of these homes still do not have



Data Source: Soil Survey Geographic Database (US Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, publication date 20080624-Delaware/Hamilton Counties, 20061129-Hancock/ Henry Counties, 20061201-Madison County, 20061102-Marion County) National Hydric Soils List by State-February 2010

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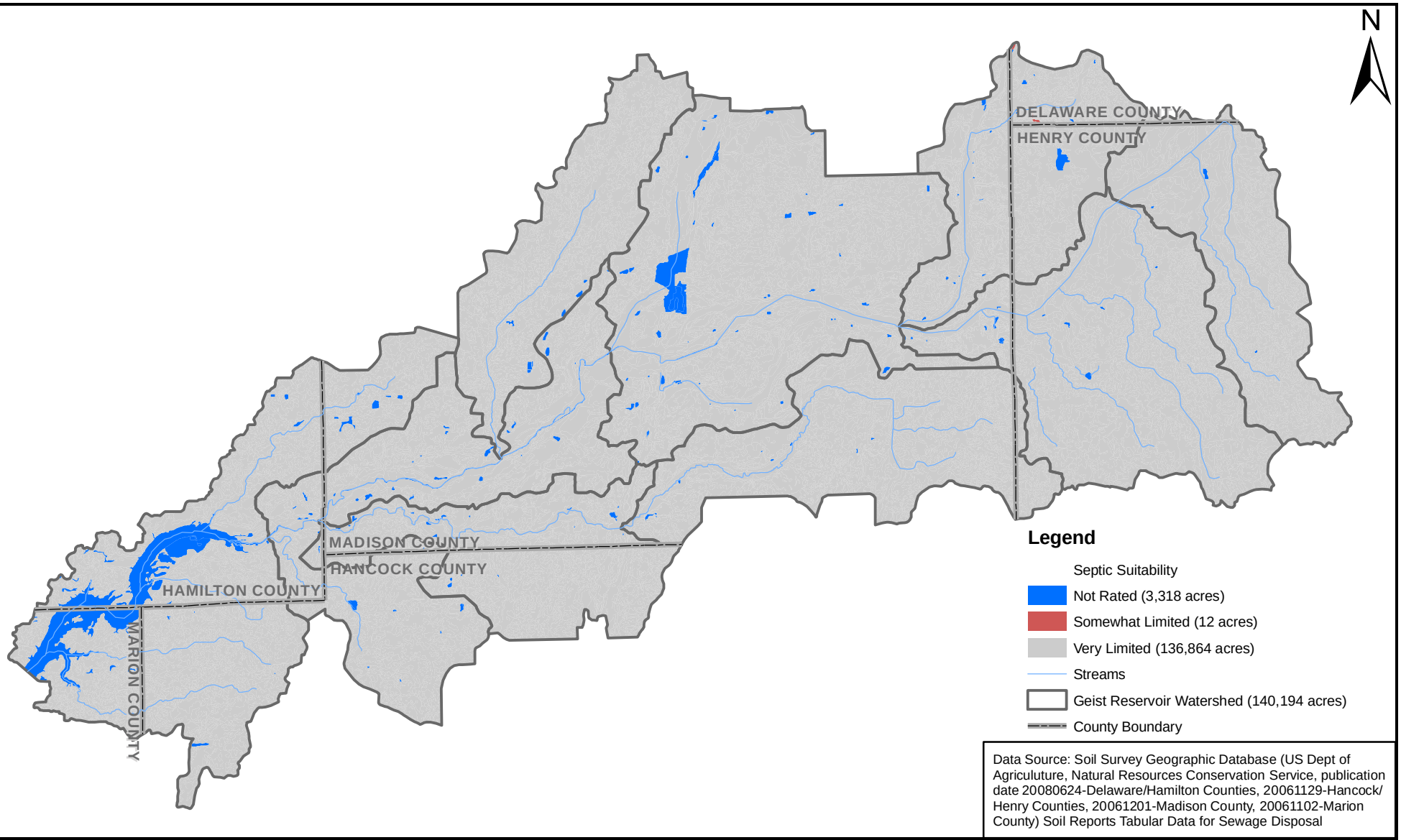
TITLE: **Hydric Soils Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: NRCS Soil Survey		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 7	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'



Data Source: Soil Survey Geographic Database (US Dept of Agriculuture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, publication date 20080624-Delaware/Hamilton Counties, 20061129-Hancock/ Henry Counties, 20061201-Madison County, 20061102-Marion County) Soil Reports Tabular Data for Sewage Disposal

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TITLE: **Septic Suitability Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: NRCS Soil Survey		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 8	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

functioning septic systems. The septic effluent from many of these older homes discharges into field tiles and eventually flows to open ditches. Unfortunately, the high cost of septic repair (typically from $5,000 to $15,000) has been an impediment to modernization.

Individual septic sites must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine septic system suitability. Systems for new construction cannot be placed in the 100-year flood plain and systems for existing homes must be above the 100-year flood elevation.

Exhibit 8 is a map of soil classes related to septic suitability within the watershed. Soils labeled "very limited" indicate that the soil has at least one feature that is unfavorable for septic systems. Approximately 97.6% of the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed is mapped as "very limited" with regards to soils being suitable for septic systems. Approximately 2.4% of the soils within the watershed are "not rated." These soils have not been assigned a rating class because it is not industry standard to install a septic system in these geographic locations. Soils designated "not limited" were not found in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed.

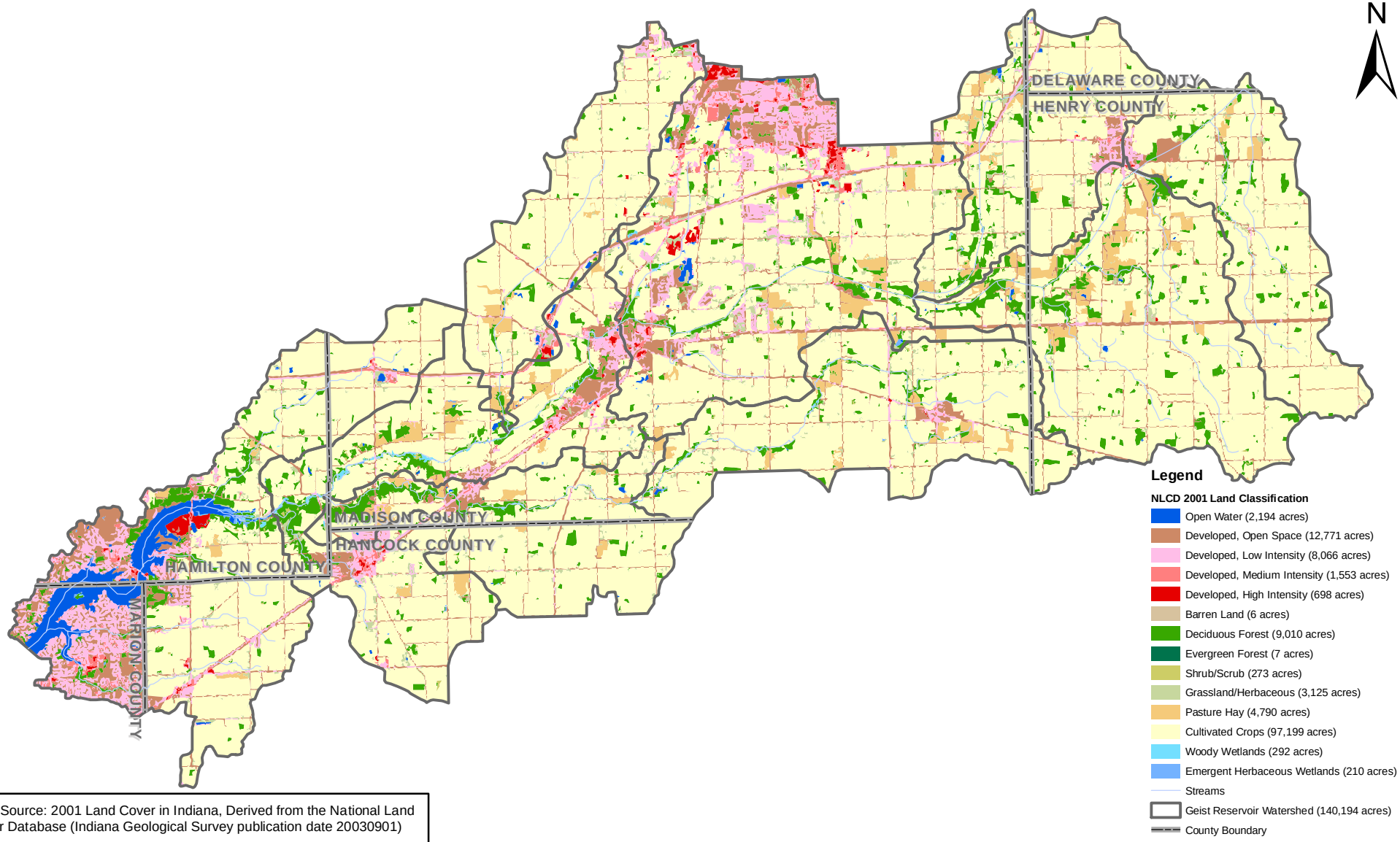
Landuse

The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed consists of approximately 190,194 acres of mixed land use, according to the 2001 National Land Cover Data (NLCD) published by the USGS (Exhibit 9; Table 5). The NLCD 2001 includes nineteen land classifications ranging from cultivated crops to high intensity developed land. In order to utilize the most current available data, the 2008 National Agricultural Imagery Program orthophotography was obtained for Delaware, Hancock, Henry, Madison, and Marion Counties and the 2008 Hamilton County Orthophotography was obtained for Hamilton County. These aerial images were compared to the NLCD 2001 in order to determine if any changes in land use had occurred. Based on the 2008 aerial, minor changes in land use when looking at the overall watershed (less than .1%) were seen in comparison to the 2001 information.

Table 5: 2001 Watershed Landuse

Landuse Classification	Acres	Percentage
Open Water	2,194	1.56%
Developed, Open Space	12,771	9.11%
Developed, Low Intensity	8,066	5.75%
Developed, Medium Intensity	1,553	1.11%
Developed, High Intensity	698	0.50%
Barren Land	6	0.005%
Deciduous Forest	9,010	6.43%
Evergreen Forest	7	0.005%
Shrub/Scrub	273	0.19%
Grassland/Herbaceous	3,125	2.23%
Pasture Hay	4,790	3.42%
Cultivated Crops	97,199	69.33%
Woody Wetlands	292	0.21%
Emergent Herbaceous	210	0.15%

This watershed has historically been dominated by agricultural land and comprises 72.755% (Barren Land, Pasture Hay, and Cultivated Crops) of its area. Additionally, forests and



Data Source: 2001 Land Cover in Indiana, Derived from the National Land Cover Database (Indiana Geological Survey publication date 20030901)

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TITLE: **Land Use Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: NLCD 2001		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 9	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

wetlands comprise only 10.775% (open water, forest, shrub/scrub, grassland herbaceous, woody wetlands and emergent herbaceous), and urban and residential lands comprise 16.47% of the watershed. Only 9% of the entire watershed is categorized as green space (i.e. forest and wetland areas). The developed areas only consist of 16.47% of the watershed but can have a major impact on water quality of stormwater runoff. As urban areas continue to develop within the watershed, the agencies with regulatory authority should pay careful attention to the characteristics of the existing areas and require (as much as the law allows) that developments incorporate best management practices (including avoidance of significant natural areas, buffers, etc.) within their projects.

Notable Natural Resources and Recreational Facilities

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves was contacted to provide any Indiana Natural Heritage Data or related records for all high quality natural communities or natural areas documented within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Their response indicated that there were two known high quality natural communities within the watershed: Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park and Stout Woods Forest Preserve. However, further evaluation of the locations of these two areas indicated that they were both located outside of the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed.

A number of recreational opportunities are also scattered throughout the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. The recreational facilities and parks serve as an opportunity for the public to enjoy the natural landscape within their community as well as learn about valuable natural resources. As shown in Table 6, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreational Facilities database indicated that there are 29 recreational facilities (excluding schools) within the watershed.

Table 6: Recreational Facilities

Name	Location	Name	Location
50th and Main Street Park	Anderson	Indiana Gun Club	Fortville
Aker Park	Anderson	Landmark Park	Fortville
Alvin D. Brown Memorial Park	Pendleton	Lost Lake Campground	Daleville
Belmont Park	Anderson	Markleville Community Park	Markleville
Circle Park	Anderson	Meadowbrook Park	Anderson
Dietrich Memorial Park	Middletown	Meadowbrook Parkway	Anderson
Falls Park	Pendleton	Pine Lakes Camping and Fishing	Pendleton
Fortville American Legion Park	Fortville	Putt-Putt Golf and Games	Anderson
Fortville Park & The Boys and Girls Club	Fortville	Southside Sports Complex	Anderson
Fred Glad Courts	Middletown	Spring Valley Campground	Middletown
Gazebo Park	Middletown	Valley View Golf Club	Middletown
Geist County Park	Fortville	Vernon Township Park	McCordsville
Geist Reservoir – Admirals Pointe	Indianapolis	Whetstone Church Park	Anderson
General Pulaski Park	Anderson	Wooded Wetlands and East Recreation Complex	Pendleton
Idlewold Country Club	Pendleton		

Other Planning Efforts

The Geist/Upper Fall Creek Watershed and the Upper White River Watershed have been the focus of scientific research recently due to the toxic blue-green algae issues in the reservoir, and therefore some watershed planning and monitoring efforts have been ongoing that

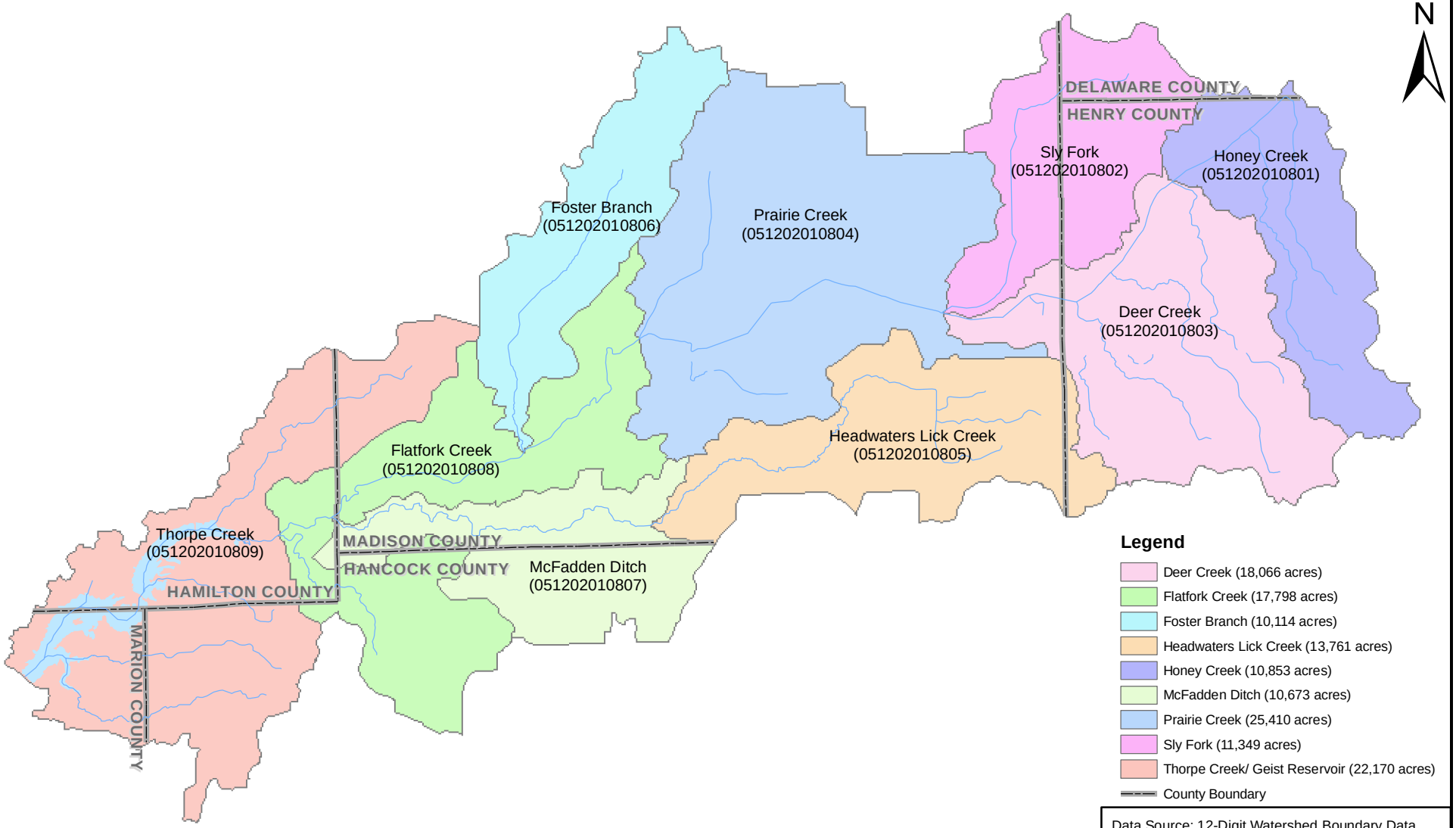
provide information to this WMP. Additionally, the Geist/Upper Fall Creek Watershed is a developing watershed and the incorporated entities within the watershed have comprehensive plans and stormwater quality management plans that have been approved and are being used to manage growth within these communities. See Table 7 for available planning efforts being completed by the communities/agencies within the watershed. The list of Approved MS4 Communities was created using IDEM Rule 13 List of Designated MS4 Entities Currently Permitted and the SWQMPs were obtained from the community websites.

These planning documents provide a glimpse into the future for potential land use change that may impact the water quality of the Geist/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. This information is important to incorporate and make our best attempt to look forward with nonpoint source modeling techniques to predict future conditions. As in many cases, land use is a primary determinant of water quality conditions.

Table 7: Other Planning Efforts		
Watershed Management Plans		**Approved MS4 Communities**
Lower Fall Creek WMP		Delaware County
		Hamilton County (SWQMP 1/31/2005)
Comprehensive Plans		Hancock County
Hamilton County		Madison County
Hancock County		City of Anderson
Madison County		Town of Pendleton
Marion County		Town of Ingalls
Town of Pendleton		Town of Fortville
		Town of McCordsville
Long Term Control Plans (for Combined Sewer Overflow)		City of Lawrence
Community	No. of CSO's	Town of Fishers (SWQMP 1/31/2005)
Town of Middletown	3	
Town of Fortville	7	

Part Two of the Watershed Inventory

Hydrologic unit codes (HUCs) were developed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in cooperation with the United States Water Resources Council (USWRC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Most federal and state agencies use this coding system. HUCs are a way of cataloguing portions of the landscape according to their drainage. Landscape units are nested within each other and described as successively smaller units. The hydrologic code attached to a specific watershed is unique, enabling different agencies to have common terms of reference and agree on the boundaries of the watershed. These commonly understood boundaries foster understanding of how landscapes function, where water quality problems should be addressed, and who needs to be involved in the planning process. The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed in itself is a 10-digit HUC 0512020108 that, for this project, consists of nine 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes or HUCs (Exhibit 10).



Data Source: 12-Digit Watershed Boundary Data (USDA-NRCS National Cartography and Geospatial Center, publication date 1999)

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TITLE: **Subwatershed Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: HUC 12 Boundaries		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 10	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

Table 8: 12-Digit Hydrologic Unit Codes			
Subwatershed Name	**HUC**	**Acres**	**Percentage**
Honey Creek	051202010801	10,853	7.74%
Sly Fork	051202010802	11,349	8.10%
Deer Creek	051202010803	18,066	12.89%
Prairie Creek	051202010804	25,410	18.12%
Headwaters Lick Creek	051202010805	13,761	9.82%
Foster Branch	051202010806	10,114	7.21%
McFadden Ditch	051202010807	10,673	7.61%
Flatfork Creek	051202010808	17,798	12.70%
Thorpe Creek	051202010809	22,170	15.81%

Available water quality, biological and landuse information was collected for the watershed. This information was then analyzed on a subwatershed (HUC 12) scale in order to prioritize and rank the subwatersheds relative to one another. A list of the data and studies utilized for this WMP are detailed below, however the results/analysis are discussed in the respective 12-digit HUC subwatershed sections.

Available Data and Studies

Lower Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan

Lower Fall Creek is not in the Upper Fall Creek/Geist Reservoir Watershed, however it does directly discharge to the Lower Fall Creek watershed and therefore is included in this WMP. The Lower Fall Creek Watershed drains approximately 57,800 acres of rural, suburban, and urban land in Central Indiana. The Lower Fall Creek Watershed consists of 6 14-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watersheds. These include: 05120201110-010, 020, 030, 040, 050, and 060. The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District submitted a Section 319 Non Point Source Program grant application to IDEM in 2006 to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Fall Creek Watershed. The grant application was approved in 2007 and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. was hired to complete the plan.

The Lower Fall Creek Watershed Steering Committee focused on three pollutants (sediment, nutrients and pathogens) throughout the identification of the Critical Areas, development of the proposed best management practice recommendations, and development of the goals and decisions to improve water quality. Public education and outreach was also included as a goal of the WMP. This information was reviewed and included for information purposes only due to the fact that the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek watershed ultimately drains to this watershed.

IDEM 303(d) List

The IDEM Assessment Branch evaluates all the data they collect to develop the 305(b) report, and the 303(d) list. The 305(b) report is a document that summarizes the quality of surface waters throughout Indiana and the designated uses of these waters. Evaluations are based on different stream segments or lakes, and are discussed in the context of watersheds. To complete the evaluation, IDEM considers not only the data they collect, but data collected by other entities as long as that data meets the rigorous quality controls that IDEM uses in the collection and analysis of their own data. Other data that does not meet

these standards may be used informally to validate data that does meet the quality controls.

Section 303(d) of the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires each state to identify those waters that do not meet the state's water quality targets for designated uses. These streams are to be listed on the State's 303(d) list of impaired waters. For such waters, the State is required to establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to meet the state water quality targets. As defined by IDEM, a TMDL established under section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, is a calculation of the maximum amount of pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality targets, and allocates pollutant loadings among point and nonpoint sources.

To determine if a waterbody should be listed on Indiana's 303(d) list, the IDEM Assessment Branch has developed a surface water quality monitoring strategy to assess the quality of Indiana's ambient waters. The goals of this monitoring strategy are: measure the physical, chemical, bacteriological and biological quality of the aquatic environment in all river basins and identify factors responsible for impairment; assess the impact of human and other activities on the surface water resource; identify trends through the analysis of environmental data; and provide environmental quality assessment to support water quality management programs. Known impairments in this watershed are specified in Part Two of the Watershed Inventory: Subwatershed Summaries.

Once data is collected, waterbodies are evaluated by a team of water-quality professionals within IDEM to determine if the waterbodies meet the water-quality standards set by the State, and that all designated uses are met. If a stream fails to meet these requirements, as outlined in the 303(d) listing methodology, the waterbody is considered impaired and must be listed on the 303(d) list, and a TMDL developed to address the problem.

As defined by IDEM, a TMDL is a tool for implementing water quality targets and is based on the relationship between pollutant sources and in-stream water quality conditions. The TMDL establishes the allowable loadings or other quantifiable parameters for a water body and thereby provides the basis to establish water quality-based controls. These controls should provide the pollutant reduction necessary for a water body to meet water quality targets.

The TMDL process provides a flexible assessment and planning framework for identifying load reductions or other actions needed to attain water quality targets (i.e. water quality goals to protect aquatic life, drinking water, and other water uses). The process has three steps:

- Identify Quality Limited Waters - States must identify and prepare a list of waters that do not or are not expected to meet water quality targets after applying existing required controls.
- Establish Priority Waters/Watersheds - States must prioritize waters/watersheds and target high priority waters/watersheds for TMDL development.
- Develop TMDLs - For listed waters, States must develop TMDLs that will achieve water quality targets, allowing for seasonal variations and an appropriate margin of safety. A TMDL is a quantitative assessment of water quality problems, contributing

sources, and load reductions or control actions needed to restore and protect individual water bodies.

States are responsible for implementing the TMDL process. EPA reviews and approves lists of quality-limited waters and specific TMDLs. If EPA disapproves lists or TMDLs, EPA is required to establish the lists and/or TMDLs. Landowners, other agencies, and other stakeholders can often assist States or EPA in developing TMDLs for specific watersheds.

Draft TMDLs have been determined for pollutants that do not already have state regulated targets. This information is provided within the appropriate pollutant section within this plan. It should be noted that if a stream is not listed on the 303(d) list it may be impaired; however the data (or lack thereof) does not indicate the impairment at the time of publication. Exhibit 11 identifies all streams within the watershed which are listed on the 303(d) list.

IDEM Water Quality Sampling

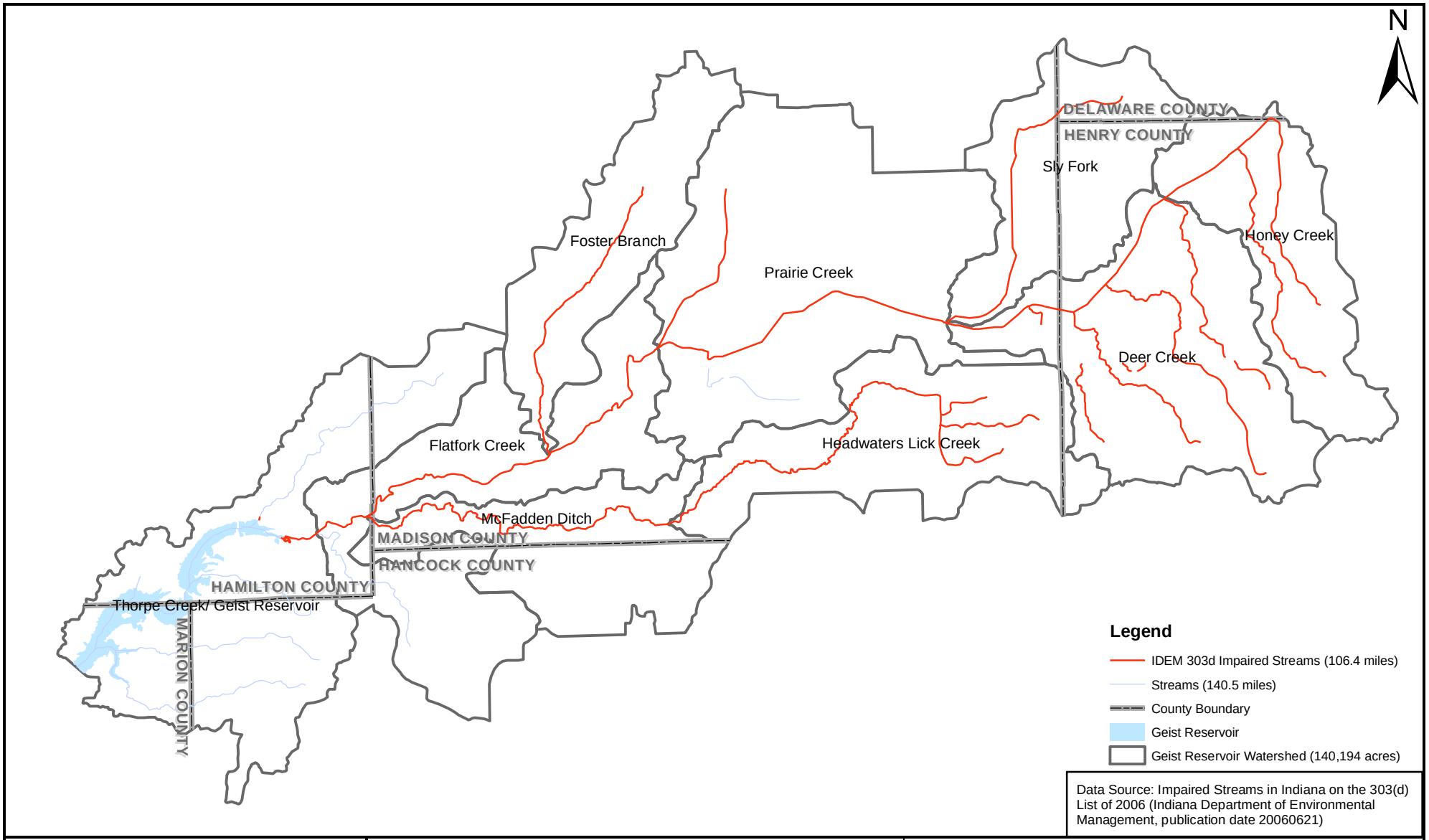
Available water quality data from IDEM for the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed between 1996 and 2009 was obtained and evaluated to determine where water-quality problems were noted in the watershed.

The following is a list of the IDEM data obtained for this WMP.

- 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 Fish Tissue
- 1992, 1996, 2001, 2006 Macroinvertebrates
- 1996, 2001 Sediment Bio
- 1996 Synoptic
- 1996 Watershed
- 1999-2009 Fixed Station
- 2001, 2006 Corvallis
- 2001 Corvallis Biological
- 2001 *E.coli* – Upper WFWR
- 2001 Pesticides
- 2002-2006 Clean Sampling and Ultra-Clean Analyses
- 2006 Corvallis *E.coli*
- 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study
- 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek WQ Monitoring Program

It should be noted that three IDEM sampling locations were within Geist Reservoir. Two of the sampling locations identified various Fish Tissue and Sediment Bio Studies. One sampling location was noted in the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. The information associated with these locations was omitted in the data analysis portion of the WMP as it is reservoir specific and does not accurately depict water quality within the subwatershed. This information is, however, included in the Appendix for information and future use purposes.

The data that was analyzed included field data, general chemistry data and metals data where available. In comparison to the CIWRP data, the IDEM data was all inclusive without a differentiation between base flow or storm flow events. Therefore, an overall average approach of this data was used in order to get a better depiction of how the watershed



Data Source: Impaired Streams in Indiana on the 303(d) List of 2006 (Indiana Department of Environmental Management, publication date 20060621)

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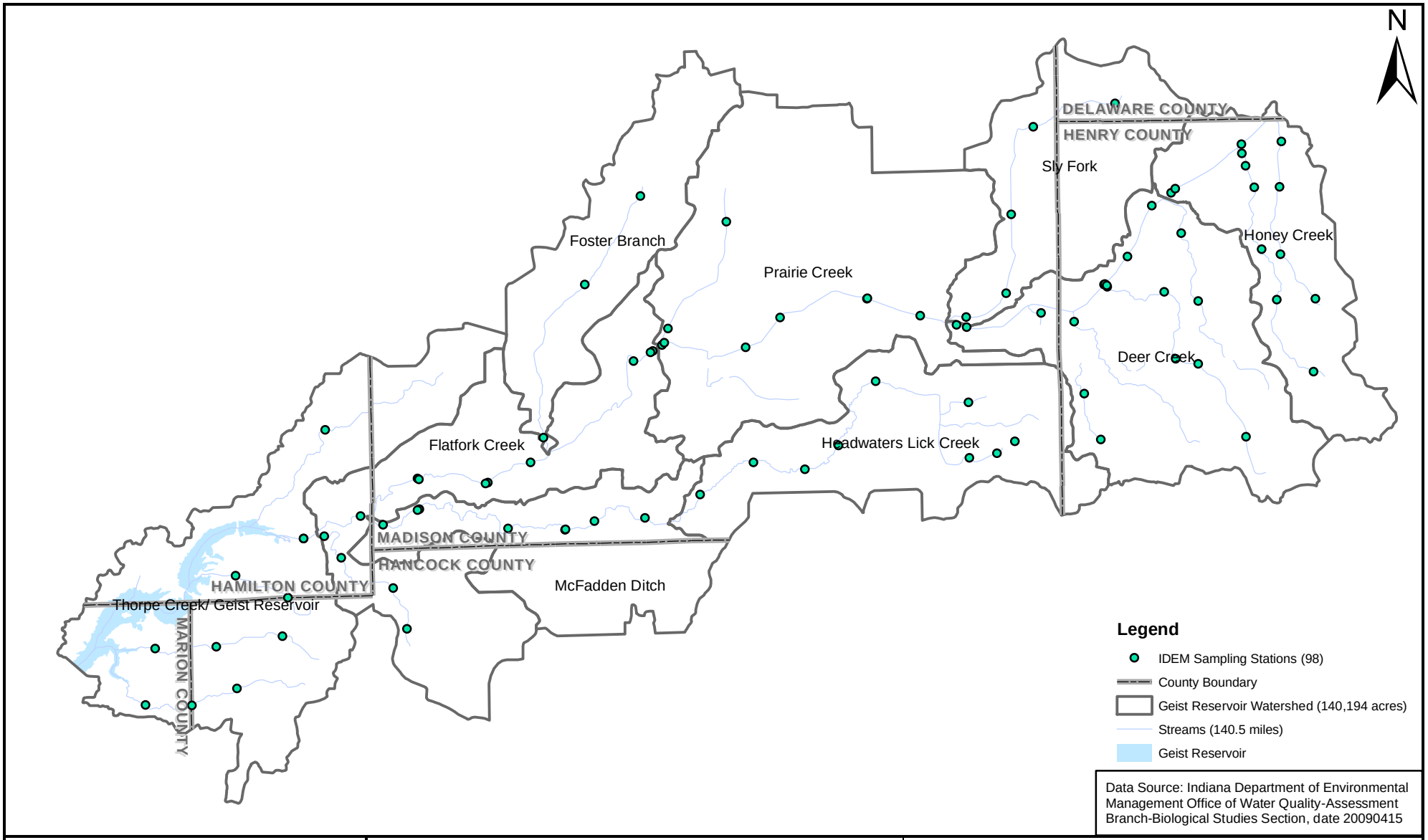
TITLE: **IDEM 303(d) Impaired Streams Map**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: 303(d) Impaired Streams		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 11	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'



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TITLE: **IDEM Sampling Stations**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: IDEM Sampling Locations		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 12	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

actually functions at any given time. Site locations were spread throughout the watershed as shown on Exhibit 12 and the data was analyzed on a subwatershed scale as detailed in each subwatershed section.

Several water quality parameters which have standard targets associated with them were screened to determine which subwatersheds demonstrated impairments or degradations. The water quality parameters evaluated from the historical data set and their suggested targets are listed below with a detailed explanation of the parameter and the impairment that it may indicate. All parameters were summarized as means for comparison to water quality targets and other subwatersheds.

Dissolved Oxygen – Dissolved oxygen is the gaseous form of oxygen and is essential for respiration of aquatic organisms (i.e. fish and plants). Dissolved oxygen enters water by diffusion from the atmosphere and as a byproduct of photosynthesis by algae and plants. Oxygen saturation in water would equal 100% if equilibrium were reached. Values greater than 100% saturation indicate photosynthetic activity within the water or highly turbulent water. Large amounts of dissolved oxygen in the water indicate excessive algae growth. Dissolved oxygen is consumed by respiration of aquatic organisms and during bacterial decomposition of plant and animal matter. Levels of Dissolved Oxygen less than 4 mg/L and greater than 12 mg/L exceed the water quality standard for Dissolved Oxygen as described in Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 327 IAC 2-1.5-8.

Escherichia coli (E.coli) – *E.coli* is a member of the fecal coliform group of bacteria. When this organism is detected within water samples, it is an indication of fecal contamination. *E.coli* is an indigenous fecal flora of warm-blooded animals. Contributions of detectable *E.coli* colonies may appear within water samples due to the input from human or animal waste. Failing septic tanks, and wildlife are some known sources of *E.coli* impairments in waterbodies. Common sources of animal waste are agricultural feedlots (pigs, cattle, etc.), Canada goose waste, or bird waste (such as Canada geese or gulls). Rain storm events or snow melts frequently wash waste and the associated *E.coli* into surface water systems. Rain storm events that exceed the capacity of local sewer systems result in combined sewer overflows that can also be a source of *E.coli*. Land use within the Geist Reservoir Watershed is predominately agricultural and requires drain tiles due to soil type. Field tiles are not sources of *E.coli* but they can carry *E.coli* from land applied manure and runoff from the fields and pastures. The single sample state standard in Indiana for *E.coli* according to Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 327 IAC 2-1-6 is 235 CFU/100 mL. The measure of CFU per 100 mL means the count of colony forming units (CFU) that exist in 100 milliliters of water.

After 2000 IDEM began using the Most Probable Number (MPN) method instead of CFU for measuring *E.coli.* Based on a study performed by the Department of Statistical Science at Duke University, estimating procedures for MPN and CFU have intrinsic variability and are subject to additional uncertainty arising from minor variations in experimental protocol. It has been observed empirically that the standard multiple-tube fermentation (MTF) decimal dilution analysis MPN procedure is more variable than the membrane filtration CFU procedure, and that MTF derived MPN estimates are somewhat higher on average than CFU estimates, on split samples from the same water bodies.

Nitrogen – Nitrogen is an essential nutrient for organism growth. Nitrogen can enter water bodies from the air and as inorganic nitrogen and ammonia for use by bacteria, algae and larger plants. The four common forms of nitrogen are:

- Nitrite (NO2-) – is an intermediate oxidation state of nitrogen, both in the oxidation of ammonia to nitrate and in the reduction of nitrate. Nitrite is a negative charged ionized form of nitrogen (anion).
- Nitrate (NO3-) – Nitrate generally occurs in surface runoff from agricultural fields and can also be conveyed through some groundwater systems. In excessive amounts, it contributes to the illness known as methemoglobinemia in infants. Nitrate is a negative charged ionized form of nitrogen (anion).
- Ammonia (NH3) and Ammonium (NH4+ or simply NH4) – Ammonia has a polar charge and can be toxic to fish. Ammonium is a positive charged ionized form (cation) and is considered nontoxic. Ammonia is present naturally in surface waters. Bacteria produce ammonia as they decompose dead plant and animal matter. The concentration of ammonia is generally low in groundwater because it adheres to soil particles and clays and does not leach readily from soils. It can also be found in some areas with industrial discharges.
- Organic nitrogen (TKN) – is defined functionally as organically bound nitrogen in the trinegative oxidation state. Organic nitrogen includes nitrogen found in plants and animal materials, which includes such natural materials as proteins and peptides, nucleic acids and urea. In the analytical procedures, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) determines both organic nitrogen and ammonia. TKN is determined in the same manor as organic nitrogen with the exception that the ammonia is not driven off before the digestion step.

Levels of Nitrate and Nitrite greater than 10 mg/L exceed the water quality standard for those waters designated as a drinking water source for Nitrate and Nitrite as described in Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 327 IAC 2-1-6. However, for this analysis, levels above 1.6 mg/L were evaluated as the US EPA nutrient criterion for this eco-region.

pH (Acidic and Alkaline) – The pH of a water body reflects the hydrogen ion activity in the water body. pH is defined as the –log [H+]. A low pH signifies an acidic medium (lethal effects of most acids begin to appear at pH = 4.5) while a high pH signifies an alkaline medium (lethal effects of most alkalis begin to appear at pH = 9.5). Neutral pH is 7. The actual pH of a water sample indicates the buffering capacity of that water body. Levels of pH less than 6 and greater than 9 exceed the water quality standard for pH as described in Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 327 IAC 2-1.5-8. pH values can change rapidly when algae is present. Algae removes dissolve carbon dioxide during photosynthesis. Carbon dioxide is acidic and therefore this process will cause pH values to rise.

Phosphorus – Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for organism growth. Phosphorus can be found in dissolved and sediment-bound forms. However, phosphorus is often locked up in all plant life, including algae. In the watershed, phosphorus is found in fertilizers and in human and animal wastes. The availability of phosphorus determines the growth and production of algae and makes it a limiting nutrient in the system. Levels of Total Phosphorus greater than 0.3 mg/L exceed the IDEM statewide draft TMDL target, while

levels above 0.076 mg/L exceed the US EPA recommended water quality target. For this analysis, subwatersheds were evaluated based on EPA's recommended target.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) – Total suspended solids is a water quality measurement which refers to the portion of total solids retained by a filter, where as total dissolved solids (TDS) refers to the portion that passes through the filter. The principal factors affecting separation of TSS and TDS are the type of filter holder, pore size, porosity, area, and thickness of the filter and the physical nature, particle size, and amount of material deposited on the filter. Measurements of TSS can vary widely in watershed streams based on stream flow at the time of sampling. TSS measurements and modeling are frequently used to represent sediment loading. Levels of TSS greater than 30 mg/L exceed the IDEM statewide draft TMDL target.

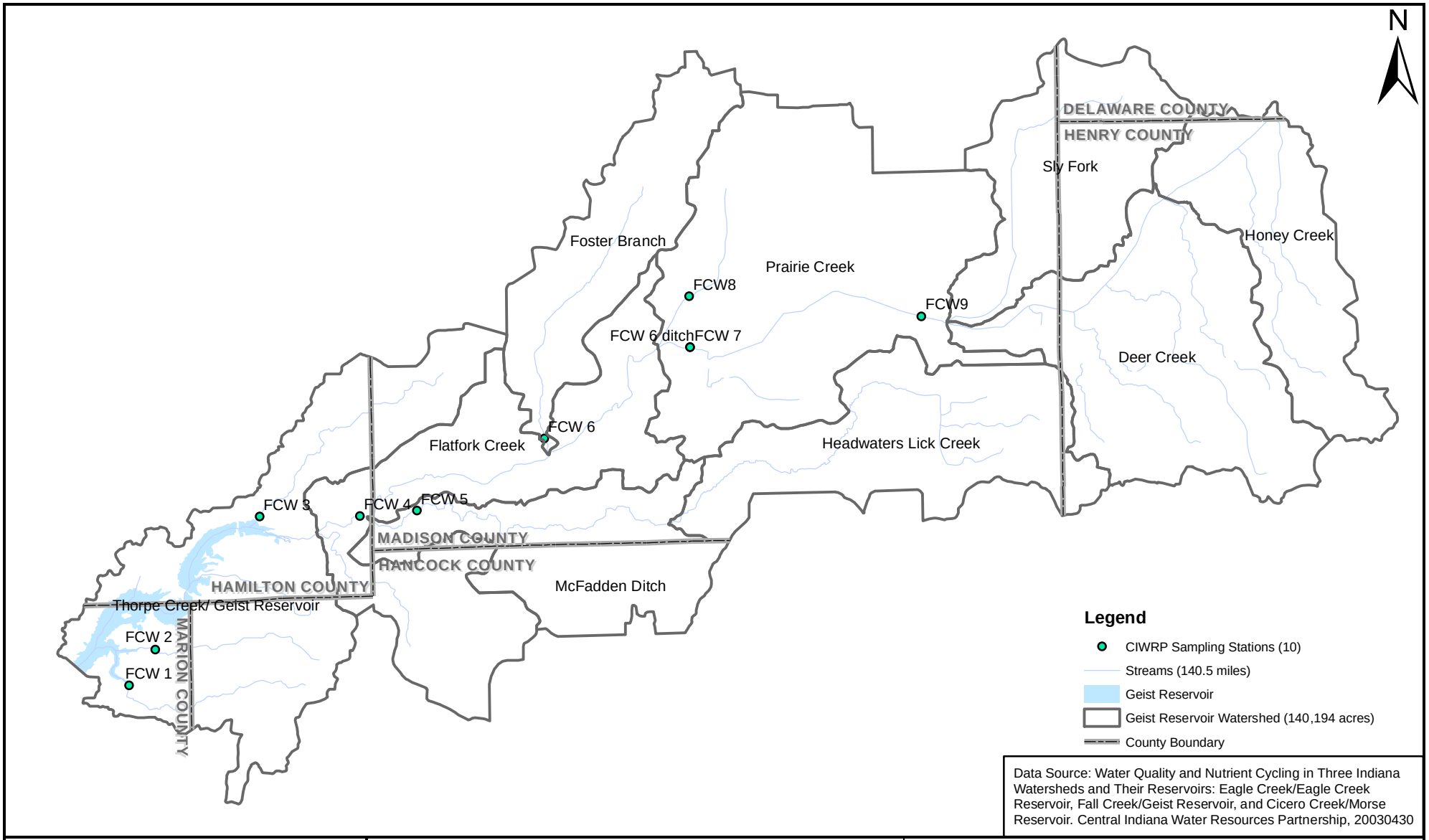
Turbidity – The water's transparency can be affected by two primary factors: algae and suspended particulate matter. An increase in the amount of the phytoplankton or suspended particles signifies an increase in the water's turbidity. Levels of Turbidity greater than 10.4NTU exceed the US EPA recommended water quality limits.

Atrazine – Atrazine is an herbicide used to stop pre- and post-emergence broadleaf and grassy weeds in major agricultural crops, especially corn. Atrazine is the most widely used herbicide in conservation tillage systems, which are designed to prevent soil erosion. It may also used in conventional tillage applications. Its use is controversial due to its effects on nontarget species, such as on amphibians, and because of widespread contamination of waterways and drinking water supplies. There are also thought to be implications for human birth defects, low birth weights and menstrual problems. Levels of Atrazine greater than 0.003 mg/L exceed the US EPA drinking water standards. The CEES Atrazine data was unable to be released for purposes of this WMP. However, this concern was discussed at the Steering Committee meetings based on the knowledge of this data and usage throughout the watershed.

Central Indiana Water Resources Partnership (CIWRP) Studies

Central Indiana Water Resources Partnership is a long-term research and development partnership between IUPUI's Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES) and Veolia Water Indianapolis, LLC. In 2003, CIWRP completed a study encompassing Geist Reservoir and the Upper Fall Creek Watershed (Appendix G). Water Quality samples were collected within the watershed during seasonal base and event flow throughout 2003 (Exhibit 13). Data collected during the CIWRP study was obtained for analysis for this watershed management plan.

The CIWRP Study included ten sampling locations within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. There are two sampling locations at the same site within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed. Based on the sampling locations, not all subwatersheds could be defined by a sample location. In order to use this data for subwatershed comparisons, some subwatersheds were grouped together and represented by a single sampling site. Several water quality parameters which have standard targets associated with them were screened to determine which subwatersheds demonstrated impairments or degradations. All parameters were summarized as means for comparison to water quality targets and other subwatersheds.



Data Source: Water Quality and Nutrient Cycling in Three Indiana Watersheds and Their Reservoirs: Eagle Creek/Eagle Creek Reservoir, Fall Creek/Geist Reservoir, and Cicero Creek/Morse Reservoir. Central Indiana Water Resources Partnership, 20030430

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TITLE: **CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Stations**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: CIWRP Sampling Locations	PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 13	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206	QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

Based on the information obtained for the CIWRP 2009 Research Program website, CIWRP also continues to do blue-green algae research within Geist Reservoir which recently has included documentation on the occurrence of taste and odor compounds as well as cyanotoxins. Exposure to a blue-green algae during recreational activities such as swimming, wading, and water-skiing may lead to rashes, skin, eye irritation, and other uncomfortable effects such as nausea, stomach aches, and tingling in fingers and toes.

There are three main goals for this continued research: 1) to document algal community composition and abundance; 2) to determine the relationship between physical and chemical reservoir conditions and algal community structure and abundance; and 3) to document the occurrence of cyanobacterial toxins and taste and odor compounds. Results of the 2008 study provided important information regarding differences and similarities of phytoplankton community structure and the occurrence of cyanotoxins and taste and odor metabolites in the reservoir. A summary of the 2008 research project as well as the presentation given by Dr. Lenore Tedesco, Nicolas Clercin (CEES) and Mark Gray (Veolia Water) on the findings specifically in Geist Reservoir can be found in Appendix G. The Geist Reservoir study sites included seven sites. All seven sites were evaluated for water quality parameters and two of these sites were evaluated for algal toxins. Samples were collected 11 times from May to November.

IDEM Biological Sampling

Available biological data from IDEM for the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed was obtained and evaluated to determine where water-quality problems were noted in the watershed (see Appendix F for a complete list of IDEM data). Data included macroinvertebrate, fisheries and habitat data where available. IDEM sampling locations were spread throughout the watershed as shown on Exhibit 12 and the data was analyzed on a subwatershed scale as detailed in each subwatershed section. As stated in IDEM's Surface Water Quality Assessment Program – Macroinvertebrate Community Assessment Program objectives, any biological community assessment is a measurement of an ecosystem and how it responds to environmental stresses and gives an overall picture of the conditions, at the point being assessed. When conducted in conjunction with chemical analysis of specific water quality parameters and aquatic habitat quality, this information can provide a complete and comprehensive understanding of the ecological quality of the watershed.

Macroinvertebrate data was analyzed based on the Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (mIBI). Macroinvertebrate monitoring followed the US EPA Rapid Bioassessment Protocol single habitat, family level approach method. The mIBI is designed to assess biotic integrity directly through ten metrics which evaluate a macroinvertebrate community's species richness, evenness, composition, and density within the stream. These metrics include the family-level HBI (Hilsenhoff's Family Biotic Index), number of taxa, number of individuals, Percent Dominant Taxa, EPT index, EPT count, EPT count to total number of individuals, EPT count to Chironomid count, Chironomid count, and number of individuals per number of squares sorted. Values for the ten metrics are compared with corresponding ranges and a rating of 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 is assigned to each metric. A final score of 0 – 2 is a severely impaired stream, 2 – 4 is moderately impaired, 4 – 6 is slightly impaired and 6 – 8 is not impaired for biological quality. The average of these ratings gives a total mIBI score.

Fisheries data was analyzed based on the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI). The IBI is based on fish surveys with the rating dependent on the abundance and composition of the fish species in a stream. Fish communities are useful for assessing stream quality because fish represent the upper level of the aquatic food chain and therefore reflect conditions in the lower levels of the food chain. Fish population characteristics are dependent on the physical habitat, hydrologic and chemical conditions of the stream, and are considered good indicators of overall stream quality because they reflect stress from both chemical pollution and habitat perturbations. For example, the presence of fish species that are intolerant of pollution are an indicator that water quality is good. The IBI is calculated on a scale of 12 to 60, the higher the score the better the stream quality. When more than one data set was available, the IBI scores were summarized as means for comparison to other subwatersheds.

Habitat data was analyzed based on the IDEM Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) habitat assessment approach which evaluates physical characteristics of a stream. Habitat incorporates all aspects of physical and chemical constituents along with the biotic interactions. Habitat includes all of the in-stream and riparian habitat that influences the structure and function of the aquatic community in a stream. The presence of an altered habitat structure is considered one of the major stressors of aquatic systems. The maximum score that can be obtained using the IDEM QHEI is a value of 100. QHEI scores below 51 indicate that the stream is non-supporting for aquatic communities. QHEI scores form 51 to 64 are partially supporting to aquatic communities and scores above 64 are fully supporting. QHEI can also be broken down in several different categories that range from Excellent (70-100), Good (55-69), Fair (43-54), Poor (31-42), to Very Poor (<30). When more than one data set was available, the QHEI scores were summarized as means for comparison to other subwatersheds.

V3 Reservoir Shoreline Investigation

V3 completed at Reservoir Shoreline Investigation of Geist Reservoir in June 2009, using both field observations and aerial photography. During the survey, areas of unprotected shoreline were identified in order to gain an understanding of where erosion may be a concern as well as areas that can be included in implementation projects. Unprotected areas ranged from naturally eroding shoreline (i.e. tree coverage prohibiting vegetation growth with solid root mass for stabilization) to lack of sediment and erosion control measures causing eroded shoreline due to construction activities (i.e. Rule 5 violations). An exhibit showing the areas of unprotected shoreline is included in Appendix J along with a copy of the field notes.

V3 Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan

The purpose of an aquatic vegetation management plan is to identify aquatic weed problem areas, describe management objectives, prescribe management strategies, and determine funding needs and sources necessary for the control of invasive aquatic vegetation.

Aquatic vegetation is an important component of lake ecosystems in Indiana; however as a result of many factors, aquatic vegetation can develop to a nuisance level. Nuisance quantities of aquatic vegetation are described as plant growth that negatively impacts lake uses such as swimming, boating, and fishing. Exotic species typically reach nuisance quantities as they outcompete native species and proliferate rapidly.

The goals outlined in the vegetation management plan were created based on the results of vegetation surveys and interaction with the Upper White River Watershed Alliance, Veolia Water, Watershed Stakeholders and IDNR biologists. The Geist Reservoir Vegetation Management Plan was created as a proactive measure to effectively propose exotic species management and to help reach the management goals established by the IDNR for all public lakes in Indiana.

It is important to note that all management actions proposed are related to invasive exotic species within Geist Reservoir. The vegetation survey results identified Eurasian watermilfoil as the only exotic species currently present within Geist Reservoir and is really the only vegetation providing any sort of habitat structure. Based on these findings, a recommendation of no treatment or management was made.

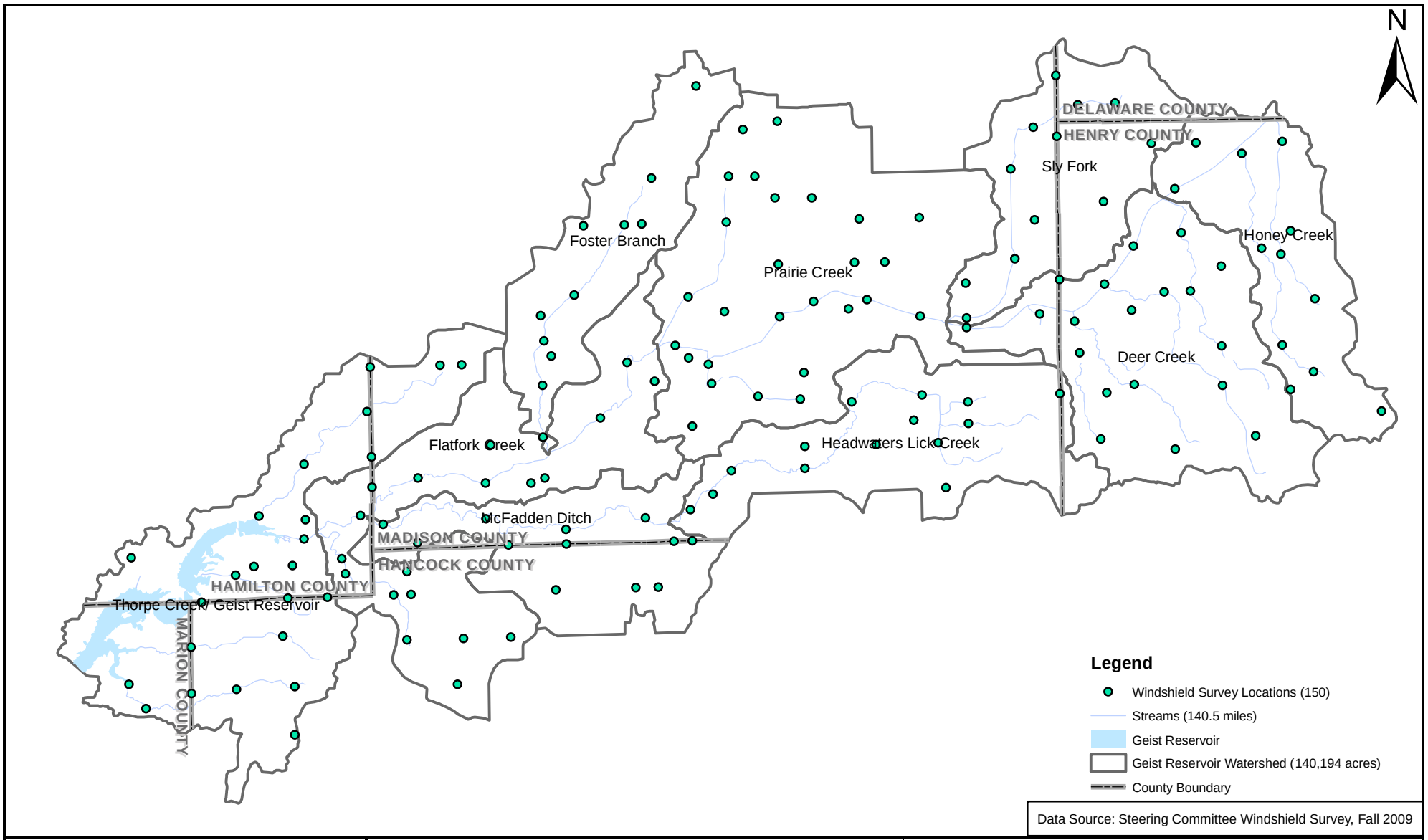
Windshield Survey

A windshield survey is a type of watershed assessment conducted by an observer traversing the watershed in a motorized vehicle. Real time data is then collected at predetermined stream crossings and accessible locations. Survey locations were split up per subwatershed based on the size of the subwatershed with a total of 100 waterway crossing points and 50 land points. The locations of the waterway crossing points were determined based on ease of access to the streams at roadway crossings (i.e. bridge and/or culvert crossings). The locations of the land points were also determined based on ease of access and were generally located at roadway crossings within the subwatershed. As shown in Exhibit 14, all of the locations identified for windshield survey analysis are spread out throughout each subwatershed in order to provide an overall representation of the subwatershed. The index maps for each subwatershed with the site location identification are included in Appendix H.

Observations were made during October/November 2009 by Steering Committee volunteers. Observations including general site information (i.e. location and weather), land use, land odor, evidence of best management practices, water color/appearance, water odor, evidence of algae, streambank erosion, stream buffers & type, in-stream debris, available shade/stream cover and in-stream habitat were recorded for 150 locations throughout the watershed (Exhibit 14) on standardized survey forms (Appendix H). While all of this information is valid for an overall understanding of the subwatershed, five of the major parameters (animal access, tillage type, streambank erosion, stream buffers and in-stream debris) were used as a part of the subwatershed assessments and the identification of subwatershed priority areas and specific source critical areas. The remainder of the information obtained during the windshield survey should be reevaluated during the feasibility phases of plan implementation.

Example of Rip-Rap Stabilized Streambank

Streambank erosion is a natural process within a stream system; however erosion is often accelerated through alterations to the natural



Data Source: Steering Committee Windshield Survey, Fall 2009

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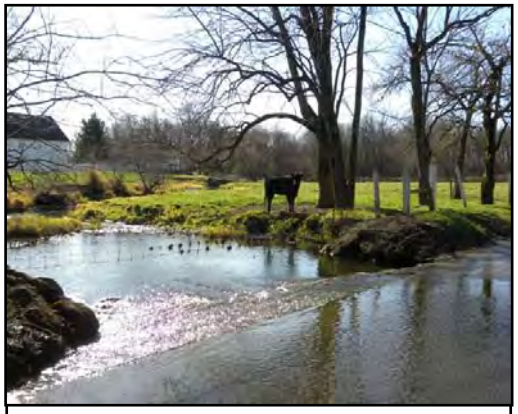
BASE LAYER: Windshield Survey Locations		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 14	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

system (e.g. changes in landuse, animal access to streams, etc). This accelerated erosion can contribute high sediment loads to the receiving stream, which is a concern due both to the impacts of the sediment itself, and of the contaminants that often bind with, or otherwise reside in the sediment. Suspended sediment is a component of the amount of particulate matter in the water column and contributes to increases in the total suspended solids values, making it more difficult and often times impossible for fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates to live. The sediment itself can smother aquatic habitat and therefore negatively affect the aquatic flora and fauna. Sediment can also transport nutrients, especially phosphorus that tends to adhere to sediment particles causing excess algal growth leading to the large swings in DO. Streambank erosion was assessed on a subwatershed scale at each of the waterway crossing points. Identification of streambank erosion was broken up into the following categories: absent, stabilized (rip-rap, coir log, etc.), present > 3 feet tall and present < 3 feet tall.

Example of Absent Stream Buffer

Stream buffers are areas of natural vegetation between a surface water body and the surrounding land use. Buffers were only identified as adequate if they were at least ten feet in width. As shown on the example picture, Absent Buffers are those where the agricultural land or development is farmed/built up to the top of the stream bank leaving no possibility of runoff from being filtered through a grassed or treed area before entering the stream. Runoff from the surrounding land may carry sediment and organic matter, and plant nutrients and pesticides that are either bound to the sediment or dissolved in the water. Buffers provide water quality protection by reducing the amount of pollutants in the runoff before it enters the water body. Constructed filter strips can also provide localized erosion protection and habitat for wildlife. Stream buffers were assessed on a subwatershed scale at each of the waterway crossing points. Identification of buffers was broken up into the following categories: absent, present > 50 feet and present (minimum 10 feet) < 50 feet. In areas of agricultural drain tile, the effectiveness of stream buffers can be lower than in areas without these drainage systems especially for contaminants that are transported largely as dissolved load such as nitrate and certain pesticides, including Atrazine. It should be noted that the 30 feet reference in the BMP section is in regards to the minimum required buffer width for funding opportunities from the USDA and in general is a standard minimum for water quality. The 50 foot reference is for the windshield survey. It was determined to use 50 feet instead of 30 feet since this parameter wasn't going to actually be measured but observed from a vehicle and therefore leaving some room for interpretation.


Example of Animal Access to Stream

In-stream debris was also noted during the windshield survey. In-stream debris can inhibit wildlife and aquatic habitat, increase flooding risks, and introduce additional pollutants. This information is valuable for the purposes of determining public education opportunities. Debris was assessed on a subwatershed scale based on the presence and type of debris (trash, deposits, log jam, etc) identified during the windshield survey. Animal access was assessed on a subwatershed scale based on the presence of animals or indicators of access.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Modeling

Nonpoint source pollution is a type of pollution generated from diffused sources in both public and private domains. As defined by EPA, the pollution from nonpoint sources originates from urban runoff, construction activities, manmade modification of hydrologic regime of a watercourse (i.e. retention, detention, channelization, etc.), silviculture, mining, agriculture, irrigation return flows, solid waste disposal, atmospheric deposition, stream bank erosion, and individual or zonal sewage disposal. Therefore, nonpoint pollution sources have their origin in a wide spectrum of public and private activities and, when not known or properly controlled, could affect, the water quality in a certain area.

Since runoff from the rainfall flows over or through the land and collects pollutants and nutrients prior to entering waterways, the overall characteristics and land use types of a watershed greatly influences the water quality. Each land use type includes the cumulative effects of various land covers, and natural and man-made activities. Therefore, each land use type can have an adverse affect on water quality, by contributing different pollutant amounts and concentrations. The cumulative effect of this pollution throughout the watershed represents the contribution of nonpoint source pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution management is highly dependent on hydrologic simulation models, and use of computer modeling is often the only viable means of providing useful input information for adopting the best management decisions. As previously mentioned, the nonpoint pollution sources are generated by activities that are spatially distributed on the analyzed watershed or study area. Due to this spatial distribution of nonpoint pollution sources, the computation models used to study pollutant transport and stream bank erosion require large amounts of data for analysis in even a small watershed.

For the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed, a tabular based nonpoint source pollution loading model was used to assess the nonpoint source pollution of three main pollutant parameters (Total Nitrogen (N), Total Phosphorus (P) and Total Sediment) that have been identified as elements of concern by both stakeholders and water sampling events. This model is known as the Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Load (STEPL). STEPL employs simple algorithms to calculate nutrient and sediment loads from different land uses and the load reductions that would result from the implementation of various best management practices (BMPs).

For each subwatershed, the annual nutrient loading is calculated based on the runoff volume and the pollutant concentrations in the runoff water as influenced by factors such as the land use distribution and management practices. The annual sediment load (sheet and rill erosion only) is calculated based on the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) and the

sediment delivery ratio. The sediment and pollutant load reductions that result from the implementation of BMPs are computed using the known BMP efficiencies.

The STEPL model was executed for each HUC 12 subwatershed within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. It should be noted that all computation models have assumptions and limitations. Therefore, the provided analytical results may not represent the exact pollution loads. In these conditions, even if the results are relative, they still can provide useful information for targeting and prioritizing subwatersheds for Best Management Practices (BMPs).

It is also important to note that the above presented nonpoint source modeling does not specifically include bank erosion and mass wasting, which can contribute additional pollutant loads of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus. However, certain landuses within the model have input values that incorporate some bank erosion that is typical for that land practice.

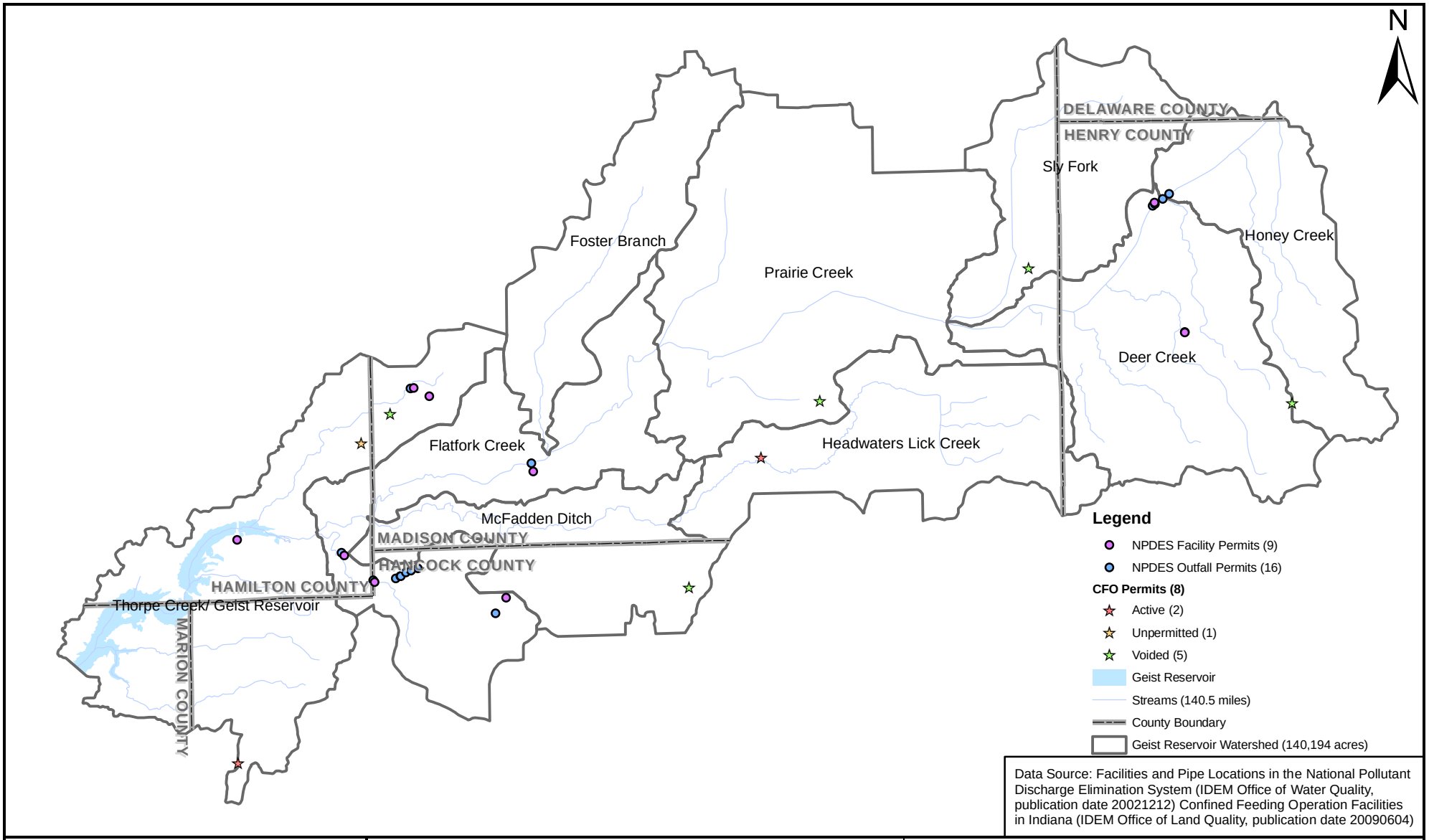
NPDES Permitted Facilities & Confined Feeding Operations

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Point sources are discrete conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches. Records for NPDES facilities and Confined Feeding Operations within the watershed were obtained from IDEM (Exhibit 15) and are analyzed on a subwatershed scale. The CFO compliance information obtained from IDEM did not include the type of operation for all of the CFOs within the watershed. Therefore, this information was not provided in the plan, however all obtained data is included on the Appendices CD. The permit status of the CFO is provided on Exhibit 15 as well as on each individual subwatershed exhibit and in each subwatershed section in the Subwatershed Summary.

Based on information obtained from IDEM, the State of Indiana's efforts to control the direct discharge of pollutants to waters of the State were inaugurated by the passage of the Stream Pollution Control Law of 1943. The vehicle currently used to control direct discharges to waters of the State is the NPDES Permit Program. This was made possible by the passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (also referred to as the Clean Water Act). These permits place limits on the amount of pollutants that may be discharged to waters of the State by each discharger. These limits are set at levels protective of both the aquatic life in the waters which receive the discharge and protective of human health.

There are several different types of permits that are issued in the NPDES permitting program including Municipal, Semi-Public or State (sanitary-type discharger); Industrial (wastewater generated in producing a product); and Wet Weather/Storm Water-related (wastewater resulting from precipitation coming in contact with a substance which is either dissolved or suspended in the water).

The purpose of the NPDES permit is to control the point source discharge of pollutants into the waters of the State such that the quality of the water of the State is maintained in accordance with the standards contained in 327 IAC 2. The NPDES permit requirements must ensure that, at a minimum, any new or existing point source must comply with



Data Source: Facilities and Pipe Locations in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IDEM Office of Water Quality, publication date 20021212) Confined Feeding Operation Facilities in Indiana (IDEM Office of Land Quality, publication date 20090604)

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BASE LAYER: NPDES Permitted Locations	PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 15	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206	QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

technology-based treatment requirements that are contained in 327 IAC 5-5-2. According to 327 IAC 5-2-2, "Any discharge of pollutants into waters of the State as a point source discharge, except for exclusions made in 327 IAC 5-2-4, is prohibited unless in conformity with a valid NPDES permit obtained prior to discharge." This is the most basic principal of the NPDES permit program.

The majority of NPDES permits have existed since 1974. This means that most of the permit writing is for permit renewals. Approximately 10% of each year's workload is attributed to new permits, modifications and requests for estimated limits. NPDES permits are designed to be re-issued every five years but are administratively extended in full force and effect indefinitely if the permittee applied for a renewal before the current permit expires.

Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs) are also considered a point source requiring an NPDES permit. Indiana law defines a confined feeding operation as any animal feeding operation engaged in the confined feeding of at least 300 cattle, or 600 swine or sheep, or 30,000 fowl. IDEM regulates these confined feeding operations. The animals raised in confined feeding operations produce manure and wastewater which is collected and stored in pits, tanks, lagoons and other storage devices. The manure is then applied to area fields as fertilizer. When stored and applied properly, this beneficial reuse provides a natural source of nutrients for crop production. It also lessens the need for fuel and other resources that are used in the production of commercial fertilizer. Confined feeding operations, however, can also pose environmental concerns, including manure leakage or spillage from storage pits, lagoons or tanks; and improper application of manure to the land. These environmental concerns are manifest as excessive nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, and bacterial contamination (*E.coli*).

CFOs within the watershed were categorized based on their permitted status – active, expired or voided. An active CFO indicates that the farm has a current approval, the manure management plan is up to date and the farm can operate. An expired CFO indicates that the farm did not start construction within two years of their approval date, so their approval expired. A voided CFO indicates that the farm has closed or gone beneath the numbers required to be in the CFO program. The CFO information obtained from IDEM included permits that date back to 2002 and are as recent as 2008.

Marion County Health Department Water Quality Data

In January of 1997, Marion County Health Department (MCHD) started an ambient sampling project for Fall Creek. This project consisted of nine sites sampled five times per month, with geometric means calculated for each site's *E.coli* data. The purpose of the project was to find non-combined sewer overflow (CSO) influences of *E.coli* to Fall Creek. In 1999, the sampling points were adjusted to coincide with the City's CSO projects to help determine their overall impact to water quality, as well as to maintain data for historical comparison and continue working on non-CSO influences. Presently, six sites on Fall Creek are sampled five times per month, with geometric means calculated for each site's *E.coli* data. Analysis includes – *E.coli*, Temperature, pH, Conductivity, Total Dissolved Solids, and Dissolved Oxygen.

MCHD also samples several sites throughout the county through an herbicide monitoring program and a macroinvertebrate collection program.

The MCHD sites are located downstream of the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed and therefore were not used in this analysis. This data may be useful during implementation to determine the downstream impact of BMPs in the upper reaches of the watershed.

Hamilton County Health Department Recreational Water Sampling

The objective of the Hamilton County Recreational Water Sampling Program is to monitor and evaluate *E.coli* levels in Hamilton County's recreational waterways. The Hamilton County Health Department mapped approximately nineteen locations where the public is most likely to come into contact with surface water. The sampling locations were selected by the Health Department Administrator and Vector Biologist. Sites were selected based on the probability of full body contact and the ability to collect and deliver samples to the Indiana State Department of Health Laboratory in Indianapolis. Water samples are collected during the recreational season, from April through October. Sampling over this period provides valuable information concerning fluctuations of *E.coli* levels in Hamilton County's recreational waterways. Since it naturally occurs in the digestive tract of humans and other warm blooded animals, the presence of *E.coli* in water indicates contamination from raw sewage. Exposure to elevated levels of *E.coli* can cause illness and infections. According to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, samples exceeding 235 colonies per 100 milliliters are in violation of the state code requirements for recreational waterways.

There are three sampling locations within the Upper Fall Creek/Geist Reservoir Watershed. Samples have been taken at these locations since May 20, 2004 totaling 108 samples. Twenty-three times the samples exceeded the maximum level of *E.coli* and were considered unsatisfactory.

Indiana Clean Lakes Program

The Indiana Clean Lakes Program was created in 1989 as a program within IDEM's Office of Water Management. The program is administered through a grant to Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. The program is a comprehensive, statewide public lake management program focusing on public information and education, technical assistance, volunteer lake monitoring, lake water quality assessment and coordination with other state and federal lake programs.

Sampling information for Geist Reservoir is available through the Indiana Clean Lakes Program for the years 1991, 1996 and 2002. The sampling location had a maximum depth of 6.7m and secchi depths were measured at 0.4m, 0.8m, and 0.3m in 1991, 1996, and 2002 respectively.

IDEM *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* Report

The Distribution and Abundance of Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii in Indiana Lakes and Reservoirs report was prepared by the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs program and was administered by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management Office of Water Quality through the Clean Water Act Section 205(j) funds.

Samples were collected from Geist Reservoir during routine lake assessments through the Indiana Clean Lakes Program in August of 2002. The sample measured 1,861 cells/ml of *C. raciborskii* which is well below the relatively mild and/or low probability of adverse health effects category. As mentioned in the report, the extent of this study was limited and should not be considered an all inclusive report on *C. raciborskii* in the Geist Reservoir. This information does however express that the overall health of the reservoir and that it is conducive to producing this potentially toxic alga.

IDEM Mid-water Planktonic Invertebrate Report

The purpose of this study was driven by the Eagle Creek fish kill in 2000 and was completed to determine the relative abundance of the populations of light responsive zooplankton within Eagle Creek, Morse and Geist Reservoirs.

Three samples were taken within the Geist Reservoir, one sample at the upper end of the reservoir (shallow end sample), one in the middle and one at the downstream end of the reservoir (mid and deep end samples). Out of the three reservoirs, Geist had the second highest number of collected zooplankton (6,945). The abundance of zooplankton, if detailed sample analysis was completed at a lower taxonomic level, would provide a better indication of reservoir health in that they are a food base for vertebrate and invertebrate predators.

US Filter/Indianapolis Water (Veolia Water)

Bi-weekly sampling near Geist Reservoir has been conducted since October of 2002. Two sampling sites are located at Florida Road and Thorpe Creek and at County Line and Bee Camp within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed. Samples are collected biweekly for cations, anions, total phosphorus, alkalinity, turbidity and pH. This data was not included in the WMP analysis; however it may be useful during implementation to determine the downstream impact of Best Management Practices in the upper reaches of the watershed.

Subwatershed Summary

The following sections break down the water quality information obtained for the WMP by subwatershed. Sample locations from the previously mentioned available data and studies are provided on a detailed exhibit for each subwatershed. Sample locations from these studies may occur at the same site with the symbols overlapping (symbols were chosen in order to determine whether the icons were overlapping). For clarification on individual study sites, the overall watershed maps should be consulted (Exhibits 12-15). A comparison of the subwatersheds is provided at the end of this section as a way to understand the differences in water quality parameters from one subwatershed to another.

In general, the overall characteristics and land use types of a watershed greatly influences the water quality since runoff from rainfall flows over or through the land and collects pollutants and nutrients prior to entering waterways. The IDEM data included 93 stations within the watershed that analyzed *E.coli*, Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus, Total Suspended Solids and Turbidity. The CIWRP Study included 10 sampling locations within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed and analyzed *E.coli*, Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus, Total Suspended Solids and Turbidity. Based on the CIWRP sampling locations, not all subwatersheds could be defined by a sample location. In order to use the CIWRP data for subwatershed comparisons, some subwatersheds were grouped together and

represented by a single CIWRP sampling site. CIWRP water quality samples were collected within the watershed during seasonal base and event flow. In comparison to the CIWRP data, the IDEM data was all inclusive without a differentiation between base flow or storm flow events. Therefore, an overall average approach of this data was used in order to get a better depiction of how the watershed actually functions at any given time. Depending on the pollutant, both types of samples can result in elevated values. For example, the *E.coli* values shown in the subwatershed tables are extremely elevated when compared to the IDEM data. This is a major concern in the watershed and is reflected so in the problems and goals described later in the WMP.

Nonpoint source pollution modeling is a quantitative way to evaluate the effects of land use on water quality for comparison purposes. A nonpoint source pollution model was created for the WMP. The results are provided in an overall summary in Part Three of the Watershed Inventory. It should be noted that all computation models have assumptions and limitations. Therefore, the provided analytical results may not represent the exact pollution loads. In these conditions, even if the results are relative, they still can provide useful information for targeting and prioritizing subwatersheds for Best Management Practices (BMPs). Part Three of the Watershed Inventory explores the relationships of nonpoint source modeling among all 10 of the subwatersheds.

NPDES permits and locations of Confined Feeding Operations can also be indicative of the land use and the subsequent water quality of a subwatershed. Records for NPDES facilities and Confined Feeding Operations within the watershed were obtained from IDEM and are analyzed on a subwatershed scale. The CFO compliance information obtained from IDEM did not include the type of operation for all of the CFOs within the watershed. Therefore, this information was not provided in the plan, however all obtained data is included on the Appendices CD. The permit status of the CFO is provided in each subwatershed section where appropriate in the Subwatershed Summary.

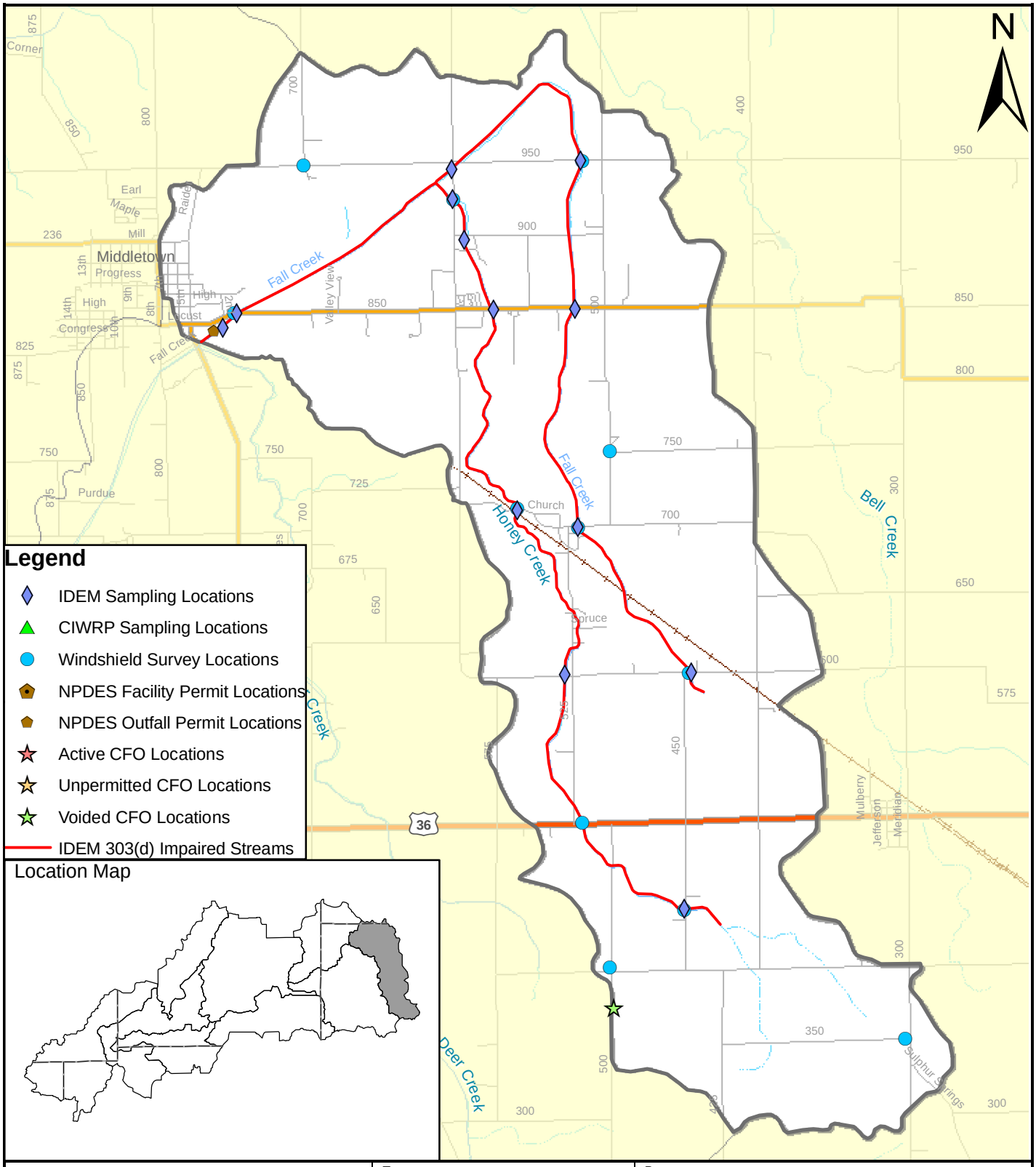
Honey Creek Subwatershed

The Honey Creek Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010801) is located primarily in Henry County with a small portion in Delaware County as shown in Exhibit 16. The subwatershed encompasses approximately 10,853 acres and includes the Honey Creek tributary and the headwaters of Fall Creek.

Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the Honey Creek Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. Recreational uses within the subwatershed fall within category 5A, signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed. The fishable uses fall within category 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to make a use support determination, and the aquatic life uses fall within category 2 signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 14.2 miles of streams within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli*, which includes Honey Creek and Fall Creek.

A total of 13 IDEM sampling stations are located within the Honey Creek Subwatershed. Twelve of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these



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TITLE: **Honey Creek Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010801)**	PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**		
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA	PROJECT NO. 09006	EXHIBIT: 16	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206	QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 5000'

stations included sampling from the 2001 *E.coli* – West Fork White River Study (WFWR), 2008 Fall Creek Impaired Biotic Communities (IBC) Study and 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program.

No CIWRP sampling sites were located within the Honey Creek Subwatershed; therefore it was grouped with the sample associated with the Deer Creek and Sly Fork Subwatersheds.

Table 9 below summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter for all of the data screened and the corresponding water quality target.

Table 9: Honey Creek IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary

Water Quality Parameter	IDEM Mean Value	CIWRP Mean Value	Water Quality Target
Dissolved Oxygen	8.5 mg/L	11.6 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	1646 CFU/100mL	42940 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	3.4 mg/L	2.6 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	7.9	7.8	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	0.098 mg/L	0.173 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	13.6 mg/L	74.1 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	36.8 NTU	68.9 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the Honey Creek Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Total Phosphorus, TSS and Turbidity. Dissolved Oxygen and pH fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the Honey Creek Subwatershed, 12 of the IDEM sites had habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 1992 Macroinvertebrate Study, 1996 Macroinvertebrate Study, and the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 10 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (mIBI), the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 10: Honey Creek IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary

Habitat/Biological Parameter	IDEM Mean Value
mIBI	5.5
IBI	41.8
QHEI	59.8

With a mIBI score of 5.5, the Honey Creek Subwatershed is slightly impaired for macroinvertebrate communities and an IBI score of 41.8 indicates that the fish community is fair. A QHEI score of 59.8 correlates to a good habitat scoring which would indicate that

the slight impairment seen in the macroinvertebrate community is not likely caused by the lack/quality of habitat. As stated in the Water Quality Information section, E. coli, Nitrogen and Phosphorus consistently exceed the water quality targets indicating the slight impairment seen in the macroinvertebrate community may be influenced by the impaired water chemistry within the subwatershed.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the Honey Creek Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses with a small area in the northwest portion of the subwatershed of low intensity developed area associated with Middletown.

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey which included 8 stream crossing sites and 4 land/field sites within the Honey Creek Subwatershed. Observations including streambank erosion, stream buffers, and conventional tillage practices were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Honey Creek Windshield Survey Summary

Parameter	Observations
Streambank Erosion	2/8 sites with erosion >3' 1/8 site with erosion <3'
Stream Buffers	2/8 sites with no buffers 6/8 sites with buffers <50'
In-stream Debris	0/8 sites with debris
Animal Access to Streams	0/8 sites with animal access
Conventional Till	10/12 sites under conventional till

The Honey Creek Subwatershed contains one voided confined feeding operation located south of the intersection of 400 N and 500W in Henry County.

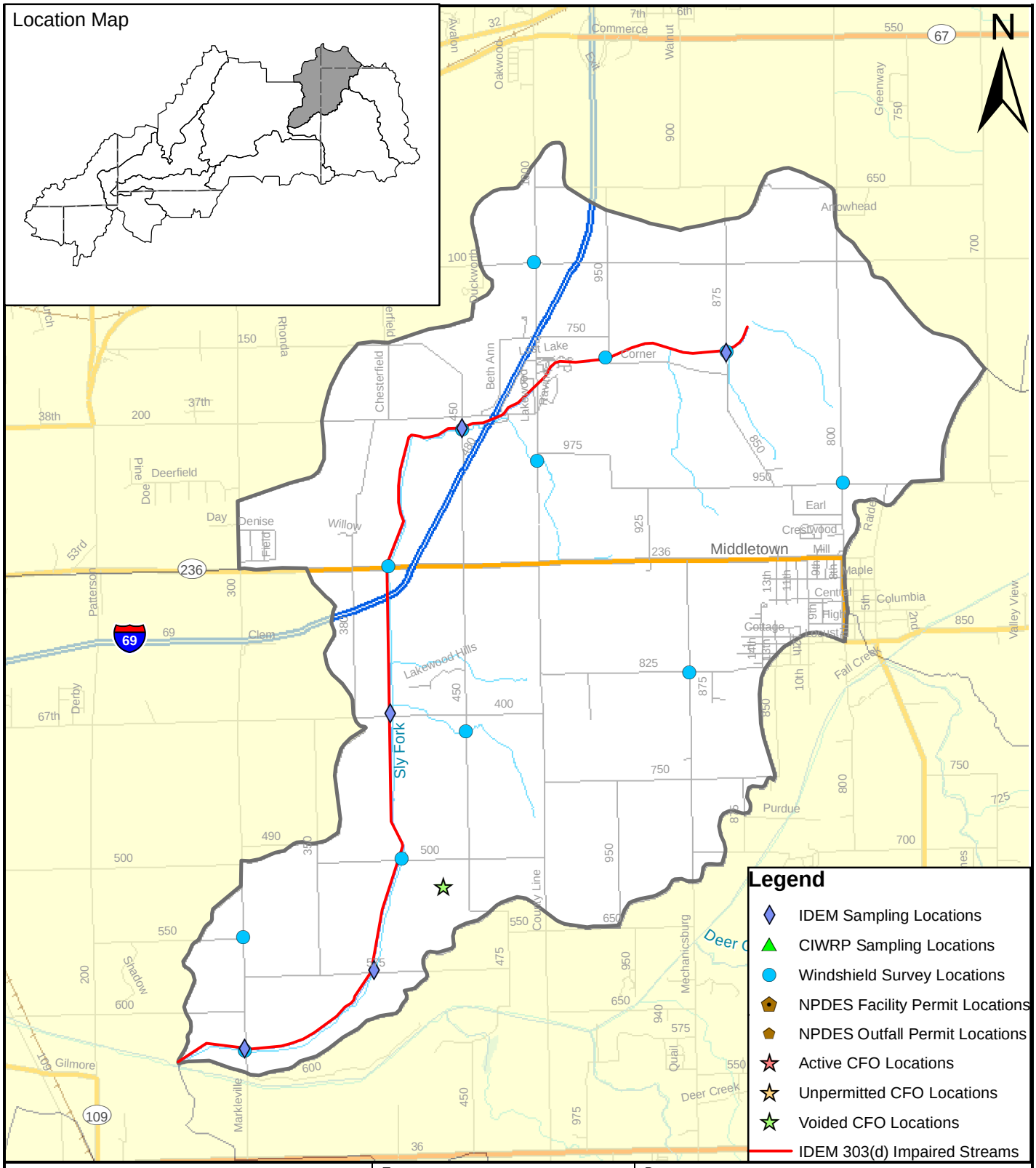
There is one NPDES permit is active within the Honey Creek Subwatershed, the Middletown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) permit number IN0020770. The WWTP is located at 215 S, 8th Street in Middletown; however one of the WWTP outfalls is located within the Honey Creek Subwatershed. According to compliance records, there has been no formal enforcement actions within the last 5 years, however there have been 22 noted effluent exceedances within the last 3 years. These exceedances were reported in both total residue chlorine and total suspended solids.

Sly Fork Subwatershed

The Sly Fork Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010802) encompasses portions of Delaware, Henry County, and Madison County as shown in Exhibit 17. The subwatershed encompasses approximately 11,349 acres and includes the Sly Fork tributary.

Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the Sly Fork Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. Recreational uses within the subwatershed fall within category 5A, signifying that the available data indicates that at



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TITLE: **Sly Fork Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010802)**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**		
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA		PROJECT NO. 09006	EXHIBIT: 17	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 5000'

least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed. The fishable uses fall within category 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to make a use support determination, and the aquatic life uses fall within category 2 signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 7.9 miles of Sly Fork within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli*.

A total of 5 IDEM sampling stations are located within the Sly Fork Subwatershed. All 5 of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these stations included sampling from the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study and 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program.

No CIWRP sampling sites were located within the Sly Fork Subwatershed; therefore it was grouped with the sample associated with the Deer Creek and Honey Creek Subwatersheds.

Table 12 below summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter screened and the corresponding water quality target.

Table 12: Sly Fork IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary

Water Quality Parameter	IDEM Mean Value	CIWRP Mean Value	Water Quality Target
Dissolved Oxygen	8.9 mg/L	11.6 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	5855 CFU/100mL	42940 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	2.1 mg/L	2.6 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	7.9	7.8	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	0.065 mg/L	0.173 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	13.7 mg/L	74.1 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	26.4 NTU	68.9 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	0.004 mg/L	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the Sly Fork Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite and Turbidity. Total Phosphorus and TSS both tested higher than the water quality targets in the CIWRP Study; however both parameters were lower than the targets based on the IDEM data. Atrazine was not sampled during the CIWRP study but it was detected at higher levels than the target in the IDEM data. Dissolved Oxygen and pH fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the Sly Fork Subwatershed, all 5 IDEM sampling sites had habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 13 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 13: Sly Fork IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary	
Habitat/Biological Parameter	**IDEM Mean Value**
mIBI	Not sampled
IBI	35.6
QHEI	44.8

The Sly Fork Subwatershed was not sampled for macroinvertebrate communities. An IBI score of 35.6 indicates that the fish community is poor. A QHEI score of 44.8 correlates to a fair habitat scoring which would indicate that the poor fish community is not caused solely by the lack/quality of habitat. As stated in the Water Quality Information section, E. coli and Nitrogen consistently exceed the water quality targets indicating the poor fish community may be influenced by the impaired water chemistry within the subwatershed.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the Sly Fork Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses. Several areas of deciduous forest are located in the lower and western portions of the subwatershed. Low and medium intensity development is concentrated in the northeastern portion of the subwatershed and is associated with Middletown. Low intensity development is also concentrated along Interstate 69, which runs through the northwest portion of the subwatershed.

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey at 8 stream crossing sites and 4 land/field sites within the Sly Fork Subwatershed. Observations including depth of streambank erosion, stream buffers, debris and conventional tillage practices were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 14 below.

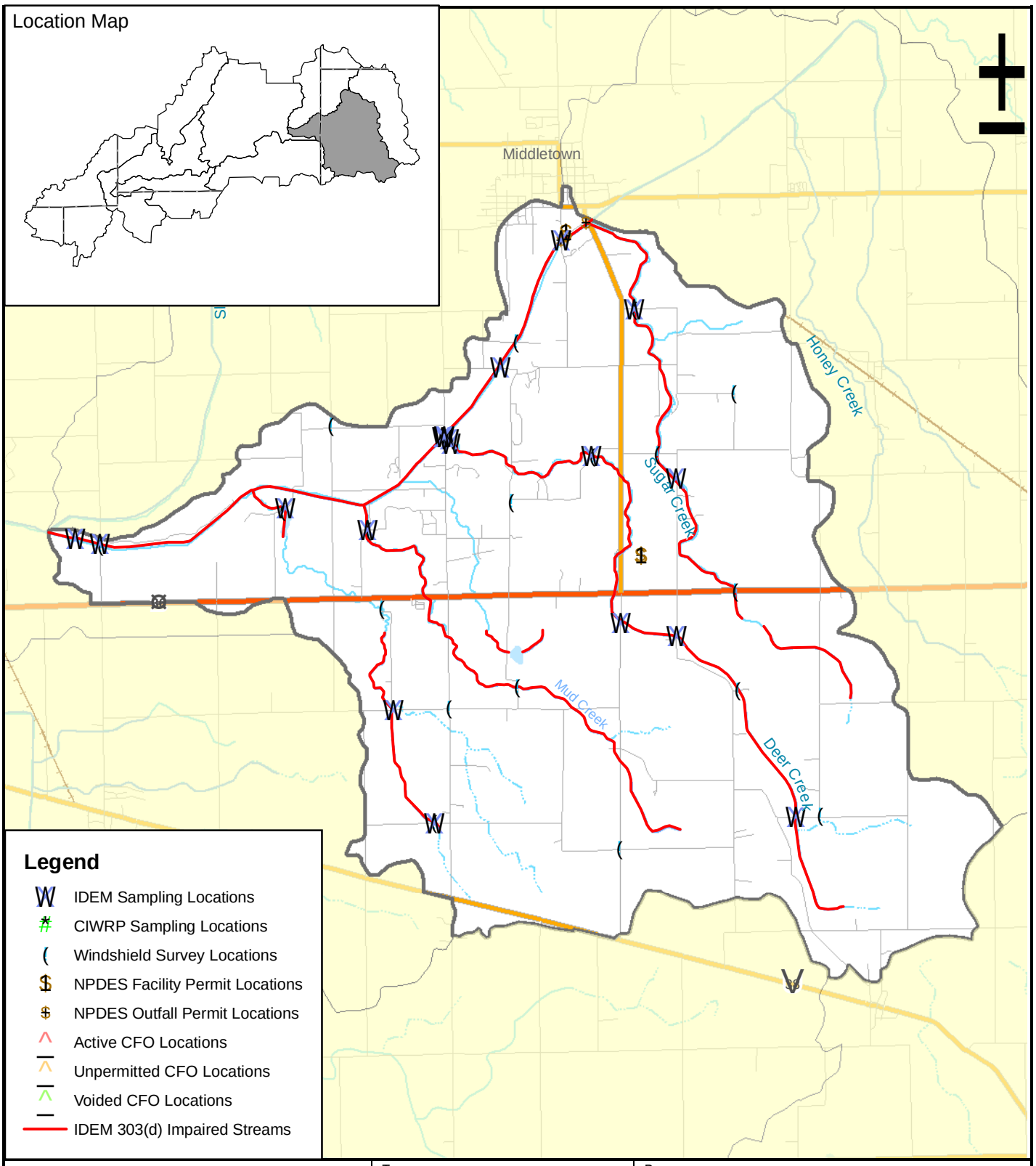
Table 14: Sly Fork Windshield Survey Summary	
Parameter	**Observations**
Streambank Erosion	1/8 site with erosion >3' 5/8 sites with erosion <3'
Stream Buffers	1/8 site with no buffers 6/8 sites with buffers <50'
In-stream Debris	4/8 sites with debris
Animal Access to Streams	0/8 sites with animal access
Conventional Till	3/12 sites under conventional till

The Sly Fork Subwatershed contains one voided confined feeding operation located south of the intersection of 500 S and 450 E in Madison County.

There are no active NPDES permits within the Sly Fork Subwatershed.

Deer Creek Subwatershed

The Deer Creek Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010803) is located primarily in Henry County with a small portion in Madison County as shown in Exhibit 18. The subwatershed



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TITLE: **Deer Creek Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010803)**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA	PROJECT NO. 09006	EXHIBIT: 18	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206	QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 6500'

encompasses approximately 18,066 acres and includes the Deer Creek, Mud Creek, and several smaller tributaries.

Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the Deer Creek Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. Recreational uses within the subwatershed fall within category 5A, signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed. The fishable uses fall within category 2, signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported, and the aquatic life uses fall within both categories 2 and 5A. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 27.2 miles of streams within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli*, which includes Sugar Creek, Deer Creek, Mud Creek and some of the smaller tributaries.

A total of 19 IDEM sampling stations are located within the Deer Creek Subwatershed. Eighteen of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these stations included sampling from the 1996 Synoptic Study, 2001 Corvallis Study, 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study and 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program.

No CIWRP sampling sites were located within the Deer Creek Subwatershed; therefore it was grouped with the sample associated with the Sly Fork and Honey Creek Subwatersheds.

Table 15 below summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter screened and the corresponding water quality target.

Table 15: Deer Creek IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary

Water Quality Parameter	IDEM Mean Value	CIWRP Mean Value	Water Quality Target
Dissolved Oxygen	8.9 mg/L	11.6 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	3326 CFU/100mL	42940 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	2.5 mg/L	2.6 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	7.8	7.8	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	0.214 mg/L	0.173 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	31.9 mg/L	74.1 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	24.9 NTU	68.9 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	0.0019 mg/L	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the Deer Creek Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Total Phosphorus, TSS and Turbidity. Atrazine was not sampled during the CIWRP study and it was detected at lower levels than the target in the IDEM data. Dissolved Oxygen and pH fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the Deer Creek Subwatershed, 17 of the IDEM sampling sites had habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 1992 Macroinvertebrate Study, 1996 Macroinvertebrate Study, 2001 Macroinvertebrate Study

and the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 16 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (mIBI), the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 16: Deer Creek IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary	
Habitat/Biological Parameter	**IDEM Mean Value**
mIBI	4.4
IBI	42.9
QHEI	64.9

With a mIBI score of 4.4, the Deer Creek Subwatershed is slightly impaired for macroinvertebrate communities and an IBI score of 42.9 indicates that the fish community is fair. A QHEI score of 64.9 correlates to a good habitat scoring which would indicate that the slight impairment seen in the macroinvertebrate community is not likely caused by the lack/quality of habitat. As stated in the Water Quality Information section, E. coli, TSS, Nitrogen and Phosphorus all exceed the water quality targets indicating the slight impairment seen in the macroinvertebrate community may be influenced by the impaired water chemistry within the subwatershed.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the Deer Creek Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses. Several areas of deciduous forest are located in the western portion of the subwatershed along Fall Creek. Low and medium intensity development is concentrated along US Route 36 which runs east-west through the subwatershed and along Raider Road which runs north-south through the subwatershed. These areas are associated with small residential/businesses as well as a school

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey at 13 stream crossing sites and 6 land/field sites within the Deer Creek Subwatershed. Observations including streambank erosion, stream buffers, debris, animal access to streams and conventional tillage practices were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 17 below.

Table 17: Deer Creek Windshield Survey Summary	
Parameter	**Observations**
Streambank Erosion	1/13 site with erosion >3’ 6/13 sites with erosion <3’
Stream Buffers	2/13 sites with no buffers 7/13 sites with buffers <50’
In-stream Debris	3/13 sites with debris
Animal Access to Streams	1/13 site with animal access
Conventional Till	4/19 sites under conventional till

The Deer Creek Subwatershed contains no confined feeding operations.

There are 2 NPDES permits active within the Deer Creek Subwatershed. The Middletown Wastewater Treatment Plant, permit number IN0020770, is located at 215 S, 8th Street in Middletown. The treatment plant along with 3 outfalls is located within the Deer Creek Subwatershed. According to compliance records, there has been no formal enforcement actions within the last 5 years at the treatment plant, however there have been 22 noted effluent exceedances within the last 3 years. These exceedances were reported for both total residue chlorine and total suspended solids. The Shenandoah Middle and High School, permit number IN0031712, is located at 5100 N Raider Road in Middletown. According to compliance records for the school, there has been no formal enforcement actions within the last 5 years, however there have been 20 noted effluent exceedances within the last 3 years. These exceedances were reported for *E.coli*, Nitrogen and total suspended solids.

Prairie Creek Subwatershed

The Prairie Creek Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010804) is within Madison County as shown in Exhibit 19. The subwatershed encompasses approximately 25,410 acres and includes the Prairie Creek tributary.

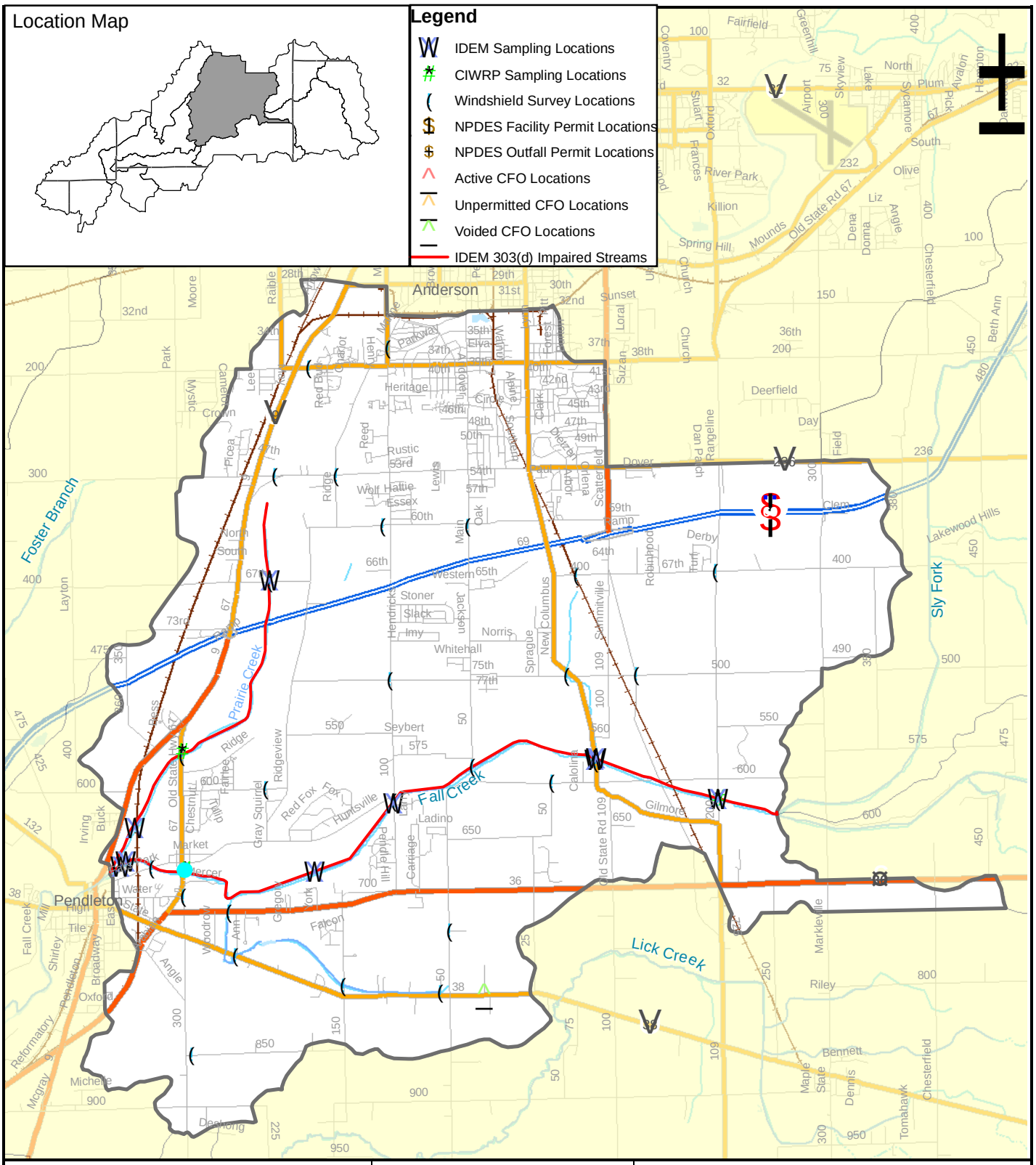
Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. Recreational uses within the subwatershed fall within category 5A, signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed and category 2, signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported. The fishable uses fall within category 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to make a use support determination, and the aquatic life uses fall within both categories 2 and 5A. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 11.2 miles of streams within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli*, which includes Fall Creek and Prairie Creek.

A total of 8 IDEM water quality sampling stations are located within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed. Seven of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these stations included sampling from the 1996 Watershed Study, 2001 *E.coli*- UFWR Study, 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study and 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program.

A total of 4 CIWRP sampling sites are located within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed, however one of the sampling sites is located at the upstream end and therefore would not be representative of the water quality of the subwatershed. Therefore, the other three sites were used to represent the subwatershed.

Table 18 below summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter screened and the corresponding water quality target.



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TITLE: **Prairie Creek Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010804)**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**		
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA		PROJECT NO. 09006	EXHIBIT: 19	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 7000'

Table 18: Prairie Creek IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary			
Water Quality Parameter	**IDEM Mean Value**	**CIWRP Mean Value**	**Water Quality Target**
Dissolved Oxygen	9.1 mg/L	11.0 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	3646 CFU/100mL	47007 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	1.4 mg/L	1.8 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	8.0	7.8	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	0.062 mg/L	0.120 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	19.9 mg/L	48.0 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	32.2 NTU	47.8 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	0.0019 mg/L	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the Prairie Creek Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and TSS all tested higher than the water quality targets in the CIWRP Study; however all parameters were lower than the targets based on the IDEM data. Atrazine was not sampled during the CIWRP study and it was detected at lower levels than the target in the IDEM data. Dissolved Oxygen and pH fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed, there are 7 IDEM sampling sites with habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 1992 Macroinvertebrate Study and the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 19 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (mIBI), the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 19: Prairie Creek IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary	
Habitat/Biological Parameter	**IDEM Mean Value**
mIBI	3.8
IBI	39.0
QHEI	55.3

With a mIBI score of 3.8, the Prairie Creek Subwatershed is moderately impaired for macroinvertebrate communities and an IBI score of 39.0 indicates that the fish community is fair. A QHEI score of 55.3 correlates to a good habitat scoring which would indicate that the moderate impairment seen in the macroinvertebrate community is not likely caused by the lack/quality of habitat. As stated in the Water Quality Information section E. coli is the only water quality parameter (within the IDEM data) that consistently exceeds the water quality target. Therefore, it is difficult to conclude if the moderate impairment to the macroinvertebrate community is due solely to the water chemistry at the site.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses. Low and medium intensity development is concentrated in the northern portion of the subwatershed associated with Anderson, and in the western portion of the subwatershed associated with Pendleton. Development is also concentrated along several major roadways within the subwatershed including Interstate 69, US Route 36, State Road 9, and State Road 38.

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey at 18 stream crossing sites and 9 land/field sites within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed. Observations including streambank erosion, stream buffers and debris were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 20 below.

Table 20: Prairie Creek Windshield Survey Summary

Parameter	Observations
Streambank Erosion	2/18 sites with erosion >3' 1/18 site with erosion <3'
Stream Buffers	2/18 sites with no buffers 8/18 sites with buffers <50'
In-stream Debris	6/18 sites with debris
Animal Access to Streams	0/18 sites with animal access
Conventional Till	0/27 sites under conventional till

The Prairie Creek Subwatershed contains one voided confined feeding operation located east of the intersection of State Road 38 and 50 W in Madison County.

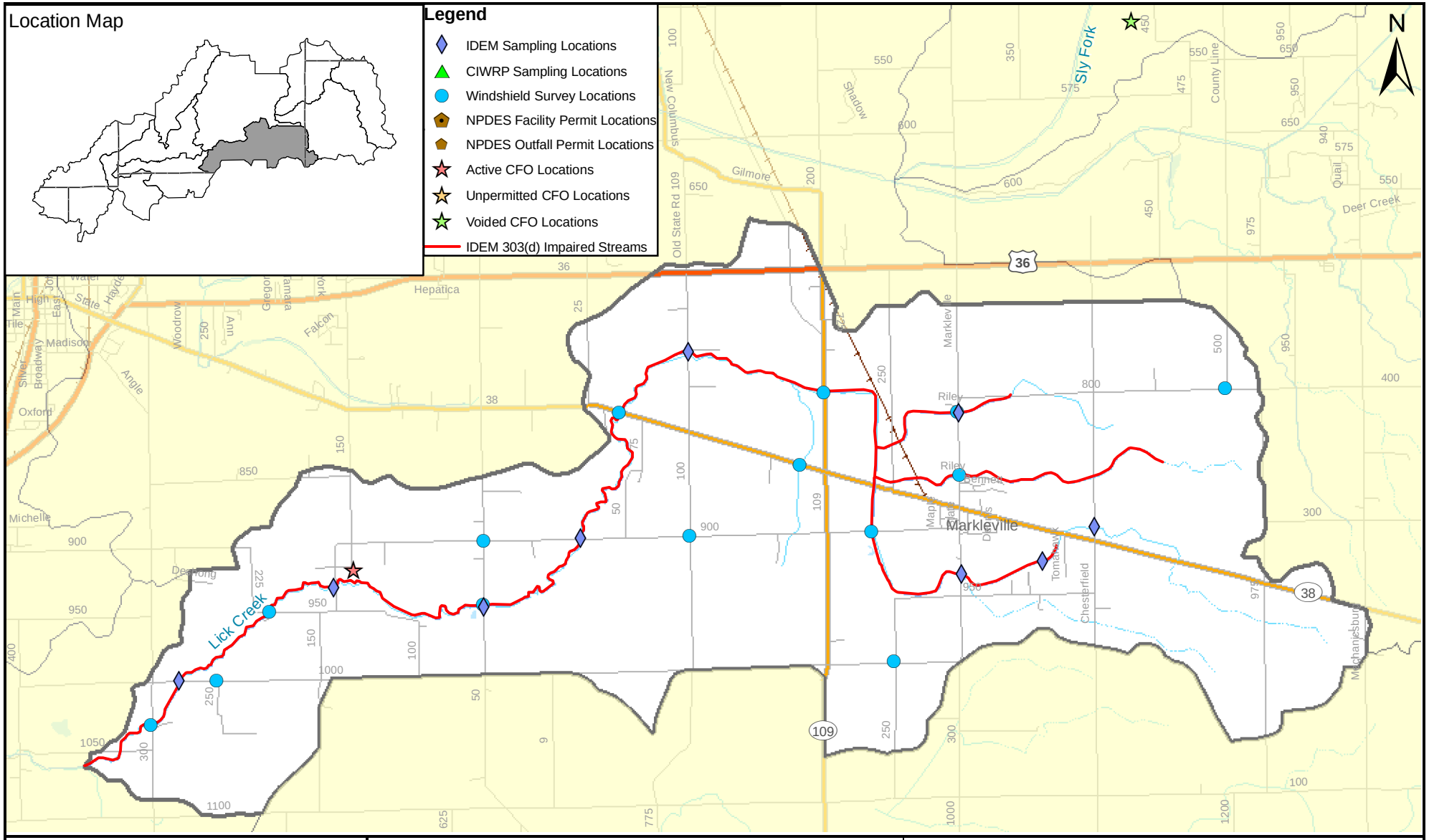
There are no active NPDES permits within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed.

Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed

The Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010805) is located primarily in Madison County with a small portion in Henry County as shown on Exhibit 20. The subwatershed encompasses approximately 13,761 acres and includes the Lick Creek tributary and several smaller tributaries.

Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. Recreational uses within the subwatershed fall within category 5A, signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed. The fishable uses fall within category 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to make a use support determination, and the aquatic life uses fall within category 2 signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 15.4 miles of streams within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli*, which includes all of the streams within this subwatershed.



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TITLE: **Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010805)**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 20	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 5500'

A total of nine IDEM sampling stations are located within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed. All of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these stations included sampling from the 2001 *E.coli*- WFWR Study, 2006 Corvallis and 2006 Corvallis *E.coli* Studies, 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study and 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program.

No CIWRP sampling sites were located within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed; therefore it was grouped with the Prairie Creek Subwatershed sampling location.

Table 21 below summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter screened and the corresponding water quality target.

Table 21: Headwaters Lick Creek IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary

Water Quality Parameter	IDEM Mean Value	CIWRP Mean Value	Water Quality Target
Dissolved Oxygen	8.9 mg/L	12.0 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	3771 CFU/100mL	14383 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	1.8 mg/L	2.5 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	8.0	7.8	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	0.069 mg/L	0.132 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	15.2 mg/L	48.9 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	27.6 NTU	67.3 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	0.002 mg/L	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite and Turbidity. Total Phosphorus and TSS both tested higher than the water quality targets in the CIWRP Study; however both parameters were lower than the targets based on the IDEM data. Atrazine was not sampled during the CIWRP study and it was detected at lower levels than the target in the IDEM data. Dissolved Oxygen and pH fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed, 8 of the IDEM sampling sites have habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 22 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 22: Headwaters Lick Creek IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary

Habitat/Biological Parameter	IDEM Mean Value
mIBI	Not Sampled
IBI	41.3
QHEI	60.0

The Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed was not sampled for macroinvertebrate communities. An IBI score of 41.3 indicates that the fish community is fair, and a QHEI score of 60.0 correlates to a good habitat scoring. As stated in the Water Quality Information section, E. coli and Nitrogen consistently exceed the water quality targets indicating the fair fish community may be influenced by the impaired water chemistry within the subwatershed.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses. Several areas of deciduous forest are located along the corridor of Lick Creek. Low and medium intensity development is concentrated in the eastern portion of the subwatershed associated with Markleville.

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey at 9 stream crossing sites and 5 land/field sites within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed. Observations including streambank erosion, stream buffers, debris, animal access and conventional tillage practices to streams were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 23 below.

Table 23: Headwaters Lick Creek Windshield Survey Summary

Parameter	Observations
Streambank Erosion	0/9 sites with erosion >3' 4/9 site with erosion <3'
Stream Buffers	2/9 sites with no buffers 6/9 sites with buffers <50'
In-stream Debris	2/9 sites with debris
Animal Access to Streams	1/9 site with animal access
Conventional Till	5/14 sites under conventional till

The Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed contains one active confined feeding operation located south of the intersection of 900 S and 150 W in Madison County. There was one violation reported for the CFO within the subwatershed based on the inspection reports obtained from IDEM. The violation was from 2008 and was for lack of record keeping.

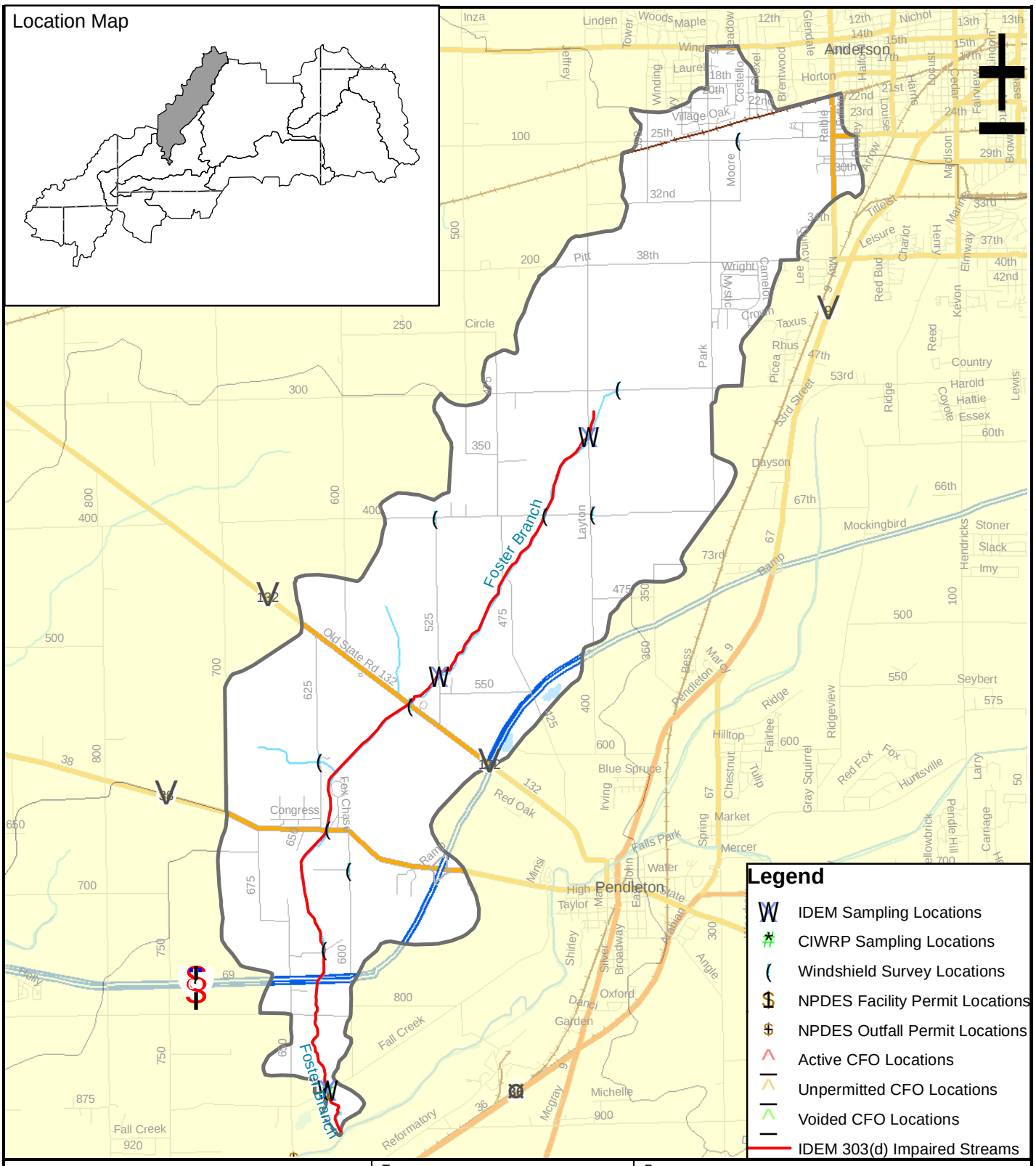
There are no other active NPDES permits within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed.

Foster Branch Subwatershed

The Foster Branch Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010806) is located within Madison County as shown in Exhibit 21. The subwatershed encompasses approximately 10,114 acres and includes the Foster Branch tributary.

Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the Foster Branch Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. Recreational uses within the subwatershed fall within category 5A, signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed. The fishable uses fall within category 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to



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TITLE: **Foster Branch Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010806)**	PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**		
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA	PROJECT NO. 09006	EXHIBIT: 21	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206	QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 6000'

make a use support determination, and the aquatic life uses fall within category 2 signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 7.1 miles of the Foster Branch Tributary within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli*.

A total of 3 IDEM sampling stations are located within the Foster Branch Subwatershed. All of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these stations included sampling from the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study and 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program.

Only one CIWRP sampling site is located within the Foster Branch Subwatershed.

Table 24 below summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter screened and the corresponding water quality target.

Table 24: Foster Branch IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary

Water Quality Parameter	IDEM Mean Value	CIWRP Mean Value	Water Quality Target
Dissolved Oxygen	9.2 mg/L	11.9 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	5669 CFU/100mL	15321 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	2.4 mg/L	3.2 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	8.0	7.7	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	0.064 mg/L	0.146 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	5.7 mg/L	16.9 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	15.9 NTU	43.5 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	0.0026 mg/L	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the Foster Branch Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets in *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite and Turbidity. Total Phosphorus tested higher than the water quality targets in the CIWRP Study; however it was lower than the standards based on the IDEM data. Atrazine was not sampled during the CIWRP study and it was detected at lower levels than the target in the IDEM data. Dissolved Oxygen, pH and TSS fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the Foster Branch Subwatershed, all 3 IDEM sampling sites have habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 25 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 25: Foster Branch IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary	
Habitat/Biological Parameter	**IDEM Mean Value**
mIBI	Not sampled
IBI	35.3
QHEI	37.3

The Foster Branch Subwatershed was not sampled for macroinvertebrate communities. An IBI score of 35.3 indicates that the fish community is poor, and a QHEI score of 37.3 correlates to a poor habitat scoring which would indicate that the poor fish community is likely caused by lack/quality of habitat. As stated in the Water Quality Information section, E. coli and Nitrogen consistently exceed the water quality targets indicating the poor fish community may also be influenced by the impaired water chemistry within the subwatershed.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the Foster Branch Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses. Several areas of deciduous forest are located along the corridor of Lick Creek. Low and medium intensity development is concentrated in the northern portion of the subwatershed associated with Anderson, and in the southeastern portion of the subwatershed associated with Pendleton.

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey at 7 stream crossing sites and 4 land/field sites within the Foster Branch Subwatershed. Observations including streambank erosion, stream buffers, debris and animal access to streams were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 26 below.

Table 26: Foster Branch Windshield Survey Summary	
Parameter	**Observations**
Streambank Erosion	1/7 site with erosion >3' 0/7 sites with erosion <3'
Stream Buffers	0/7 sites with no buffers 3/7 sites with buffers <50'
In-stream Debris	1/7 site with debris
Animal Access to Streams	1/7 site with animal access
Conventional Till	0/11 sites under conventional till

The Foster Branch Subwatershed contains no confined feeding operations.

There are no active NPDES permits within the Foster Branch Subwatershed.

McFadden Ditch Subwatershed

The McFadden Ditch Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010807) is located primarily in Madison and Hancock Counties with a small portion in Hamilton County as shown in Exhibit 22. The subwatershed encompasses approximately 10,673 acres and includes the McFadden Ditch tributary.

Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. . Recreational uses within the subwatershed fall within category 5A, signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed. The fishable uses fall within category 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to make a use support determination, and the aquatic life uses fall within category 2 signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 9.0 miles of the McFadden Ditch within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli*.

A total of 8 IDEM sampling stations are located within the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed. Seven of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these stations included sampling from the 1996 Synoptic Study, 2001 *E.coli*- WFWR Study, 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study and 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program.

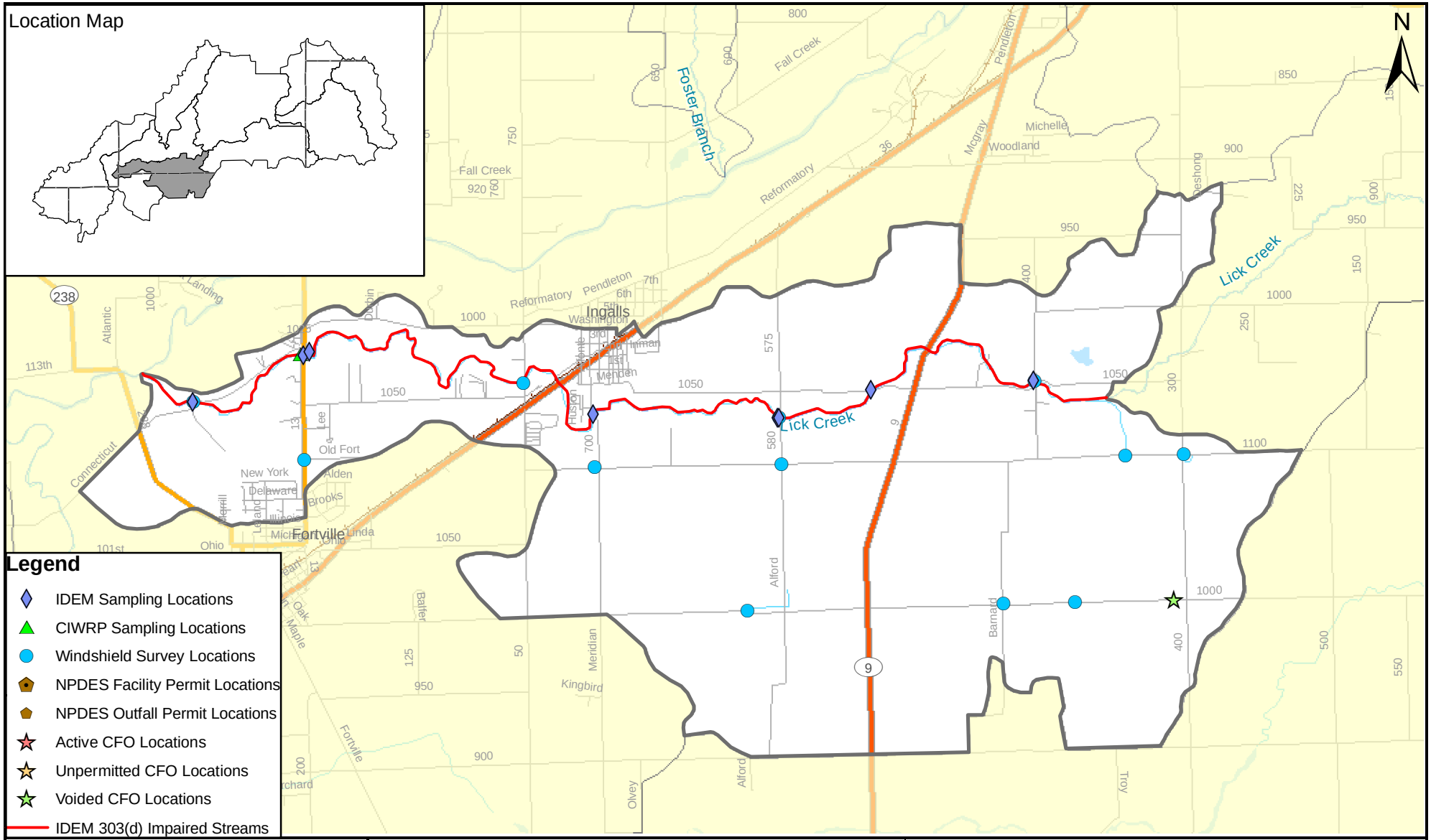
One CIWRP sampling site was located within the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed.

Table 27 summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter screened and the corresponding water quality target.

Table 27: McFadden Ditch IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary

Water Quality Parameter	IDEM Mean Value	CIWRP Mean Value	Water Quality Target
Dissolved Oxygen	9.5 mg/L	12.0 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	1436 CFU/100mL	14383 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	1.8 mg/L	2.5 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	8.1	7.8	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	0.081 mg/L	0.132 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	17.1 mg/L	48.9 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	29.5 NTU	67.3 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	0.0017 mg/L	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and Turbidity. TSS tested higher than the water quality targets in the CIWRP Study; however it was lower than the targets based on the IDEM data. Atrazine was not sampled during the CIWRP study and it was detected at lower levels than the target in the IDEM data. Dissolved Oxygen and pH fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.



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TITLE: **McFadden Ditch Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010807)**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 22	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 5000'

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed, 6 of the IDEM sampling sites have habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 1992 Macroinvertebrate Study and the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 28 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (mIBI), the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 28: McFadden Ditch IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary	
Habitat/Biological Parameter	**IDEM Mean Value**
mIBI	3.6
IBI	45.2
QHEI	71.8

With a mIBI score of 3.6, the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed is moderately impaired for macroinvertebrate communities and an IBI score of 45.2 indicates that the fish community is fair to good. A QHEI score of 71.8 correlates to an excellent habitat scoring which would indicate that the moderate impairment seen in the macroinvertebrate community is not likely caused by the lack/quality of habitat. As stated in the Water Quality Information section, E. coli, Nitrogen and Phosphorus all consistently exceed the water quality targets indicating the moderate impairment seen within the macroinvertebrate community may be influenced by the impaired water chemistry within the subwatershed.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses. Several areas of deciduous forest are located along the corridor of Lick Creek. Low and medium intensity development is concentrated in the north central portion of the subwatershed associated with Ingalls, and in the western portion of the subwatershed associated with Fortville.

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey at 8 stream crossing sites and 4 land/field sites within the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed. Observations including streambank erosion, stream buffers, debris and animal access to streams were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 29 below.

Table 29: McFadden Ditch Windshield Survey Summary	
Parameter	**Observations**
Streambank Erosion	0/8 sites with erosion >3' 7/8 sites with erosion <3'
Stream Buffers	2/8 sites with no buffers 7/8 sites with buffers <50'
In-stream Debris	3/8 sites with debris
Animal Access to Streams	1/8 site with animal access
Conventional Till	0/12 sites under conventional till

The McFadden Ditch Subwatershed contains one voided confined feeding operation located west of the intersection of 1000 N and 400 E in Hancock County.

There are no active NPDES permits within the McFadden Ditch Subwatershed.

Flatfork Creek Subwatershed

The Flatfork Creek Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010808) is located primarily in Hancock and Madison Counties with a small portion in Hamilton County as shown in Exhibit 23. The subwatershed encompasses approximately 17,798 acres and includes the Flatfork Creek tributary and Fall Creek.

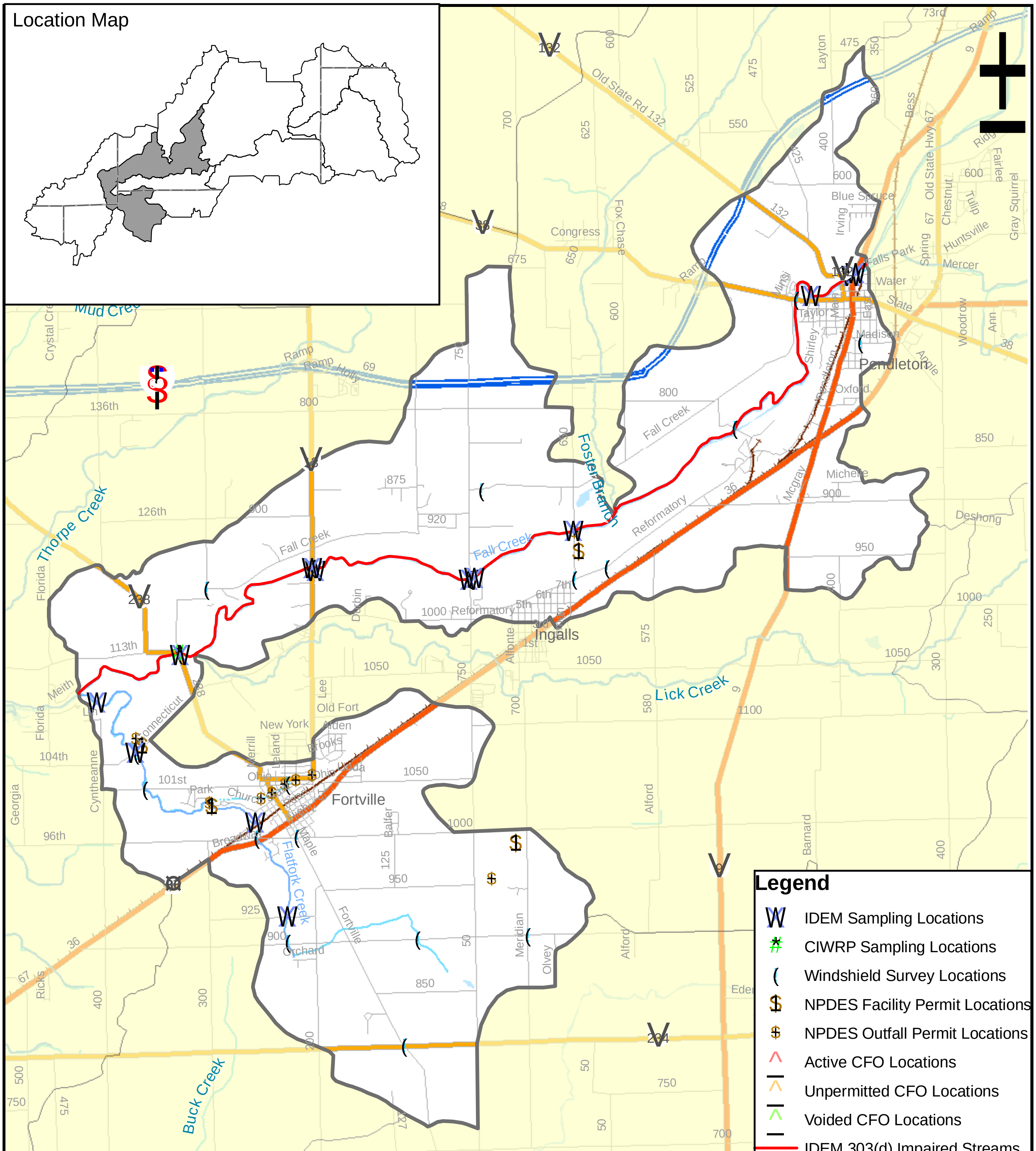
Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. Recreational uses within the subwatershed fall within category 5A, signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed and category 2, signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported. The fishable uses fall within category 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to make a use support determination, and the aquatic life uses fall within both categories 2 and 5A. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 10.8 miles of Fall Creek within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli*.

A total of 12 IDEM sampling stations are located within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. Ten of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these stations included sampling from the 1996 Synoptic Study, 1996 Watershed Study, 1999-2009 Fixed Station, 2001 Corvallis Study, 2001 *E.coli*- Upper WFWR, 2001 Pesticides Study, 2002-2006 Clean Sampling and Ultra-Clean Analyses, 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study and 2008-2009 Upper Fall Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program.

Only one CIWRP sampling site is located within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed.

Table 30 summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter screened and the corresponding water quality target.



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TITLE: **Flatfork Creek Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010808)**	PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**		
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA	PROJECT NO. 09006	EXHIBIT: 23	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206	QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 7000'

Table 30: Flatfork Creek IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary			
Water Quality Parameter	**IDEM Mean Value**	**CIWRP Mean Value**	**Water Quality Target**
Dissolved Oxygen	9.4 mg/L	12.1 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	487 CFU/100mL	36843 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	2.6 mg/L	2.5 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	8.1	7.9	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	0.083 mg/L	0.165 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	21.3 mg/L	52.2 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	23.0 NTU	67.2 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	0.0012 mg/L	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets in *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and Turbidity. TSS tested higher than the water quality targets in the CIWRP Study; however it was lower than the targets based on the IDEM data. Atrazine was not sampled during the CIWRP study and it was detected at lower levels than the target in the IDEM data. Dissolved Oxygen and pH fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed, 8 of the IDEM sampling sites had habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 1992 Macroinvertebrate Study, the 1996 Macroinvertebrate Study and the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 31 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (mIBI), the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 31: Flatfork Creek IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary	
Habitat/Biological Parameter	**IDEM Mean Value**
mIBI	4.2
IBI	37.0
QHEI	65.9

With a mIBI score of 4.2, the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed is slightly impaired for macroinvertebrate communities and an IBI score of 37.0 indicates that the fish community is poor to fair. A QHEI score of 65.9 correlates to a good habitat scoring which would indicate that the slight impairment seen in the macroinvertebrate community and the poor to fair fish community is not likely caused by the lack/quality of habitat. As stated in the Water Quality Information section, E. coli, Nitrogen and Phosphorus all consistently exceed the water quality targets indicating the slight impairment seen in the macroinvertebrate community and the poor to fair fish community may be influenced by the impaired water chemistry within the subwatershed.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses. Low and medium intensity development is concentrated in the northeastern portion of the subwatershed associated with Pendleton, the central portion of the subwatershed associated with Ingalls, and in the western portion of the subwatershed associated with Fortville.

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey at 13 stream crossing sites and 6 land/field sites within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. Observations including streambank erosion, stream buffers, debris and conventional tillage practices were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 32 below.

Table 32: Flatfork Creek Windshield Survey Summary

Parameter	Observations
Streambank Erosion	2/13 sites with erosion >3' 4/13 sites with erosion <3'
Stream Buffers	2/13 sites with no buffers 11/13 sites with buffers <50'
In-stream Debris	1/13 site with debris
Animal Access to Streams	0/13 sites with animal access
Conventional Till	2/19 sites under conventional till

The Flatfork Creek Subwatershed contains no confined feeding operations.

There are 4 NPDES permits active within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. Alcatel-Lucent USA Inc, permit number IN0057720, is located at 9874 N Meridian Road in Fortville. The facility along with one outfall is located within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. According to compliance records, there have been no formal enforcement actions within the last 5 years; however there has been one noted effluent exceedance within the last 3 years. This exceedance was reported for pH. The Fall Creek RSD Wastewater Treatment Plant, permit number IN0049026, is located at 9378 S 650 W in Pendleton. The treatment plant along with one outfall is located within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. According to compliance records for the treatment plant, there has been no formal enforcement actions within the last 5 years, however there have been nine noted effluent exceedances within the last 3 years. These exceedances were reported for *E.coli* and total phosphorus. The Fortville Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant, permit number IN0020958, is located at 500 W Church Street in Fortville. The treatment plant along with 7 outfalls is located within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. According to compliance records, there has been no formal enforcement actions within the last 5 years at the treatment plant, however there have been 17 noted effluent exceedances within the last 3 years. These exceedances were reported for *E.coli* and nitrogen. The Flatfork Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, permit number IN0054771, is located at 16266 Connecticut Avenue in Fortville. The treatment plant along with one outfall is located within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. No compliance records are available for this facility.

Thorpe Creek Subwatershed

The Thorpe Creek Subwatershed (HUC 12 – 051202010809) encompasses portions of Hamilton, Hancock, Madison, and Marion Counties as shown in Exhibit 24. The subwatershed contains approximately 22,170 acres and includes the Bee Camp Creek and Thorpe Creek tributaries and several smaller tributaries. Geist Reservoir is located in the western portion of the subwatershed.

Water Quality Information

According to the IDEM 305(b) list, the streams within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed are designated for Recreational, Fishable, and Aquatic Life Use. Geist Reservoir is also designated for Recreational, Fishable, Aquatic Life, and Drinking Water Use. Recreational uses within the streams of the subwatershed fall within category 2, signifying that available data indicates that some but not all of the designated uses are supported. The fishable uses fall within both categories 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to make a use support determination and 5B, signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed. Aquatic life uses fall within both categories 2 and 5A. Recreational and aquatic life uses within Geist Reservoir fall within category 3, signifying that there is insufficient available data to make a use support determination. While fishable and drinking water uses within the reservoir fall within categories 5B and 5A, respectively signifying that the available data indicates that at least one designated use is not supported impaired or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed. The 303(d) list indicates that approximately 0.8 miles of Fall Creek within the subwatershed are impaired for *E.coli* and that Geist Reservoir is impaired for Algae, Taste/Odor and PCBs in Fish Tissue.

A total of 10 IDEM sampling stations are located within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed. Nine of these stations have water quality sampling information. Available data at these stations included sampling from the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study.

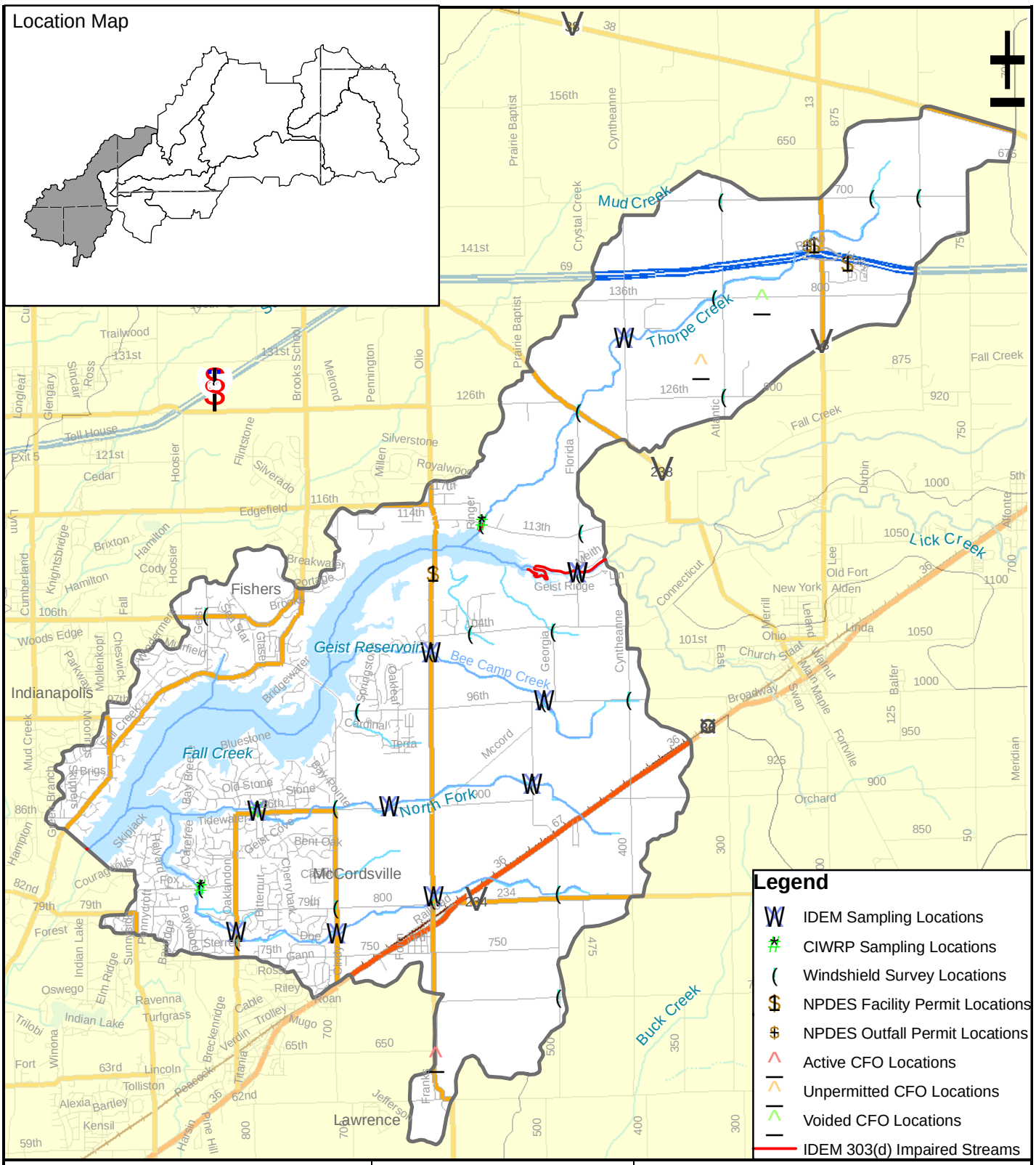
There are 3 CIWRP sampling sites located within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed.

Table 33 summarizes the IDEM and CIWRP sampling mean value of each parameter screened and the corresponding water quality target.

Table 33: Thorpe Creek IDEM and CIWRP Water Quality Sampling Summary

Water Quality Parameter	IDEM Mean Value	CIWRP Mean Value	Water Quality Target
Dissolved Oxygen	7.2 mg/L	11.5 mg/L	between 4.0 and 12.0 mg/L
E.coli	Not sampled	38437 CFU/100mL	235 CFU/100mL
Nitrate + Nitrite	4.4 mg/L	3.4 mg/L	1.6 mg/L
pH	7.8	7.7	between 6.0 and 9.0
Total Phosphorus	1.066 mg/L	0.193 mg/L	0.076 mg/L
TSS	20.8 mg/L	53.1 mg/L	30.0 mg/L
Turbidity	43.4 NTU	82.8 NTU	10.4 NTU
Atrazine	0.0016 mg/L	Not Sampled	0.003 mg/L

Based on the available water quality information, the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed consistently tests higher than the water quality targets for Nitrate + Nitrite, Total



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TITLE: **Thorpe Creek Subwatershed Map (HUC-12: 051202010809)**	PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**		
BASE LAYER: StreetMap USA	PROJECT NO. 09006	EXHIBIT: 24	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206	QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 7500'

Phosphorus and Turbidity. TSS tested higher than the water quality targets in the CIWRP Study; however it was lower than the targets based on the IDEM data. *E.coli* data was not available in the IDEM data; however the water quality targets for *E.coli* were significantly exceeded in the CIWRP study. Atrazine was not sampled during the CIWRP study and it was detected at lower levels than the target in the IDEM data. Dissolved Oxygen and pH fall within the acceptable ranges in both data sets and therefore are not a concern for this subwatershed.

Habitat/Biological Information

IDEM has completed several habitat and biological studies within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed, 9 of the IDEM sites have habitat/biological information available. Sampling data was available from the 2008 Fall Creek IBC Study. Table 34 summarizes the IDEM mean value for the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the QHEI habitat assessment for the available data.

Table 34: Thorpe Creek IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary

Habitat/Biological Parameter	IDEM Mean Value
mIBI	Not Sampled
IBI	33.6
QHEI	58.4

The Thorpe Creek Subwatershed was not sampled for macroinvertebrate communities. An IBI score of 33.6 indicates that the fish community is poor, and a QHEI score of 58.4 correlates to a good habitat scoring which would indicate that the poor fish community is not likely caused by lack/quality of habitat. As stated in the Water Quality Information section, Nitrogen and Phosphorus consistently exceed the water quality targets indicating the poor fish community may be influenced by the impaired water chemistry within the subwatershed.

Landuse Information

Landuse within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed consists primarily of agricultural uses however significant development is also located within the subwatershed. Medium and high intensity development is concentrated in western portion of the subwatershed associated with Indianapolis, Fishers, McCordsville, and Lawrence.

During October/November 2009, the Steering Committee volunteers conducted a windshield survey at 16 stream crossing sites and 8 land/field sites within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed. Observations including streambank erosion, stream buffers, debris and conventional tillage practices were recorded for each site and the results are summarized in Table 35 below.

Table 35: Thorpe Creek Windshield Survey Summary	
Parameter	**Observations**
Streambank Erosion	2/16 sites with erosion >3' 3/16 sites with erosion <3'
Stream Buffers	7/16 sites with no buffers 6/16 sites with buffers <50'
In-stream Debris	7/16 sites with debris
Animal Access to Streams	0/16 sites with animal access
Conventional Till	4/24 sites under conventional till

The Thorpe Creek Subwatershed contains one voided confined feeding operation, one unpermitted CFO and one active CFO. The voided CFO is located east of the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and 800 S in Madison County. The unpermitted CFO is located north of the intersection of 126th Street and Atlantic Avenue in Hamilton County and the active CFO is located south of the intersection of 650 N and 600 W in Hancock County. There were no violations reported for the CFOs within the subwatershed based on the inspection reports obtained from IDEM.

There are 3 other NPDES permits active within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed. The IMI McCordsville facility, permit number ING490034, is located at 10959 Olio Road in Fortville. According to compliance records, there have been no formal enforcement actions within the last 5 years at the facility; however there has been one noted effluent exceedance within the last 3 years. This exceedance was reported for total suspended solids. The Pilot Travel Center, permit number IN0056375, is located at I-69 and State Road 13 in Pendleton. There are no compliance records available for this facility. The Carefree Mobile Home Park, permit number IN0043281, is located on West Carefree Drive in Pendleton. There are no compliance records available for this facility.

Part Three of the Watershed Inventory

Watershed Inventory Summary and Ranking

As detailed in Part Two of the Watershed Inventory, available water quality, biological and landuse information was analyzed on a subwatershed (HUC 12) scale. The following tables summarize the data that was analyzed and presented in Part Two of the Watershed Inventory for easy comparison between the subwatersheds.

In order to gain an understanding of the relationships between the subwatersheds and identify the areas of highest concern, a ranking system was established. Ranking was assigned based on each data set with the most impacted watershed receiving the lowest score (e.g. 1). The scores were then averaged based on the number of data sets that were available for that subwatershed and the lowest average scoring subwatershed received the lowest overall score (e.g. 1). Therefore a subwatershed with a ranking of 1 is the lowest ranked subwatershed meaning it is the worst ranked subwatershed for that specific data set/pollutant. A subwatershed with a ranking of 10 is the highest ranked subwatershed meaning it is the best ranked subwatershed for that specific data set/pollutant. A value of

NR, or Not Ranked, is given for those subwatersheds where the parameter or pollutant was not collected or sampled. Specific ranking methodologies are explained for each table.

Water Quality Information

The IDEM 303(d) Summary information is ranked based on the number of impairments per subwatershed. For example, Thorpe Creek had three impairments; the highest number of impairments compared to the other subwatersheds and therefore was ranked 1 for this data set. The rest of the subwatersheds have only impairment and therefore were all ranked second.

Table 36: IDEM 303(d) Summary		
Subwatershed	**IDEM 303(d) Impairments**	**IDEM 303(d) Ranking**
Honey Creek	*E.coli*	**2**
Sly Fork	*E.coli*	**2**
Deer Creek	*E.coli*	**2**
Prairie Creek	*E.coli*	**2**
Headwaters Lick Creek	*E.coli*	**2**
Foster Branch	*E.coli*	**2**
McFadden Ditch	*E.coli*	**2**
Flatfork Creek	*E.coli*	**2**
Thorpe Creek	Algae, Taste/Odor, PCBs in fish tissue	**1**

The IDEM Water Quality Sampling Summary information is ranked for each impairment based on the value of the impairment (i.e. Sly Fork Creek had the seventh highest value for Total Phosphorus). The Overall IDEM WQ Rank left column was determined based on adding each impairment rank and dividing by the number of times it was ranked. For example, Honey Creek has a total rank of 4.75 = [(6+2+3+8)/4] and was ranked for all 4 impairments. Similarly, Thorpe Creek has a total rank of 1.67 = [(1+1+3)/3] and was ranked for only 3 impairments. The right column of the Overall IDEM WQ Rank is ranking the left column from 1 to 10 (1 being the worst case and 10 being the best case).

Table 37: IDEM Water Quality Sampling Summary										
Subwatershed	***E.coli* (CFU/100ml)**		**Nitrate + Nitrite (mg/L)**		**Total Phosphorus (mg/L)**		**TSS (mg/L)**		**Overall IDEM WQ Rank**	
	Value	**Rank**	**Value**	**Rank**	**Value**	**Rank**	**Value**	**Rank**		
Honey Creek	1646	6	3.4	2	0.098	3	13.6	8	4.75	**4**
Sly Fork	5855	1	2.1	6	0.065	7	13.7	7	5.25	**5**
Deer Creek	3326	5	2.5	4	0.214	2	31.9	1	3	**2**
Prairie Creek	3646	4	1.4	8	0.062	9	19.9	4	6.25	**8**
Headwaters Lick Creek	3771	3	1.8	7	0.069	6	15.2	6	5.5	**6**
Foster Branch	5669	2	2.4	5	0.064	8	5.7	9	6	**7**
McFadden Ditch	1436	7	1.8	7	0.081	5	17.1	5	6	**7**
Flatfork Creek	487	8	2.6	3	0.083	4	21.3	2	4.25	**3**
Thorpe Creek	--	NR	4.4	1	1.066	1	20.8	3	1.67	**1**

The CIWRP Studies Summary information is has a ranking system that starts with a straight rank for each impairment based on the value of the impairment. Then, each subwatershed has an overall rank based on those individual impairment rankings. This is the same methodology used for the IDEM Water Quality Sampling Summary. It should be noted that the CIWRP data samples were collected during base and storm flow conditions. Depending on the pollutant, both types of samples can result in elevated values. For example, the *E.coli* values shown in the table below are extremely elevated when compared to the IDEM data. This is a major concern in the watershed and is reflected so in the problems and goals described later in the WMP.

Table 38: CIWRP Studies Summary

Subwatershed	*E.coli* (CFU/100ml)		Nitrate + Nitrite (mg/L)		Total Phosphorus (mg/L)		TSS (mg/L)		Overall CIWRP WQ Rank	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank		
Honey Creek	42940	2	2.6	3	0.173	2	74.1	1	2	**2**
Sly Fork	42940	2	2.6	3	0.173	2	74.1	1	2	**2**
Deer Creek	42940	2	2.6	3	0.173	2	74.1	1	2	**2**
Prairie Creek	47007	1	1.8	5	0.120	6	48.0	5	4.25	**4**
Headwaters Lick Creek	14383	6	2.5	4	0.132	5	48.9	4	4.75	**5**
Foster Branch	15321	5	3.2	2	0.146	4	16.9	6	4.25	**4**
McFadden Ditch	14383	6	2.5	4	0.132	5	48.9	4	4.75	**5**
Flatfork Creek	36843	4	2.5	4	0.165	3	52.2	3	3.5	**3**
Thorpe Creek	38437	3	3.4	1	0.193	1	53.1	2	1.75	**1**

According to the IDEM 303(d) list, the majority of the waterbodies within the watershed do not meet their designated uses. This is supported by the data compiled from IDEM water quality studies and the CIWRP 2003 study. *E.coli* targets were exceeded in all subwatersheds, with Prairie Creek being the greatest contributor in the CIWRP study and Sly Fork in the IDEM data. Nitrate + Nitrite and phosphorus levels were also exceeded in several subwatersheds, with Thorpe Creek being the largest contributor of both in the two data sets.

Total sediment loads were analyzed based on the total suspended solids in the samples. Total suspended solid levels were exceeded in eight of the nine subwatersheds based on the CIWRP data, however only 1 subwatershed exceeded the targets based on the IDEM data. Deer Creek was the largest contributor in the IDEM data, with Deer Creek, Sly Fork and Honey Creek tied in the CIWRP data.

Habitat/Biological Information

The IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary ranking systems is the same as the IDEM Water Quality Sampling Summary and the CIWRP Studies Summary.

Table 39: IDEM Habitat/Biological Sampling Summary								
Subwatershed	mIBI Score		IBI Score		QHEI Score		Overall IDEM Bio Rank	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank		
Honey Creek	5.5	5	41.8	7	59.8	5	5.67	**5**
Sly Fork	--	NR	35.6	3	44.8	2	2.5	**2**
Deer Creek	4.4	4	42.9	8	64.9	7	6.33	**7**
Prairie Creek	3.8	2	39.0	5	55.3	3	3.33	**3**
Headwaters Lick Creek	--	NR	41.3	6	60.0	6	6	**6**
Foster Branch	--	NR	35.3	2	37.3	1	1.5	**1**
McFadden Ditch	3.6	1	45.2	9	71.8	9	6.33	**7**
Flatfork Creek	4.2	3	37.0	4	65.9	8	5	**4**
Thorpe Creek	--	NR	33.6	1	58.4	4	2.5	**2**

Landuse Information

Windshield survey observations were made during October/November 2009 by Steering Committee volunteers. Observations including general site information (i.e. location and weather), land use, land odor, evidence of best management practices, water color/appearance, water odor, evidence of algae, streambank erosion, stream buffers & type, in-stream debris, available shade/stream cover and in-stream habitat were recorded for 150 locations throughout the watershed on standardized survey forms. It was determined by the Steering Committee to collect as much data as possible at all of these sites. While all of this information is valid for an overall understanding of the subwatershed, five of the major parameters (streambank erosion, stream buffers, in-stream debris, conventional till and livestock access) were used as a part of the subwatershed assessments and the identification of subwatershed priority areas and specific source critical areas as these parameters help verify the water quality data and BMP recommendations. The results of the survey are summarized in Table 40. The remainder of the information obtained during the windshield survey should be reevaluated during the feasibility phases of plan implementation.

Identification of streambank erosion was broken up into the following categories: absent, stabilized (rip-rap, coir log, etc.), present > 3 feet tall and present < 3 feet tall. Identification of buffers was broken up into the following categories: absent, present > 50 feet and present (minimum 10 feet) < 50 feet. In-stream debris, conventional till and livestock access were evaluated based on the number of sites identified. The Windshield Survey Summary ranking is a straight rank based on the Value for each parameter.

Table 40: Windshield Survey Summary										
Subwatershed	Streambank Erosion (sites with >3ft/<3ft)		Stream Buffer (sites with absent/ insufficient)		In-Stream Debris (number of sites)		Conventional Till (number of sites)		Livestock Access (number of sites)	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Honey Creek	2/1	3	2/6	5	0	7	10	1	0	2
Sly Fork	1/5	5	1/6	6	4	3	3	4	0	2
Deer Creek	1/6	4	2/7	4	3	4	4	3	1	1
Prairie Creek	2/1	3	2/8	3	6	2	0	6	0	2
Headwaters Lick Creek	0/4	8	2/6	5	2	5	5	2	1	1
Foster Branch	1/0	6	0/3	7	1	6	0	6	1	1
McFadden Ditch	0/7	7	2/7	4	3	4	0	6	1	1
Flatfork Creek	2/4	1	2/11	2	1	6	2	5	0	2
Thorpe Creek	2/3	2	7/6	1	7	1	4	3	0	2

The number of instances of streambank erosion, inadequate buffers, in-stream debris, direct livestock access and areas under conventional till were identified during the windshield survey. Thorpe Creek had the largest number of instances for inadequate stream buffers. Flatfork Creek had the largest number of sites with erosion, while Honey Creek had the highest frequency of areas under conventional till. Prairie Creek had the most sites with in-stream debris identified. McFadden Ditch, Foster Branch, Deer Creek and the Headwaters of Lick Creek all tied for the largest numbers of direct livestock access.

The NPS Modeling Summary ranking is the same as the ranking system used for Table 37: IDEM Water Quality Sampling Summary.

Table 41: NPS Modeling Summary								
Subwatershed	N Load (lb/ac/yr)		P Load (lb/ac/yr)		Sediment Load (t/ac/yr)		Overall NPS Modeling Rank	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank		
Honey Creek	4.85	4	0.90	2	0.22	1	2.33	**2**
Sly Fork	4.86	3	0.86	4	0.20	3	3.33	**4**
Deer Creek	4.74	7	0.85	5	0.20	3	5	**6**
Prairie Creek	5.22	1	0.89	3	0.19	4	2.67	**3**
Headwaters Lick Creek	4.86	3	0.89	3	0.21	2	2.67	**3**
Foster Branch	5.02	2	0.91	1	0.21	2	1.67	**1**
McFadden Ditch	4.75	6	0.86	4	0.20	3	4.33	**5**
Flatfork Creek	4.86	3	0.86	4	0.20	3	3.33	**4**
Thorpe Creek	4.76	5	0.85	5	0.20	3	4.33	**5**

Prairie Creek was the largest contributor of nitrogen concentration (pounds per acre) according to the nonpoint source modeling results. Compared to Deer Creek (the lowest contributor), the percent difference was only 9.7% showing that all subwatersheds

contribute a similar amount of nitrogen based on landuse information. Phosphorus concentration showed a similar trend with Foster Creek being the largest contributor, but only 6.8% different than Deer and Thorpe Creek the lowest contributors. Slightly more variability was seen with the sediment concentration results with 11.8% difference between the largest and lowest contributors, Honey Creek and Prairie Creek, respectively.

The NPDES Permits Summary ranking is a straight rank based on the Value for each parameter.

Table 42: NPDES Permits Summary

Subwatershed	CFOs (violations active/expired/void)		NPDES Outfalls (Exceedances)	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Honey Creek	0 vio. (0/0/1)	3	1-TSS	3
Sly Fork	0 vio. (0/0/1)	3	No outfalls	NR
Deer Creek	0 vio. (0/0/0)	NR	4-*E.coli*, 14-N, 2-TSS	2
Prairie Creek	0 vio. (0/0/1)	3	No outfalls	NR
Headwaters Lick Creek	1 vio. (1/0/0)	1	No outfalls	NR
Foster Branch	0 vio. (0/0/0)	NR	No outfalls	NR
McFadden Ditch	0 vio. (0/0/1)	3	No outfalls	NR
Flatfork Creek	0 vio. (0/0/0)	NR	8-*E.coli*, 9-N, 5-P	1
Thorpe Creek	0 vio. (1/1/1)	2	1-TSS	3

Thorpe Creek has the largest number of confined feeding operations, whereas Flatfork Creek has the largest number of facilities and outfalls permitted through the NPDES program.

Subwatershed Overall Ranking

The available water quality, biological and landuse information summarized above was divided into two criteria: Current Water Quality Impairment and Land Use and Industrial Impairments and Concerns. These categories were then used to determine the overall rank of the individual subwatersheds.

Current Water Quality Impairment

The current water quality impairment category includes all pertinent available water quality studies and quantitative data that were utilized in this analysis. It should be noted that not all available data for the watershed was used in the analysis. This data is easily compared to standard water quality targets and therefore easily used to gage the current health of the

subwatersheds. Table 43 identifies the rankings of the subwatersheds based on the current water quality impairments.

The left column of the Current Rank for the Current Water Quality Impairment Ranking is based on the total of each parameter ranking divided by the number of times it was ranked. For example, Foster Branch has a Current Rank of 3.5 which correlates to (2+4+7+1)/4. The right column is a straight ranking based on the left column.

Table 43: Current Water Quality Impairment Ranking						
Subbasin	**IDEM 303(d)**	**CIWRP WQ**	**IDEM WQ**	**IDEM Bio**	**CURRENT RANK**	
Honey Creek	2	2	4	5	3.25	**4**
Sly Fork	2	2	5	2	2.75	**2**
Deer Creek	2	2	2	7	3.25	**4**
Prairie Creek	2	4	8	3	4.25	**6**
Headwaters Lick Creek	2	5	6	6	4.75	**7**
Foster Branch	2	4	7	1	3.5	**5**
McFadden Ditch	2	5	7	7	5.25	**8**
Flatfork Creek	2	3	3	4	3	**3**
Thorpe Creek	1	1	1	2	1.25	**1**

Land Use and Industrial Impairments and Concerns

The land use and industrial impairments and concerns category includes land use and social based data. This data is not easily compared to water quality targets but can be helpful in determining the chances of ongoing or future water quality impairments. The Land Use and Industrial Impairments and Concerns Ranking table includes a summary of the rankings from the Windshield Survey Summary table, the NPS Modeling Summary table and the NPDES Permits Summary table then ranks each subwatershed based on those rankings. The two columns of rankings under the Current Rank column were determined in the same manner as the Current Rank columns in the Current Water Quality Impairment Ranking table.

Table 44: Land Use and Industrial Impairments and Concerns Ranking										
Subbasin	**NPS Modeling**	**Stream Erosion**	**Stream Buffer**	**In-Stream Debris**	**Conven-tional Till**	**Live-stock Access**	**CFOs**	**NPDES Facilities**	**LAND USE RANK**	
Honey Creek	2	3	5	7	1	2	3	3	3.25	**4**
Sly Fork	4	5	6	3	4	2	3	NR	3.86	**6**
Deer Creek	6	4	4	4	3	1	NR	2	3.86	**6**
Prairie Creek	3	3	3	2	6	2	3	NR	3.14	**3**
Headwaters Lick Creek	3	8	5	5	2	1	1	NR	3.57	**5**
Foster Branch	1	6	7	6	6	1	NR	NR	4.5	**8**
McFadden Ditch	5	7	4	4	6	1	3	NR	4.29	**7**
Flatfork Creek	4	1	2	6	5	2	NR	1	3	**2**
Thorpe Creek	5	2	1	1	3	2	2	3	2.38	**1**

Overall Subwatershed Ranking

Once the subwatersheds were ranked based on the two established criteria, an overall ranking was assigned. The following table shows the Overall Subwatershed Ranking. The right column of the Overall Rank is ranking the left column from 1 to 10 (1 being the worst case and 10 being the best case).

Table 45: Overall Subwatershed Ranking				
Subbasin	**Current Rank**	**Land Use Rank**	**OVERALL RANK**	
Honey Creek	4	4	4	**3**
Sly Fork	2	6	4	**3**
Deer Creek	4	6	5	**5**
Prairie Creek	6	3	4.5	**4**
Headwaters Lick Creek	7	5	5.5	**6**
Foster Branch	5	8	6.5	**7**
McFadden Ditch	8	7	7.5	**8**
Flatfork Creek	3	2	2.5	**2**
Thorpe Creek	1	1	1	**1**

Analysis of Stakeholder Concerns

As discussed in Section 1, stakeholder concerns were gathered at the public meetings. The Watershed Inventory provided a means of verifying these concerns or in some cases developing additional concerns. Further discussion on which concerns the steering committee wanted to focus on occurred during the October and November Steering Committee meetings. Table 46 lists these concerns and identifies which concerns are supported by evidence from the Watershed Inventory (windshield survey, IDEM Data, CIWRP data, etc.) and which concerns will be focused on by the group. This table helps verify which concerns are supported by the collected data versus what is perception, what evidence there is for each concern, whether the concern is quantifiable, and whether the concern is outside the project's scope. For example, Legislative Action on Phosphorus Ban was a concern identified during the May public meetings. This concern is supported by data based on the IDEM and CIWRP water quality data for Phosphours exceedances in the watershed and therefore shows the linkage between the concerns and the water quality data (as well as the other data sources evaluated as a part of this WMP).

Table 46: Analysis of Stakeholder Concerns					
Concern	**Supported by Data?**	**Evidence**	**Quanti-fiable?**	**Outside Scope?**	**Group Focus?**
Quality of drinking water	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (*E.coli*, N, P, TSS)	Yes	No	Yes
Organic (leaves, grass clippings, pet/wildlife waste) debris	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (*E.coli*, N, P)	Yes	No	Yes
Quality of surface water runoff	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (*E.coli*, N, P, TSS)	Yes	No	Yes
Rule 5 erosion control Enforcement	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (TSS)	Yes	No	Yes
Sediment from storm drains	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (TSS)	Yes	No	Yes
Encourage and improve public perception of native landscaping	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Maintenance of culverts and roadways	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	Yes	No
Changing actions/perceptions towards urban fertilizer use	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Dredging in the reservoir	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP, Windshield Survey Data (TSS)	Yes	No	Yes
Enhance wildlife habitat and recreational uses of reservoir	Yes	IDEM, Windshield Survey Data (mIBI, IBI, QHEI)	Yes	No	Yes
Encourage public participation	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Outreach that is solution based	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Education to the public	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Education to the recreational users at marinas	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Exotic species control – Eurasian Watermilfoil	Yes	AVMP	Yes	No	Yes
Concern over blue green algae	Yes	CIWRP Data	Yes	Yes	Yes
Legislative action on phosphorus ban	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (P)	Yes	No	Yes
Lack of funding sources for urban areas	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Recognition of problems at State level	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Lack of regulations	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Lack of Ag Stakeholder Involvement	No	None, brought up during Public Meeting	No	No	Yes
Lack of sufficient buffers	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (N, P, TSS)	Yes	No	Yes
Streambank erosion	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (TSS)	Yes	No	Yes
Lack of conservation tillage	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (TSS)	Yes	No	Yes
Livestock access to streams	Yes	IDEM, CIWRP Data (*E.coli*, N, P, TSS)	Yes	No	Yes

Section 3 – Identify Problems

Group Concerns

The results of the Watershed Inventory and stakeholder concern analysis in Section 2 indicate that the group concerns can be described in six general areas. Table 47 lists the concerns that the group and the problem associated with each group. Some concerns are listed in several problem groups as they cover a wide variety of issues.

Table 47: Concerns and Associated Problems

Concern	Problem Category
-Encourage and improve public perception of native landscaping -Changing actions/perceptions towards fertilizer use -Encourage public participation -Outreach that is solution based -Education to the public -Education to the recreational users at marinas -Legislative action on phosphorus ban -Recognition of problems at State Level -Lack of regulations -Lack of Ag Stakeholder Involvement	Public Participation/Education and Outreach
-Quality of drinking water -Organic debris entering waterways -Quality of surface water runoff -Enhance wildlife habitat and recreational uses of the reservoir -Livestock access to streams -Streambank erosion -Lack of sufficient buffers	*E.coli* Levels
-Quality of drinking water -Organic debris entering waterways -Quality of surface water runoff -Changing actions/perceptions towards fertilizer use -Enhance wildlife habitat and recreational uses of the reservoir -Public concern over blue green algae -Legislative action on phosphorus ban -Recognition of problems at State level -Lack of regulations -Lack of sufficient buffers -Livestock access to streams	Nutrient Levels

Table 47, cont.: Concerns and Associated Problems	
Concern	**Problem Category**
-Quality of drinking water -Quality of surface water runoff -Erosion control and enforcement – Rule 5 -Dredging in the reservoir -Enhance wildlife habitat and recreational uses of the reservoir -Lack of conservation tillage practices in watershed -Livestock access to streams -Stream erosion -Lack of sufficient buffers	Erosion and Sedimentation
-Enhance wildlife habitat and recreational uses of the reservoir -Exotic species control (Eurasian Watermilfoil)	Exotic Species in the Reservoir
-Encourage and improve public perception of native landscaping -Enhance wildlife habitat and recreational uses of the reservoir -Outreach is solution based -Lack of funding sources for urban areas	Lack of Funding Sources for Urban Areas

Problem Statements

Problem statements were developed during the planning process in an effort to link watershed concerns with existing and historical water quality data and the six major concern categories. Following each problem statement is a brief synopsis on how the data analyzed within the Watershed Inventory correlates with the identified problem.

Public Participation/Education and Outreach

Stakeholders in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are not knowledgeable about their daily impact on the watershed and its water quality.

The data analyzed during the Watershed Inventory does not directly correlate to the Public Participation/Education and Outreach problem statement. It is difficult to measure the impacts of the lack of knowledge on a specific pollutant of concern; however conversations at the public meeting and steering committee meetings validated the concern.

E.coli Levels

E.coli levels in the watershed regularly exceed the state standard, based on current and historical water quality data results.

IDEM water quality data and the CIWRP study both verified the exceedances of *E.coli* levels and directly correlate to the problem statement. According to the CIWRP data, all subwatersheds exceeded the *E.coli* target of 235 CFU/100mL by at least 6,000%, while in the IDEM data all subwatersheds exceeded the target by at least 107%.

Nutrient Levels

Nutrient concentrations within all subwatersheds frequently exceed water quality targets thereby aiding the growth of algae within the reservoir.

IDEM 303d list, IDEM water quality data and the CIWRP study all verified the exceedances of nutrient concentrations and directly correlate to the problem statement. According to the CIWRP data, all subwatersheds exceeded the Nitrate + Nitrite target of 1.6 mg/L by at least 12%, while in the IDEM data one subwatershed was below the target and the other eight exceeded the target by at least 11%. Similarly, the phosphorus target of 0.076 mg/L was exceeded in all subwatersheds according to the CIWRP data by at least 58% and 5 subwatersheds exceeded the target by at least 7% in the IDEM data.

Erosion and Sedimentation

Soil erosion and sedimentation within the watershed is degrading the water quality and limiting the aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and aquatic health of the streams and reservoir within the watershed.

The CIWRP study verified the exceedances of total suspended solids that directly correlates to the problem statement. According to the CIWRP data, eight subwatersheds exceeded the TSS target of 30 mg/L by at least 60%, while in the IDEM data one subwatershed exceeded the target by 6%.

Exotic Species in the Reservoir

Excessive growth of exotic aquatic plants within the reservoir is negatively impacting the recreational uses of the reservoir and the survival of native species.

The data analyzed during the Watershed Inventory did not include information on aquatic plant species. Sampling conducted for the Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan in June and August 2009 did however verify the presence of Eurasian Watermilfoil at several locations within the reservoir.

Lack of Funding Sources for Urban Areas

There is a lack of funding for the implementation of Best Management Practices within urban areas.

The data analyzed during the Watershed Inventory does not directly correlate to the problem statement. It is difficult to measure the impacts of the lack of funding on a specific pollutant of concern; however the conversations at the public meeting and steering committee meetings validated the concern.

Section 4 – Identify Causes, Sources and Load Reductions

Potential Causes & Sources

A cause is an event, agent, or series of actions that produces an effect. In the context of a watershed management plan, the effect is the problem. Potential causes were identified for each problem statement based on the information summarized in the Watershed Inventory in Section 2. Where applicable, potential causes were related to specific pollutant parameters identified during the Watershed Inventory. A source is an activity, material or structure that results in nonpoint source pollution. Potential sources were identified for each problem statement based on the information analyzed in the Watershed Inventory in Section 2. Table 48 lists the potential causes and sources for each problem.

Table 48: Potential Causes & Sources

Problem Statement	Potential Causes	Potential Sources
Stakeholders in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are not knowledgeable about their daily impact on the watershed and its water quality.	-Lack of public awareness -Lack of unified approach -Lack of perceived benefits/impacts -Lack of interest -Lack of time and commitment -Lack of media coverage/educational material -Lack of understanding of nonpoint sources	- N/A, not applicable for administrative or social problems
E.coli levels in the watershed regularly exceed the state standard, based on current and historical water quality data results.	-Illegal or improper septic systems -Inadequately functioning septic systems -Unsewered communities -Undersized/old combined sewer systems -Improper disposal of pet/wildlife waste -Livestock access to ditches/streams -Lack of manure management -Lack of adequate buffers -Exceedances in NPDES permitted discharges	-Locations with improperly maintained septic systems and/or poor soils -Communities with Combined Sewers and Overflows into ditches/streams -Communities with no sewer systems and direct discharges to ditches/streams -Areas with inadequate buffers -Locations where pet/wildlife waste is disposed of directly into the reservoir and streams -Confined Feeding Operations -Areas where live stock have direct access to streams -Areas with inadequate buffers -Locations of NPDES permitted facilities not in compliance

Table 48: Potential Causes & Sources		
Problem Statement	**Potential Causes**	**Potential Sources**
Nutrient concentrations within all subwatersheds frequently exceed water quality targets thereby aiding the growth of algae within the reservoir.	-Application of fertilizers that include Phosphorus -Over application of fertilizers for its specific use -Timing of application of fertilizers -Improper disposal of yard waste -Lack of adequate buffers -Livestock access to ditches/streams	-Turf areas (e.g. residential, golf courses, parks, etc.) that drain directly to the reservoir/waterbody with no or inadequate buffers -Conventionally tilled agricultural fields that drain directly to ditches/streams with no or inadequate buffers -Areas with inadequate buffers
Soil erosion and sedimentation within the watershed is degrading the water quality and limiting the aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and aquatic health of the streams and reservoir within the watershed.	-Agricultural land/row crop production -Lack of temporary erosion control on construction sites -Lack of Rule 5 enforcement -Frequency of ditch maintenance -Lack of infiltration due to increased impervious areas -Streambank erosion -Livestock access to streams -Areas with inadequate stream buffers	-Conventionally tilled agricultural fields with no or inadequate buffers -Locations where on-going developments/construction sites have inadequate temporary erosion control measures -Locations where non-active construction sites have inadequate permanent erosion control measures -Ditches/streams that are frequently dredged/maintained
Excessive growth of exotic aquatic plants within the reservoir is negatively impacting the recreational uses of the reservoir and the survival of native species.	-Lack of native vegetation -Shallow body of water -Transfer of aquatic plant fragments -Uncontrolled growth in high density vegetation areas -Uncontrolled growth in recreational areas	-Public introducing aquarium plants into natural waterways -Vegetation fragmented by watercraft -Fragments transferred from watercraft in known infested waters
There is a lack of funding for the implementation of Best Management Practices within urban areas.	-Lack of unified approach -Lack of perceived benefits/impacts -Lack of interest -Lack of time and commitment	- N/A, not applicable for administrative or social problems

It should be noted that a non-active construction site is considered to be a site that has been hydrologically altered (e.g. trees have been cleared, topsoil/vegetation has been stripped) and the site is just bare ground with no permanent erosion control measures in place.

Pollutant Loading

Current Loading Calculation Methodology

Nitrate + Nitrite, Total Phosphorus, *E.coli* and Total Suspended Solids were identified as potential causes for several of the problem statements. In order to determine the extent of the current problem, current loads must be determined for comparison to target or known water quality targets.

There are several ways to estimate the current pollutant loads in a watershed, including nonpoint source modeling and actual sampling data. Both sources of information are available for the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. With the extent of water quality data available from IDEM data and the CIWRP study, it was determined that the most accurate estimate would incorporate the available water quality data rather than the modeling results.

Two data sets, IDEM (2008-2009) and CIWRP (2003), sampled for Nitrate + Nitrite, Total Phosphorus, *E.coli* and TSS. Instead of averaging these two data sets together, the IDEM data was used for this calculation as it was the most recent data available. The mean value of each parameter was calculated on a subwatershed-wide scale.

For the purposes of a watershed management plan, the pollutant loads need to be calculated in either pounds per year or tons per year. Since the water quality data was provided in units of mg/L and CFU/100mL, a flow rate was needed for the conversion.

There is one USGS gaging station located within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. The station, number 03351500, is located on Fall Creek near Fortville. Average annual flow data is available for this station from 1942-2008. At the gage site, the drainage area is 169 square miles and the average annual flow is 182.1 cfs. This flow was scaled to each subwatershed.

IDEMs load calculation tool was then used to estimate the loads based on the flow and concentration data.

Target Loads

The target loads were identified based on known water quality guidelines or standards for each pollutant. These standards typically reference a concentration, therefore as described above, IDEMs load calculation tool was used to estimate the target loads based on the flow and standard concentration data.

The single sample state standard in Indiana for *E.coli* is 235 CFU/100 mL.

Levels of Total Nitrate and Nitrite greater than 10 mg/L exceed the water quality standard for Nitrate and Nitrite as described in the Indiana Administrative Code (IAC). However, for this analysis, a target of 1.6 mg/L was identified as the EPA nutrient criterion for this eco-region.

Levels of Total Phosphorus greater than 0.3 mg/L exceed the IDEM statewide draft TMDL target, while levels above 0.076 mg/L exceed the EPA recommended water quality targets. For this analysis, EPA's recommended maximum was used as the target.

Levels of TSS greater than 30 mg/L exceed the IDEM statewide draft TMDL target.

Load Reductions

Once the current loads and the target loads of each pollutant were determined, the required load reduction to meet the targets was calculated.

Tables 49-51 show the current, target and reduction loads of *E.coli*, Nitrate+Nitrite and Total Phosphorus within the watershed. Since the current TSS concentration was less than the target in eight of the nine subwatersheds, no reduction is required in these subwatersheds.

The Deer Creek Subwatershed averaged higher than the target in TSS at 31.9 mg/L. The current load of the Deer Creek Subwatershed was calculated to be 954.0 ton/year. With the target of 30 mg/L or 897.2 ton/year, the reduction required is 56.8 ton/year, or 6.0% for this subwatershed.

Only IDEM *E.coli* values were used to create Table 49. CIWRP data exists for this parameter, however, the IDEM data is more recent. Thorpe was not measured for *E.coli* based on the most recent IDEM data. There is older data from CIWRP, but it was not used in the creation of this table since the values were much larger than the IDEM data and the IDEM data is showing exceedances in all subwatersheds.

Table 49: *E.coli* Pollutant Loading

Subbasin	Flow Rate (cfs)	Current Loading		Target Loading		Reduction
		Concentration (CFU/100mL)	Load (CFU/year)	Concentration (CFU/100mL)	Load (CFU/year)	Needed (CFU/year)
Honey Creek	18.3	1646	$2.7x10^{14}$	235	$3.8x10^{13}$	$2.3x10^{14}$ (85.7%)
Sly Fork	19.1	5855	$1.0x10^{15}$	235	$4.0x10^{13}$	$9.6x10^{14}$ (96.0%)
Deer Creek	30.4	3326	$9.0x10^{14}$	235	$6.4x10^{13}$	$8.4x10^{14}$ (92.9%)
Prairie Creek	42.8	3646	$1.4x10^{15}$	235	$9.0x10^{13}$	$1.3x10^{15}$ (93.6%)
Headwaters Lick Creek	23.2	3771	$7.8x10^{14}$	235	$4.9x10^{13}$	$7.3x10^{14}$ (93.8%)
Foster Branch	17.0	5669	$8.6x10^{14}$	235	$3.6x10^{13}$	$8.2x10^{14}$ (95.9%)
McFadden Ditch	18.0	1436	$2.3x10^{14}$	235	$3.8x10^{13}$	$1.9x10^{14}$ (83.6%)
Flatfork Creek	30.0	487	$1.3x10^{14}$	235	$6.3x10^{13}$	$6.8x10^{13}$ (51.7%)
Thorpe Creek	37.3	Not Sampled	N/A	235	$7.8x10^{13}$	N/A

Table 50: Nitrate+Nitrite Pollutant Loading						
Subbasin	Flow Rate (cfs)	Current Loading		Target Loading		Reduction
		Concentration (mg/L)	Load (lb/year)	Concentration (mg/L)	Load (lb/year)	Needed (lb/year)
Honey Creek	18.3	3.4	122,400	1.6	57,600	64,800 (52.9%)
Sly Fork	19.1	2.1	79,000	1.6	60,200	18,800 (23.8%)
Deer Creek	30.4	2.5	149,600	1.6	95,800	53,800 (36.0%)
Prairie Creek	42.8	1.4	118,000	1.6	134,800	N/A (0.0%)
Headwaters Lick Creek	23.2	1.8	82,200	1.6	73,000	9,200 (11.1%)
Foster Branch	17.0	2.4	80,200	1.6	53,600	26,600 (33.3%)
McFadden Ditch	18.0	1.8	63,800	1.6	56,600	7,200 (11.1%)
Flatfork Creek	30.0	2.6	153,400	1.6	94,400	59,000 (38.5%)
Thorpe Creek	37.3	4.4	323,000	1.6	117,400	205,600 (64.0%)

Table 51: Total Phosphorus Pollutant Loading						
Subbasin	Flow Rate (cfs)	Current Loading		Target Loading		Reduction
		Concentration (mg/L)	Load (lb/year)	Concentration (mg/L)	Load (lb/year)	Needed (lb/year)
Honey Creek	18.3	0.098	3,600	0.076	2,800	800 (22.4%)
Sly Fork	19.1	0.065	2,400	0.076	2,800	N/A (0.0%)
Deer Creek	30.4	0.214	12,800	0.076	4,600	8,200 (64%)
Prairie Creek	42.8	0.062	5,200	0.076	6,400	N/A (0.0%)
Headwaters Lick Creek	23.2	0.069	3,200	0.076	3,400	N/A (0.0%)
Foster Branch	17.0	0.064	2,200	0.076	2,600	N/A (0.0%)
McFadden Ditch	18.0	0.081	2,800	0.076	2,600	200 (6.2%)
Flatfork Creek	30.0	0.083	5,000	0.076	4,400	600 (8.4%)
Thorpe Creek	37.3	1.066	78,200	0.076	5,600	72,600 (93.0%)

Section 5 – Set Goals and Identify Critical Areas

Goal Statements

Based on the identified concerns and possible sources, goal statements were developed for each problem statement. Implementation of policies and programs to meet these goal statements will improve watershed management in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed.

The goal statements indicate the ultimate goal for a specific project. In some cases this goal may not be maintainable in the short term; therefore there is also a list of short term objectives included with each goal. Short term implies efforts will begin implementation in the years 0-5 and long term implies years 6-20. The goal statements themselves are typically the long term goal.

It should be noted that some objectives may relate to several goal statements, they are listed in each applicable category.

Public Participation/Education and Outreach

Problem Statement: Stakeholders in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are not knowledgeable about their daily impact on the watershed and its water quality.

Goal Statement: Develop and implement an education and outreach program within the watershed.

Short Term Objectives:

- Effectively share and communicate past, current and future activities within the watershed
- Educate stakeholders within the watershed on the function of a watershed and their impacts to water quality
- Educate all stakeholders on nature of nonpoint sources
- Coordinate with County SWCDs to get more agriculture stakeholders involved in plan implementation
- Educate homeowners in urban communities about the use of fertilizers
- Coordinate efforts with the UWRWA, local MS4s and any other education and outreach efforts being conducted within the watershed
- Work with Indiana Wildlife Federation on efforts to educate on and reduce the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus
- Educate stakeholders using septic systems about the importance of septic system maintenance

Long Term Objectives:

- Continue viable and effective short term objectives
- Work with local municipalities to incorporate smart growth principles and green infrastructure practices into zoning/stormwater ordinances and comprehensive plans

- Educate agricultural stakeholders about the use of Atrazine and its impacts to water quality
- Review education and outreach program within the watershed and continue development and implementation of the program

E.coli Levels

Problem Statement: *E.coli* levels in the watershed regularly exceed the state standard, based on current and historical water quality data results.

Goal Statement: Reduce *E.coli* concentrations to meet the state standard of 235 CFU/100mL.

Short Term Objectives:

- Partner with NRCS, SWCDs and County Officials/Boards to promote and implement cost share and/or education programs
- Encourage proper disposal of pet and/or Canada goose waste
- Educate stakeholders using septic systems about the importance of septic system maintenance
- Promote and implement agricultural BMPs that will reduce *E.coli* levels in the watershed (e.g. alternative watering systems, buffer/filter strips, exclusionary fencing, wetland restoration, etc.)

Long Term Objectives:

- Continue viable and effective short term goals
- Educate the agriculture stakeholders on the benefits of manure management practices
- Educate and work with point dischargers to reduce the amount of *E.coli* runoff from point sources, package plants, CFOs and CSOs
- Establish a monitoring program or group to collect samples

Pet and wildlife waste is not a fully documented problem, but was brought up at Steering Committee meetings as a concern. This was specifically commented on by UWRWA as well.

Nutrient Levels

Problem Statement: Nutrient concentrations within all subwatersheds frequently exceed water quality targets thereby aiding the growth of algae within the reservoir.

Goal Statement: Reduce the nutrient loads so that there are no exceedances of EPAs suggested targets for Nitrate + Nitrite of 1.6 mg/L and Total Phosphorus of 0.076mg/L.

Short Term Objectives:

- Educate the public and stakeholders of the importance of reduced application of fertilizers or use of low phosphorus or no phosphorus fertilizers
- Partner with NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s and County Officials/Boards to promote and implement cost share and/or education programs
- Educate local, regional, and state officials on the need for regulations for urban areas (specifically for phosphorus)

- Promote and implement agricultural BMPs that will reduce nutrient levels in the watershed (e.g. alternative watering systems, buffer/filter strips, exclusionary fencing, conservational tillage, reforestation, stream restoration, wetland restoration, etc.)
- Promote and implement urban BMPs that will reduce nutrient levels in the watershed (e.g. filtration basins, pervious pavement, bioretention practices, etc.)

Long Term Objectives:

- Continue viable and effective short term objectives
- Educate and work with point discharges (CFOS, NPDES permitted facilities) to reduce their nutrient loads
- Work with local municipalities to incorporate smart growth principles and green infrastructure practices into zoning/stormwater ordinances and comprehensive plans
- Establish a monitoring program or group to collect samples

Erosion and Sedimentation

Problem Statement: Soil erosion and sedimentation within the watershed is degrading the water quality and limiting the aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and aquatic health of the streams and reservoir within the watershed.

Goal Statement: Reduce sediment loads to meet the IDEM statewide draft TMDL target of 30 mg/L for TSS.

Short Term Objectives:

- Partner with NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Officials/Boards, High Schools and FFA programs to promote and implement cost share and/or education programs in order to reduce erosion from agricultural lands
- Encourage enforcement of erosion control practices associated with the issuance of Rule 5 construction permits
- Promote and implement agricultural BMPs that will reduce TSS levels in the watershed (e.g. alternative watering systems, buffer/filter strips, exclusionary fencing, grassed waterways, naturalized stream buffers, conservational tillage, reforestation, stream restoration, wetland restoration, etc.)
- Promote and implement urban BMPs that will reduce nutrient levels in the watershed (e.g. filtration basins, infiltration trenches, naturalized detention basins, pervious pavement, rain barrels, rain gardens, bioretention practices, etc.)

Long Term Objectives:

- Continue viable and effective short term objectives
- Work with local municipalities to incorporate smart growth principles and green infrastructure practices into zoning/stormwater ordinances and comprehensive plans
- Establish a monitoring program or group to collect samples

Exotic Species in the Reservoir

Problem Statement: Excessive growth of exotic aquatic plants within the reservoir is negatively impacting the recreational uses of the reservoir and the survival of native species.

Goal Statement: Reduce and control the growth of exotic plants within the reservoir.

Short Term Objectives:

- Educate the public and stakeholders on how exotic species are introduced and ways to control new introductions
- Partner with the marinas, fishing tournament groups, homeowner organizations, etc to promote and implement cost share and/or education programs

Long Term Objectives:

- Continue viable and effective short term objectives
- Regular update of AVMP and implementation according to recommendations

Lack of Funding Sources for Urban Areas

Problem Statement: There is a lack of funding for the implementation of Best Management Practices within urban areas.

Goal Statement: Identify and utilize existing BMP funding sources and encourage the development and enhancement of additional and non-traditional funding sources.

Short Term Objectives:

- Educate homeowners and stakeholders on the benefits and importance of urban BMPs
- Partner with MS4s, SWCDs, foundations, community groups, judicial services, community service programs, high schools, etc to identify existing and develop new funding sources for urban BMP implementation
- Research/educate homeowners on do-it-yourself BMPs

Long Term Objectives:

- Continue viable and effective short term objectives
- Work with local municipalities to incorporate smart growth principles and green infrastructure practices into zoning/stormwater ordinances and comprehensive plans
- Encourage demonstration projects throughout the watershed in cooperation with MS4s Education and Outreach programs
- Partner with MS4s, SWCDs, foundations, community groups, judicial services, community service programs, high schools, etc to promote and implement cost share opportunities for implementation of BMPs

Indicators

Indicators are measurable parameters or criteria which can be used to determine the progress being made toward achieving a goal. Indicators were developed for each goal and objective. Some indicators may be appropriate for several categories and are listed for each applicable goal. As the watershed management plan is being implemented, it is anticipated that additional indicators will be identified; therefore this list is not intended to be comprehensive. Table 52 lists the indicators and the goals to which they are linked.

An Education/Outreach Menu was developed by the UWRWA and V3 and is included in Appendix L. This menu includes various media for education and outreach. Since it is unknown at this time the preferred methods of outreach, several indicators refer to this menu in addition to specific outreach tools.

Table 52: Goals and Indicators	
Goal	**Indicators**
Develop and implement an education and outreach program within the watershed	-Number of updates to website -Number of newspaper/newsletter articles or other media communications -Number of brochures/educational materials distributed or field days organized -Number of programs and ideas utilized from the Education/Outreach Menu
Reduce *E.coli* concentrations to meet the state standard of 235 CFU/100mL	-Observed *E.coli* loadings -Number or stream miles of stabilized streambanks and associated load reductions -Number of direct animal access to streams points eliminated and associated load reductions -Number or stream miles of improved/created buffer zones and associated load reductions -*E.coli* loadings from point dischargers
Reduce the nutrient loads so that there are no exceedances of EPAs suggested targets for Nitrate + Nitrite of 1.6 mg/L and Total Phosphorus of 0.076mg/L	-Observed Nitrate + Nitrite and Total Phosphorus Loadings -Number of stream miles of improved/created buffer zones and associated load reductions -Number of agricultural fields utilizing cover crops, conservation tillage, or other BMPs and associated load reductions -Number of urban BMPs installed (e.g. pond shoreline plantings, rain gardens) and associated load reductions -Nutrient loadings from point dischargers
Reduce sediment loads to meet the IDEM statewide draft TMDL target of 30 mg/L for TSS	-Observed TSS concentrations -Number of agricultural fields utilizing conservation tillage, cover crops or other BMPs and associated load reductions -Number or stream miles of improved/created buffer zones and associated load reductions -Number of inspections and/or enforcement actions on construction sites with Rule 5 permits -Number or stream miles of stabilized streambanks and associated load reductions -Number of direct animal access to streams points eliminated and associated load reductions
Reduce and control the growth of exotic plants within the reservoir	-Number of areas identified in updated AVMP -Number of areas treated according to AVMP recommendations -Number of areas with excessive growth
Identify and utilize existing BMP funding sources and encourage the development and enhancement of additional and non-traditional funding sources	-Number of existing funding sources utilized -Number of new/non-traditional funding sources indentified -Number of demonstration projects installed -Number of urban BMPs installed (e.g. pond shoreline plantings, rain gardens)

Critical Areas

Critical areas are defined as areas where project implementation can remediate current water quality impairments or reduce the impact of future water quality impairments. The critical areas within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed were identified based on the Watershed Inventory, the identified problems and the goals of the Watershed Management Plan. Critical areas were split into two categories: Subwatershed Critical Areas and Specific Source Critical areas.

High Priority Subwatersheds

The Subwatershed Critical Areas were chosen based on the Watershed Inventory Rankings. Based on the Watershed Inventory, the lowest/worst ranked subwatersheds are the most impaired based on all of the available data. Projects within these subwatersheds would provide the greatest water quality benefit. The top four ranked subwatersheds were identified as the High Priority Subwatersheds.

Since the watershed management plan is a living document, the intent is not to limit projects to only the High Priority Areas as these may become less critical as the plan is implemented. In an effort to prioritize work, the remaining five subwatersheds were also categorized as medium priority and low priority. The intent of this ranking is that if all projects are implemented in the High Priority Areas, then a medium priority area should be evaluated for project implementation. Exhibit 25 shows these the priority subwatershed areas and the ranking of the remaining subwatersheds.

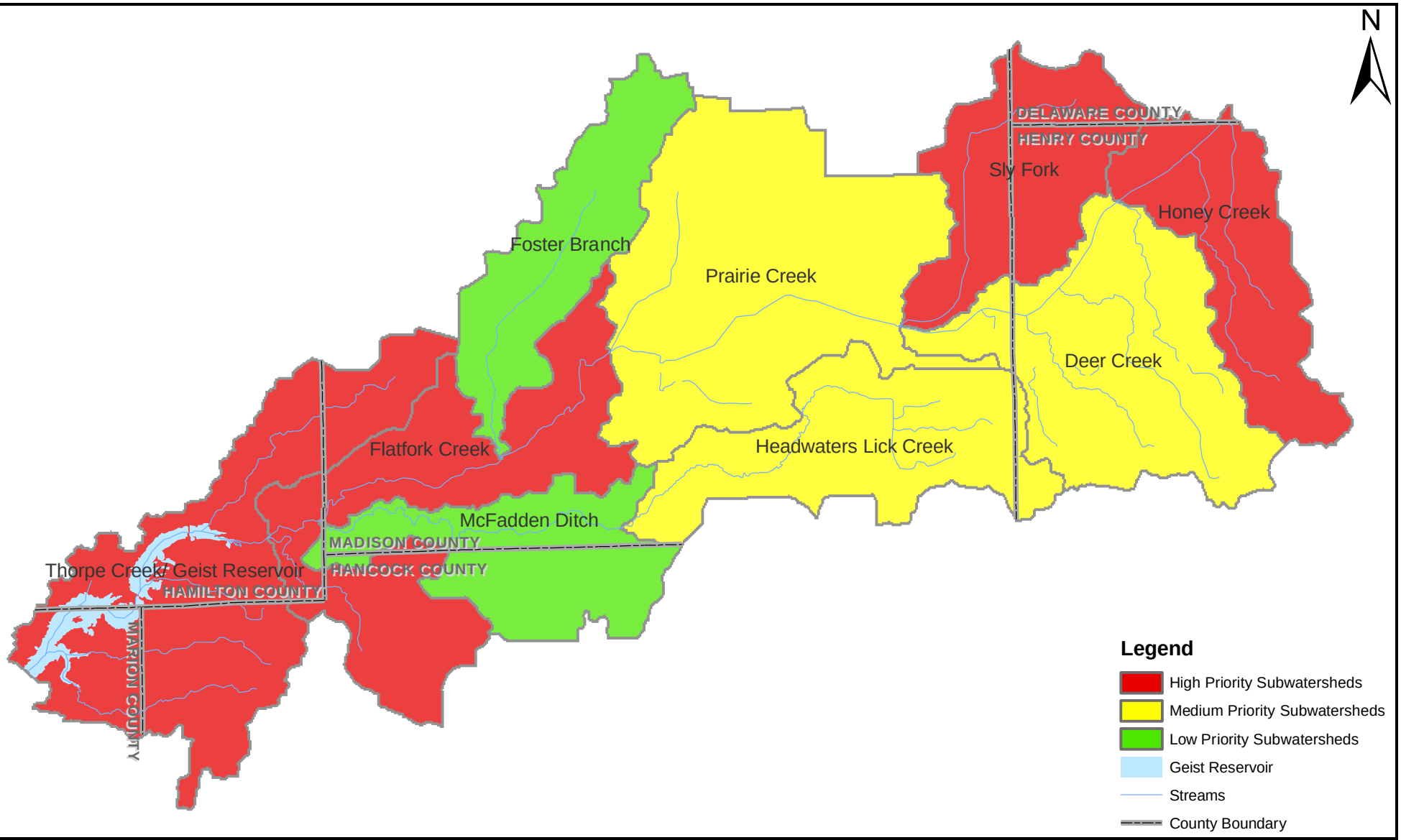
Thorpe Creek Subwatershed

As discussed in the Watershed Inventory in Section 2, the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed shows the highest level of water quality impairment and the highest level of land use and industrial impairments based on the available data. Geist Reservoir is also located within the subwatershed and serves as a drinking water supply to the Indianapolis Water Company's Fall Creek Water Treatment Facility.

The Thorpe Creek Subwatershed exceeded the targets of *E. coli* and the water quality targets for Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS in the CIWRP study and exceeded the targets of Nitrate + Nitrite and Phosphorus in the IDEM data (no *E. coli* information was available within the IDEM data) and needs reductions of 64.0% and 93.0% for Nitrate+Nitrite and Phosphorus, respectively to meet the target loads set for the subwatershed.

During the windshield survey, 2 of the 16 stream sites showed areas of streambank erosion that exceeded 3 feet (see Exhibit 28), 13 sites showed areas with no or inadequate stream buffers (see Exhibit 27), 7 locations had in-stream debris and conventional tillage practices were seen in 4 locations (see Exhibit 29). Based on these findings and as outlined in Part Three of the Watershed Inventory (Watershed Ranking tables and summaries), the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed is a High Priority Subwatershed Area for Best Management Practice implementation.

The Thorpe Creek Subwatershed is 54% agricultural with urban areas concentrated in the western portion of the subwatershed associated with the City of Indianapolis, Town of Fishers, Town of McCordsville, and the City of Lawrence. Therefore the BMPs suggested in



V3 Companies
7325 Janes Avenue
Woodridge, IL 60517
630.724.9200 phone
630.724.9202 fax
www.v3co.com

TITLE: **Subwatershed Priority Areas**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: HUC-12 Boundaries		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 25	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 2065, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

Table 54 for this subwatershed are agricultural/rural and urban focused and are beneficial in reducing pollutant loadings for more than one impairment.

The subwatershed is critical for *E. coli* (according to the CIWRP data). The Carefree Homes Mobile Home Park has a NPDES permit within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed. There was one TSS exceedance reported for this outfall based on the information obtained from IDEM. There is also one active CFO located within the subwatershed. These could be potential sources for elevated *E. coli* levels. Even though there are no Urban BMPs that show a benefit for reducing *E. coli*, the potential for wetland restoration within the subwatershed is feasible due to 31.7% of the subwatershed being mapped with hydric soils. Wetland restoration has the potential to reduce pollutant loads by 80% for sediment and *E. coli*, 55% for phosphorus and 45% for nitrogen.

Although the windshield survey did not show any locations where animals could access streams, the subwatershed is critical for E. coli and 54% agricultural with one active CFO, indicating that there may be animal access locations that were not observed during the survey. Implementation of alternative watering systems as well as exclusionary fencing and eliminating the potential for animals to have direct access to the streams will help reduce pollutant loadings within the subwatershed.

The windshield survey results showed that the subwatershed has at least 9 sites with no stream buffers or evidence of streambank erosion greater than 3 feet in depth. The subwatershed has approximately 30 miles of major stream corridor which doesn't include the minor tributaries or other regulated drains within the subwatershed. Therefore, there is great potential for implementation of buffer/filter strips, reforestation along streams and stream restoration within the subwatershed as a best management practice for reducing, Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and TSS.

Since the subwatershed is 54% agricultural land with at least 4 locations from the windshield survey showing conventional tillage practices, promoting no-till or reduced till (conservation tillage) practices within this subwatershed would also help to reduce TSS and Nitrate+Nitrite loadings. Based on the information obtained from the Hamilton County SWCD, approximately 49% of corn fields in the County operate using conventional tillage practices. Tillage information for Hancock County (2007) indicates that approximately 3% of corn fields within the County operate using conventional tillage practices. Grassed waterways and Nutrient/Waste Management plans would also be a beneficial BMP within these agricultural areas for reduction of all pollutants.

The Thorpe Creek Subwatershed includes a portion of the City of Indianapolis, Town of Fishers, Town of McCordsville, and City of Lawrence. Urban runoff is often a significant source of nonpoint source pollution within a watershed. The implementation of BMPs such as bioretention practices, filtration basins, pervious pavement, naturalized detention basins, infiltration trenches, naturalized stream buffers, and rain barrels/rain gardens within urban areas has the potential to significantly reduce the pollutant loadings within the watershed. For example, the load reduction needed for Nitrate+Nitrite in this subwatershed is 64.0% in order to meet the target loads. Installation of pervious pavement has the potential to reduce Nitrate+Nitrite loads tributary to the pavement by 85% based on Table 53 Best Management Practice Load Reduction Summary in Section 6. Therefore, this practice

propagated throughout the watershed has the potential to significantly reduce nonpoint source pollution loadings.

Based on this information, BMP implementation projects are very feasible within the Thorpe Creek Subwatershed. However, specific locations and types of BMPs should be carefully planned out in coordination with the landowners and applicable local, state and federal agencies and with the load reduction needs of the subwatershed in mind.

Honey Creek Subwatershed

The Honey Creek Subwatershed shows a moderate level of current water quality impairment (ranked fourth) and a moderate level of land use and industrial impairments (ranked fourth) based on the available data. The Honey Creek Subwatershed exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS in the CIWRP study and exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite and Phosphorus in the IDEM data. Reductions of 85.7%, 52.9% and 22.4% are needed for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, and Phosphorus respectively to meet the target loads set for the subwatershed. The current loading of TSS (according to the IDEM data) within this subwatershed meets the target, therefore no reduction is necessary.

During the windshield survey, 2 of the 8 stream sites showed areas of streambank erosion that exceeded 3 feet (see Exhibit 28), 8 sites showed areas with no or inadequate stream buffers (see Exhibit 27) and conventional tillage practices were seen in 10 of the locations (see Exhibit 29) within the Honey Creek Subwatershed. Based on these findings and as outlined in Part Three of the Watershed Inventory (Watershed Ranking tables and summaries), the Honey Creek Subwatershed is a High Priority Subwatershed for Best Management Practice implementation.

The Honey Creek Subwatershed is approximately 84% agricultural with only a small urban area concentrated in the northwest portion of the subwatershed associated with Middletown. Therefore, the BMPs suggested in Table 54 for this subwatershed are agricultural/rural focused and are beneficial in reducing pollutant loadings for more than one impairment.

Although the windshield survey did not show any locations where animals could access streams, the subwatershed is critical for *E. coli* indicating that there may be animal access locations that were not observed during the survey. Implementation of alternative watering systems as well as exclusionary fencing and eliminating the potential for animals to have direct access to the streams will reduce pollutant loadings within the subwatershed. For example, the load reduction needed for E. coli in this subwatershed is 85.7% in order to meet the target loads. Implementation of the exclusionary fencing alone provides a 90% reduction in E. coli based on Table 53 Best Management Practice Load Reduction Summary in Section 6.

The windshield survey results also showed that the subwatershed has at least 4 sites with no stream buffers or evidence of streambank erosion greater than 3 feet in depth. The subwatershed has approximately 14 miles of major stream corridor which doesn't include the minor tributaries or other regulated drains within the subwatershed. Therefore, there is great potential for implementation of buffer/filter strips, reforestation along streams,

naturalized stream buffers and stream restoration within the subwatershed as a best management practice for reducing Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and TSS.

Since the subwatershed is 84% agricultural land with at least 10 locations from the windshield survey showing conventional tillage practices, promoting no-till or reduced till (conservation tillage) practices within this subwatershed would also help to reduce Nitrate+Nitrite loadings. Based on the tillage information for Henry County, approximately 24% of corn fields in the County operate using conventional tillage practices. Grassed waterways and Nutrient/Waste Management plans would also be a beneficial BMP within these agricultural areas for reduction of all pollutants.

Approximately 36.9% of the subwatershed is mapped as having hydric soils. These areas would be conducive for wetland restoration, which has the potential to reduce pollutant loads by 80% for sediment and *E. coli*, 55% for phosphorus and 45% for nitrogen.

Based on this information, BMP implementation projects are very feasible within the Honey Creek Subwatershed. However, specific locations and types of BMPs should be carefully planned out in coordination with the landowners and applicable local, state and federal agencies and with the load reduction needs of the subwatershed in mind.

Flatfork Creek Subwatershed

The Flatfork Creek Subwatershed shows a high level of current water quality impairment (ranked seventh) and a high level of land use and industrial impairments (ranked second) based on the available data. The Flatfork Creek Subwatershed exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS in the CIWRP study and exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite and Phosphorus in the IDEM data. Reductions of 51.7%, 38.5%, and 8.4% are needed for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, and Phosphorus respectively to meet the target loads set for the subwatershed. The current loading of TSS within this subwatershed meets the target (according to the IDEM data), therefore no reduction is necessary.

During the windshield survey, 2 of the 13 stream sites showed areas of streambank erosion that exceeded 3 feet (see Exhibit 28), 2 sites showed areas with no stream buffers (see Exhibit 27), 1 location had in-stream debris and conventional tillage practices were seen in 2 of the locations (see Exhibit 29) within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. Based on these findings and as outlined in Part Three of the Watershed Inventory (Watershed Ranking tables and summaries), the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed is a High Priority Subwatershed for Best Management Practice implementation.

The Flatfork Creek Subwatershed is approximately 71% agricultural with urban areas concentrated in the northeastern portion of the subwatershed associated with Town of Pendleton, the central portion of the subwatershed associated with Town of Ingalls, and in the western portion of the subwatershed associated with Town of Fortville. Therefore, the BMPs suggested in Table 54 for this subwatershed are agricultural/rural and urban focused and are beneficial in reducing pollutant loadings for more than one impairment.

The subwatershed is critical for *E. coli.* The Fortville Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant has an outfall permit for seven locations within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. Similarly,

the Fall Creek RSD Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Flatfork Wastewater Treatment plant each have a permit for one outfall within the subwatershed which are all potential sources for elevated *E. coli* levels. There were 8 *E.coli*, 9 N and 5 P exceedances reported for these outfalls based on the information obtained from IDEM. Even though there are no Urban BMPs that show a benefit for reducing *E. coli*, the potential for wetland restoration within the subwatershed is feasible due to 32.3% of the subwatershed being mapped with hydric soils. Wetland restoration has the potential to reduce pollutant loads by 80% for sediment and *E. coli*, 55% for phosphorus and 45% for nitrogen.

Although the windshield survey did not show any locations where animals could access streams, the subwatershed is 71% agricultural and the subwatershed is critical for *E. coli* indicating that there may be animal access locations that were not observed during the survey. Implementation of alternative watering systems as well as exclusionary fencing and eliminating the potential for animals to have direct access to the streams will reduce pollutant loadings within the subwatershed. For example, the load reduction needed for *E. coli* in this subwatershed is 51.7% in order to meet the target loads. Implementation of the exclusionary fencing alone provides a 90% reduction in *E. coli* for area tributary to the fencing based on Table 53 Best Management Practice Load Reduction Summary in Section 6. Exclusionary fencing also provides 70% removal of TSS, 60% of Phosphorus and 65% of Nitrogen. Grassed waterways and Nutrient/Waste Management plans would also be a beneficial BMP within these agricultural areas for reduction of all pollutants.

The windshield survey results showed that the subwatershed has at least 4 sites with no stream buffers or evidence of streambank erosion greater than 3 feet in depth. The subwatershed has approximately 15 miles of major stream corridor which doesn't include the minor tributaries or other regulated drains within the subwatershed. Therefore, there is great potential for implementation of buffer/filter strips, naturalized stream buffers and stream restoration within the subwatershed as a best management practice for reducing *E. coli*, Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and TSS.

The Flatfork Creek Subwatershed includes a portion of the Town of Pendleton, Town of Ingalls and Town of Fortville. Urban runoff is often a significant source of nonpoint source pollution within a watershed. The implementation of BMPs such as infiltration trenches and rain barrels/rain gardens within urban areas has the potential to significantly reduce the pollutant loadings within the watershed.

Based on this information, BMP implementation projects are very feasible within the Flatfork Creek Subwatershed. However, specific locations and types of BMPs should be carefully planned out in coordination with the landowners and applicable local, state and federal agencies and with the load reduction needs of the subwatershed in mind.

Sly Fork Subwatershed

The Sly Fork Subwatershed shows a high level of current water quality impairment (ranked second) and a moderate level of land use and industrial impairments (ranked sixth) based on the available data. The Sly Fork Subwatershed exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS in the CIWRP study and exceeded the water quality target for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite in the IDEM data. Reductions of 96.0% and 23.8%

needed for *E. coli* and Nitrate + Nitrite, respectively to meet the target loads set for the subwatershed.

During the windshield survey, 1 of the 8 stream sites showed areas of streambank erosion that exceeded 3 feet (see Exhibit 28), 7 sites showed areas with insufficient or no stream buffers (see Exhibit 27), 4 locations had in-stream debris and conventional tillage practices were seen in 3 of the locations (see Exhibit 29) within the Sly Fork Subwatershed. Based on these findings and as outlined in Part Three of the Watershed Inventory (Watershed Ranking tables and summaries), the Sly Fork Subwatershed is a High Priority Subwatershed for Best Management Practice implementation.

The Sly Fork Subwatershed is approximately 78% agricultural with the only urban area concentrated in the northeastern portion of the subwatershed associated with the Town of Middletown. Therefore, the BMPs suggested in Table 54 for this subwatershed are agricultural/rural focused and are beneficial in reducing pollutant loadings for more than one impairment.

Although the windshield survey did not show any locations where animals could access streams, the subwatershed is 78% agricultural and the subwatershed is critical for *E. coli* indicating that there may be animal access locations that were not observed during the survey. Implementation of alternative watering systems as well as exclusionary fencing and eliminating the potential for animals to have direct access to the streams will reduce pollutant loadings within the subwatershed. For example, the load reduction needed for *E. coli* in this subwatershed is 96.0% in order to meet the target loads. Implementation of the exclusionary fencing alone provides a 90% reduction in *E. coli* for area tributary to the fencing based on Table 53 Best Management Practice Load Reduction Summary in Section 6. Exclusionary fencing also provides 70% removal of TSS, 60% of Phosphorus and 65% of Nitrogen. Nutrient/Waste Management plans would also be a beneficial BMP within these agricultural areas for reduction of all pollutants.

The windshield survey results showed that the subwatershed has at least 2 sites with no stream buffers or evidence of streambank erosion greater than 3 feet in depth. The subwatershed has approximately 8 miles of major stream corridor which doesn't include the minor tributaries or other regulated drains within the subwatershed. Therefore, there is great potential for implementation of buffer/filter strips within the subwatershed as a best management practice for reducing *E. coli*, Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and TSS.

Approximately 39.1% of the subwatershed is mapped as having hydric soils. These areas would be conducive for wetland restoration, which has the potential to reduce pollutant loads by 80% for sediment and *E. coli*, 55% for phosphorus and 45% for nitrogen.

Based on this information, BMP implementation projects are very feasible within the Sly Fork Subwatershed. However, specific locations and types of BMPs should be carefully planned out in coordination with the landowners and applicable local, state and federal agencies and with the load reduction needs of the subwatershed in mind.

Medium Priority Subwatersheds

Deer Creek Subwatershed

The Deer Creek Subwatershed shows a moderate level of current water quality impairment (ranked fourth) and a moderate level of land use and industrial impairments (ranked sixth) based on the available data. The Deer Creek Subwatershed exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS in the CIWRP study and exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS in the IDEM data. Reductions of 92.9%, 36.0%, 64.1% and 6.0% are needed for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS respectively to meet the target loads set for the subwatershed.

During the windshield survey, 1 of the 13 stream sites showed areas of streambank erosion that exceeded 3 feet (see Exhibit 28), 9 sites showed areas with inadequate or no stream buffers (see Exhibit 27), 3 locations had in-stream debris, 1 livestock access point to a stream was observed and conventional tillage practices were seen in 4 of the locations (see Exhibit 29) within the Deer Creek Subwatershed. Based on these findings and as outlined in Part Three of the Watershed Inventory (Watershed Ranking tables and summaries), the Deer Creek Subwatershed is a Medium Priority Subwatershed for Best Management Practice implementation.

The Deer Creek Subwatershed is approximately 82% agricultural with no significant urban areas. Therefore, the BMPs suggested in Table 54 for this subwatershed are agricultural/rural focused and are beneficial in reducing pollutant loadings for more than one impairment.

The subwatershed is critical for *E. coli.* The Middletown Wastewater Treatment Plant has an outfall permit for three locations within the Deer Creek Subwatershed. Similarly, the Shenandoah Middle and High School has a NPDES permit within the subwatershed which are all potential sources for elevated pollutant levels. There were 4 E.coli, 14 N and 2 TSS exceedances reported for these outfalls based on the information obtained from IDEM. The potential for wetland restoration within the subwatershed, to help reduce E. coli levels, is feasible due to 25.9% of the subwatershed being mapped with hydric soils. Wetland restoration has the potential to reduce pollutant loads by 80% for sediment and *E. coli*, 55% for phosphorus and 45% for nitrogen.

The windshield survey information showed that there is at least 1 location within the subwatershed where animals could access streams. Implementation of alternative watering systems as well as exclusionary fencing and eliminating the potential for animals to have direct access to the streams will reduce pollutant loadings within the subwatershed. For example, the load reduction needed for *E. coli* in this subwatershed is 92.9% in order to meet the target loads. Implementation of the exclusionary fencing alone provides a 90% reduction in *E. coli* for area tributary to the fencing based on Table 53 Best Management Practice Load Reduction Summary in Section 6. Exclusionary fencing also provides 70% removal of TSS, 60% of Phosphorus and 65% of Nitrogen.

The windshield survey results also showed that the subwatershed has at least 3 sites with no stream buffers or evidence of streambank erosion greater than 3 feet in depth. The subwatershed has approximately 27 miles of major stream corridor which doesn't include

the minor tributaries or other regulated drains within the subwatershed. Therefore, there is great potential for implementation of buffer/filter strips and stream restoration within the subwatershed as a best management practice for reducing *E. coli*, Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and TSS.

Since the subwatershed is 82% agricultural land with at least 4 locations from the windshield survey showing conventional tillage practices, promoting no-till or reduced till (conservation tillage) practices within this subwatershed would also help to reduce TSS and Phosphorus loadings. Based on the tillage information for Henry County, approximately 24% of corn fields in the County operate using conventional tillage practices. Nutrient/Waste Management plans would also be a beneficial BMP for reduction of all pollutants.

Based on this information, BMP implementation projects are very feasible within the Deer Creek Subwatershed. However, specific locations and types of BMPs should be carefully planned out in coordination with the landowners and applicable local, state and federal agencies and with the load reduction needs of the subwatershed in mind.

Prairie Creek Subwatershed

The Prairie Creek Subwatershed shows a moderate level of current water quality impairment (ranked sixth) and a high level of land use and industrial impairments (ranked third) based on the available data. The Prairie Creek Subwatershed exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS in the CIWRP study and exceeded the water quality target for of *E. coli* in the IDEM data. Reductions of 93.6% for *E. coli*, is needed to meet the target load set for the subwatershed.

During the windshield survey, 2 of the 18 stream sites showed areas of streambank erosion that exceeded 3 feet (see Exhibit 28), 10 sites showed areas with no or inadequate stream buffers (see Exhibit 27) and 6 locations had in-stream debris. Based on these findings and as outlined in Part Three of the Watershed Inventory (Watershed Ranking tables and summaries), the Prairie Creek Subwatershed is a Medium Priority Subwatershed for Best Management Practice implementation.

The Prairie Creek Subwatershed is approximately 63% agricultural with urban areas concentrated in the northern portion of the subwatershed associated with Anderson, and in the western portion of the subwatershed associated with Pendleton. Therefore, the BMPs suggested in Table 54 for this subwatershed are agricultural/rural and urban focused and are beneficial in reducing pollutant loadings for more than one impairment.

Although the windshield survey did not show any locations where animals could access streams, the subwatershed is critical for *E. coli* indicating that there may be animal access locations that were not observed during the survey. Implementation of alternative watering systems as well as exclusionary fencing and eliminating the potential for animals to have direct access to the streams will reduce pollutant loadings within the subwatershed. For example, the load reduction needed for E. coli in this subwatershed is 93.6% in order to meet the target loads. Implementation of the exclusionary fencing alone provides a 90% reduction in E. coli based on Table 53 Best Management Practice Load Reduction Summary in Section 6.

The windshield survey results also showed that the subwatershed has at least 4 sites with no stream buffers or evidence of streambank erosion greater than 3 feet in depth. The subwatershed has approximately 14 miles of major stream corridor which doesn't include the minor tributaries or other regulated drains within the subwatershed. Therefore, there is great potential for implementation of buffer/filter strips, naturalized stream buffers and stream restoration within the subwatershed as a best management practice for reducing Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and TSS.

Since the subwatershed is 63% agricultural land and the tillage information for Madison County indicates that approximately 73% of corn fields in the County operate using conventional tillage practices, promoting no-till or reduced till (conservation tillage) practices within this subwatershed would also help to reduce pollutant loadings. Grassed waterways and Nutrient/Waste Management plans would also be a beneficial BMP within these agricultural areas for reduction of all pollutants.

Approximately 34.5% of the subwatershed is mapped as having hydric soils. These areas would be conducive for wetland restoration, which has the potential to reduce pollutant loads by 80% for sediment and *E. coli*, 55% for phosphorus and 45% for nitrogen.

The Prairie Creek Subwatershed includes a portion of the City of Anderson and the Town of Pendleton. Urban runoff is often a significant source of nonpoint source pollution within a watershed. The implementation of BMPs such as infiltration trenches and rain barrels/rain gardens within urban areas has the potential to significantly reduce the pollutant loadings within the watershed.

Based on this information, BMP implementation projects are very feasible within the Prairie Creek Subwatershed. However, specific locations and types of BMPs should be carefully planned out in coordination with the landowners and applicable local, state and federal agencies and with the load reduction needs of the subwatershed in mind.

Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed

The Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed shows a low level of current water quality impairment (ranked seventh) and a moderate level of land use and industrial impairments (ranked fifth) based on the available data. The Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed exceeded the water quality targets for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite, Phosphorus and TSS in the CIWRP study and exceeded the water quality target for *E. coli*, Nitrate + Nitrite in the IDEM data. Reductions of 93.8% and 11.1% needed for *E. coli* and Nitrate + Nitrite, respectively to meet the target loads set for the subwatershed.

During the windshield survey, 4 of the 9 stream sites showed areas of minor streambank erosion (see Exhibit 28), 8 sites showed areas with insufficient or no stream buffers (see Exhibit 27), 2 locations had in-stream debris, 1 location of animal access to the stream (Exhibit 26) was observed and conventional tillage practices were seen in 5 of the locations (see Exhibit 29) within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed. Based on these findings and as outlined in Part Three of the Watershed Inventory (Watershed Ranking tables and summaries), the subwatershed is a Medium Priority Subwatershed for Best Management Practice implementation.

The Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed is approximately 85% agricultural with the only urban area concentrated in the eastern portion of the subwatershed associated with Markleville. Therefore, the BMPs suggested in Table 54 for this subwatershed are agricultural/rural focused and are beneficial in reducing pollutant loadings for more than one impairment.

The windshield survey information showed that there is at least 1 location within the subwatershed where animals could access streams and there is 1 active CFO. Implementation of alternative watering systems as well as exclusionary fencing and eliminating the potential for animals to have direct access to the streams will reduce pollutant loadings within the subwatershed. For example, the load reduction needed for *E. coli* in this subwatershed is 93.8% in order to meet the target loads. Implementation of the exclusionary fencing alone provides a 90% reduction in *E. coli* for area tributary to the fencing based on Table 53 Best Management Practice Load Reduction Summary in Section 6. Exclusionary fencing also provides 70% removal of TSS, 60% of Phosphorus and 65% of Nitrogen.

The windshield survey results showed that the subwatershed has at least 6 sites with no stream buffers or evidence of streambank erosion. The subwatershed has approximately 25 miles of major stream corridor which doesn't include the minor tributaries or other regulated drains within the subwatershed. Therefore, there is great potential for implementation of buffer/filter strips within the subwatershed as a best management practice for reducing *E. coli*, Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus and TSS.

Since the subwatershed is 85% agricultural land with at least 5 locations from the windshield survey showing conventional tillage practices, promoting no-till or reduced till (conservation tillage) practices within this subwatershed would also help to reduce Nitrate+Nitrite loadings. Based on the tillage information for Madison County, approximately 73% of corn fields in the County operate using conventional tillage practices. Nutrient/Waste Management plans would also be a beneficial BMP within these agricultural areas for reduction of all pollutants.

Approximately 30.1% of the subwatershed is mapped as having hydric soils. These areas would be conducive for wetland restoration, which has the potential to reduce pollutant loads by 80% for sediment and *E. coli*, 55% for phosphorus and 45% for nitrogen.

Based on this information, BMP implementation projects are very feasible within the Headwaters Lick Creek Subwatershed. However, specific locations and types of BMPs should be carefully planned out in coordination with the landowners and applicable local, state and federal agencies and with the load reduction needs of the subwatershed in mind.

Low Priority Subwatersheds

The McFadden Ditch and Foster Branch Subwatersheds are both considered Low Priority areas.

The McFadden Ditch Subwatershed shows a low level of current water quality impairment (ranked eighth) and a low level of land use and industrial impairments (ranked seventh). The Foster Branch Subwatershed shows a moderate level of current water quality impairment (ranked fifth) and a low level of land use and industrial impairments (ranked eighth).

Specific Source Critical Areas

Sources that would reduce loading of several pollutants of concern or address several identified problems at once if modified or eliminated were designated Specific Source Critical Areas. The specific source critical areas are found throughout the watershed and not confined to a specific subwatershed. These critical areas can and do overlap the Subwatershed Critical Areas.

The locations of the Specific Source Critical Areas were identified during the Windshield Survey, completed as part of the Watershed Inventory. The windshield survey only covered a finite number of locations within the watershed, so instances and locations of these sources may not be specifically identified, but are still considered critical areas.

Livestock Access

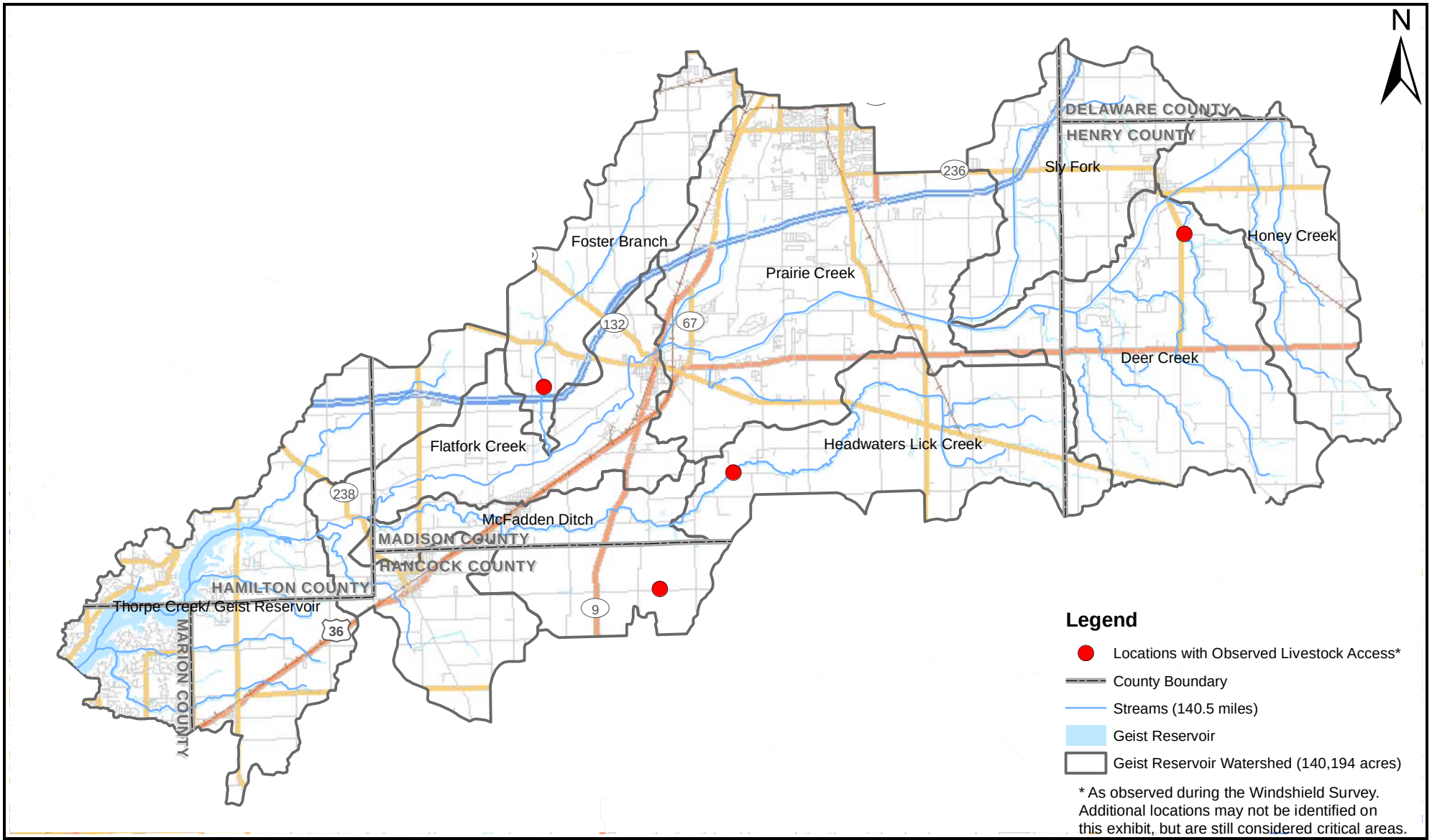
All areas in the watershed where livestock have direct access to the stream are identified as being critical.

Animal access within the stream can inhibit wildlife and aquatic habitat, increase flooding risks, and introduce additional pollutants. Animal waste is a large source of *E.coli* and when animals have access to the stream, *E.coli* is directly introduced to the stream. As livestock walk down the streambanks, existing vegetation can be dislodged enabling streambank erosion, thus introducing sediment and nutrients to the water. Exhibit 26 shows the locations where direct animal access to streams was identified during the windshield survey. As stated previously, the windshield survey only covered a finite number of locations within the watershed, so all instances and locations of direct animal access to streams may not be specifically identified, but are still considered critical areas.

Absent or Insufficient Stream Buffers

All areas where stream buffers are absent or insufficient are identified as being critical.

Stream buffers are areas of either planted or natural vegetation between a surface water body and the surrounding land use. Runoff from the surrounding land may carry sediment and organic matter, and plant nutrients and pesticides that are either bound to the sediment or dissolved in the water. The buffers provide water quality protection by reducing the amount of pollutants in the runoff before it enters the water body. Filter strips can also provide localized erosion protection and habitat for wildlife.



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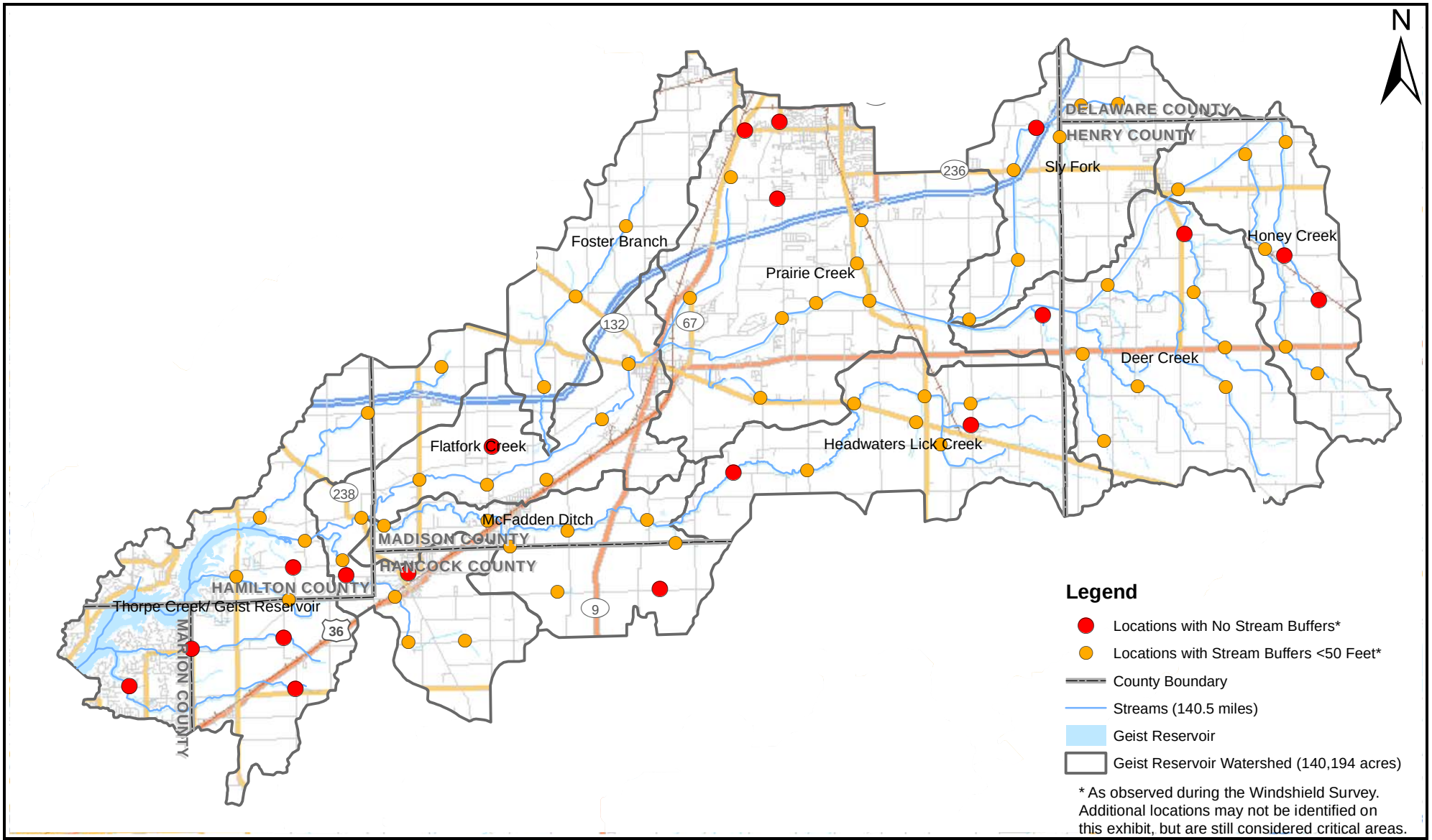
Woodridge, IL 60517
630.724.9200 phone
630.724.9202 fax
www.v3co.com

TITLE: **Livestock Access Critical Area Exhibit**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: HUC-12 Watershed Boundaries		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 26	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'



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TITLE: **Stream Buffers Critical Areas**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: HUC-12 Watershed Boundaries		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 27	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

Stream buffers were assessed on a subwatershed scale at each of the waterway crossing points. Identification of buffers was broken up into the following categories: absent, present > 50 feet and present (minimum 10 feet) < 50 feet. Insufficent buffers include the buffers identified as less than 50 feet. Exhibit 27 shows the locations where absent or insufficient stream buffers were identified during the windshield survey. As stated previously, the windshield survey only covered a finite number of locations within the watershed, so instances and locations of absent or insufficient buffers may not be specifically identified, but are still considered critical areas. It should be noted that the 30 feet reference in the BMP section is in regards to the minimum required buffer width for funding opportunities from the USDA and in general is a standard minimum for water quality. The 50 foot reference is for the windshield survey. It was determined to use 50 feet instead of 30 feet since this parameter wasn't going to actually be measured but observed from a vehicle and therefore leaving some room for interpretation.

Excessive Streambank Erosion

All areas where excessive streambank erosion is occurring are identified as being critical.

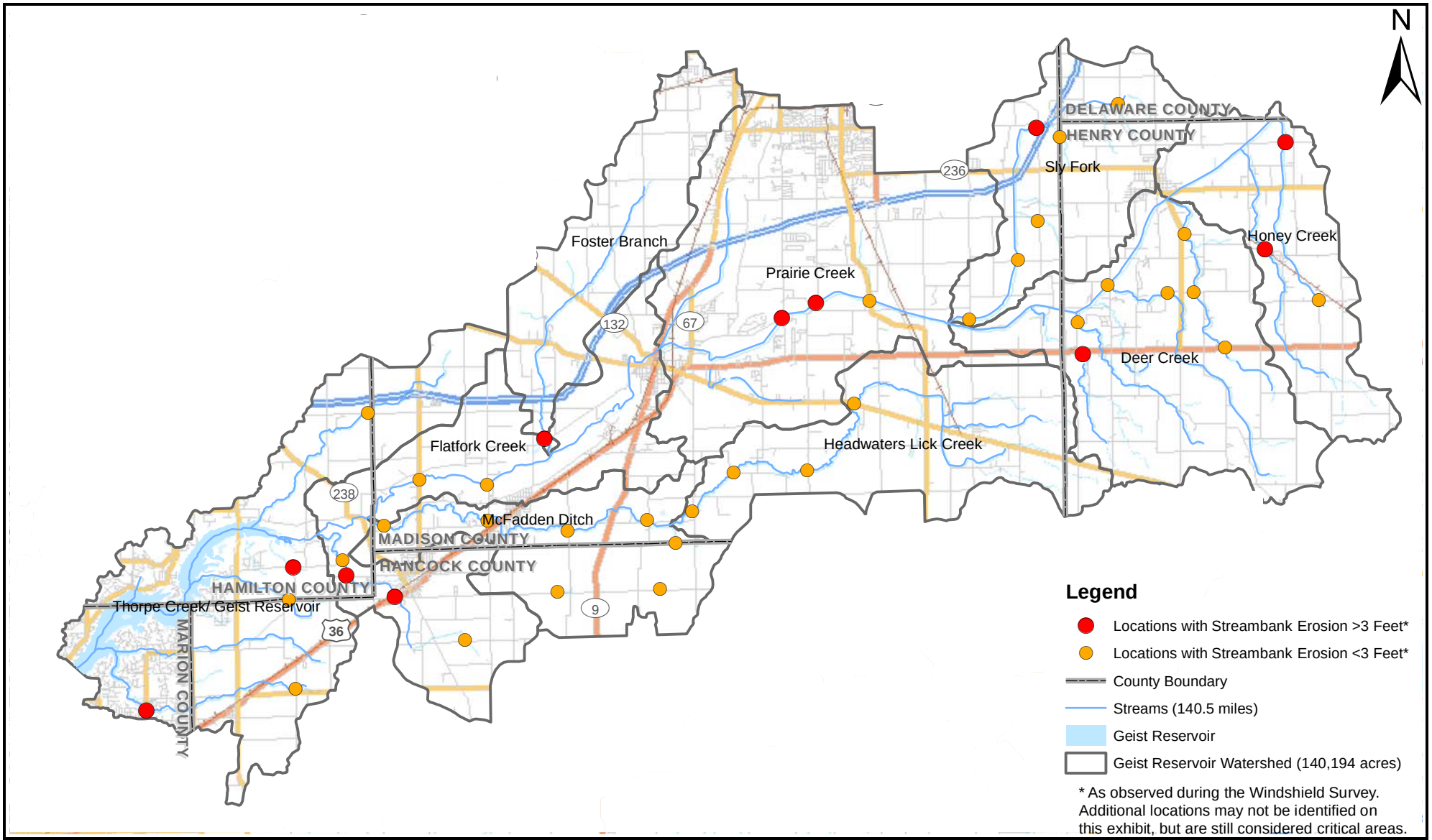
Accelerated erosion can contribute high sediment loads to receiving streams, which is a concern due both to the impacts of the sediment itself, and of the contaminants that often bind with, or otherwise reside in the sediment. The sediment itself can smother aquatic habitat and therefore negatively affect the aquatic flora and fauna. Sediment can also transport nutrients, especially phosphorus that tends to adhere to sediment particles causing excess algal growth leading to large swings in DO.

Streambank erosion was assessed on a subwatershed scale at each of the waterway crossing points. Identification of streambank erosion was broken up into the following categories: absent, stabilized (rip-rap, coir log, etc.), present > 3 feet tall and present < 3 feet tall. Excessive streambank erosion includes those areas where erosion was identified as being greater than 3 feet. Exhibit 28 shows the locations where excessive streambank erosion was identified during the windshield survey. As stated previously, the windshield survey only covered a finite number of locations within the watershed, so instances and locations of excessive streambank erosion may not be specifically identified, but are still considered critical areas.

Agricultural Areas Practicing Conventional Till

All agricultural areas where conventional till is practiced, especially those adjacent to waterways, are identified as being critical.

Conservation till and no till practices reduce the amount of runoff leaving a field. Crop residue protects the soil surface and allows water to infiltrate. As the amount of runoff is reduced and the velocities of runoff leaving the agricultural area are reduced, the amount of sediment, nutrients and pesticides carried in the runoff are reduced. Conventional till does not retain any crop residue and therefore contributes a large amount of sediment, nutrients and pesticides with an increased runoff rate. Exhibit 29 shows the locations where conventional till was identified during the windshield survey. As stated previously, the windshield survey only covered a finite number of locations within the watershed, so instances and locations of conventional till may not be specifically identified, but are still considered critical areas.



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630.724.9202 fax
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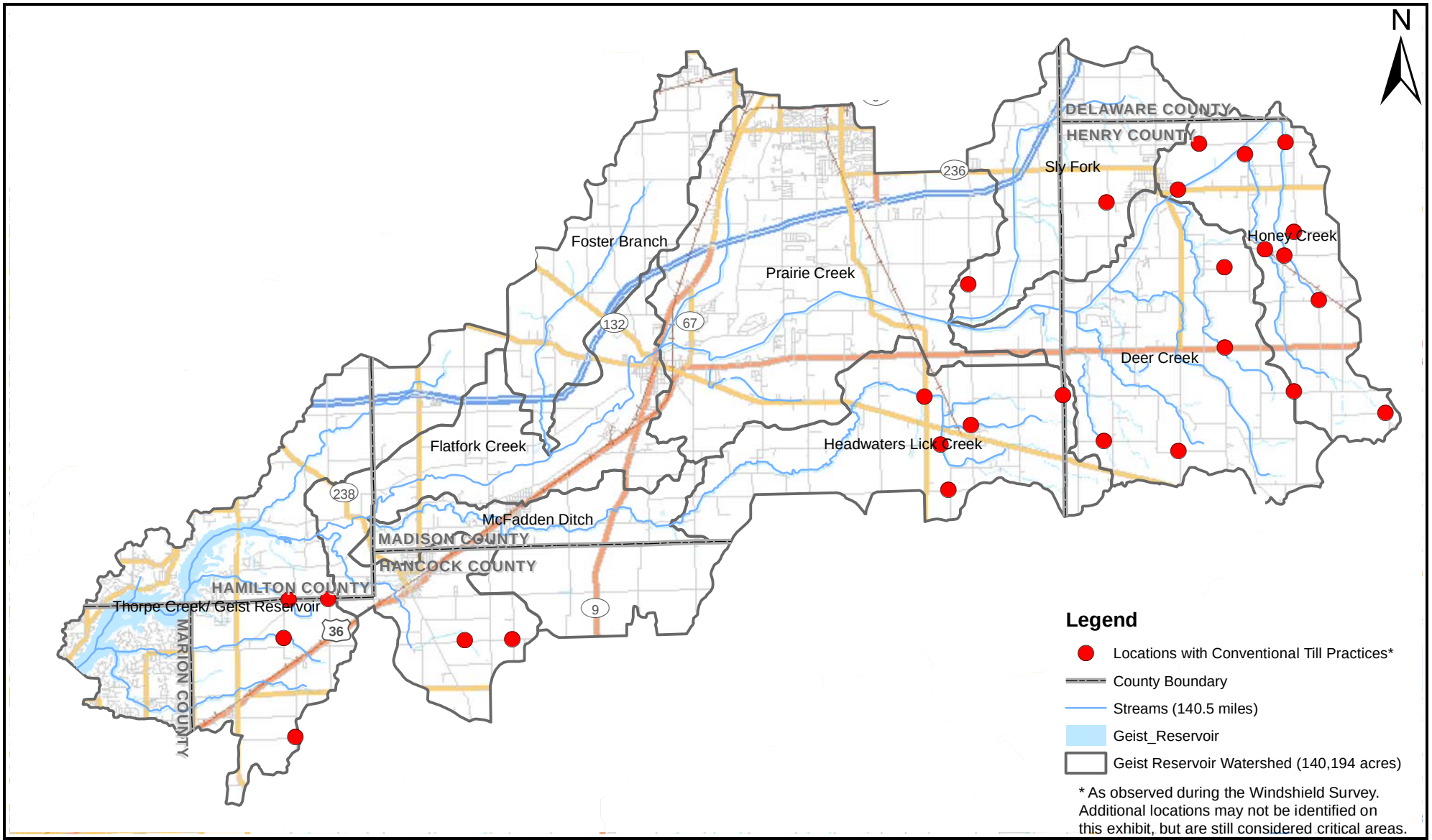
TITLE: **Streambank Erosion Critical Areas**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: HUC-12 Watershed Boundaries		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 28	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'



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TITLE: **Conventional Till Critical Areas**		PROJECT: **Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan**	
BASE LAYER: HUC-12 Watershed Boundaries		PROJECT NO.: 09006	EXHIBIT: 29	SHEET: 1 OF: 1
CLIENT: Upper White River Watershed Alliance P.O. Box 2065 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206		QUADRANGLE: N/A	DATE: 09/30/10	SCALE: 1" = 16,000'

Section 6 – Choose Measures/BMPs to Apply

BMPs

The watershed restoration and management techniques described in this section, when applied to the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed, can help achieve the watershed goals and objectives to decrease the concentrations of sediment and nutrient loads identified in this WMP. The Steering Committee was provided a draft list of BMPs based on the impairments within the watershed and the measures that would improve the water quality within the watershed. Comments were received to add measures that some stakeholders had experience either implementing or educating landowners within the watershed. The selected measures and BMPs for improvement are categorized as Agricultural/Rural and Urban BMPs as well as Preventative Measures. The following BMP summaries are typical BMPs and are provided as a reference and generally describe each measure and its design components, it is not meant to be all inclusive list but only a guide.

To choose an appropriate BMP, it is essential to determine in advance the objectives to be met by the BMP and to calculate the cost and related effectiveness of alternative BMPs. Once a BMP has been selected, expertise is needed to insure that the BMP is properly installed, monitored, and maintained over time.

Agricultural/Rural BMPs

Agricultural/Rural BMPs are implemented on agricultural lands for the purpose of protecting water resources, protecting aquatic wildlife habitat, and protecting the land resource from degradation. These practices control the delivery of nonpoint source pollutants to receiving water resources by first minimizing the pollutants available.

Agricultural/Rural BMPs include:

- Alternative Watering System
- Buffer/Filter Strips
- Cover Crops
- Grassed Waterways
- Infiltration Trenches
- No-Till/Reduced Till (Conservation Tillage)
- Nutrient/Waste Management
- Rotational Grazing/Exclusionary Fencing
- Two Stage Ditches
- Stream Restoration
- Wetland Restoration
- Reforestation

Alternative Watering System

Alternative watering systems (e.g. nose pumps or gravity flow systems) protect surface water by eliminating livestock's direct access to the stream. Providing an alternative watering source for livestock reduces soil erosion and sedimentation and improves surface water quality by reducing *E.coli* concentrations and nutrient loading. Alternative watering

systems help to provide additional bank stabilization and assist in the preservation of riparian buffers through a reduction in compaction.

Buffer/Filter Strips

Creating and maintaining buffers along stream and river channels and lakeshores increases open space and can reduce some of the water quality and habitat degradation effects associated with increased imperviousness and runoff in the watershed. Buffers provide hydrologic, recreational, and aesthetic benefits as well as water quality functions, and wildlife habitat. TSS, phosphorus, and nitrogen are at least partly removed from water passing through a naturally vegetated buffer. *E.coli* concentrations are also reduced with buffers. The percentage of pollutants removed depends on the pollutant load, the type of vegetation, the amount of runoff, and the character of the buffer area. The most effective buffer width can vary along the length of a channel. Adjacent land uses, topography, runoff velocity, and soil and vegetation types are all factors used to determine the optimum buffer width. Buffers need to be a minimum of 30 feet wide to be eligible for most USDA programs. The greater the width of the buffer, the pollutant removal efficiency will be greater. Education is important in teaching farmers what options they have for funding. Several state and federal programs exist to provide incentives for maintaining riparian buffers. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) makes funding available for the purchase and restoration of wetlands and riparian buffer connections between wetlands.

A filter strip is an area of permanent herbaceous vegetation situated between environmentally sensitive areas and cropland, grazing land, or otherwise disturbed land. Filter strips reduce TSS, particulate organic matter, sediment adsorbed contaminants, and dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff to improve water quality. Filter strips also restore or maintain sheet flow in support of a riparian forest buffer, and restore, create, and enhance herbaceous habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects.

Filter strips should be permanently designated plantings to treat runoff and should not be part of the adjacent cropland's rotation. Overland flow entering the filter strip should be primarily sheet flow. If there is concentrated flow, it should be dispersed so that it creates sheet flow. Filter strips cannot be installed on unstable channel banks that are eroding due to undercutting of the toe bank. Permanent herbaceous vegetation should consist of a single species or a mixture of grasses, legumes and/or other forbs (an herbaceous plant other than a grass) adapted to the soil, climate, and farm chemicals used in adjacent cropland. Filter strips must be properly maintained so that they function properly.

Filter strips should be located to reduce runoff and increase infiltration and groundwater recharge throughout the watershed. Filter strips should also be strategically placed to intercept contaminants, thereby enhancing the water quality in the watershed. Filter strip sizes should be adjusted to accommodate planting, harvesting, and maintenance equipment. Filter strip widths greater than that needed to achieve a 30 minute flow-through time at ½-inch depth will not likely improve the effectiveness of the strip in addressing water quality concerns created by TSS, particulate organics, and sediment adsorbed contaminants. Like buffers; filter strips decrease TSS and nutrient loading, reduce *E.coli* concentrations, and increase open space. Education will help to teach farmers where these practices should be applied and sources of possible funding. Implementation of filter

strips is part of the Conservation Reserve Program and assistance may be provided to eligible projects.

Cover Crops

Cover crops can be legumes or grasses, including cereals, planted or volunteered vegetation established prior to or following a harvested crop primarily for seasonal soil protection and nutrient recovery. Cover crops protect soil from erosion decreasing sediment concentrations in the creek and recover/recycle phosphorus in the root zone. They are grown for one year or less.

Cover crops are established during the non-crop period, usually after the crop is harvested, but can be interseeded into a crop before harvest by aerial application or cultivation. Cover crops reduce phosphorus transport by reducing soil erosion and runoff. Both wind and water erosion move soil particles that have phosphorus attached. Sediment that reaches water bodies may release phosphorus into the water. The cover crop vegetation recovers plant-available phosphorus in the soil and recycles it through the plant biomass for succeeding crops. The soil tilth also benefits from the increase of organic material added to the surface. Growing vegetation promotes infiltration, and roots enhance percolation of water supplied to the soil. This reduces surface runoff. Runoff water can wash soluble phosphorus from the surface soil and crop residue and carry it off the field.

Grassed Waterways

Grassed waterways are natural or constructed channels established for transport of concentrated flow at safe velocities using adequate channel dimensions and proper vegetation. They are generally broad and shallow by design to move surface water across farmland without causing soil erosion. Grassed waterways are used as outlets to prevent rill and gully formation. The vegetative cover slows the water flow, minimizing channel surface erosion. When properly constructed, grassed waterways can safely transport large water flows downslope. These waterways can also be used as outlets for water released from contoured and terraced systems and from diverted channels. This BMP can reduce sediment concentrations of nearby waterbodies and pollutants in runoff. The vegetation improves the soil aeration and water quality due to its nutrient removal through plant uptake and absorption by soil. The waterways can also provide wildlife corridors and allows more land to be natural areas.

No-till/Reduced Till Conservation Practices

This practice manages the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round, while growing crops planted in narrow slots or tilled, residue free strips previously untilled by full-width inversion implements. The purpose of this conservation practice is to reduce sheet and rill erosion thereby promoting improved water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient loading in the waterways. Additional benefits of this practice are to reduce wind erosion, to maintain or improve soil organic matter content and tilth, to conserve soil moisture, to manage snow, to increase plant available moisture or reduce plant damage from freezing or desiccation, and to provide food and escape cover for wildlife. This technique includes tillage and planting methods commonly referred to as no-till, zero till, slot plant, row till, direct seeding, or strip till.

Residue management is when loose residues are left on the field, and then uniformly distributed on the soil surface to minimize variability in planting depth, seed germination, and emergence of subsequently planted crops. When combines or similar machines are used for harvesting, they are equipped with spreaders capable of distributing residue over at least 80% of the working width. No-till or strip till may be practiced continuously throughout the crop sequence, or may be managed as part of a system which includes other tillage and planting methods such as mulch till. Production of adequate amounts of crop residues is necessary for the proper functioning of this conservation practice and can be enhanced by selection of high residue producing crops and crop varieties in the rotation, use of cover crops, and adjustment of plant populations and row spacings.

Maintaining a continuous no-till system will maximize the improvement of soil organic matter content. Also, when no-till is practiced continuously, soil reconsolidation provides additional resistance to sheet and rill erosion. The effectiveness of stubble to trap snow or reduce plant damage from freezing or desiccation increases with stubble height. Variable height stubble patterns may be created to further increase snow storage.

Nutrient/Waste Management

Nutrient management is the management of the amount, source, placement, form, and timing of the application of plant nutrients and soil amendments to minimize the transport of applied nutrients into surface water or groundwater. Nutrient management seeks to supply adequate nutrients for optimum crop yield and quantity, while also helping to sustain the physical, biological, and chemical properties of the soil.

Nutrient management plans are generally developed with assistance from NRCS. A nutrient budget for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium is developed considering all potential sources of nutrients including, but not limited to, animal manure, commercial fertilizer, crop residue, and legume credits. Realistic yields are based on soil productivity information, potential yield, or historical yield data based on a 5-year average. Nutrient management plans specify the form, source, amount, timing, and method of application of nutrients on each field in order to achieve realistic production levels while minimizing transport of nutrients to surface and/or groundwater.

Animal waste is a major source of pollution to waterbodies. To protect the health of aquatic ecosystems and meet water quality targets, manure must be safely managed. Good management of manure keeps livestock healthy, returns nutrients to the soil, improves pastures and gardens, and protects the environment, specifically water quality. Poor manure management may lead to sick livestock, unsanitary and unhealthy conditions for humans and other organisms, and increased insect and parasite populations. Proper management of animal waste can be done by implementing BMPs, through safe storage, by application as a fertilizer, and through composting. Proper manure management can effectively reduce *E.coli* concentrations, nutrient levels and sedimentation. Manure management can also be addressed in education and outreach to encourage farmers to participate in this BMP.

Rotational Grazing and Exclusionary Fencing

Intensive grazing management is the division of pastures into multiple cells that receive a short but intensive grazing period followed by a period of recovery of the vegetative cover.

Pasture management practices that include the use of rotational grazing systems are beneficial for water and soil quality. Systems that include the riparian area as a separate pasture are beneficial because livestock access to these areas is controlled to limit the impact on the riparian plant communities.

The impacts of livestock grazing within riparian areas include manure and urine deposited directly into or near surface waters where leaching and runoff can transport nutrients and pathogens into the water. Unmanaged grazing may accelerate erosion and sedimentation into surface water, change stream flow, and destroy aquatic habitats. Improper grazing can reduce the capacity of riparian areas to filter contaminates, shade aquatic habitats, and stabilize stream banks.

A livestock exclusion system is a system of permanent fencing (board, barbed, etc) installed to exclude livestock from streams and areas, not intended for grazing. This will reduce erosion, sediment, and nutrient loading, and improve the quality of surface water. Education and outreach programs focusing on rotational grazing and exclusionary fencing are important in the success of this BMP.

Two Stage Ditches

Water, when confined to a channel such as a stream or ditch, has the potential to cause great destruction. If there is too much water moving through an undersized area of land, then there is nowhere for it to go but to rush out of its barriers. Bank erosion, scouring, and flooding are good indicators that there is problem with how the water is drained from the soil. Researchers have been working on a type of in-stream restoration called the two-stage ditch that has proven to help solve these problems.

The design of a two-stage ditch incorporates a floodplain zone, called benches, into the ditch by removing the ditch banks roughly 2-3 feet about the bottom for a width of about 10 feet on each side. This allows the water to have more area to spread out on and decreases the velocity of the water. This not only improves the water quality, but also improves the biological conditions of the ditches where this is located.

The benefits of a two-stage ditch over the typical agricultural ditch include both improved drainage function and ecological function. The two-stage design improves ditch stability by reducing water flow and the need for maintenance, saving both labor and money. It also has the potential to create and maintain better habitat conditions. Better habitats for both terrestrial and marine species are a great plus when it comes to the two-stage ditch design. The transportation of sediment and nutrients is decreased considerably because the design allows the sorting of sediment, with finer silt depositing on the benches and courser material forming the bed.

Stream Restoration

Stream restoration techniques are used to improve stream conditions so they more closely mimic natural conditions. For urban stream reaches, restoration to natural conditions may not be possible or feasible. For instance, physical constraints due to adjacent development may limit the ability to re-meander a stream. In addition, the natural stream conditions may not be able to accommodate the increased volume of flow from the developed watershed.

Even in cases where restoring the stream to its natural condition is not possible, the stream can still be naturalized and improved by reestablishing riparian buffers, performing stream channel maintenance, stabilizing streambanks using bioengineering techniques, and, where appropriate, by removing manmade dams and installing pool/riffle complexes. Stream restoration projects may be one component of floodplain restoration projects, and can be supplemented with trails and interpretive signs, providing recreational and educational benefits to the community.

Wetland Restoration

Because agriculture and urbanization have destroyed or degraded many of the remaining wetlands in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek, wetland enhancement projects are necessary to improve the diversity and function of these degraded wetlands. The term enhancement refers to improving the functions and values of an existing wetland. Converted wetland sites (or sites that were formerly wetlands but have now been converted to other uses) can also be restored to provide many of their former wetland benefits. Wetland restoration is the process of establishing a wetland on a site that is not currently a wetland, but once was prior to conversion. Restoring wetlands can address many of the concerns of the *Geist* Creek Stakeholders. Wetlands have the ability to reduce *E.coli* concentrations, nutrient loading, TSS concentrations, and flood damage. Wetlands can be used to teach landowners about their importance with respect to plants and animals and also increases the amount of open space in the watershed.

Wetland functional values vary substantially from wetland to wetland; they receive special consideration because of the many roles they play. Because of the wetland protection laws currently in place, the greatest impact on wetlands from future development in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek will likely be a shift in the types of wetlands. Often in mitigation projects, various types of marshes, wet prairies, and other wetlands are filled and replaced elsewhere, usually with existing open water wetlands. This replacement may lead to a shift in the values served by the wetland communities due to a lack of diversity of wetland types. The wetland restorations that are proposed in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek should include a variety of different wetland types to increase the diversity of wetlands in the watershed. The restoration of wetlands can decrease flood damage by providing new stormwater storage areas, will improve water quality by treating stormwater runoff, and will create new plant and wildlife habitat. In addition to these values, wetlands can be part of regional greenways or trail networks. They can be constructed with trails to allow the public to explore them more easily, and they can be used to educate the public through signs, organized tours, and other techniques. Wetland restorations are an exceptional way to meet multiple objectives within a single project.

Reforestation

Reforestation is the restocking of existing forests and woodlands which have been depleted. Reforestation can be used to improve the quality of human life by soaking up pollution and dust from the air and rebuild natural habitats and ecosystems.

Urban BMPs

For the past two decades the rate of land development across the country has been more than two times greater than the rate of population growth. The increased impervious surface associated with this development will increase stormwater volume and degrade water quality, which will harm the overall watershed.

The best way to mitigate stormwater impacts from new developments is to use Urban BMPs to treat, store, and infiltrate runoff onsite before it can affect water bodies downstream. Innovative site designs that reduce imperviousness and smaller-scale low impact development practices dispersed throughout a site are excellent ways to achieve the goals of reducing flows and improving water quality.

The Urban BMPs include:

- Bioretention Practices
- Filtration Basin
- Naturalized Detention Basin
- Naturalized Stream Buffer
- Pervious Pavement
- Rain Barrels/Gardens
- Infiltration Trench
- Stream Restoration

Bioretention Practices

Bioretention practices (including bioinfiltration or biofiltration) are primarily used to filter runoff stored in shallow depressions by utilizing plant uptake and soil permeability. This practice utilizes combinations of flow regulation structures, a pretreatment grass channel or other filter strip, a sand bed, a pea gravel overflow treatment drain, a shallow ponding area, a surface organic mulch layer, a planting soil bed, plant material, a gravel underdrain system, and an overflow system to promote infiltration. Bioinfilitration systems such as swales are used to treat stormwater runoff from small sites such as driveways, parking lots, and roadways. They provide a place for stormwater to settle and infiltrate into the ground. Biofiltration swales are a relatively low cost means of treating stormwater runoff for small sites typifying much of the urban environment, such as parking, roadways, driveways, and similar impervious features. They provide areas for stormwater to slow down and pollutants to be filtered out. Careful attention to location and alignment of swales can lend a pleasing aesthetic quality to sites containing them.

In general, bioretention practices are highly applicable to residential uses in community open space or private lots. The bioretention system is very appropriate for treatment of parking lot runoff, roadways where sufficient space accommodates off-line implementation, and pervious areas such as golf courses. This BMP is not recommended for highly urbanized settings where impervious surfaces comprise 95% or more of the area due to high flow events and limited storage potential. This BMP can address most of the WMP goals including; reducing concentration of sediments and nutrients. Bioretention practices can also decrease flooding by storing stormwater and increase open space.

Filtration Basin

Filtration basins provide pollutant removal (including TSS, nutrients, and *E.coli*) and reduce volume of stormwater released from the basin. These basins utilize sand filters or engineered soils to filter stormwater runoff through a sand or engineered soil layer within an underdrain system that conveys the treated runoff to a detention facility or to the ultimate point of discharge. The filtration system consists of an inlet structure, sedimentation chamber, sand/engineered soil layer, underdrain piping, and liner to protect against infiltration.

Naturalized Detention Basins

Naturalized wet-bottom detention basins are used to temporarily store runoff and release it at a reduced rate. Naturalized wet-bottom detention basins are better than traditional detention basins because they encourage water infiltration, and thereby recharge groundwater tables. Native wetland and prairie vegetation also help to improve water quality by trapping sediment and other pollutants found in runoff, and are aesthetically pleasing. Naturalized wet-bottom detention basins can be designed as either shallow marsh systems with little or no open water or as open water ponds with a wetland fringe and prairie side slopes.

Naturalized Stream Buffer

Creating and maintaining buffers along stream and river channels and lakeshores increases open space and can reduce some of the water quality and habitat degradation effects associated with increased imperviousness and runoff in the watershed. Buffers provide hydrologic, recreational, and aesthetic benefits as well as water quality functions, and wildlife habitat. Sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen are at least partly removed from water passing through a naturally vegetated buffer. The percentage of pollutants removed depends on the pollutant load, the type of vegetation, the amount of runoff, and the character of the buffer area. The most effective buffer width can vary along the length of a channel. Adjacent land uses, topography, runoff velocity, and soil and vegetation types are all factors used to determine the optimum buffer width. Buffers need to be a minimum of 30 feet wide to be eligible for most USDA programs. Other specific requirements for regulated drains should be determined during the feasibility stages of utilizing this practice.

Pervious Pavement

Pervious pavement has the approximate strength characteristics of traditional pavement but allows rainfall and runoff to percolate through it. This decreases sediment concentrations and flood damage in the watershed by slowing the water from entering the streams. The key to the design of these pavements is the elimination of most of the fine aggregate found in conventional paving materials. Pervious pavement options include porous asphalt and pervious concrete. Porous asphalt has coarse aggregate held together in the asphalt with sufficient interconnected voids to yield high permeability. Pervious concrete, in contrast, is a discontinuous mixture of Portland cement, coarse aggregate, admixtures, and water that also yields interconnected voids for the passage of air and water. Underlying the pervious pavement is a filter layer, a stone reservoir, and filter fabric. Stored runoff gradually drains out of the stone reservoir into the subsoil.

Modular pavement consists of individual blocks made of pervious material such as sand, gravel, or sod interspersed with strong structural material such as concrete. The blocks are

typically placed on a sand or gravel base and designed to provide a load-bearing surface that is adequate to support personal vehicles, while allowing infiltration of surface water into the underlying soils. They usually are used in low-volume traffic areas such as overflow parking lots and lightly used access roads. An alternative to pervious and modular pavement for parking areas is a geotextile material installed as a framework to provide structural strength. Filled with sand and sodded, it provides a completely grassed parking area.

Rain Barrels/Gardens

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop (via your home's disconnected downspouts) for later use on your lawn, garden, or other outdoor uses. Rainwater stored in rain barrels can be useful for watering landscapes, gardens, lawns, and trees. Rain is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. In addition, rain barrels help to reduce peak volume and velocity of stormwater runoff to streams and storm sewer systems.

Rain gardens are small-scale bioretention systems that be can be used as landscape features and small-scale stormwater management systems for single-family homes, townhouse units, and some small commercial development. These units not only provide a landscape feature for the site and reduce the need for irrigation, but can also be used to provide stormwater depression storage and treatment near the point of generation. These systems can be integrated into the stormwater management system since the components can be optimized to maximize depression storage, pretreatment of the stormwater runoff, promote evapotranspiration, and facilitate groundwater recharge. The combination of these benefits can result in decreased flooding due to a decrease in the peak flow and total volume of runoff generated by a storm event. In addition, these features can be designed to provide a significant improvement in the quality of the stormwater runoff. These units can also be integrated into the design of parking lots and other large paved areas, in which case they are referred to as bioretention areas.

Infiltration Trenches

Infiltration trenches are excavated trenches backfilled with a coarse stone aggregate and biologically active organic matter. Infiltration trenches allow temporary storage of runoff in the void space between the aggregate and help surface runoff infiltrate into the surrounding soil. Infiltration trenches remove fine sediment and the pollutants associated with them. Soil infiltration trenches can be effective at reducing sediment concentrations and nutrient loading. Soluble pollutants can be effectively removed if detention time is maximized. The degree to which soluble pollutants are removed is dependent primarily on holding time, the degree of bacterial activity, and chemical bonding with the soil. The efficiency of the trench to remove pollutants can be increased by increasing the surface area of the trench bottom. Infiltration trenches can provide full control of peak discharges for small sites. They provide groundwater recharge and may augment base stream flow.

Stream Restoration

Stream restoration techniques are used to improve stream conditions so they more closely mimic natural conditions. For urban stream reaches, restoration to natural conditions may not be possible or feasible. For instance, physical constraints due to adjacent development may limit the ability to re-meander a stream. In addition, the natural stream conditions may not be able to accommodate the increased volume of flow from the developed watershed.

Even in cases where restoring the stream to its natural condition is not possible, the stream can still be naturalized and improved by reestablishing riparian buffers, performing stream channel maintenance, stabilizing streambanks using bioengineering techniques, and, where appropriate, by removing manmade dams and installing pool/riffle complexes. Stream restoration projects may be one component of floodplain restoration projects, and can be supplemented with trails and interpretive signs, providing recreational and educational benefits to the community.

Preventative Measures

Conservation Design Developments

The goal of conservation design development is to protect open space and natural resources for people and wildlife, while at the same time allowing development to continue. Conservation design developments designate half or more of the buildable land area as undivided permanent open space. They are density neutral, allowing the same density as in conventional developments, but that density is realized on smaller areas of land by clustering buildings and infrastructure. In addition to clustering, conservation design developments incorporate natural riparian buffers and setbacks for streams, wetlands, other waterbodies, and adjacent agricultural.

The first and most important step in designing a conservation development is to identify the most essential lands to preserve in conservation areas. This will require coordination with local officials and the community as this practice is commonly added into ordinances and future planning efforts. Natural features including streams, wetlands, lakes, steep slopes, mature woodlands, native prairie, and meadow (as well as significant historical and cultural features) are included in conservation areas. Clustering is a method for preserving these areas. Clustered developments allow for increased densities on less sensitive portions of a site, while preserving the remainder of the site in open space for conservation and recreational uses (such as trails, soccer or ball fields).

Clustering can be achieved in a planned unit development (PUD) or planned residential development (PRD). PUDs contain a mix of zoning classifications that may include commercial, residential, and light industrial uses, all of which are blended together. Well-designed PUDs usually locate residences and offices within walking distance of each other to reduce traffic. Planned residential developments (PRDs) apply similar concepts to residential developments.

Greenways and Trails

Greenways can provide a large number of functions and benefits to nature and the public. For plants and animals, greenways provide habitat, a buffer from development, and a corridor for migration. Greenways located along streams include riparian buffers that protect water quality by filtering sediments and nutrients from surface runoff and stabilizing streambanks. By buffering the stream from adjacent developed land use, riparian greenways offset some of the impacts associated with increased impervious surface in a watershed. Maintaining a good riparian buffer can mitigate the negative impacts of approximately 5% additional impervious surface in the watershed.

Greenways also provide long, linear corridors with options for recreational trails. Trails along the river provide watershed stakeholders with an opportunity to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. Trails allow users to see and access the river, thereby connecting people to their river and the overall watershed. Trails can also be used to connect natural areas, cultural and historic sites and communities, and serve as a safe transportation corridor between work, school, and shopping destinations.

Techniques for establishing greenways and trails involve the development of a plan that proposes general locations for greenways and trails. In the case of trails, the plan also identifies who the users will be and provides direction on trail standards. Plans can be developed at the community and/or county level, as well as regionally, statewide, and in a few cases, at the national level. Public and stakeholder input are crucial for developing successful greenway and trail plans.

Several techniques can be used for establishing greenways and trails. Greenways can remain in private ownership, they can be purchased, or easements can be acquired for public use. If the lands remain in private ownership, greenway standards can be developed, adopted, and implemented at the local level through land use planning and regulation. Development rights for the greenway can be purchased from private landowners where regulations are unpopular or not feasible.

If the greenways will include trails for public use, the land for trails is usually purchased and held by a public agency such as a forest preserve district or local park system. In some cases, easements will be purchased rather than purchasing the land itself. Usually longer trail systems are built in segments, and completing connections between communities depends heavily on the level of public interest in those communities.

In new developing areas, the local planning authority can require trails. Either the developer or the community can build the trails. In some cases, the developer will voluntarily plan and build a trail connection through the development and use this as a marketing tool to future homebuyers. In other cases, the local planning authority may require the developer to donate an easement for the trail. To install trails through already developed areas, land can be purchased by a community agency with a combination of local, state, and federal funds. Impediments to land purchase can significantly slow up trail connections in already established areas.

Protected Ownership

There are several options for land transfer ranging from donation to fee simple land purchase. Donations can be solicited and encouraged through incentive programs. Unfortunately, while preferred by money-strapped conservation programs, land donations are often not adequate to protect high priority sites. A second option is outright purchase (or fee simple land purchase). Outright purchase is frequently the least complicated and most permanent protection technique, but is also the most costly. A conservation easement is a less expensive technique than outright purchase that does not require the transfer of land ownership but rather a transfer of use rights. Conservation easements might be attractive to property owners who do not want to sell their land at the present time, but would support perpetual protection from further development. Conservation easements can be donated or purchased.

Protecting Open Space and Natural Areas
Several techniques can be used for protecting natural areas and open space in both public and private ownership. The first step in the process is to identify and prioritize properties for protection. The highest priority natural areas should be permanently protected by the ownership or under the management of public agencies or private organizations dedicated to land conservation. Other open space can be protected using conservation design development techniques, and is more likely to be managed by homeowner associations.

Septic Tank/Field Maintenance and Repair
Septic, or on-site waste disposal systems, are the primary means of sanitary flow treatment in the unincorporated parts of the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. Because of the prohibitive cost of providing centralized sewer systems to many areas, septic tank systems and fields will remain the primary means of treatment into the future. Annual maintenance of septic systems is crucial for their operation, particularly the annual removal of accumulated sludge. The cost of replacing failed septic tanks is about $5,000-$15,000 per unit based on industry standards.

Property owners are responsible for their septic systems under the regulation of the County Health Department. When septic systems fail, untreated sanitary flows are discharged into open watercourses that pollute the water and pose a potential public health risk. Septic systems discharging to the ground surface are a risk to public health directly through body contact or contamination of drinking water sources, provide conditions favorable to insect vectors such as flies and mosquitoes, and contribute significant amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus to the watershed as well as being a direct source for elevated *E.coli* counts. Therefore, it is imperative for homeowners not to ignore septic failures. If plumbing fixtures back up or will not drain, the system is failing. The difficulty with this issue is that perception is that if you don't see it then it's not a problem. Until damage occurs to the actual property or homeowner, regular maintenance or repair isn't happening. Funding for this practice is limited as well.

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Protection
Threatened and endangered species are those plant and animal species whose survival is in peril. Both the federal government and the state of Indiana maintain lists of species that meet threatened or endangered criteria within their respective jurisdictions. Threatened species are those that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. Federally endangered species are those that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. A state-endangered species is any species that is in danger of extinction as a breeding species in Indiana.

Considerations in protecting endangered species include making sure there is sufficient habitat available – food, water, and "living sites" (For animals, this means areas for making nests and dens and evading predators. For plants, it refers to availability of preferred substrate and other desirable growing conditions.); providing corridors for those species that need to move between sites; and protecting species from impacts due to urbanization.

Several techniques can be used to protect T&E species. One technique is to acquire sites where T&E species occur. Purchase and protection of the site where the species is located

(with adequate surrounding buffer) may be sufficient to protect that population. In some instances it is not feasible or possible to buy the needed land. Where the site and buffer area is not available for purchase, where an animal's range is too large of an area (or migrates between sites), or where changes in hydrology or pollution from outside the site affect the species, other techniques must be used to protect the T&E species.

Developing a resource conservation or management plan for the species and habitat of concern is the next step. Resource plans consider the need for buffer areas and habitat corridors, and consider watershed impacts from hydrology changes or pollutant loadings. The conservation plan will include recommendations for management specific to the species and its habitat, whether located on private or public lands. The conservation plan will guide both the property owner and the local unit of government that plans and permits adjacent land uses and how to manage habitat to sustain the species.

Wetland Enhancement and Protection

Wetlands provide a multitude of benefits and functions. Wetlands improve water quality by removing suspended sediment and dissolved nutrients from runoff. They control the rate of runoff discharged from the watershed and reduce flooding by storing rainfall during storm events. Wetlands also provide habitat for plants and animals including many of those that are threatened and endangered.

Because agriculture and urbanization have destroyed or degraded many of the remaining wetlands in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed, wetland enhancement projects are necessary to improve the diversity and function of these degraded wetlands. The term enhancement refers to improving the functions and values of an existing wetland. Converted wetland sites (or sites that were formerly wetlands but have now been converted to other uses) can also be restored to provide many of their former wetland benefits. Wetland restoration is the process of establishing a wetland on a site that is not currently a wetland, but once was prior to conversion. Wetlands have the ability to reduce nutrient loading, sediment concentrations, and flood damage. Wetlands can be used to teach landowners about their importance with respect to plants and animals and also increases the amount of open space in the watershed.

Best Management Practices Load Reductions

Load reduction calculations were estimated for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment based on the potential BMPs to be implemented within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. The percent reductions for each BMP were based on the review of EPA's Stormwater Menu of BMPs, EPAs National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy of Indiana, The Center for Watershed Protection and STEPL. The BMPs listed are typical BMPS and are provided as a reference, it is not meant to be all inclusive list but only a guide. The reductions only apply to the drainage area that is directly tributary to the BMP implemented. Therefore, when looking at overall reductions in a given subwatershed, an aggregate for all BMPs implemented with each associated tributary area will be need to be evaluated.

The actual efficiency of each BMP is based on several variables making it difficult to accurately determine the number required to equal the reduction goals (e.g. the location in the watershed, tributary area, soils, etc), therefore specific locations and types of BMPs should be carefully planned out in coordination with the landowners and applicable local, state and federal agencies and with the load reduction needs of the subwatershed in mind. Table 53 shows the expected load reductions and associated costs for each BMP.

Table 53: Best Management Practice Load Reduction Summary					
Agricultural/Rural Best Management Practices					
	Estimated Load Reductions				
BMP/Measure	**Sediment**	**Phosphorus**	**Nitrogen**	***E.coli***	**Cost**
Alternative Watering System	80%	78%	75%	N/A	$5,000/EA
Buffer/Filter Strips	65%	75%	70%	N/A	$5,000-$10,000/AC
Cover Crops	40%	45%	40%	N/A	$100/AC
Exclusionary Fencing	70%	60%	65%	90%	$50/Ft
Grassed Waterways	80%	30%	40%	N/A	$5,000-$10,000/AC
Nutrient/Waste Management	60%	90%	80%	85%	$5 - $30/AC
Infiltration Trench	100%	45%	45%	N/A	$10,000-$20,000/AC
No-Till/Reduced Till (Conventional Tillage)	75%	45%	55%	N/A	$20/AC
Reforestation	80%	42%	68%	N/A	$750/AC
Rotational Grazing	40%	20%	20%	N/A	N/A
Stream Restoration	75%	75%	75%	N/A	$100-$250/Ft
Two-Stage Ditches	38%	33%	17%	N/A	$15-$20/Ft
Wetland Restoration	80%	55%	45%	80%	$5,000-$10,000/AC
Urban Best Management Practices					
	Estimated Load Reductions				
BMP/Measure	**Sediment**	**Phosphorus**	**Nitrogen**	***E.coli***	**Cost**
Bioretention Practices	40%	80%	65%	N/A	$10,000-$20,000/AC
Filtration Basin	75%	65%	60%	N/A	$10,000-$20,000/AC
Naturalized Detention Basin	80%	55%	35%	N/A	$10,000-$20,000/AC
Naturalized Stream Buffer	75%	45%	40%	N/A	$10,000-$20,000/AC
Pervious Pavement	95%	85%	85%	N/A	$2 - $7/Sq. Ft
Rain Barrels	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$75-$300/Each
Rain Garden	80%	20%	20%	N/A	$10,000-$20,000/AC
Stream Restoration	75%	75%	75%	N/A	$100-$250/Ft
Infiltration Trench	100%	45%	45%	N/A	$10,000-$20,000/AC

Subwatershed Best Management Practice Selection

Table 54 is a breakdown of the selected best management practices for each subwatershed based on the characteristics of the subwatershed that are degrading its water quality. The BMPs listed are typical BMPS and are provided as a reference, it is not meant to be all inclusive list but only a guide. The "Reason for being Critical" column was created based on the subwatershed specific analysis of the land use within the subwatershed, water quality data (IDEM, CIWRP and V3), and the findings of the windshield survey. The water quality parameters that require reduction loads equal to or greater than 50% based on Tables 49-51 were considered to be critical for that subwatershed. Similarly, the windshield survey parameters that ranked 1, 2, or 3 were considered to be critical for that subwatershed.

The "Suggested BMP" column was then created only including the BMPs that would provide better than a 50% reduction based on the information provided in Table 53 for its associated critical impairment. Certain BMPs are suggested for more than one impairment (i.e. Buffer/Filter Strips are suggested for *E.coli*, Nitrate+Nitrite, Total Phosphorus, Lack of Stream Buffers and Streambank Erosion). The table was created in this way so not to limit the possible projects if a specific impairment is to be targeted for implementation for a specific funding source.

Table 54: BMP Selection		
Critical Area	**Reason for being Critical**	**Suggested BMP**
High Priority Subwatersheds		
Thorpe Creek	*E.coli*	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		Wetland Restoration
	Nitrate+Nitrite	Alternative Watering System
		Bioretention Practices
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Filtration Basin
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		No-till/Reduced Till (Conservation Tillage)
		Pervious Pavement
		Reforestation
		Stream Restoration
	Total Phosphorus	Alternative Watering System
		Bioretention Practices
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Filtration Basin
		Naturalized Detention Basin
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		Pervious Pavement
		Stream Restoration
		Wetland Restoration
	Conventional Tillage Practices	Education and Outreach
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		No-till/Reduced Till (Conservation Tillage)
	In-stream Debris	Education and Outreach
	Lack of Stream Buffers	Education and Outreach
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Stream Restoration
	Streambank Erosion	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Grassed Waterway
		Infiltration Trench
		Naturalized Stream Buffer
		Rain Barrel/Rain Garden
		Stream Restoration

Table 54 cont.: BMP Selection		
Critical Area	**Reason for being Critical**	**Suggested BMP**
High Priority Subwatersheds		
Honey Creek	*E.coli*	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		Wetland Restoration
	Nitrate+Nitrite	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		No-till/Reduced Till (Conservation Tillage)
		Reforestation
		Stream Restoration
	Conventional Tillage Practices	Education and Outreach
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		No-till/Reduced Till (Conservation Tillage)
	Streambank Erosion	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Grassed Waterways
		Infiltration Trench
		Naturalized Stream Buffer
		Rain Barrel/Rain Garden
		Stream Restoration
Flatfork Creek	*E.coli*	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		Wetland Restoration
	Lack of Stream Buffers	Education and Outreach
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Stream Restoration
	Streambank Erosion	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Grassed Waterway
		Infiltration Trench
		Naturalized Stream Buffer
		Rain Barrel/Rain Garden
		Stream Restoration

Table 54 cont.: BMP Selection		
Critical Area	**Reason for being Critical**	**Suggested BMP**
High Priority Subwatersheds		
Sly Fork Creek	*E.coli*	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		Wetland Restoration
	In-stream Debris	Education and Outreach
Medium Priority Subwatersheds		
Deer Creek Prairie Creek Headwaters Lick Creek	*E.coli*	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		Wetland Restoration
	Total Phosphorus	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		Stream Restoration
		Wetland Restoration
	Livestock Access	Alternative Watering System
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
	Conventional Tillage Practices	Education and Outreach
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		No-till/Reduced Till (Conservation Tillage)
	In-stream Debris	Education and Outreach
	Lack of Stream Buffers	Education and Outreach
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Stream Restoration
	Streambank Erosion	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Grassed Waterway
		Infiltration Trench
		Naturalized Stream Buffer
		Rain Barrel/Rain Garden
		Stream Restoration

Table 54 cont.: BMP Selection		
Critical Area	**Reason for being Critical**	**Suggested BMP**
Low Priority Subwatersheds		
McFadden Ditch Foster Branch	*E.coli*	Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		Wetland Restoration
	Livestock Access	Alternative Watering System
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
Specific Source Critical Areas		
Livestock Access		Alternative Watering System
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Nutrient/Waste Management
Absent or Insufficient Stream Buffers		Education and Outreach
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Stream Restoration
Excessive Streambank Erosion		Alternative Watering System
		Buffer/Filter Strips
		Education and Outreach
		Exclusionary Fencing
		Grassed Waterway
		Infiltration Trench
		Naturalized Stream Buffer
		Rain Barrel/Rain Garden
		Stream Restoration
Agricultural Areas Practicing Conventional Tillage		Education and Outreach
		Nutrient/Waste Management
		No-till/Reduced Till (Conservation Tillage)

Incentives/Cost Share Opportunities

There are a number of incentive programs to implement BMP projects. Funding sources for wetland protection and restoration as well as technical assistance are available from programs at the local, regional, state, and federal levels of government including USEPA Section 319 grants. It will be the decision of the Steering Committee to prioritize the implementation projects for the watershed which will guide the decision of which funding opportunity to choose. The following is a description of the known funding sources applicable for implementation of this WMP.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Continuing Authorities Program

At the Federal level, the USACE Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) from Section 206 of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act targets wetland restoration. This section, also known as the "Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration" program gives the USACE the authority to carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection if the projects will improve the quality of the environment, are in the public interest, and are cost effective. The objective of section 206 is to restore degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes to a less degraded and more natural condition. The local sponsors of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects are required to contribute 35% towards the total project cost.

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Section 319 Grants

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act provides funding for projects that work to reduce nonpoint source water pollution. IDEM administers funds from the Section 319 program which are used to create watershed management plans, demonstrate new technology, provide education and outreach on pollution prevention, conduct assessments, develop and implement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), provide cost share dollars for BMP implementation and provide technical assistance. Organizations that are eligible for funding include nonprofit organizations, universities, and local, State or Federal government agencies. An in-kind or cash match of the total project cost must be provided.

Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Program

LARE grants are available on a competitive basis for several actions that can address the ecology and management of public lakes, rivers and their watersheds. All grants require a local cost share. The goal of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement Section is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through measures that reduce nonpoint sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality targets. Funding for the LARE program is provided by an annual fee charged to boat owners. LARE grants are available for preliminary lake studies, engineering feasibility studies of pollution control measures, design engineering of control measures, and performance appraisals of a constructed pollution measure. The projects listed above are considered "traditional" projects and the deadline to submit applications is January 15th. Approved projects are awarded grant money in the month of July. Additionally, LARE sets aside one-third of its annual funds for sediment removal or exotic species control. Land treatment cost share dollars for agricultural practices require the involvement of the County SWCDs as the grant sponsor.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Programs

Indiana Farm Service Agency (FSA) supports farmers through a variety of Credit and Commodity Programs designed to stabilize and enhance rural landscape. The FSA administers and manages farm commodity, credit, disaster and loan programs, and conservation as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state and county offices. Programs are designed to improve economic stability of the agricultural industry and to help farmers adjust production to meet demand. Economically, the desired result of these programs is a steady price range for agricultural commodities for both farmers and consumers.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The CRP is a voluntary program encouraging landowners for long-term conservation of soils, water, and wildlife resources. CRP is the US Department of Agriculture's single largest environmental improvement program and is administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) with 10 to 15 year contracts. The goal of the CRP program (and CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) is to give incentives to landowners who take frequently flooded and environmentally sensitive land out of crop production and plant specific types of vegetation. Participants earn annual rental payments and sign-up incentives. This program offers up to 90% cost share. Rental payments are boosted by 20% for projects such as installation of riparian buffers and filter strips. Windbreaks, contour buffer strips, and shallow water areas are additional funded practices. The WHIP program is available for private landowners to make improvements for wildlife on their property. This program offers up to 75% cost share. This grant program is competitive and funding depends on the project's ranking compared to others in the state.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities and undertaking additional conservation activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers this program and provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers. CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) on a continuous application basis.

CSP offers financial assistance to eligible participants through two possible types of payments:

- Annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities.
- Supplemental payment for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations..

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is accommodating to grass-roots conservation and is another voluntary USDA conservation program for farmers faced with threats to soil, water, and related natural resources. Typically EQIP monies will fund 75% of land improvements and installation of conservation practices such as grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, and filter strips adjacent to water resources (including wetlands). The goal of WRP is to restore and protect degraded wetlands such as farmed wetlands. WRP provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance and protect wetlands. At least 70% of

each project area will be restored to natural site conditions to the extent practicable. WRP has three options available: permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration agreements. The NRCS will reimburse the landowners for easements on the property plus a portion of the restoration costs based on the type of easement agreed to by the landowner. EQIP and WRP are only applicable to agricultural lands.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

The WRP is the Nation's premier wetlands restoration program. It is a voluntary program that offers landowners the means and the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA NRCS manages the program as well as provides technical and financial support to help landowners participate in WRP. Program objectives include: purchasing conservation easements from, or entering into cost-share agreements with willing owners of eligible land, helping eligible landowners, protect, restore, and enhance the original hydrology, native vegetation, and natural topography of eligible lands, restoring and protecting the functions and values of wetlands in the agricultural landscape, helping to achieve the national goal of no net loss of wetlands, and improving the general environment of the country.

The emphasis of the WRP program is to protect, restore and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain: 1) first and foremost, habitat for migratory birds and wetland dependent wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; 2) protection and improvement of water quality; 3) lessen water flows due to flooding; 4) recharge of ground water; 5) protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality; 6) protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation's natural heritage; and 7) contribute to educational and scholarship.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

In order to provide direction to the State and local levels for implementing WHIP to achieve its objective, NRCS has established the following national priorities:

- Promote the restoration of declining or important native fish and wildlife habitats.
- Protect, restore, develop or enhance fish and wildlife habitat to benefit at-risk species
- Reduce the impacts of invasive species on fish and wildlife habitats; and
- Protect, restore, develop or enhance declining or important aquatic wildlife species' habitats

WHIP has proven to be a highly effective and widely accepted program across the country. By targeting wildlife habitat projects on all lands and aquatic areas, WHIP provides assistance to conservation minded landowners that are unable to meet the specific eligibility requirements of other USDA conservation programs.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a federal-state natural resources conservation program that addresses agricultural-related environmental concerns at the state and national level. CREP participants receive financial incentives to voluntarily enroll in CRP in contracts of 14 to 15 years. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation. The Indiana CREP is a partnership between USDA and the state of Indiana. The program targets the enrollment of 7,000 acres of land in the Pigeon-Highland, Tippecanoe, and Upper White River Watersheds where sediments, nutrients, pesticides and herbicides run off from agricultural land.

The program will improve water quality by creating buffers and wetlands that will reduce agricultural runoff into the targeted watersheds. Installing buffer practices and wetlands will enhance habitat for wildlife, including State and Federally-listed threatened and endangered species. The program will also reduce nonpoint source nutrient losses. The goals of the Indiana CREP are to: 1) enroll 7,000 acres of eligible cropland and marginal pastureland, including frequently flooded lands, into CREP to establish buffer practices and wetlands, 2) protect at least 2,000 linear miles of watercourses by installing buffer practices, 3) reduce by 15 percent the amount of sediment, nutrients and agricultural chemicals entering watercourses within the targeted watersheds, 4) enroll 30 percent of farmed riparian acreage in the watersheds in accordance with statutory and regulatory rules, 5) enroll 8 percent of eligible acres in voluntary state ten-year contract extensions with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Tippecanoe Watershed; and 6) enroll 10 percent of eligible acres in voluntary state permanent easements in the Tippecanoe and Upper White River Watersheds.

Landowners may enroll any amount of eligible cropland in the federal program and voluntary state 14-15 year contract extensions. State permanent easements allow producers to offer non-cropped acreage when they enroll cropland. Installation of conservation practices must be completed within 12 months of the federal CREP contract effective date. Once enrolled in the CREP program the land cannot be developed (ie. no permanent structures or roads may be built). Existing abandoned structures and roads may remain if approved by DNR. Landowners must follow the Conservation Plan of Operation and land cannot go back into row crops or agricultural uses. The landowners retain the right to recreational use of their property providing it does not negatively impact the practices or cover established. The state CREP contract is attached to the land deed; thus, a producer who purchases land enrolled in an active state CREP contract is required to participate in the program or refund state money paid to date and incur other penalties.

Section 7 – Action Register and Schedule

Action Register

The success of a watershed management plan can be measured by how readily it is used by its intended audience and how well it is implemented. The Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek WMP is very ambitious and continued implementation of the plan will require and even greater degree of cooperation and coordination among partners and funding for projects. It will be the decision of the Steering Committee to prioritize the implementation projects for the watershed which will also guide the decision of which funding opportunity to choose (as described in the Incentives/Cost Share Opportunities section of this WMP).

The action register is a tool used to easily identify each objective, milestone, estimated cost, and possible partners for easier implementation of the plan. The action register is divided based on the previously identified problem and goal categories. The problem and goal statements are also repeated in these sections for quick reference. It should be noted that some objectives may relate to several problem/goal statements, they are listed in each applicable category.

Public Participation/Education and Outreach

Problem Statement: Stakeholders in the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed are not knowledgeable about their daily impact on the watershed and its water quality.

Goal Statement: Develop and implement an education and outreach program within the watershed.

Table 55: Public Participation/Education and Outreach Action Register					
Objective		**Target Audience**	**Task**	**Cost**	**Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)**
Short Term Objectives (0-5 Years)	Effectively share and communicate past, current and future activities within the watershed	All stakeholders and landowners within the watershed	-Update GWA website on a monthly basis -Link UWRWA Geist page to efforts on GWA website within 6 months	$400/month (Estimated $100/hour for 4 hours a month)	PP – UWRWA TA – UWRWA, Consultant
	Educate stakeholders within the watershed on the function of a watershed and their impacts to water quality/nature of nonpoint sources	All stakeholders and landowners within the watershed	-Compile a list of publications willing to feature watershed articles and complete within 6 months -Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2 within 1 year	$750 - $8,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours to compile list and $150 - $8,000 for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
	Coordinate with Count SWCDs to get more agriculture stakeholders involved in plan implementation	All stakeholders and landowners within the watershed	-Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with SWCDs within first 6 months -Meet with County SWCD representative within 1 year -Identify key Ag stakeholders and set up 2 meetings with appropriate SWCD representative to discuss plan implementation within 1 year	$1,000 - $2,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours to compile list and 2 hours per meeting for 2-10 meetings)	PP – SWCDs TA – SWCDs
	Educate homeowners in urban communities about the use of fertilizers	Homeowners in urban areas	-Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2 within 1 year	$150 - $8,000 (for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
	Coordinate efforts with the UWRWA, local MS4s and any other education and outreach efforts being conducted within the watershed	Other groups/ organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify all Education & Outreach focused organizations and/or committees within the watershed and complete within 6 months -Attend at least one meeting for each organization/committee within the first 3 years -Evaluate the value of the meetings attended for further attendance /coordination	$1,000 - $2,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours to compile list and 2 hours per meeting for 2-10 meetings)	PP – N/A TA – N/A

Table 55, cont.: Public Participation/Education and Outreach Action Register					
	Objective	**Target Audience**	**Task**	**Cost**	**Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)**
Short Term Objectives (cont.) (0-5 Years)	Work with Indiana Wildlife Federation on efforts to educate on and reduce the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus	Indiana Wildlife Federation	-Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with IWF within first 6 months -Attend at least 1 meeting within 1 year	$200 (Estimated $100/hour for 2 hours)	PP – N/A TA – N/A
	Educate stakeholders using septic systems about the importance of septic system maintenance	Stakeholders and landowners with septic systems	-Choose the most effective outlet from the Education/Outreach Menu within 1 year -Complete chosen Education/Outreach mechanism within 2 years	$150 - $4,000 (for direct cost of chosen outlet)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, County Health Dept., Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, County Health Dept., Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
Long Term Objectives (6-20 Years)	Continue viable and effective short term objectives				
	Work with local municipalities to incorporate smart growth principles and green infrastructure practices into zoning/stormwater ordinances and comprehensive plans	All stakeholders and landowners within the watershed	-Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with local officials -Meet with municipal staff representatives -Evaluate the value of the meetings attended for further attendance /coordination	$1,000 - $2,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours to compile list and 2 hours per meeting for 2-10 meetings)	PP – N/A TA – N/A
	Educate agricultural stakeholders about the use of Atrazine and its impacts to water quality	Agricultural landowners and operators	-Choose the most effective outlet from the Education/Outreach Menu -Complete chosen Education/Outreach mechanism	$150 - $4,000 (for direct cost of chosen outlet)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
	Review education and outreach program within the watershed and continue development and implementation of the program	N/A	-Review tasks and effectiveness at GWA/Sub-Committee Meetings	N/A	PP – N/A TA – N/A

E.coli Levels

Problem Statement: *E.coli* levels in the watershed regularly exceed the state standard, based on current and historical water quality data results.

Goal Statement: Reduce *E.coli* concentrations to meet the state standard of 235 CFU/100mL.

Table 56: *E.coli* Levels Action Register

	Objective	Target Audience	Task	Cost	Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)
Short Term Objectives (0-5 Years)	Encourage proper disposal of pet and/or Canada goose waste	Pet and open space owners	-Create a list of potential BMPs for immediate implementation within 6 months -Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2 within 3 years	$750 - $8,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours of identification time and $150 - $8,000 for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Veolia TA – UWRWA, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Veolia, Consultant
	Partner with NRCS, SWCDs and County Officials/Boards to promote/implement cost share and/or education programs	Other groups/ organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify all local, state and/or federal programs focused on *E.coli* within 1 year -Identify eligible project and complete within 5 years	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant
	Educate stakeholders using septic systems about the importance of septic system maintenance	Stakeholders and landowners with septic systems	-Choose the most effective outlet from the Education/Outreach Menu within 1 year -Complete chosen Education/Outreach mechanism within 1 year	$150 - $4,000 (for direct cost of chosen outlet)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, County Health Dept., Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, County Health Dept., Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
	Promote and implement agricultural BMPs	Agricultural landowners	-Identify/prioritize eligible projects and complete based on priority	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant

Table 56, cont.: *E.coli* Levels Action Register					
	Objective	**Target Audience**	**Task**	**Cost**	**Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)**
Long Term Objectives (6-20 Years)	Continue viable and effective short term objectives				
	Educate agriculture stakeholders on the benefits of manure management practices	Agricultural landowners	-Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2	$150 - $8,000 (for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant
	Educate and work with point dischargers to reduce the amount of *E.coli* runoff from point sources, package plants, CFOs and CSOs	NPDES Permittees	-Identify all currently permitted point dischargers -Research possible regulation changes -Coordinate/educate each point discharger to determine best practices	$800/Permittee (Estimated $100/hour for 8 hours of time)	PP – IDEM TA – IDEM
	Establish a monitoring program or group to collect samples	Other groups/ organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify any monitoring efforts currently being within the watershed by other groups -If lack of sufficient data exists from current monitoring efforts, develop program guidelines and begin sampling efforts	$600 (Estimated $100/ hour for 6 hours of identification time) $2,800/ collection event (Estimated $100/ hour for 8 hours of collection time and $200 per sample for analysis of ten samples)	PP – IDEM, Hoosier Riverwatch TA – IDEM, Hoosier Riverwatch

Nutrient Levels

Problem Statement: Nutrient concentrations within all subwatersheds frequently exceed water quality targets thereby aiding the growth of algae within the reservoir.

Goal Statement: Reduce the nutrient loads so that there are no exceedances of EPAs suggested targets for Nitrate + Nitrite of 1.6 mg/L and Total Phosphorus of 0.076mg/L.

Table 57: Nutrient Levels Action Register

	Objective	Target Audience	Task	Cost	Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)
Short Term Objectives (0-5 Years)	Educate the public and stakeholders of the importance of reduced application of fertilizers or use of low phosphorus or no phosphorus fertilizers	Urban & agricultural landowner, fertilizer companies and operators	-Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2 within 1 year	$150 - $8,000 (for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Surveyor's, Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
	Partner with NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s and County Officials/Boards to promote/implement cost share and/or education programs	Other groups/ organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify all local, state and/or federal programs focused on nutrient management within 1 year -Identify eligible project and complete within 5 years	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant
	Educate local, regional, and state officials on the need for regulations for urban areas (specifically for phosphorus)	Local, regional and state officials	-Identify GWA liaison within 1 year -Coordinate with IWF & ILMWG on on-going efforts at the state level within 3 years -Identify avenues to communicate concerns to officials on local and regional level within 3 years	$600 - $1,200 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 to 12 hours of time)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs TA – N/A
	Promote and implement agricultural BMPs	Agricultural landowners	-Identify/prioritize eligible projects and complete based on priority	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant
	Promote and implement urban BMPs	Urban/Residential landowners	-Identify/prioritize eligible projects and complete based on priority	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant

Table 57, cont.: Nutrient Levels Action Register					
Objective		Target Audience	Task	Cost	Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)
Long Term Objectives (6-20 Years)	Continue viable and effective short term objectives				
	Educate and work with point discharges (CFOS, NPDES permitted facilities) to reduce their nutrient loads	NPDES Permittees	-Identify all currently permitted point dischargers -Research possible regulation changes -Coordinate/educate each point discharger to determine best practices	$800/Permittee (Estimated $100/hour for 8 hours of time)	PP – IDEM TA – IDEM
	Work with local municipalities to incorporate smart growth principles and green infrastructure practices into zoning/stormwater ordinances and comprehensive plans	All stakeholders and landowners within the watershed	-Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with local officials -Meet with municipal staff representatives -Evaluate the value of the meetings attended for further attendance /coordination	$1,000 - $2,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours to compile list and 2 hours per meeting for 2-10 meetings)	PP – N/A TA – N/A
	Establish a monitoring program or group to collect samples	Other groups/ organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify any monitoring efforts currently being within the watershed by other groups within -If lack of sufficient data exists from current monitoring efforts, develop program guidelines and begin sampling efforts	$600 (Estimated $100/ hour for 6 hours of identification time) $2,800/ collection event (Estimated $100/ hour for 8 hours of collection time and $200 per sample for analysis of ten samples)	PP – IDEM, Hoosier Riverwatch TA – IDEM, Hoosier Riverwatch

Erosion and Sedimentation

Problem Statement: Soil erosion and sedimentation within the watershed is degrading the water quality and limiting the aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and aquatic health of the streams and reservoir within the watershed.

Goal Statement: Reduce sediment loads to meet the IDEM statewide draft TMDL target of 30 mg/L for TSS.

Table 58: Erosion and Sedimentation Action Register					
	Objective	**Target Audience**	**Task**	**Cost**	**Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)**
Short Term Objectives (0-5 Years)	Partner with NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Officials/Boards, High Schools and FFA programs to promote/implement cost share and/or education programs in order to reduce erosion from agricultural lands	Other groups/ organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify all local, state and/or federal programs focused on erosion and sediment control within 1 year -Identify eligible project and complete within 5 years	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant
	Encourage enforcement of erosion control practices associated with the issuance of Rule 5 construction permits	Local MS4s and SWCDs	-Identify enforcement officers within 6 months -Educate public on how to identify potential violators utilizing most effective Education/Outreach outlet within 3 years -Establish reporting mechanism with enforcement officers within 5 years	$750 - $4,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours of identification time and $150 - $4,000 for direct cost of chosen outlet) Cost of reporting mechanism will vary	PP – IDEM, MS4s, SWCDs TA – IDEM, MS4s, SWCDs, Consultant
	Promote and implement agricultural BMPs	Agricultural landowners	-Identify/prioritize eligible projects and complete based on priority	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant
	Promote and implement urban BMPs	Urban/Residential landowners	-Identify/prioritize eligible projects and complete based on priority	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant

Table 58, cont.: Erosion and Sedimentation Action Register					
Objective		**Target Audience**	**Task**	**Cost**	**Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)**
Long Term Objectives (6-20 Years)	Continue viable and effective short term objectives				
	Work with local municipalities to incorporate smart growth principles and green infrastructure practices into zoning/stormwater ordinances and comprehensive plans	All stakeholders and landowners within the watershed	-Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with local officials -Meet with municipal staff representatives -Evaluate the value of the meetings attended for further attendance /coordination	$1,000 - $2,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours to compile list and 2 hours per meeting for 2-10 meetings)	PP – N/A TA – N/A
	Establish a monitoring program or group to collect samples	Other groups/ organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify any monitoring efforts currently being within the watershed by other groups -If lack of sufficient data exists from current monitoring efforts, develop program guidelines and begin sampling efforts	$600 (Estimated $100/ hour for 6 hours of identification time) $2,800/ collection event (Estimated $100/ hour for 8 hours of collection time and $200 per sample for analysis of ten samples)	PP – IDEM, Hoosier Riverwatch TA – IDEM, Hoosier Riverwatch

Exotic Species in the Reservoir

Problem Statement: Excessive growth of exotic aquatic plants within the reservoir is negatively impacting the recreational uses of the reservoir and the survival of native species.

Goal Statement: Reduce and control the growth of exotic plants within the reservoir.

Table 59: Exotic Species in the Reservoir Action Register

	Objective	Target Audience	Task	Cost	Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)
Short Term Objectives (0-5 Years)	Educate the public and stakeholders on how exotic species are introduced and ways to control new introductions	Reservoir Users	-Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2 within 3 years	$150 - $8,000 (for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
	Partner with the marinas, fishing tournament groups, homeowner organizations, etc to promote/implement cost share and/or education programs	Reservoir Users	-Identify reservoir organizations within 1 year -Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2 within 3 years	$750 - $8,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours of identification time and $150 - $8,000 for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
Long Term Objectives (6-20 Years)	Continue viable and effective short term objectives				
	Regular update of AVMP and implement according to recommendations	Reservoir Users	-Complete AVMP update	$5,000-$10,000 per update	PP – DNR TA – Consultant

Lack of Funding Sources for Urban Areas

Problem Statement: There is a lack of funding for the implementation of Best Management Practices within urban areas.

Goal Statement: Identify and utilize existing BMP funding sources and encourage the development and enhancement of additional and non-traditional funding sources.

Table 60: Lack of Funding Sources for Urban Areas Action Register

	Objective	Target Audience	Task	Cost	Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)
Short Term Objectives (0-5 Years)	Educate homeowners and stakeholders on the benefits and importance of urban BMPs	Urban landowners	-Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2 within 1 year	$150 - $8,000 (for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, Veolia, IDEM, DNR TA – UWRWA, MS4s, Veolia, IDEM, DNR, Consultant
	Partner with MS4s, foundations, community groups, judicial services, community service programs, high schools, etc to identify existing and develop new funding sources for urban BMP implementation	Other groups/organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify existing funding sources within 6 months -Identify/encourage organizations/entities to incorporate funding mechanisms not already in place within 1 year	$600 - $1,200 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 to 12 hours of time)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – N/A
	Research/educate homeowners on do-it-yourself BMPs	Urban landowners	-Create a list of potential BMPs for immediate implementation within 6 months -Choose the 4 most effective outlets from the Education/Outreach Menu and complete 2 within 3 years	$750 - $8,600 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 hours of identification time and $150 - $8,000 for direct cost of chosen outlets per year)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant

Table 60, cont.: Lack of Funding Sources for Urban Areas Action Register					
	Objective	**Target Audience**	**Task**	**Cost**	**Possible Partner (PP) and Technical Assistance (TA)**
Long Term Objectives (6-20 Years)	Continue viable and effective short term objectives				
	Encourage demonstration projects throughout the watershed in cooperation with MS4s Education and Outreach programs	Urban landowners	-Identify/prioritize eligible projects and complete based on priority	Varies based on BMP chosen (see Section 6 for estimated costs)	PP – UWRWA, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant
	Partner with MS4s, foundations, community groups, judicial services, community service programs, high schools, etc to promote and implement cost share opportunities for implementation of BMPs	Other groups/organizations with similar watershed goals	-Identify eligible projects and complete	$600 - $1,200 (Estimated $100/hour for 6 to 12 hours of time)	PP – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's TA – UWRWA, NRCS, SWCDs, MS4s, County Surveyor's, Consultant

Partnerships

To help achieve the objectives of the Watershed Management Plan, three sub-committees have been formed to spearhead and guide the activities necessary. The sub-committees will work to develop beneficial partnerships with other local and regional groups. These sub-committees include:

1. Education and Outreach/Awareness and Communications Sub-Committee
2. Fund Raising Sub-Committee
3. Product/Services Sub-Committee

The Education and Outreach/Awareness and Communications Sub-Committee will work with local schools, corporations, and government bodies to assist with natural resource education. Members of this committee will research and provide or create educational materials that promote watershed awareness. They will develop key themes and messages for the watershed. Members will also write editorials and solicit donations or grants to cover publication and outreach costs. Coordination with the UWRWA, MS4s, SWCDs, County Officials/Boards and other local groups on education and outreach materials will be the responsibility of this sub-committee.

The Fund Raising Sub-Committee effort is focused on the securing of funds for efforts of implementation within the watershed. Members will work to ensure the ability of the group to match grant requirements and raise funds for special events or actions. The sub-committee will work to create a community/resident base sponsorship/partnership, corporate sponsorship/partnership and local business sponsorships/partnerships. Members will research additional grant sources and opportunities for the watershed.

The Product/Services Sub-Committee will help ensure “green” product availability and ensure “green” communications awareness at retail locations. Members will also work directly with lawn care service providers to educate and obtain a commitment to offer “green solutions”. Members will identify and establish collaborative relationships with entities that have potential influence on water quality and will contact legislators and other influential members of local government to inform of current Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed activities and issues.

The establishment and specific tasks assigned to each of the Sub-Committee groups will allow for multiple avenues of watershed improvement to be pursued. Awareness of issues and impairments within the watershed will increase stakeholder participation and will hopefully increase membership of the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed Steering Committee.

Section 8 – Tracking Effectiveness

Evaluating Plan Performance

This Management Plan is meant to be a flexible tool to achieve water quality improvements within the Geist Reservoir/Upper Fall Creek Watershed. The WMP will be evaluated by assessing the progress made on each of the six goals. The evaluation and adaptation of the plan will be the responsibility of the Steering Committee.

The plan should be evaluated every five years to assess the progress made as well as to revise the plan, if appropriate, based on the progress achieved. The plan will also have a comprehensive review every 15 years. Amendments and changes may be made more frequently as laws change or new information becomes available that will assist in providing a better outlook for the watershed. As goals are accomplished and additional information is gathered, efforts may need to be shifted to watershed issues of higher priority.

Tracking Strategy

In addition to the official 5 year evaluation and update, the Steering Committee will have a key role in evaluating implementation progress on an annual basis. The Steering Committee will review the status of actions recommended in the Action Register at least once per year and then identify the top priority concerns and actions for the following years focus.

In order to evaluate the implementation progress, a milestone completion log (Table 61) was completed for all milestones identified in the Action Register. An indicator tracking log (Table 62) was also created to evaluate the overall impact of implementation of the WMP. The indicators will be based on records maintained by the Steering Committee and in coordination with the partners identified within the Action Register. Available sampling data from IDNR, IDEM and CIWRP on-going studies and/or an implemented water monitoring program will be utilized to determine the loading of pollutants and changes based on the implementation of the plan.

Other opportunities for evaluating the status of plan implementation include the completion of quarterly project reports or Steering Committee meeting minutes. Since this plan is a flexible tool, the provided logs are suggestions on ways to evaluate progress; however changes/modifications are anticipated based on usability and changes in priority throughout the implementation of the WMP.

It was assumed that implementation would begin in January 2010. Dates were assigned to each milestone timeframe based on the implementation start date.

Table 61: Task Completion Log		
Task	**Start Date**	**Completion Date**
Monthly (Beginning March 2011)		
Update GWA website on a monthly basis		
6 months (Completed September 2011)		
Link UWRWA Geist page to efforts on GWA website		
Compile a list of publications willing to feature watershed articles		
Identify all Education and Outreach focused organizations/ committees within the watershed		
Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with IWF		
Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with County SWCDs		
Identify erosion control enforcement officers within the watershed		
Research/compile a list of all available existing urban BMP funding sources		
Create a list of potential do-it-yourself BMPs for homeowners		
Create a list of potential BMPs for Canada goose waste disposal		
1 year (Completed March 2011)		
Identify all local, state and/or federal programs focused on nutrient management, erosion control and *E.coli* reduction		
Identify reservoir organizations for partnership on education and funding opportunities for exotic species management		
Meet with County SWCDs and identified key Ag stakeholders		
Complete 2 Education/Outreach Menu items focused on stakeholders and their impact to the watershed and nature of nonpoint sources		
Complete 2 Education/Outreach menu items focused on the use of fertilizers and low/no phosphorus products		
Complete 2 Education/Outreach Menu items on use of low/no P fertilizers		
Complete 1 Education/Outreach Menu item focused on importance of septic system maintenance		
Identify/encourage organizations to incorporate funding mechanisms for urban BMPs		
Attend at least one meeting focused on coordinating efforts with IWF		
Promote and implement agricultural BMPs		
Promote and implement urban BMPs		
2 years (Completed March 2012)		
Complete 1 Education/Outreach Menu item focused on importance of septic system maintenance		
Promote and implement agricultural BMPs		
Promote and implement urban BMPs		

Table 61, cont.: Task Completion Log		
Task	**Start Date**	**Completion Date**
3 years (Completed March 2013)		
Coordinate with IWF and ILMWG on on-going efforts at the state level		
Identify avenues to communicate P regulation concerns to local officialsl		
Educate public on how to identify potential erosion control violators		
Attend at least one meeting for each educational and outreach organization and evaluate the required efforts for coordination		
Complete 2 Education/Outreach Menu items focused on do-it-yourself BMPs for homeowners		
Complete 2 Education/Outreach Menu items focused on exotic species and methods to control introduction		
Complete 2 Education/Outreach Menu items focused on the proper disposal of Canada goose waste		
Promote and implement agricultural BMPs		
Promote and implement urban BMPs		
5 years (Completed March 2015)		
Identify eligible projects for cost share opportunities in nutrient management and complete at least 1		
Identify eligible projects for cost share opportunities in erosion and sediment control and complete at least 1		
Establish reporting mechanism for erosion and sediment control violations		
Promote and implement agricultural BMPs		
Promote and implement urban BMPs		
6-20 years (March 2016 – February 2030)		
Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with local officials with regards to incorporation of smart growth principles and green infrastructure practices into ordinances and comprehensive plans		
Complete 1 Education/Outreach Menu item focused on use of Atrazine and its impacts to water quality within Ag community		
Review education and outreach program and continue development and implementation		
Complete 2 Education/Outreach Menu items focused on manure management practices		
Identify all currently permitted point dischargers		
Research possible regulation changes for point dischargers		
Educate to determine best practices and reducing pollutant targets		
Establish a monitoring program or group to collect samples for nutrients, sediment and *E.coli*		
Identify GWA liaison to coordinate with local, regional and state officials for phosphorus regulations		
Indentify/prioritize eligible urban BMPs and complete based on priority		
Identify areas where conservation tillage is currently practiced and identify/incorporate eligible cost share programs		
Complete AVMP update		
Identify/prioritize eligible eroded streambank projects and complete based on priority		

Table 62: Indicator Tracking Log																
Year of Implementation	# of updates to website	# of programs/ideas utilized from Education/Outreach Menu	# of existing funding sources utilized for urban BMPs	# of new/nontraditional funding sources for BMP implementation utilized	# of agricultural fields that have stopped utilizing Atrazine	# of point dischargers reducing their pollutant loadings	# of observed Nitrate + Nitrite loadings above WQ target	# of observed *E.coli* loadings above WQ target	# of stream miles of improved/created buffer zones	# of stream miles of stabilized streambanks	# of miles of exclusionary fencing installed	# of agricultural fields utilizing cover crops, conservation tillage, or other BMPs	# of urban BMPs installed	# of inspections/enforcement actions on Rule 5 permit holders	# of demonstration projects installed	# of areas in reservoir treated according to AVMP recommendations
1																
2																
3																
4																
5																
6-10																
11-15																
16-20																

Section 9 – Appendices

Appendix A – Acronyms and Abbreviations

Appendix B – References

Appendix C – Stakeholder Groups & Related Organizations

Appendix D – Steering Committee Meeting Agendas, Sign-In Sheets & Minutes

Appendix E – Public Meeting Agendas & Sign-In Sheets

Appendix F – IDEM Data

Appendix G – CIWRP Data

Appendix H – Windshield Survey Data

Appendix I – NPDES/CFO Compliance

Appendix J – Reservoir Shoreline Investigation

Appendix K – Nonpoint Source Modeling

Appendix L – Education and Outreach Menu

Appendix M – Highly Erodible Land Documentation