

## Rapid Watershed Assessment

### Upper Cedar

(MN / IA) HUC: 07080201



Rapid watershed assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders. These assessments help land-owners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals.

## Introduction

Located in Southeast Minnesota and Northeast Iowa, the Upper Cedar 8-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) subbasin lies within the Eastern Iowa and Minnesota Drift Plains portion of the Western Corn Belt Plains Ecoregion.

Approximately ninety nine percent of the 1,085,007 acres in this HUC are privately owned. The remaining acres are state, county or federal public lands or held by corporate interests.

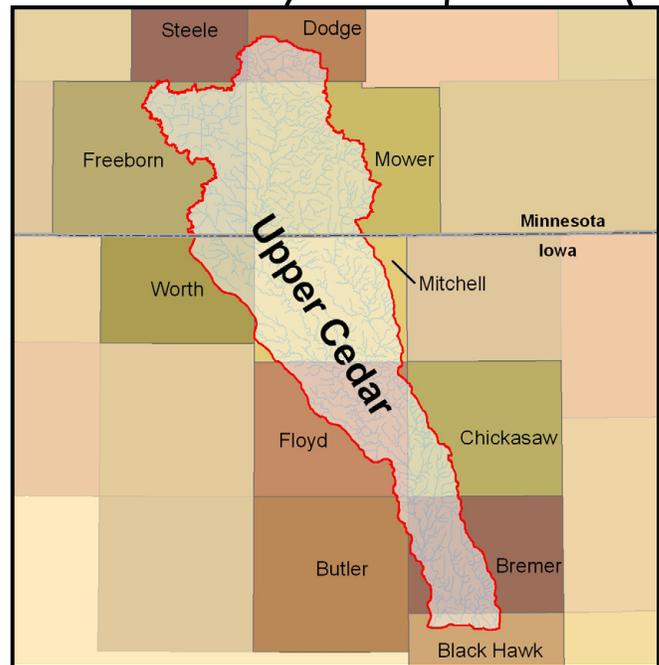
Assessment estimates indicate 2,913 farms in the watershed. Approximately fifty five percent of the operations are less than 180 acres in size, thirty seven percent are from 180 to 1000 acres in size, and eight percent of farms are greater than 1000 acres in size.

The main resource concerns in the watershed are flooding, sediment and erosion control, drinking and source water protection, animal waste management, nutrient management, wetland management, stormwater and wastewater management .



## County Totals

<b>County</b>	<b>Acres in HUC</b>	<b>% HUC</b>
Mitchell	260,606	24.0%
Worth	49,135	4.5%
Chickasaw	53,006	4.9%
Floyd	135,356	12.5%
Bremer	112,781	10.4%
Butler	4,201	0.4%
Black Hawk	15,190	1.4%
Steele	4,851	0.4%
Dodge	44,218	4.1%
Freeborn	150,159	13.8%
Mower	255,574	23.6%
<b>Total acres:</b>	<b>1,085,007</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Physical Description

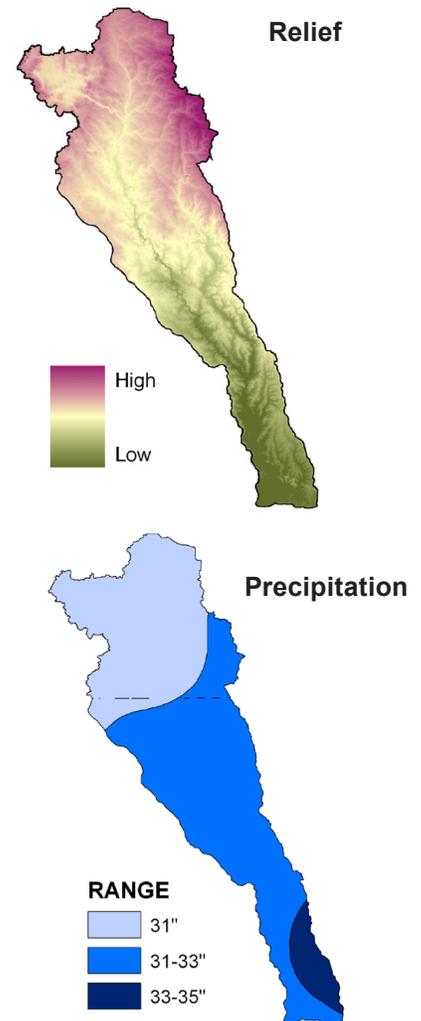
Elevations in the Upper Cedar watershed range from approximately 1415 feet above sea level to elevations of 850 feet, with an average elevation of 1020 feet above mean sea level.

Precipitation in the watershed ranges from 31 to 35 inches each year. Evaporation estimates for the Minnesota portion of the subbasin are between 32 to 36 inches annually (Minnesota State Climatologists Office, 1999).

Soils within this HUC are predominantly highly productive and well suited to agricultural uses. Primary land uses / land covers are Row Crops (77.4%), Grass/Pasture/Hay (9.2%), Residential/Commercial Development (8.2%), Forest (2.7%), and Wetlands (1.9%).

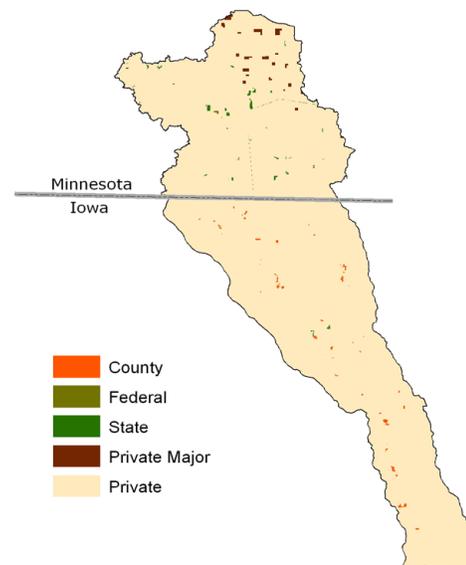
Land use within the watershed is largely agricultural, with rowcrops and pasture/grass lands accounting for approximately 87% of the overall watershed acres.

Development pressure is low to moderate in most areas, with occasional farms, timberland, and shoreline being parceled out for development, recreation or country homes.



## Ownership<sup>1</sup>

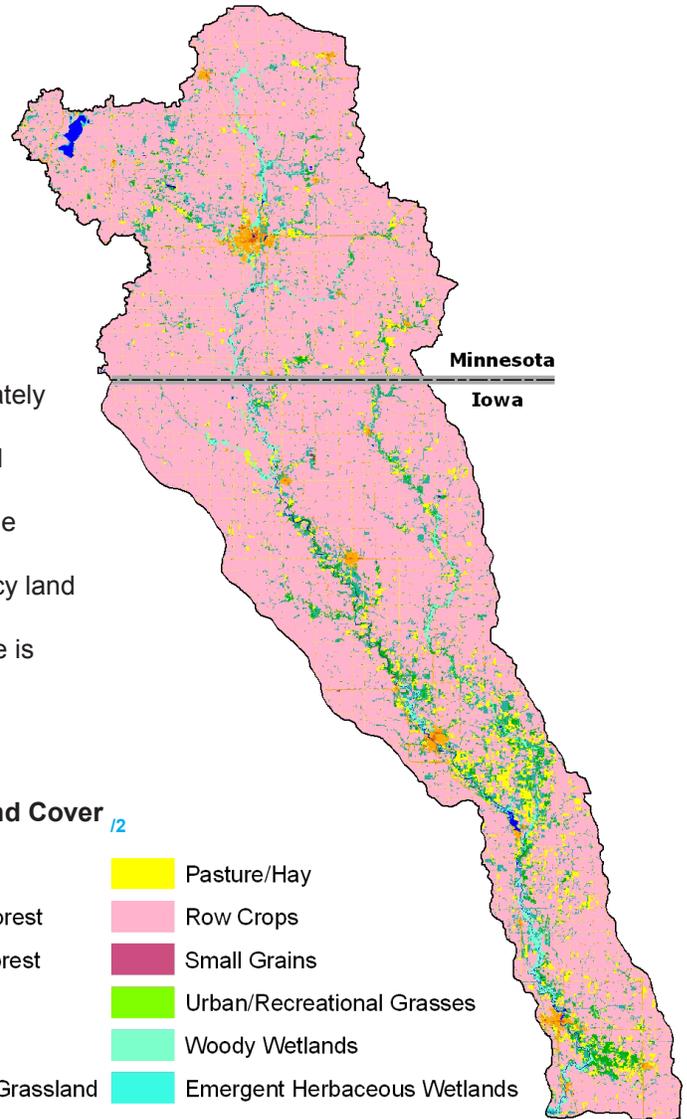
Ownership Type	Acres	% of HUC
Conservancy	-	-
County	3,006	0.3
Federal	155	0.0
State	2,926	0.3
Other	-	-
Tribal	-	-
Private Major	4,243	0.4
Private	1,074,677	99.0
<b>Total Acres:</b>	<b>1,085,007</b>	<b>100</b>



\* Ownership totals derived from 2007 MN DNR GAP Stewardship and Iowa GAP Coverage data and are the best suited estimation of land stewardship available on a statewide scale at time of publication. See the bibliography section of this document for further information.

## Ownership / Land Use

The Upper Cedar watershed covers an area of 1,085,007 acres. Approximately ninety nine percent of the land in the watershed is owned by Private landholders (1,074,677 acres). The second largest ownership class is Private Major (Corporate) with 4,243 acres (0.4%), followed by County, with approximately 3,006 acres (0.3%), State with 2,926 acres (0.3%), and Federal lands amounting to 155 acres (0.01%). Available ownership data indicates no major Tribal or Conservancy land holdings in the watershed. Land Use by ownership type is represented in the table below.



### Land Use / Land Cover <sup>12</sup>



### Ownership / Land Use <sup>13</sup>

Landcover/Use	Public		Private**		Tribal		Total Acres	Percent
	Acres	% Public	Acres	% Private	Acres	% Tribal		
Forest	906	0.1%	28,236	2.6%	0	0.0%	29,143	2.7%
Grass / Pasture / Hay	1,617	0.1%	98,651	9.1%	0	0.0%	100,268	9.2%
Orchards	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Row Crops	1,211	0.1%	838,304	77.3%	0	0.0%	839,515	77.4%
Shrub etc	0	0.0%	352	0.0%	0	0.0%	352	0.0%
Wetlands	1,523	0.1%	18,930	1.7%	0	0.0%	20,453	1.9%
Residential/Commercial	323	0.0%	88,746	8.2%	0	0.0%	89,070	8.2%
Open Water*	493	0.0%	5,658	0.5%	0	0.0%	6,151	0.6%
<b>Watershed Totals:</b>	<b>6,074</b>	<b>0.56%</b>	<b>1,078,878</b>	<b>99.4%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1,085,007</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* ownership undetermined

\*\* includes private-major

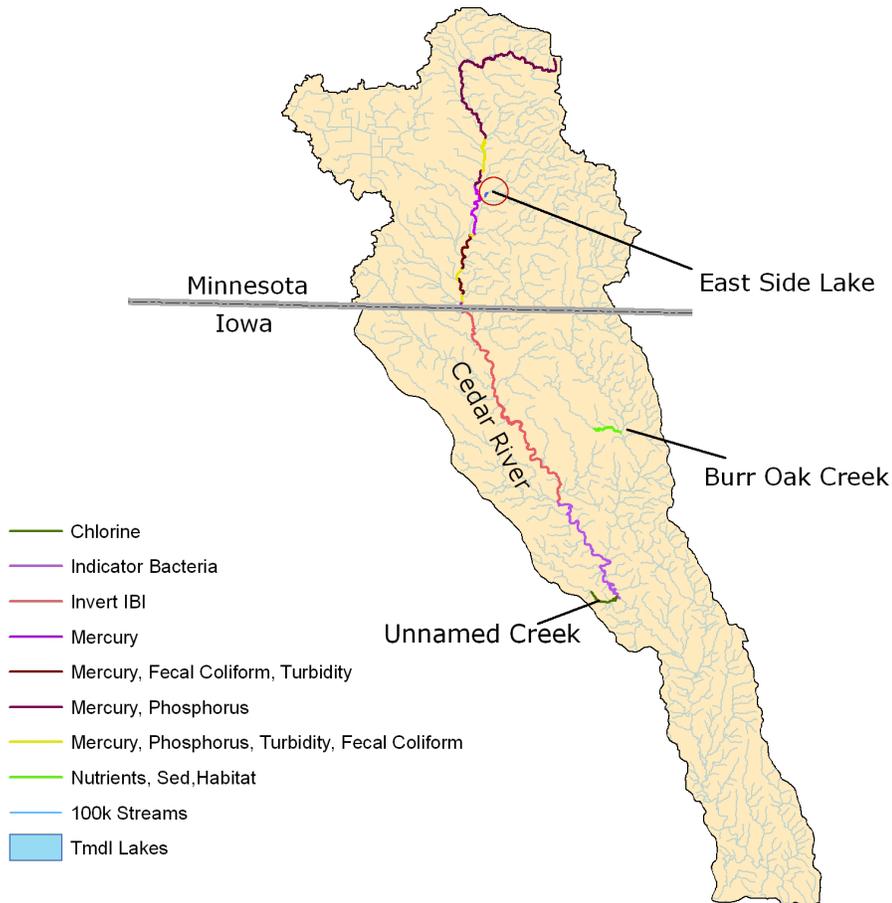
Physical Description (continued)

				cu. ft/sec
<b>Stream Flow Data</b>	USGS 05458500 Cedar River at Janesville, IA	<b>2006 Total Avg.</b>		1,287
		<b>May-Sep. 2007 Avg.</b>		1,538
		<b>MILES</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	
<b>Stream Data<sup>14</sup></b> (*Percent of Total HUC Stream Miles)	Total Miles – (100K Hydro GIS Layer)		1,939	---
	303d/TMDL Listed Streams (DEQ)		124.6	6.4%
<b>Riparian Land Cover/Land Use<sup>15</sup></b> (Based on a 100-foot buffer on both sides of all streams in the 100K Hydro GIS Layer)	<b>Land Use Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Percent</b>	
	Forest	3,707	7.9%	
	Grain Crops	0	0.0%	
	Grass, etc	8,853	18.9%	
	Orchards	0	0.0%	
	Row Crops	24,953	53.2%	
	Shrub etc	2	0.0%	
	Wetlands	4,426	9.4%	
	Residential/Commercial	3,173	6.8%	
	Open Water*	1,775	3.8%	
	<b>Total Buffer Acres:</b>		<b>46,889</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Crop and Pastureland Land Capability Class<sup>16</sup></b> (NLCD Croplands & Pasturelands extracted from SSURGO Non-irrigated Land Capability Classification)	<b>1 – slight limitations</b>		17,979	2%
	<b>2 – moderate limitations</b>		656,227	73%
	<b>3 – severe limitations</b>		206,757	23%
	<b>4 – very severe limitations</b>		8,989	1%
	<b>5 – no erosion hazard, but other limitations</b>		5,034	0.6%
	<b>6 – severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to pasture, range, forest</b>		0	0%
	<b>7 – very severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to grazing, forest, wildlife habitat</b>		0	0%
	<b>8 – miscellaneous areas; limited to recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply</b>		0	0%
	<b>Total NLCD Crop/Pasture land (MN)</b>		<b>898,942</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Irrigated Lands<sup>17</sup></b> (Adjusted 2002 NASS Irrigated Cropland Totals)	<b>TYPE OF LAND</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>% of Crop Lands</b>	<b>% of HUC</b>
	Cultivated Cropland / Pastureland	1,635.5	0.2%	0.1%
	Uncultivated Cropland	0	0%	0%
	<b>Total Irrigated Lands</b>	<b>1,635.5</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

## Assessment of Waters

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act states that water bodies with impaired use(s) must be placed on a state's impaired waters list. A water body is "Impaired" or polluted when it fails to meet one or more of the Federal Clean Water Act's water quality standards. Federal Standards exist for basic pollutants such as sediment, bacteria, nutrients, and mercury.

### 2006 TMDL Listed Waters - Upper Cedar <sup>18</sup>



Listed Waterbody	Impairment	Affected Use
Cedar River; Rose Cr To Woodbury Cr	Mercury, Fecal Coliform, Turbidity	Aquatic Life, Recreation and Consumption
Cedar River; Roberts Cr To Upper Austin Dam	Mercury, Phosphorus, Turbidity, Fecal Co.	Aquatic Life, Recreation and Consumption
Cedar River; Headwaters To Roberts Cr	Mercury, Phosphorus	Aquatic Consumption
Cedar River; Upper Austin Dam To Wolf Cr	Mercury, Phosphorus	Aquatic Consumption
Cedar River; Wolf Cr To Lower Austin Dam	Mercury	Aquatic Consumption
Cedar River; Lower Austin Dam To Dobbins Cr	Mercury	Aquatic Consumption
Cedar River; Dobbins Cr To Turtle Cr	Mercury	Aquatic Consumption
Cedar River; Turtle Cr To Rose Cr	Mercury	Aquatic Consumption
Cedar River; Woodbury Cr To Mn/Ia Border	Mercury	Aquatic Consumption
Cedar River; Roberts Cr To Upper Austin Dam	Mercury, Phosphorus, Turbidity, Fecal Co.	Aquatic Life, Recreation and Consumption
Cedar River	Indicator Bacteria	Aquatic Recreation
Burr Oak Creek	Nutrients, Sed, Habitat	Aquatic Life
Unnamed Creek (Aka Drainage Ditch 3)	Chlorine	Aquatic Life
East Side Lake	Mercury	Aquatic Consumption

## Common Resource Areas<sup>19</sup>

A Common Resource Area (CRA) map delineation is defined as a geographical area where resource concerns, problems, or treatment needs are similar. It is considered a subdivision of an existing Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) map delineation or polygon. Landscape conditions, soil, climate, human considerations, and other natural resource information are used to determine the geographic boundaries of a Common Resource Area (General Manual Title 450 Subpart C 401.21)

Common Resource Areas are created by subdividing MLRAs by resource concerns, soil groups, hydrologic units, resource use, topography, other landscape features, and human considerations affecting use and treatment needs.



The Upper Cedar Watershed encompasses three common resource areas, 103.2, 104.1 and 104.2.

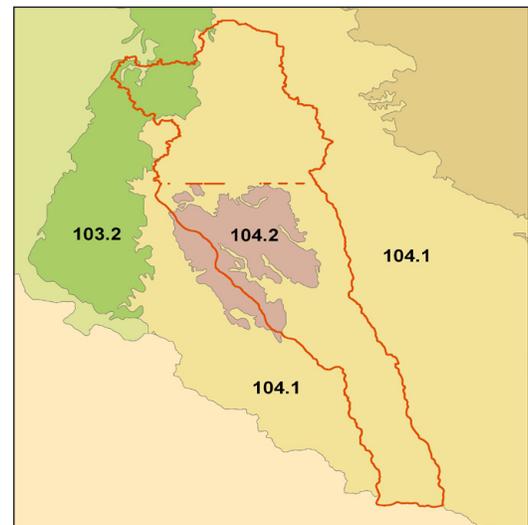
### 103.2 Iowa and Minnesota Rolling Prairie/Forest

**Moraines:** Primarily loamy glacial till soils with some potholes, outwash and flood plains. Gently undulating to rolling with relatively short, complex slopes. Organic soils occur in the larger basins. Primary land use is cropland. Corn, soybeans, and hay are the major crops. Native vegetation was dominantly mixed tall grass prairie and deciduous trees. Resource concerns are water and wind erosion, nutrient management, water quality and wildlife habitat management.

### 104.1 Silty and Loamy Mantled Firm Till Plain:

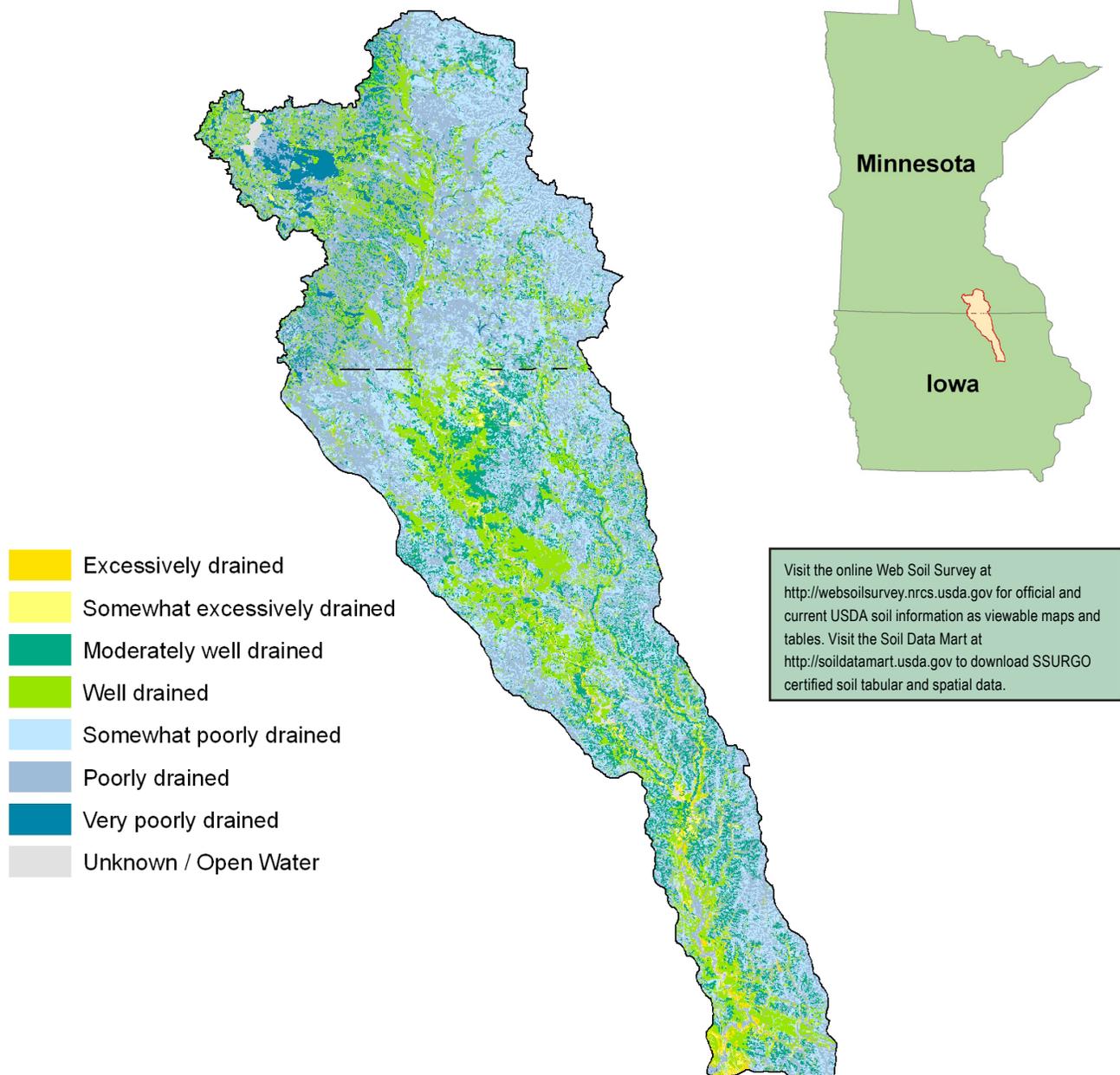
Gently sloping to very steep dissected till plain. Soils are predominantly well drained and are formed in thin silty material over loamy till, underlain by sedimentary bedrock. Cropland and grazing land on ridge tops and valley bottoms with a mix of dairy, beef and cash grain agricultural enterprises. Deciduous forest on side slopes. Primary resource concerns are cropland erosion, surface water quality, grazing land and woodland productivity, and soil erosion during timber harvest.

**104.2 Eastern Iowa Eroded Till Plain:** This area is made up of broad upland, nearly level to moderately sloping, moderately well drained to poorly drained soils that formed in silty/loamy material over glacial till. Many low gradient drainage ways are common in this unit. Native vegetation was mostly prairie with timber and brush in valleys and steeper side slopes. Corn and soybeans are common crops with many swine and poultry production facilities. Resource concerns are soil erosion, water quality and nutrient management.



Only the major CRA units are described herein.
   
 For further information, go to:
   
<http://soils.usda.gov/survey/geography/cra.html>

## Drainage Classification /10



Drainage class (natural) refers to the frequency and duration of wet periods under conditions similar to those under which the soil formed. Alterations of the water regime by human activities, either through drainage or irrigation, are not a consideration unless they have significantly changed the morphology of the soil.

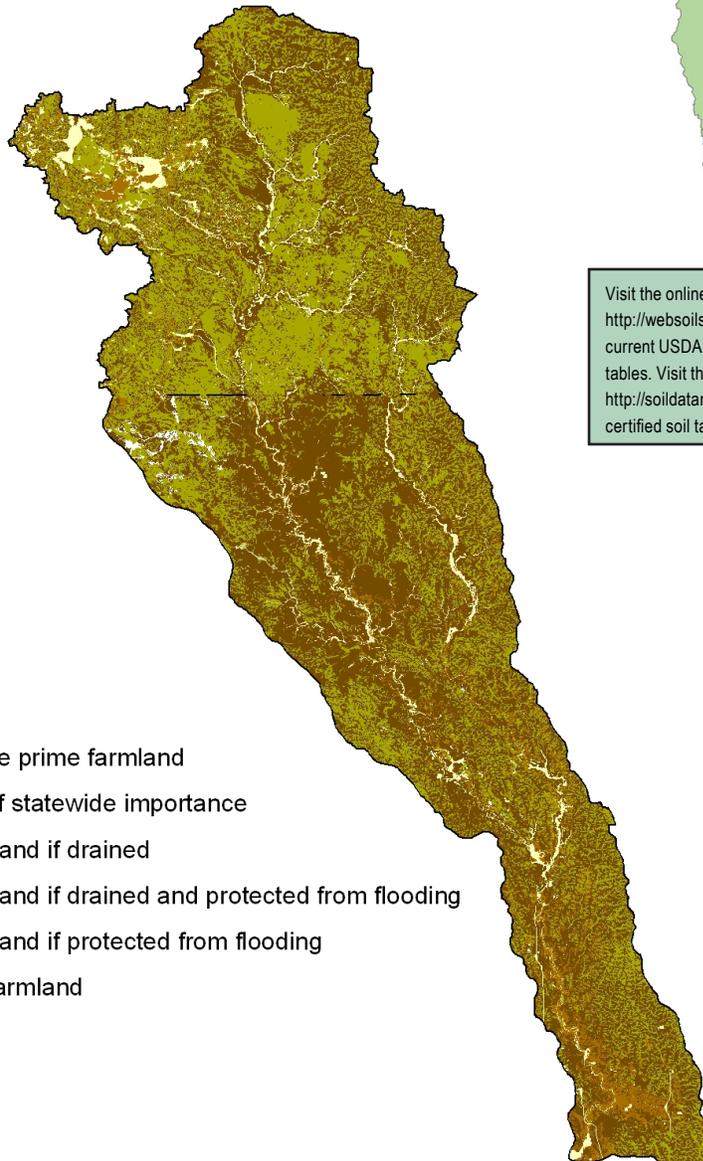
Seven classes of natural soil drainage are recognized—excessively drained, somewhat excessively drained, well drained, moderately well drained, somewhat poorly drained, poorly drained, and very poorly drained. These classes are defined in the “Soil Survey Manual.”

## Farmland Classification

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland.

Farmland classification identifies the location and extent of the most suitable land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops.

NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No 21, January 31, 1978.



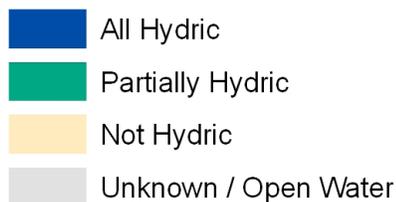
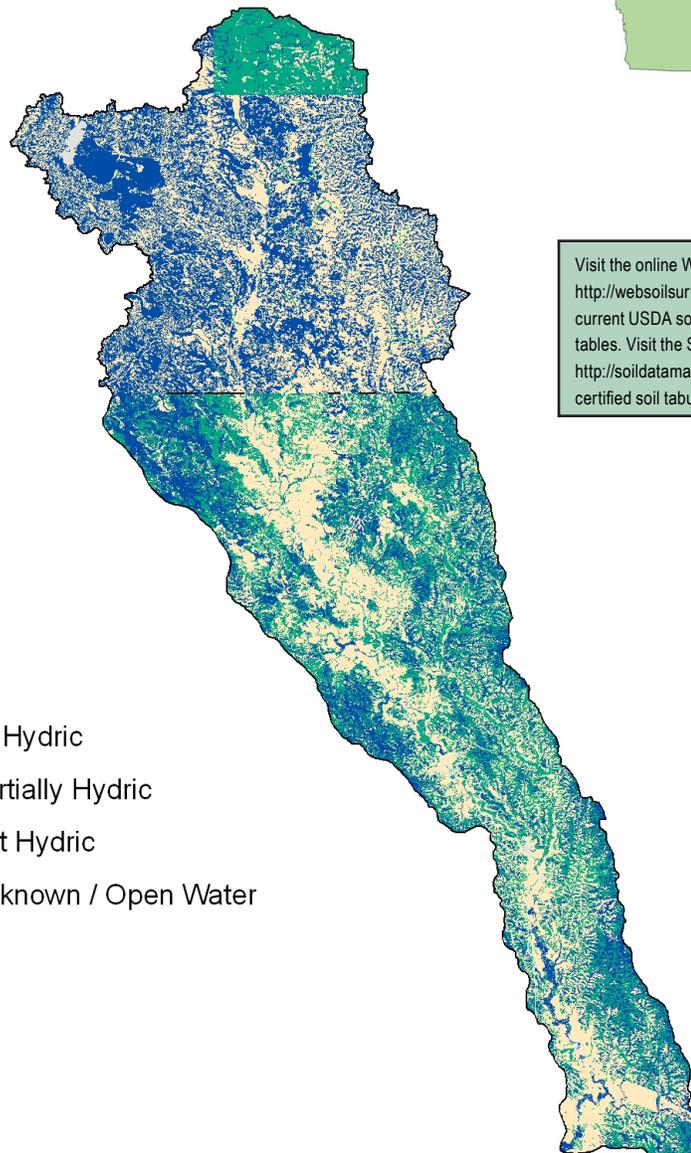
Visit the online Web Soil Survey at
   
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov> for official and
   
 current USDA soil information as viewable maps and
   
 tables. Visit the Soil Data Mart at
   
<http://soildatamart.usda.gov> to download SSURGO
   
 certified soil tabular and spatial data.

-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if drained and protected from flooding
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding
-  Not prime farmland

## Hydric Soils

This rating provides an indication of the proportion of the map unit that meets criteria for hydric soils. Map units that are dominantly made up of hydric soils may have small areas, or inclusions of nonhydric soils in the higher positions on the landform. Map units of dominantly non-hydric soils may therefore have inclusions of hydric soils in the lower positions on the landform.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as “soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part” (Federal Register 1994). These soils, under natural conditions, are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.



Visit the online Web Soil Survey at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov> for official and current USDA soil information as viewable maps and tables. Visit the Soil Data Mart at <http://soildatamart.usda.gov> to download SSURGO certified soil tabular and spatial data.

## Land Capability Classification

Land capability classification shows, in a general way, the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. Crops that require special management are excluded. The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management.

The criteria used in grouping the soils does not include major and generally expensive land forming that would change slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soils, nor do they include possible but unlikely major reclamation projects. Capability classification is not a substitute for interpretations designed to show suitability and limitations of groups of soils for rangeland, for forestland, or for engineering purposes.



Visit the online Web Soil Survey at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov> for official and current USDA soil information as viewable maps and tables. Visit the Soil Data Mart at <http://soildatamart.usda.gov> to download SSURGO certified soil tabular and spatial data.

## Performance Results System Data

PRS Performance Measures	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	MN & IA TOTALS
Total Conservation Systems Planned (acres)	9,278	18,618	19,858	35,862	36,924	N/A	29,446	41,192	31,071	222,249
Total Conservation Systems Applied (acres)	4,106	17,304	18,972	28,689	28,832	N/A	30,506	27,909	31,714	188,032
<b>Conservation Practices</b>										
Total Waste Management (313) (numbers)	4	6	2	3	1	1	1	18	3	39
Riparian Forest Buffers (391) (acres)	470	1,218	639	412	349	7	56	111	75	3,337
Erosion Control Total Soil Saved (tons/year)	2,281	91,559	123,512	83,017	57,048	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	357,417
Total Nutrient Management (590) (Acres)	1,441	7,330	2,814	5,411	4,131	1,143	3,753	2,979	6,738	35,740
Pest Management Systems Applied (595A) (Acres)	1,502	5,496	2,642	3,395	4,009	198	2,561	1,967	3,961	25,731
Prescribed Grazing 528a (acres)	21	119	187	39	328	116	83	0	386	1,279
Tree & Shrub Establishment (612) (acres)	238	741	495	257	127	50	101	121	64	2,194
Residue Management (329A-C) (acres)	3,407	10,520	8,829	8,964	8,260	10,442	20,279	6,185	3,391	80,277
Total Wildlife Habitat (644 - 645) (acres)	1,708	6,797	14,071	5,518	3,789	1,014	3,452	4,384	6,101	46,834
Total Wetlands Created, Restored, or Enhanced (acres)	39	104	493	230	714	442	1,256	422	350	4,050
<b>Acres enrolled in Farmbill Programs</b>										
Conservation Reserve Program	2,766	8,079	17,540	17,570	5,083	N/A	4,228	7,796	4,645	67,707
Wetlands Reserve Program	0	0	0	293	1,114	N/A	1,030	87	606	3,130
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	870	6,709	5,063	3,021	8,075	N/A	8,279	6,512	12,175	50,704
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	0	445	0	0	0	N/A	9	158	0	612
Farmland Protection Program	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	0

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES** <sup>14</sup>

NRCS assists in the conservation of threatened and endangered species and avoids or prevents activities detrimental to such species. NRCS' concern for these species includes the species listed by the Secretary of the Interior (as published in the Federal Register) and species designated by state agencies. The following is a list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species as well as species of special concern that occur in the Minnesota and Iowa portions of the subbasin.



Common Name	Scientific Name	Class	Common Name	Scientific Name	Class
Central Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	AMPHIBIANS	Water Starwort	<i>Callitriche heterophylla</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)
Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	AMPHIBIANS	Yellow Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus glabratus</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BIRDS	Deep Green Sedge	<i>Carex tonsa</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
American Brook Lamprey	<i>Lampetra appendix</i>	FISH	Field Sedge	<i>Carex conoidea</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Black Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma duquesnei</i>	FISH	Hidden Sedge	<i>Carex umbellata</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Orangethroat Darter	<i>Etheostoma spectabile</i>	FISH	Northern Panic-grass	<i>Dichanthelium boreale</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Western Sand Darter	<i>Ammocrypta clara</i>	FISH	Purple Fringed Orchid	<i>Platanthera psycodes</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Creek Heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona compressa</i>	FRESHWATER MUSSELS	Slender Sedge	<i>Carex leptalea</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Creeper	<i>Strophitus undulatus</i>	FRESHWATER MUSSELS	Small White Lady's Slipper	<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Cylindrical Papershell	<i>Anodontoides ferussacianus</i>	FRESHWATER MUSSELS	Sterile Sedge	<i>Carex sterilis</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Ellipse	<i>Venustaconcha ellipsiformis</i>	FRESHWATER MUSSELS	Tall Cotton Grass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Slippershell Mussel	<i>Alasmodonta viridis</i>	FRESHWATER MUSSELS	Tawny Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Yellow Sandshell	<i>Lampsilis teres</i>	FRESHWATER MUSSELS	Tubercled Orchid	<i>Platanthera flava</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Dion Skipper	<i>Euphyes dion</i>	INSECTS	Yellow-eyed Grass	<i>Xyris torta</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Bigroot Prickly-pear	<i>Opuntia macrorhiza</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Bog Clubmoss	<i>Lycopodium inundatum</i>	PLANTS (PTERIODOPHYTES)
Bog Willow	<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Crowfoot Clubmoss	<i>Lycopodium digitatum</i>	PLANTS (PTERIODOPHYTES)
Brittle Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia fragilis</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Leathery Grape Fern	<i>Botrychium multifidum</i>	PLANTS (PTERIODOPHYTES)
Buckbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Ledge Spikemoss	<i>Selaginella rupestris</i>	PLANTS (PTERIODOPHYTES)
Crossleaf Milkwort	<i>Polygala cruciata</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Northern Adder's-tongue	<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	PLANTS (PTERIODOPHYTES)
Earleaf Foxglove	<i>Tomanthera auriculata</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Woodland Horsetail	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	PLANTS (PTERIODOPHYTES)
Eastern Jointweed	<i>Polygonella articulata</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	REPTILES
Lance-leaved Violet	<i>Viola lanceolata</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Smooth Green Snake	<i>Liochlorophis vernalis</i>	REPTILES
Orange Grass St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum gentianoides</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	BIRDS
Pink Milkwort	<i>Polygala incarnata</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Topeka Shiner	<i>Notropis topeka</i>	FISH
Racemed Milkwort	<i>Polygala polygama</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	BIRDS
Sage Willow	<i>Salix candida</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Blacknose Shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>	FISH
Slender Copperleaf	<i>Acalypha gracilens</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	PLANTS (MONOCOTS)
Small Fringed Gentian	<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Wood Turtle	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	REPTILES
Water Shield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)	Poweshiek Skipper	<i>Oarisma poweshiek</i>	PLANTS (DICOTS)

## RESOURCE CONCERNS

Conservation Districts in the watershed have identified the following resource concerns as top priorities for conservation and cost sharing efforts:

- **Sediment and Erosion Control.** Excessive amounts of suspended solids from cropland, urban lands, streambanks and streambeds is a primary threat to area waters. Working hand-in-hand with waste management and prevention plans and nutrient management plans, counties in the watershed seek to retain water on the landscape to reduce flooding and subsequent soil erosion, and improve water resources.



- **Drinking Water and Source Water Protection.** Parts of the region are particularly susceptible to groundwater contamination. Ease of infiltration, aging septic systems, abandoned wells and historical tiling practices threaten public drinking water supplies.

- **Feedlot and Animal Waste Management.** Managing farms to minimize excess nutrients, pathogens, and odors released into the environment is important to the health of surface and ground water. Setback of open tile intakes and placement of agricultural waste systems in high priority riparian areas and areas with highly permeable soils will greatly reduce the effects of animal feed operations on area waters.

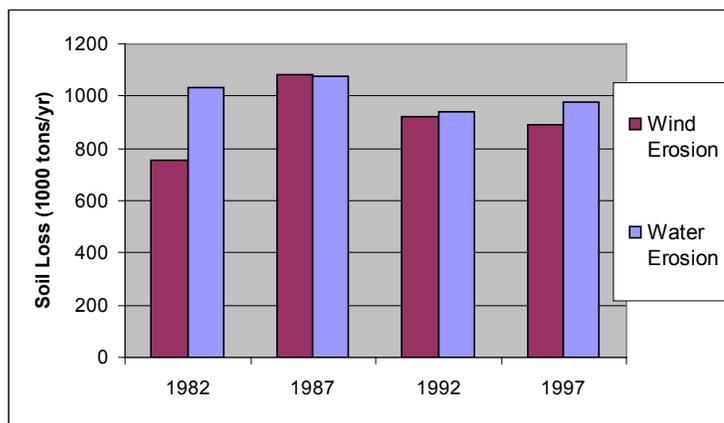
- **Nutrient Management.** Excessive amounts of nutrients, namely phosphorus and nitrogen, contaminate groundwater and create nuisance algae presence in area waters. Major contributors are cropland, urban grasses, municipal wastewater, aging or non-compliant septic systems, and internal cycling.

- **Wetland Management.** Due to the historical draining of much of the areas wetlands and homogenic agricultural practices, priority is given to both wetland preservation and restoration. Wetlands that have been filled and drained retain their characteristic soil and hydrology, often allowing their natural functions to be reclaimed. Restoration is a complex process requiring planning, implementation, monitoring, and management.

- **Stormwater and Wastewater Management.** Control of point source discharge is essential in controlling the documented and growing threats to waterbodies of the basin. Fecal Coliform, sediment, and nutrient loading are culprits in the impairment of nearly 60% of the TMDL listed streams in the basin.

### NRI Soil Loss Estimates <sup>13</sup>

- NRI estimates for sheet and rill erosion by water on cropland and pastureland **decreased** by approximately 54,300 tons of soil between 1982 and 1997 (5.3%).
- NRI estimates for wind erosion on crop and pastureland **increased** by 136,000 tons of soil between 1982 and 1997 (18.8%).



## Socioeconomic and Agricultural Data (Relevant)

Estimations for the Upper Cedar subbasin indicate a current population of 83,490 people. Median household income throughout the district is approximately \$38,590 annually, roughly 83% of the national average.

Unemployment figures for the basin indicate an unemployment rate of 4.0 percent. Census data shows sixty eight percent of the population over the age of 18 is active in the workforce, and approximately 8% of the residents in the watershed are living below the national poverty level.

Assessment estimates indicate 2,913 farms in the watershed. Approximately fifty five percent of the operations are less than 180 acres in size, thirty seven percent are from 180 to 1000 acres in size, and eight percent of farms are greater than 1000 acres in size. Of the 3,162 operators in the Basin, seventy percent are full time producers not reliant on off-farm income.



<b>(MN) HUC# 7080201</b>		<b>Total Acres:</b>	<b>1,085,007</b>
<b>Population Data*</b>	Watershed Population	83,490	
	Unemployment Rate	4.0%	
	Median Household Income	38,587	
	% below poverty level	8%	
	Median Value of Home	78,118	
<b>Farm Data</b>	# of Farms	2,913	
	# of Operators	3,162	<b>Percent</b>
	# of Full Time Operators	2,204	70%
	# of Part Time Operators	959	30%
	<b>Total Cropland Acres</b>	<b>898,942</b>	<b>82.9%</b>
<b>Farm Size</b>	1 to 49 Acres	2633	30%
	50 to 179 Acres	2,193	25%
	180 to 499 Acres	2,121	24%
	500 to 999 Acres	1,161	13%
	1,000 Acres or more	671	8%
	<b>Average Farm Size</b>	<b>97 acres</b>	
<b>Livestock &amp; Poultry</b>	Cattle - Beef	10,282	1%
	Cattle - Dairy	9,970	1%
	Chicken	10,727	1%
	Swine	585,523	43%
	Turkey	65,283	5%
	Other	688,681	50%
	<b>Animal Count Total:</b>	<b>1,370,467</b>	
	<b>Total Permitted AFOs:</b>	<b>1083</b>	

\* Adjusted by percent of HUC in the county or by percent of block group area in the HUC, depending on the level of data available

## Watershed Projects, Plans and Monitoring

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- **Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in MN**  
(BALMM)
- **Eastern Iowa Basins Study**  
U.S. Geological Survey
- **Cedar River Non-Game Wildlife Management**  
Mower County, Minnesota DNR
- **Cedar River Nitrogen / Nitrate Management**  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- **EPA Targeted Watersheds Grant Project**  
US Environmental Protection Agency
- **Cedar Valley Lakes Project**  
Cedar Valley Lakes (Watershed Council)
- **Mississippi Source Water Protection Project**  
Minnesota Department of Health
- **Mississippi River WS Forest Partnership**  
USDA Forest Service
- **Mississippi River Watershed Fund**  
USDA Forest Service / National Fish & Wildlife Federation
- **Mississippi River Basin W.Q. Plan**  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- **Water Quality Assessment - E IA Basins**  
U.S. Geological Survey
- **Mussel Resource Survey: Cedar River System**  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

\* Have a watershed project you'd like to see included? Submit suggestions online @ <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/rwa/>

## Conservation Districts, Organizations & Partners

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- **Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in MN**  
18 Wood Lake Drive SE Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone (507) 280-3592
- **Conservation Districts of Iowa**  
1711 Osceola Ave Chariton, IA 50049  
Phone (641)774-4461
- **Cedar River Preservation Foundation**  
PO Box 48 St. Ansgar, Iowa 50472  
Phone: (515) 736-4878
- **Cedar Valley Lakes**  
501 Sycamore Street #333 Waterloo, Iowa 50703  
Phone: (319) 235-0311
- **Freeborn County SWCD**  
1400 W Main St, Albert Lea, MN 56007  
Phone (507) 373-5607
- **Hiawatha Valley RC&D**  
1485 Industrial Drive NW Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone (507) 282-6153
- **Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation**  
505 Fifth Ave., Suite 444 Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone (515)288-1846
- **Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034  
Phone (515) 281-5918
- **Iowa Assoc. of County Conservation Boards**  
405 SW 3rd St., Ste 1 Ankeny, Iowa 50021  
Phone (515) 963-9582
- **Iowa NRCS - USDA**  
210 Walnut Street Des Moines, IA 50309  
On the Web: [www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov)
- **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**  
500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
Phone (651) 296-6157
- **Minnesota NRCS - USDA**  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600 St Paul, MN 55101  
On the Web: [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov)
- **Mower County SWCD**  
1408 21st Ave NW Ste 2, Austin, MN 55912  
Phone (507) 434-2603
- **Wapsi River Environmental Education Center**  
31555 52nd Avenue • Dixon, Iowa 52745  
Phone (563) 328-3286
- **Trout Unlimited Iowa**  
Decorah, Iowa  
On the Web: [www.iadriftless.org](http://www.iadriftless.org)
- **Northeast Iowa RC&D**  
101 E. Greene Street Postville, Iowa 52162  
Phone (563) 864-7112

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## Footnotes / Bibliography

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1. Ownership Layer – Source: MN Stewardship Data: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Section of Wildlife, BRW, Inc & Iowa Gap analysis Land Stewardship Data. This is the complete GAP Stewardship database containing land ownership information for the entire state of Minnesota. Date of source material is variable and ranges from 1976 to 2007, although a date range of 1983 to 1985 predominates. IA Stewardship Data: Iowa Gap Analysis Program, Iowa Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 1/1/2002.
2. National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) - Originator: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); Publication date: 20010631; Title: Minnesota Land Cover Data Set, Edition: 1; Geospatial data presentation form: Raster digital data; Publisher: U.S. Geological Survey, Sioux Falls, SD, USA.
3. Ownership layer classes grouped to calculate Public ownership vs. Private and Tribal ownership by Minnesota NRCS Rapid Watershed Assessment Staff. Land cover / Land use data was then extracted from the National Landcover Dataset Classification System and related to ownership class polygons.
4. U.S. Geological Survey National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) 1:100,000-scale Digital Line Graph (DLG) medium resolution hydrography data, integrated with reach-related information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Reach File Version 3.0 (RF3). The Hydro 100k layer was compared to MPCA's 303(d) data to derive percentage of listed waters.
5. Land Cover / Land Use / Hydro 100k Buffer. Using the 100k Hydrology dataset, All streams within HUC were spatially buffered to a distance of 100 ft. National Landcover Dataset attributes were extracted for the spatial buffer to demonstrate the vegetation and landuse in vulnerable areas adjacent to waterways.
6. Land Capability Class. SSURGO - Nonirrigated Capability Class - Land Classification: This data is a derived product from the digital soil survey and generally is the most detailed level of soil geographic data developed by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. All the county layers were dissolved with single-part option using the attribute field, then merged into one layer using ArcMap 9.1 by MN NRCS RWA Staff to create this final product at the HUC8 Level. Land capability Classification was then extracted to areas classified as Crop and Pasture Land in the processed 2001 NLCD data.
7. 2002 NASS Irrigated Land Estimates. Irrigated land: Land that shows evidence of being irrigated during the year of the inventory or during two or more years out of the last four years. Water is supplied to crops by ditches, pipes, or other conduits. Water spreading is not considered irrigation; it is recorded as a conservation practice. For more information: <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>
8. 303(d) Stream data. Minnesota's Final Impaired Waters (per Section 303(d) Clean Water Act), 2006. Data obtained from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) helps protect state water by monitoring quality, setting standards and controlling inputs through the development of TMDL plans. <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/index.html#maps>.

## Footnotes / Bibliography (continued)

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9. National Coordinated Common Resource Area (CRA) Geographic Database. A Common Resource Area (CRA) map delineation is defined as a geographical area where resource concerns, problems, or treatment needs are similar. It is considered a subdivision of an existing Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) map delineation or polygon. Landscape conditions, soil, climate, human considerations, and other natural resource information are used to determine the geographic boundaries of a Common Resource Area

10. Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) Tabular and spatial data obtained from NRCS Soil Data Mart at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.gov>. Publication dates vary by county. Component and layer tables were linked to the spatial data via SDV 5.1 and ARCGIS 9.1 to derive the soil classifications presented in these examples. Addendum and publication dates vary by county.

11. Lands removed from production through farm bill programs. County enrollment derived from the following: CRP Acres: [www.fsa.usda.gov/crpstorpt/07Approved/r1sumyr/mn.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crpstorpt/07Approved/r1sumyr/mn.htm) (7/30/04). CREP Acres: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/crep/easementssummary.html> (7/31/03). WRP Acres: NRCS (8/16/04). Data were obtained by county and adjusted by percent of HUC in the county.

12. Socioeconomic and Agricultural Census Data were taken from the U.S. Population Census, 2000 and 2002 Agricultural Census and adjusted by percent of HUC in the county or by percent of zip code area in the HUC, depending on the level of data available. Data were also taken from MPCA AFO/CAFO counts provided by county for 2005.

13. 1997 NRI Estimates for sheet and rill erosion (WEQ & USLE). The NRI estimates sheet and rill erosion together using the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE). The Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) was not used in the 1997 NRI. RUSLE was not available for previous inventories, therefore the use of USLE was continued to preserve the trending capacity of the NRI database. Wind erosion is estimated using the Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ). For further information visit <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nri/findings/erosion.htm>

14. Federally listed endangered and threatened species counts obtained from NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section II, Threatened and Endangered List. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Technical/efotg/>. Where listed, Essential fish habitat as established by Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Public Law 94-265, as amended through October 11, 1996 <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/magact/>

15. Watershed Projects, Plans, Monitoring. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed Projects Planned and Authorized, <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/Purpose>. Additional Information on listed individual projects can be obtained from the noted parties.