

Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan Recommendations

Habitat 1 - Protect Priority Land Habitats (pg. 57)

- Phase 1 of the RFP includes a lot of acquisition potential
- Prioritize land habitat protection in regions of the state: Analyze for prioritizing investment tiers of protection tools.
 - Tier 1 - Acquisition, permanent easements;
 - Tier 2 - Conservation incentives, e.g. CRP, CREP, RIM,
 - Tier 3 - BMPS , landowner agreements for large ecosystem habitats
 - Tier 4 - Targeted Education program.
- Mapping analysis – link corridor mapping and other mapping initiatives with the Statewide Plan to prioritize protection efforts and refine protection corridors
- Predictor of various regions of the state impacts of climate changes and develop and implement strategies to preserve areas, e.g. peatlands

Habitat 2 - Protect Critical Shorelands of Streams and Lakes (pg. 63)

- Focus on high quality habitats, especially shoreland
- Look to SCPP mapping to help identify lands to acquire and preserve
- Tax credits/incentives related to shoreland
- Look at setting up a new property classification based on conservation - easements or some minimum level of conservation (an expanded version of "Green Acres")
- Include the square footage of docks (occupation of public waters) in property tax assessments
- Analyze/pilot property tax classification for conservation
- Riparian buffers are important
- Provide funding to local communities for planning and implementing habitat projects

Habitat 3 - Improve Connectivity and Access to Outdoor Recreation (pg. 70)

- Local community planning to identify connectivity and access to outdoor recreation in greater Minnesota for land protection connections, recreational access and wildlife benefits.

Habitat 4 - Restore and Protect Shallow Lakes (pg. 72)

- Shallow lakes: Phase I: shallow lake work to do more upstream protection and evaluation and monitoring. Continue with HCP corridor work. Do not seek individual shallow lake proposals.
- Pilot an effort to pretreat runoff to shallow lakes
- How is climate change going to affect shallow lakes?

Habitat 5 - Restore Land, Wetlands, and Wetland-Associated Watersheds (pg. 74)

- Lots of current funding, \$25 million state bonding plus federal match

Habitat 6 - Protect and Restore Critical In-Water Habitat of Lakes and Streams (pg. 76)

- Warm water streams and rivers restoration

- Docks and other private use of public waters
- Research impacts of built structures on lakes and streams and impacts on habitat
- Manage uplands to better protect deep lakes (deep lakes that can maintain cold enough water to support cold water fish)
- Evaluate the multiple drivers of change on watersheds through monitoring, research and evaluation of land use, climate, invasive species impacts.
- Lakescaping funding (note in HCP Corridors Phase 1 RFP)

Habitat 7 - Keep Water on the Landscape (pg. 79)

- Sink holes features; continue to update data bases on sink holes; look at having buffers around sink holes to prevent pollution from entering them and the associated ground water

Habitat 8 - Review and Analyze Drainage Policy (pg. 81)

- Review after Waseca: talk to BWSR about drainage research and other states drainage laws
- Review and Analyze drainage policy: Seek proposal from U of M law school to evaluation drainage laws for updating and evaluation of costs and benefits
- Check with NCSL to see how drainage laws work in other states

Habitat 9 - Overall Research on Land and Aquatic Habitats (pg. 82)

- How much aquatic habitat do we want? Need? Some habitats are very limited e.g. white pine, prairie, wetlands
- Get a better understanding of how much we have and the threats - a comparable effort to upland habitat inventory and assessment (like the SGCN Species of Greatest Conservation Need report)
- Landscape analysis coupled with appropriate modeling efforts are needed to identify what critical land and wetland resources need to be maintained or restored to adequately protect water quality and aquatic biota
- Research on trade-offs in the use of land and water for agriculture, energy, forestry, housing, industry and transportation need to be studied critically and equally with societal benefits for carbon sequestration, protection of biological diversity and outdoor recreation.

Habitat 10 - Research on Near-Shore Habitat Vulnerability (pg. 84)

- Map aquatic species richness similar to the mapping of terrestrial species in the DNR Gap analysis (an assessment of the status of native wildlife based on natural land cover types).
- The transition zone between land and water is important - some mapping efforts might be helpful

Habitat 11 - Improve Understanding of Ground Water Resources (pg. 85)

- The Phase 1 of RFP included requests from ground water related proposals (atlases, monitoring and water sustainability)
- Interaction of ground and surface waters: Investigate seasonally variable streams flows needed by aquatic communities and assess ground water contributions.

Habitat 12 - Improve Understanding of Watersheds to Multiple Drivers of Change (pg. 87)

- Knowledge in decision making and managements: Research and evaluation the cumulative impacts of chemical applications on aquatic communities due to land and water treatments.

Habitat 13 - Habitat and Landscape Conservation Education and Training Programs for All Citizens (pg. 89)

- Important to repeat message over and over
- Expand Master Naturalist Program
- More train the trainers programs
- Develop curriculum for teachers on shoreland management and water quality

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