

Outstanding Iowa Waters, Trout Streams & Value to Northeast Iowa



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LEADING IOWANS IN CARING FOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Mike Steuck – NE District Fisheries Supervisor

Karst, WQ & Livestock: Finding a Balance for a Sensitive Geography – May 30, 2017



Healthy Rivers, Healthy State, Healthy People

The goals of river & stream improvement are....

- Protecting property
- Cleaner water
- Functional ecosystems
- Reduced flooding



- Recreational Opportunities
- Increased economic benefit
- Improved health and safety
- Better fishing



Component of the Fisheries Bureau's Stream and River Mgmt – Why??

- **Water Quality**
 - Reduction in nutrients, sediment and other impairments
 - Clean drinking water
- **+ Habitat** – A place to live
- **= Healthy Aquatic Communities**
- **= Local Economic Benefits**
 - Fishing/hunting/bird watching/canoe/kayaking
 - floating/playing/boating/swimming/hiking
- **For the benefit of Iowan's and their future generations! (To Make Fishing Better!!)**



Components of Stream Management can occur separately, but Work Best Together

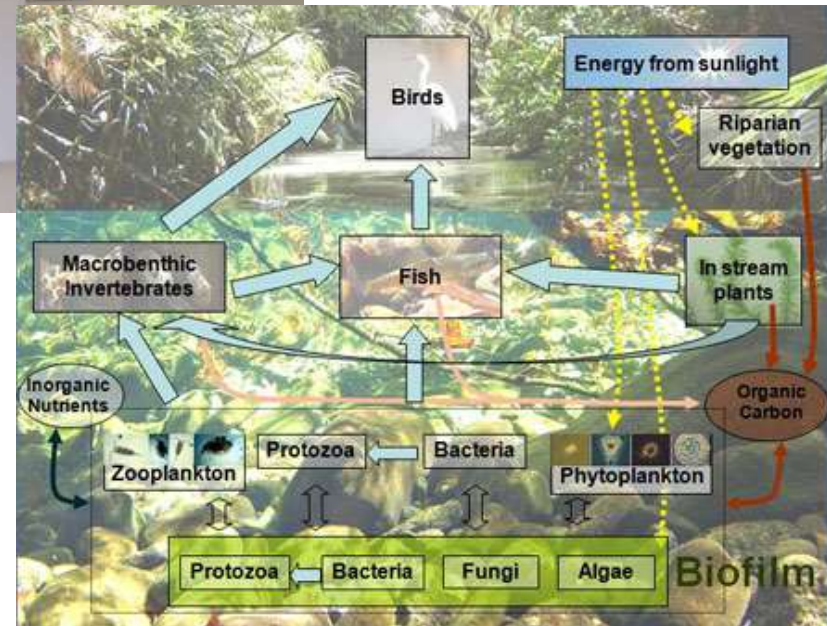
- Watershed work
- Floodplain connectivity
- Riparian corridor management
- Stream-bank stabilization
- Instream habitat
- Dam removal/Modification



Part of a System

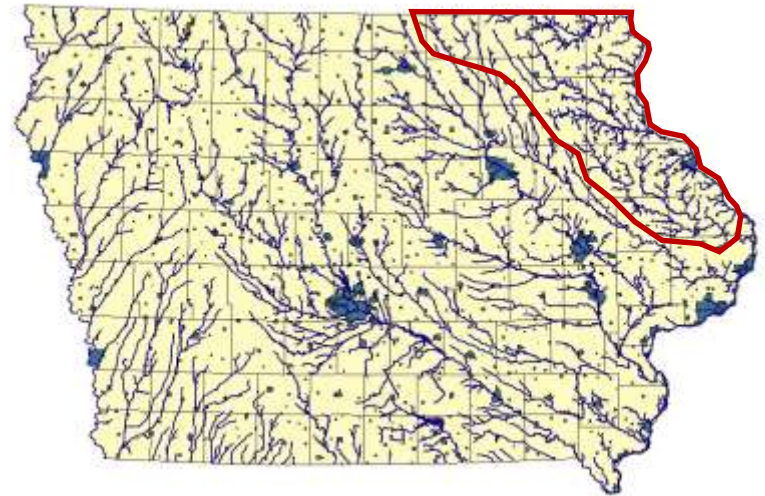
Habitat Improvement for Fish – Diversity is the Key

- Substrate
- Depth
- Water Velocities
- Vegetation

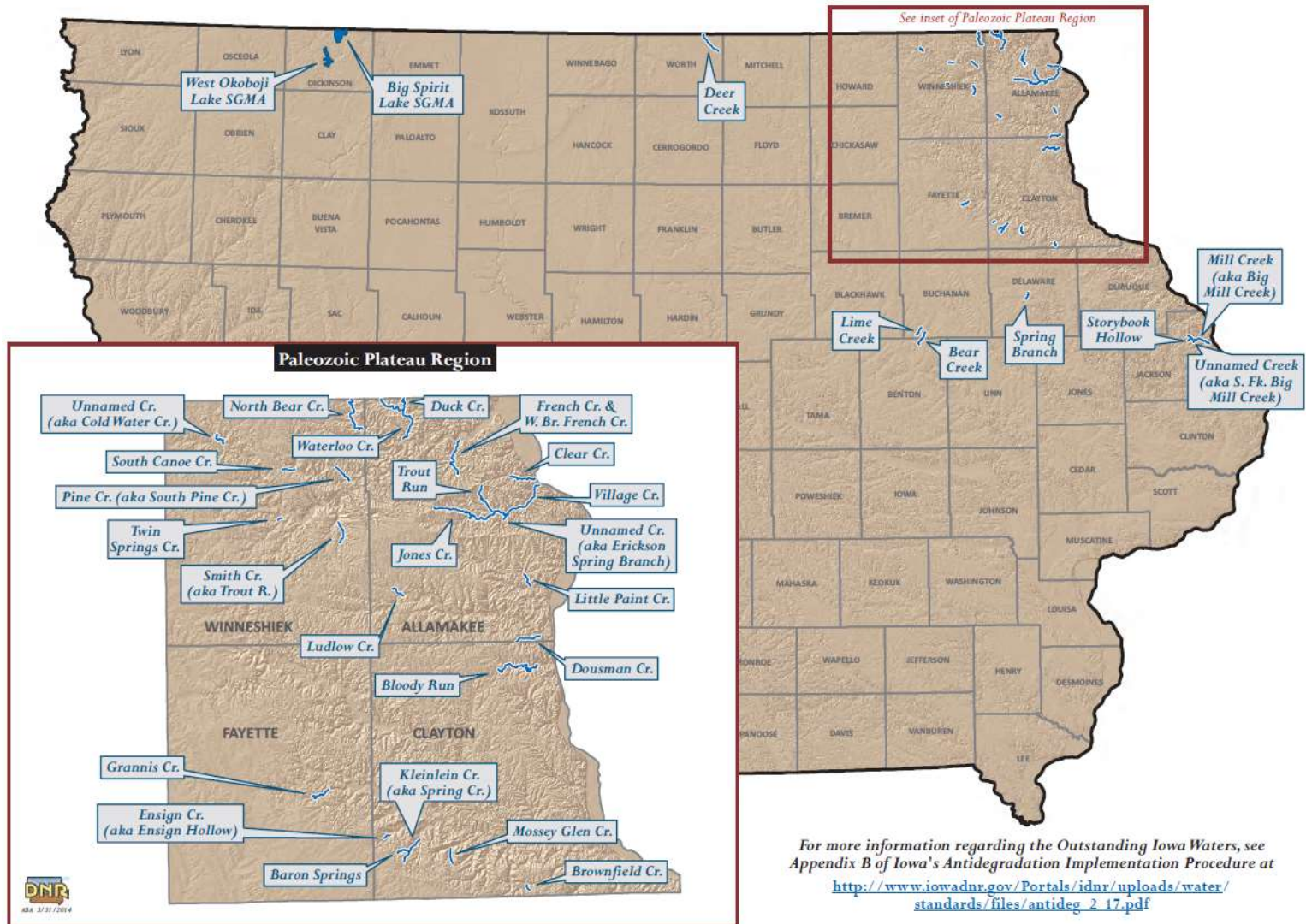


Why are Streams Important??

- Component of Stream and River Improvement.
- Environmental & Economic Benefits.
- There's one in everybody's backyard!
 - 26,700 miles rivers and streams
 - 532 miles coldwater streams



Outstanding Iowa Waters



Coldwater Streams- Unique to NE Iowa

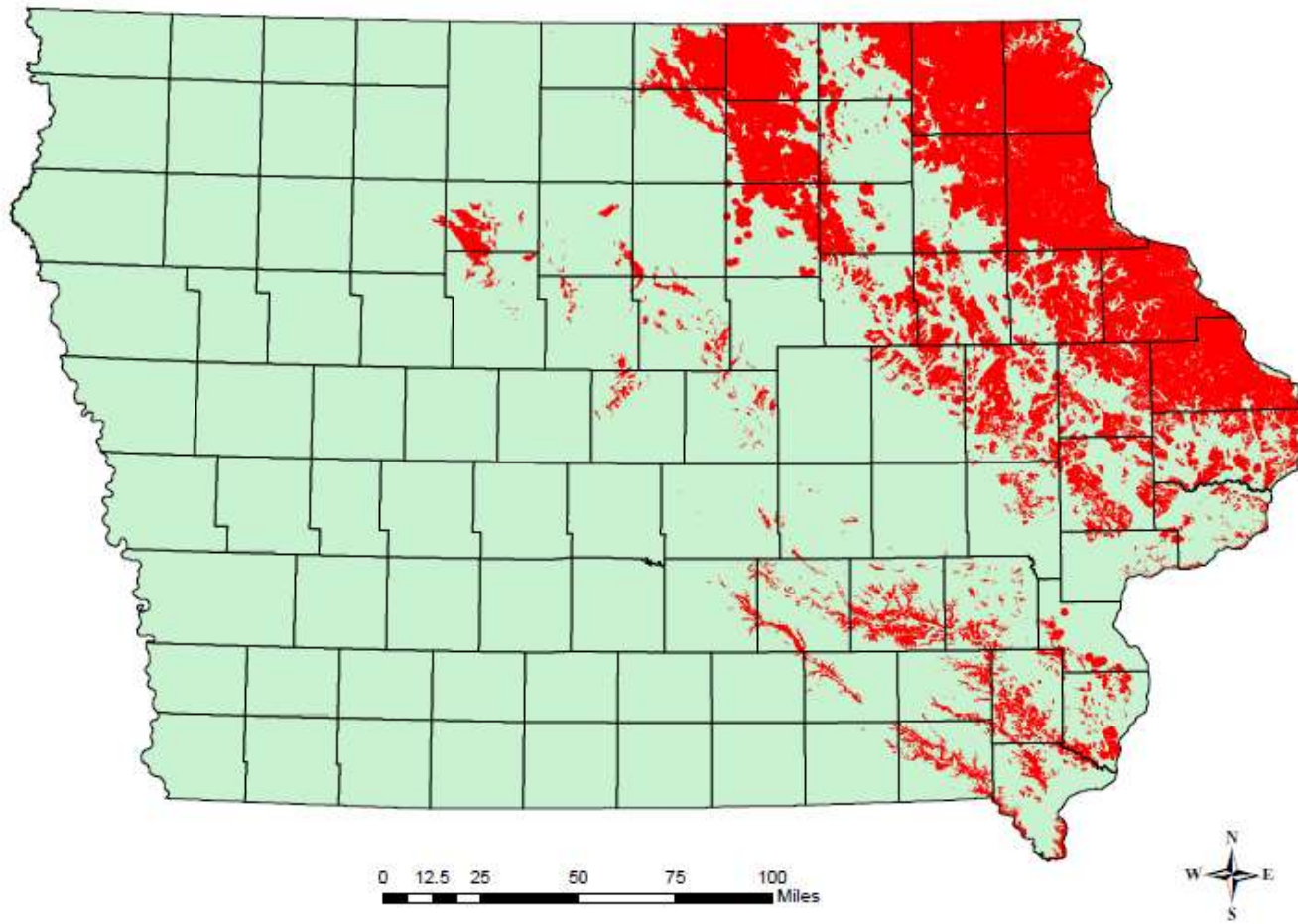
Karst Topography



Coldwater Streams- Unique to NE Iowa

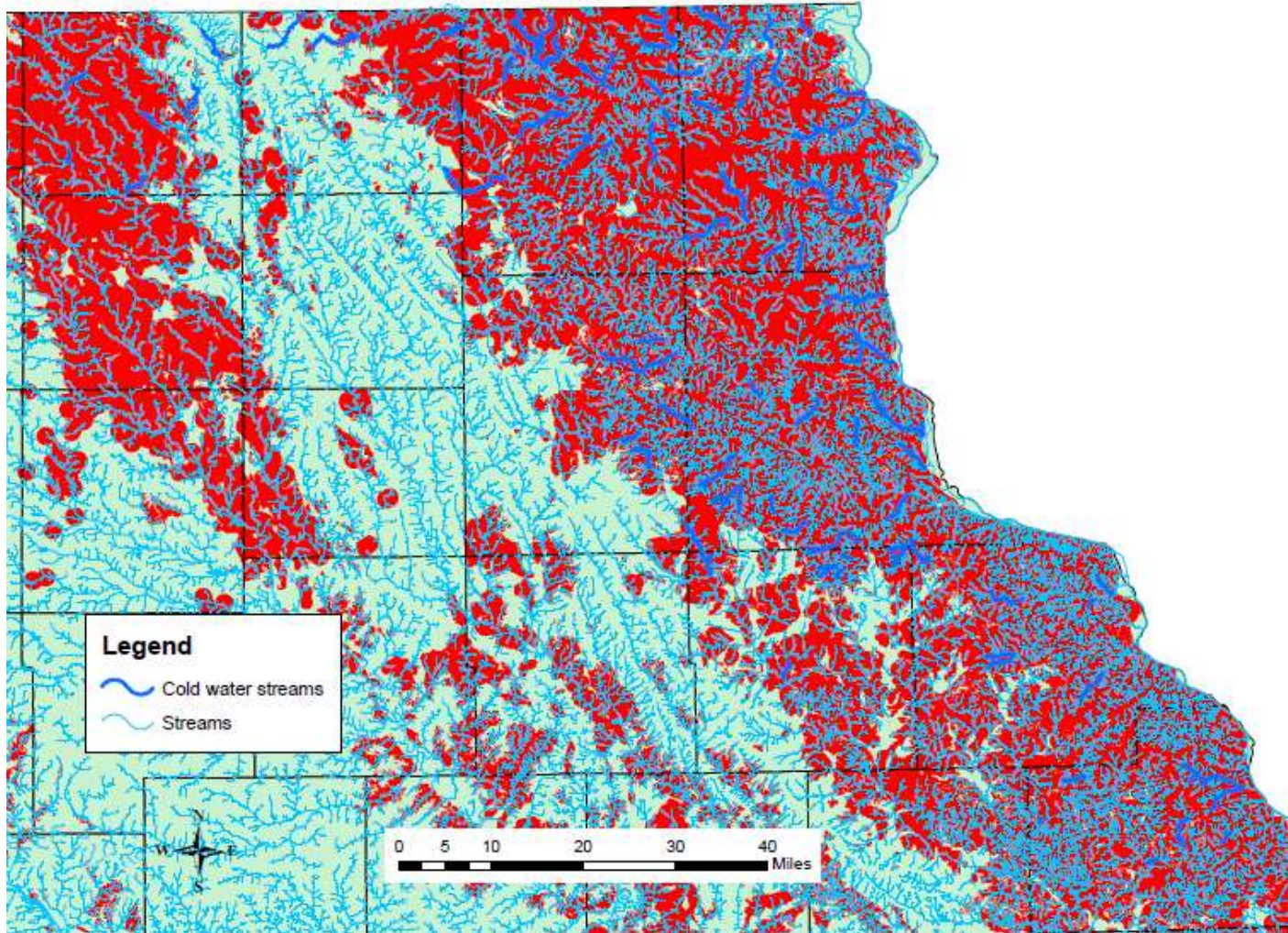
Karst Topography

Karst in Iowa



Coldwater Streams- Unique to NE Iowa

Karst Topography



Stream Habitat & Evaluation

In the Literature

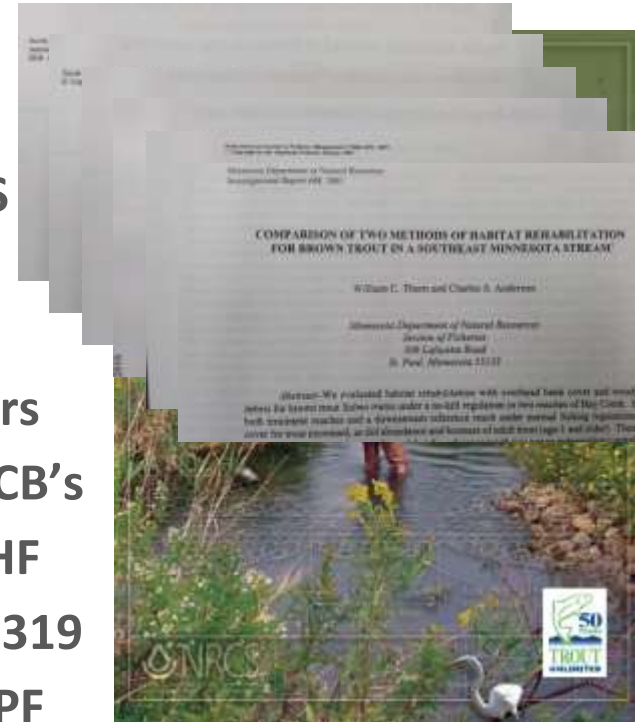
Fish Habitat Improvement in the DNR as Early as the 1930's

- Handwritten Journals of Tom Moen – Fisheries Manager out of the Decorah Hatchery
- Techniques have improved over the years

Really Ramped up in the 1990's

- Working with our Conservation Partners and Cost Sharing

- NRCS/FWS
- IDALS
- Private Landowners
- SWCD's/CCB's
- NGO's/INHF
- EPA/DNR 319
- HFFA/TU/PF
- DNR Fisheries/REAP



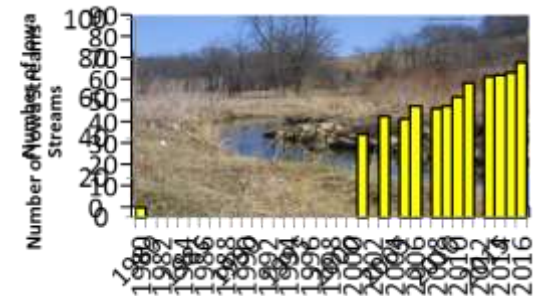
Trout Natural Reproduction

- 1980 - 5 streams with Natural Reproduction
- 2016 - 78 streams with Natural Reproduction
 - ✓ 45 streams w/ Consistent Natural Reproduction
 - No stocking needed
 - 38 Brown, 3 Brook, 4 Brook & Brown
 - ✓ 33 streams w/ Inconsistent Natural Reproduction
 - Stocking still required to maintain fisheries
 - 20 Brown, 5 Brook, 3 Rainbow, 5 Brook & Brown



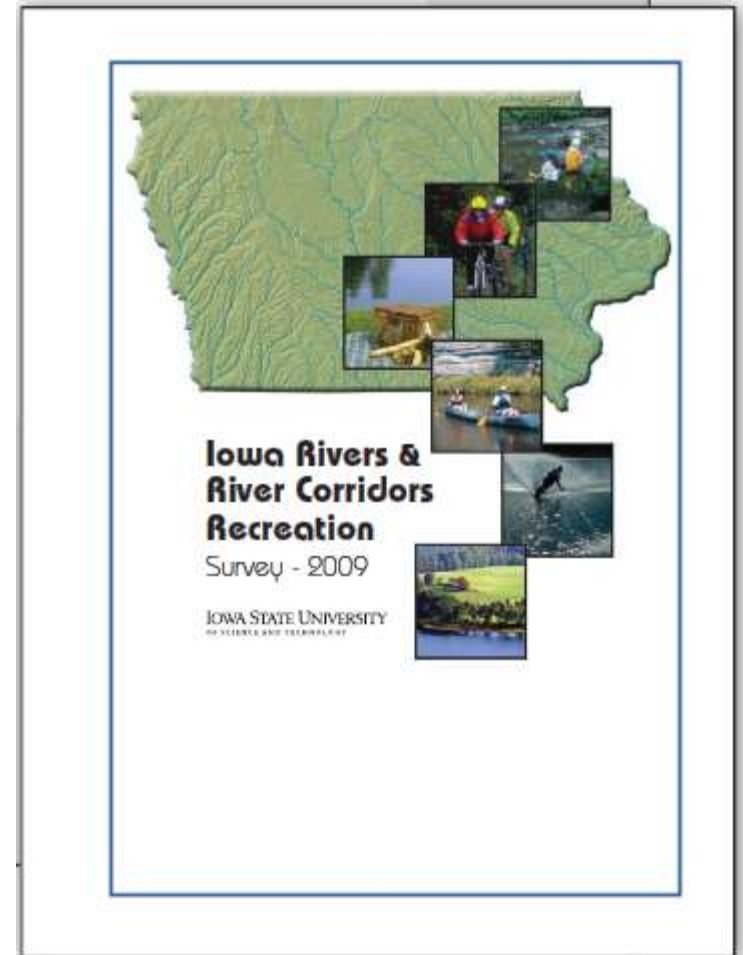
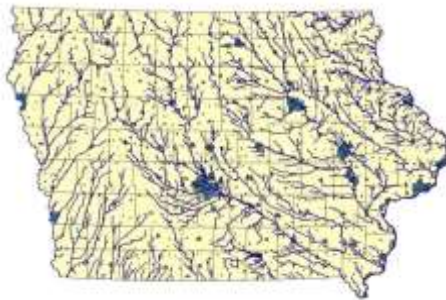
Due to Stream Improvement or Restoration w/ 35 different Partners

- ✓ Watershed Improvement
- ✓ Bank Stabilization / Corridor Improvement
- ✓ Instream Habitat
- ✓ Fish Genetics



According to an ISU study, in 2009....

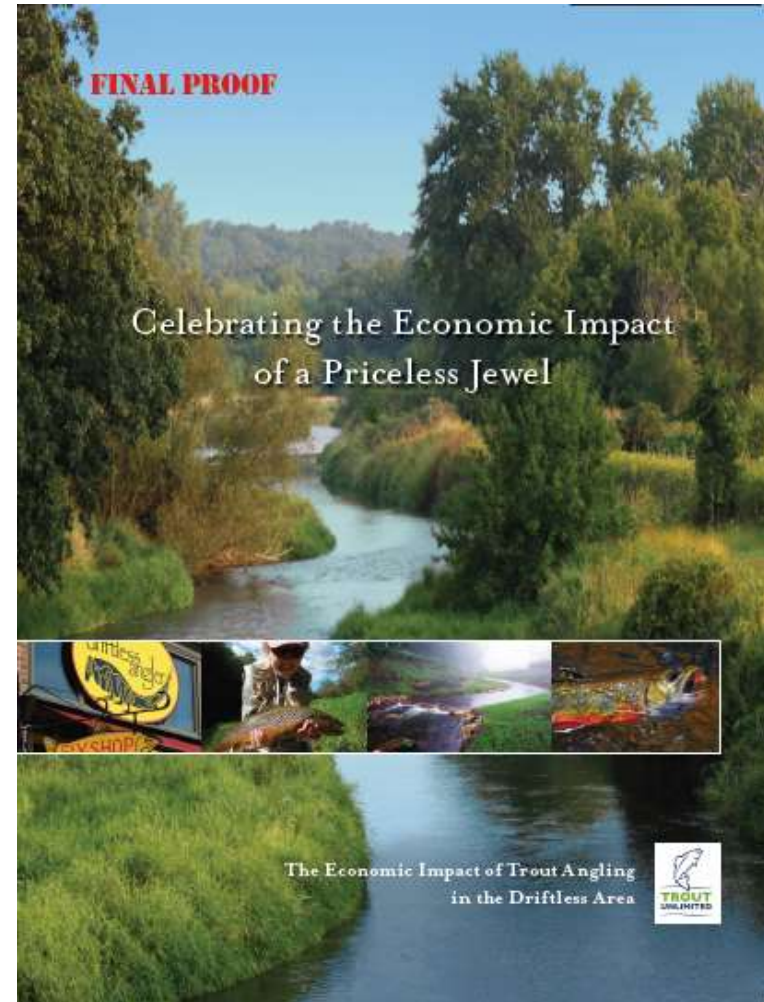
- Half of lowans visited rivers
- Generating \$824 million in sales
- Creating \$130 million in personal income
- Most visitors stayed close to home
- The factors that most attracted visitors were good water quality, natural settings, and abundant fish



Coldwater Stream Economic Benefits

Driftless (Karst) Area

- Direct spending of anglers, NGO's and Gov't = over \$413 Million
- Secondary and ripple effect spending adds an additional \$670 Million
- Supports 6,500 Jobs
- Overall an estimated \$1.6 Billion in spending and economic impact of recreational angling
- (\$209.50 – \$474.91 per Angler)



Coldwater Stream Economic Benefits Iowa

- Fishing is a Top Activity – Use Surveys
- Almost 47,000 Trout Privileges Sold
- Over 425,000 Days of Trout Fishing
- Almost 600,000 Trips to Iowa's Trout Streams
 - #1 Stream had 30,000 Trips alone (North Bear, Winneshiek Co.)
- FWS Survey- Anglers spend \$46.50/Trip
- Statewide (streams and urban trout ponds)
 - 582,851 trips x \$46.50/trip = \$27,102,572



Economic Benefits Closer to Home,

Winneshiek County, Iowa (2011)

- Trout Run:
 - 16,755 trips x \$46.50/trip = \$779,108
- Twin Springs:
 - 10,715 trips x \$46.50/trip = \$172,050
- North Bear Creek:
 - 29,931 trips x \$46.50/trip = \$1,391,792
- All Winneshiek County Streams (n=10)
 - 118,997 trips x \$46.50/trip = \$5,533,361
- Statewide (streams and urban trout ponds)
 - 582,851 trips x \$46.50/trip = \$27,102,572
- Something to do when you get off work - Quality of Life



Summary

- Half of Iowans Visit Rivers and Generate \$824 Million Statewide
- Habitat Improvement is Beneficial to all Iowans
- Components of Stream Restoration Work Best Together
- Water Quality + Habitat = Healthy Aquatic Communities
- We Can Make a Difference Working Together With our Partners
- Trout Fishing in the Karst area of Northeast Iowa Generates over 580,000 Trips and over \$27 Million Annually
- Trout Anglers take almost 119,000 Trips and Spend over \$5.5 Million in Winneshiek County alone



Questions??



Landforms of Iowa

