

## Lake Restoration Prioritization Process and Program

### Key Concepts and Facts

- Lakes are important to lowans
  - Six of ten lowans visit lakes each year; they will visit these lakes an average of eight times during the year
- lowans prefer lakes with better water quality
- Lakes provide significant economic benefits
  - Statewide our lakes generate \$1.6 billion in annual spending by lowans
- A lake is a reflection of both watershed and lake management
- Lake restoration starts in the watershed; it relies on strong local involvement and voluntary participation of landowners

### Current Prioritization and Program

- Modeled after the Federal Clean Lakes Program established in the 1970s
- DNR provided the 2006 legislature with a priority list of 35 lake candidates
  - Priorities based on a 5-year ISU/DNR assessment of water quality
  - Technical feasibility of restoration
  - Potential economic benefits
  - Use by lowans, and local interest/involvement
- Projects require a lake and watershed restoration assessment and plan
- Projects require local resources in combination with state and federal funds
- Local groups can petition to have their lake added to the priority list
- Project Status
  - 7 Near completion
  - 19 In progress
  - 7 Planning stage
- DNR provides an annual progress report to the legislature that includes a work plan and budget

### Water Quality Goals

Stipulated in 2006 State Legislation (HF2782):

- Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the watershed will be controlled before lake restoration begins
- Shallow lakes management will be considered among options for restoration
- Water quality targets
  - Clarity. 4 ½ foot secchi disc transparency 50% of the time from April – September
  - Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic community must be maintained
  - Impairment. Water quality impairments must be eliminated
  - Sustainability. The water quality and public use benefits must be sustained for 50 years

### Budget

- 2007 funding \$8.6 Million
- 2008 funding \$8.6 Million
- 2009 funding \$8.6 Million
- 2010 \$8.6 Million requested

### DNR Contacts

Mike McGhee (515-281-6281) [mike.mcgee@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:mike.mcgee@dnr.iowa.gov)  
George Antoniou (515-281-8042) [george.antoniou@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:george.antoniou@dnr.iowa.gov)

**Web Page:** <http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/lakerestoration/>

