

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters (HWHQW) Protection Goals, Metrics & Milestones

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# Acknowledgements

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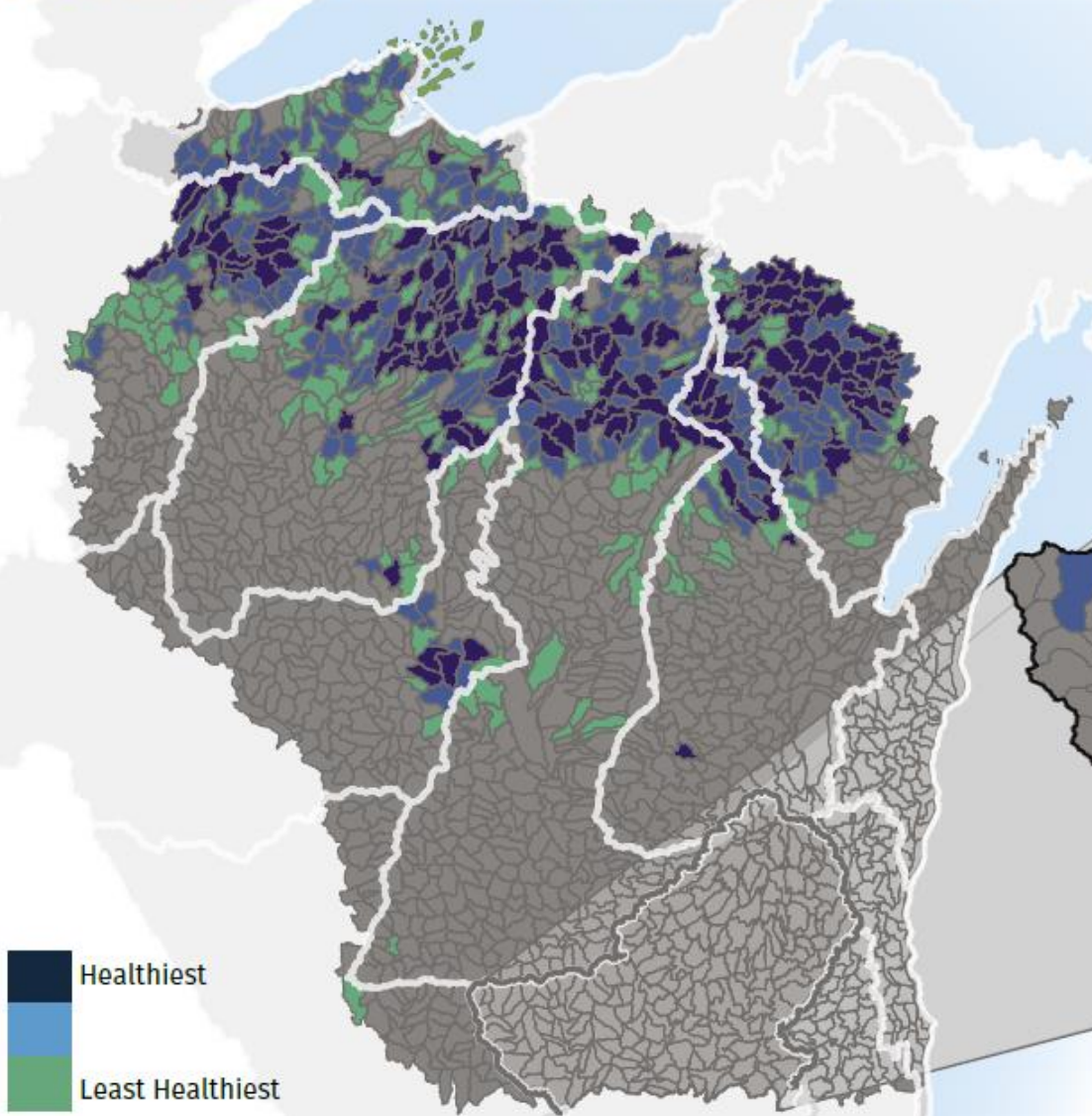
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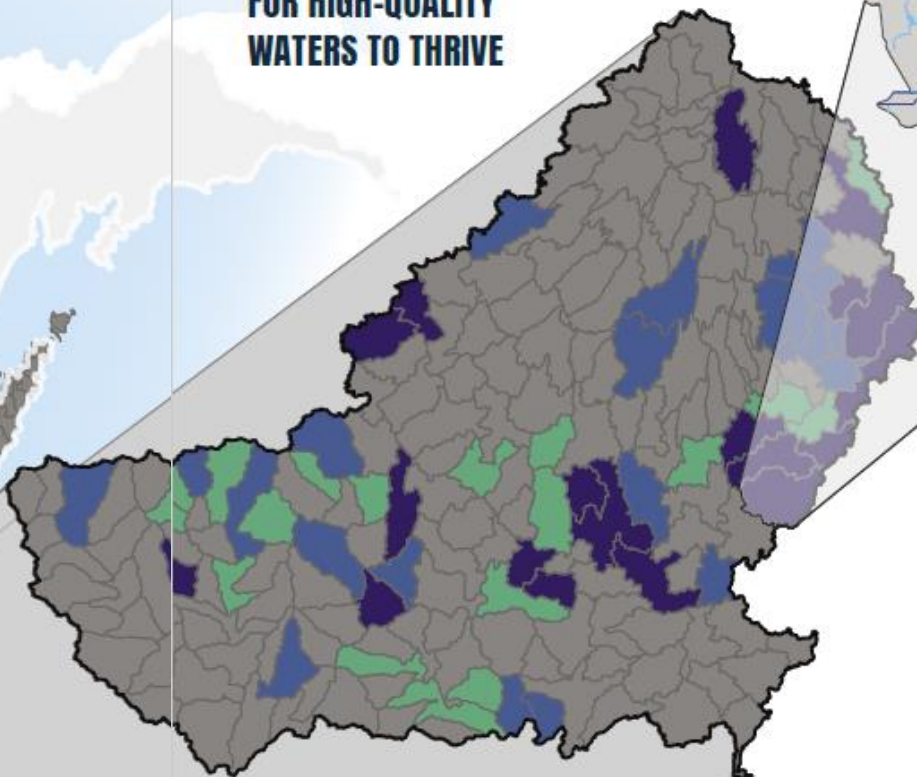
## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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# WATERSHED PROTECTION PRIORITIES



**WATERSHED SCALE  
PROTECTION IS ESSENTIAL  
FOR HIGH-QUALITY  
WATERS TO THRIVE**



**High-Quality Waters:**  
Monitored waterbodies meeting specific criteria are high-quality waters. Three streams, 1 lake, and 11 wetlands in this watershed are high-quality.

**Healthy Watersheds:** The watershed health protection priorities can be sorted at two scales: statewide (left) and major drainage basin (center). In this example, a particular Rock River Basin watershed was not rated in the healthiest category at a statewide scale, but is one of the healthiest watersheds within the basin. After healthy watersheds are prioritized at multiple scales, the monitored high-quality waters within them are also targeted for protection planning.

## Watershed Protection Priorities

The 30% healthiest watersheds in the state and in each major drainage basin are the geographic protection priorities for this statewide Plan.

# Statewide Goal

## HWHQW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

We've fine-tuned the strategy described in the original Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters Kick-Off. Partner feedback and consideration of how we'll evaluate progress through time have resulted in a clearer strategic framework. The HWHQW Strategic Framework articulates a vision of what we want to achieve.

**INTENT:** Alongside ongoing restoration efforts, prioritize healthy watersheds and the high-quality lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands within them for protection so those water resources can continue to support healthy ecosystems, biodiversity and recreational use.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Use a science-based approach to identify statewide protection priorities.
- Empower partners to identify local priorities.
- Emphasize the protection and promotion of Wisconsin's healthy watersheds and high-quality waters in a way that complements long-standing restoration work.

**KEY OUTCOME:** 100% of priority healthy watersheds and high-quality waters remain so through 2030.

### OBJECTIVES:

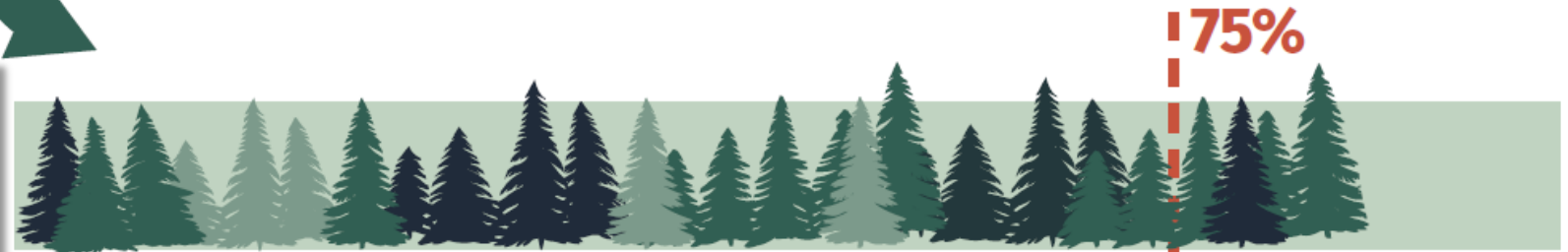
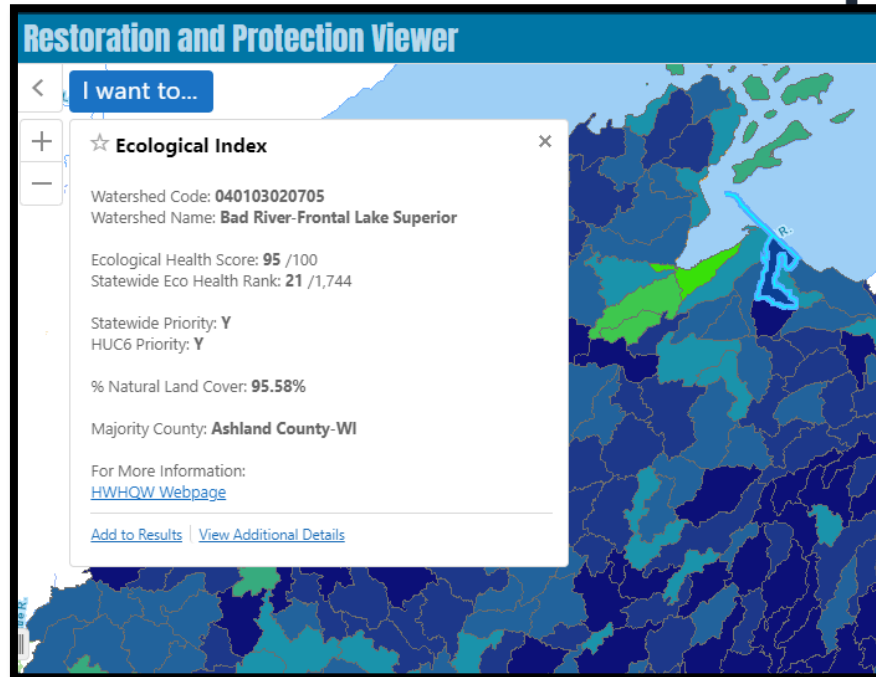
1. Increase capacity to provide technical assistance
2. Leverage and adapt existing program tools to achieve results
3. Increase utilization of funding for protection
4. Increase external awareness of the HWHQW initiative and the places prioritized for protection

# Watershed Metrics

## For the healthiest watersheds, choose the right Protection Strategy:

**30%**  
Healthiest Watersheds

Watersheds not identified as protection priorities (remaining 70%) may be a better fit for restoration-related programs and funding.



**1. Vigilance:** When more than 75% of land is permanently protected natural land cover


**2. Protection:** When more than 75% of land is in natural land cover but not under permanent protection

**3. Enhancement:** When less than 75% of land is in natural land cover


# Watershed Metrics

WATERSHED PROTECTION PRIORITY DASHBOARDS:

Quantify high-quality waters (empirical) relative to the overall HUC6 and healthiest (30%) HUC12s.



## Watershed Protection Priorities



### Rock - HUC 070900

RANK & MAP ID	HUC12 NUMBER	HUC12 NAME	ECOLOGICAL HEALTH SCORE	PROTECTION PRIORITY SCORE	HIGH-QUALITY LAKES	HIGH-QUALITY RIVERS	HIGH-QUALITY WETLANDS
1	070900010207	Horicon Marsh	66.9	55.7		2	
2	070900021002	Otter Creek	65.9	55.7		1	
3	070900021003	Lake Koshkonong-Rock R.	63.5	56.7	1	1	2
4	070900010501	Little Oconomowoc R.-Oconomowoc R.	59.4	57.7		1	3
5	070900040501	Story Creek	57.9	55.8		1	
6	070900021302	Camp Indian Trails-Rock R.	57.6	50.7		1	
7	070900020305	Rome Pond-Bark R.	57.5	62.2	1	1	1
8	070900020302	Scuppernong Creek	57.1	59.4		1	
9	070900020304	Duck Creek	55.6	56.3	1		
10	070900020601	Waunakee Marsh-Sixmile Creek	54.7	48.9		1	
11	070900020405	Koshkonong Creek	53.9	50.2			
12	070900010105	Limestone Creek-East Branch Rock R.	52.9	49.6		2	
13	070900020101	Mud Creek-Scuppernong Creek	52.7	53.2	1	3	11
14	070900030702	Middle Yellowstone R.	52.7	50.2		2	
15	070900010602	Druid Lake-Ashippun R.	52	50.7	1		
16	070900020301	Headwaters Bark R.	51.9	56.8	1	1	2
17	070900020905	Yahara R.	51.5	49.0		1	
18	070900020502	100 Mile Grove Cemetary	49.7	52.7		1	
19	070900040404	Little Sugar R.	49.6	48.3		1	
20	070900010604	Mud Creek-Rock R.	48.9	49.3		1	
21	070900040202	Headwaters Sugar R.	48.6	47.1		2	4
22	070900020202	Whitewater Lake-Whitewater Creek	48.5	49.9	1	2	6
23	070900030502	Blue Mounds Branch	48.4	53.1		2	
24	070900031501	Headwaters Raccoon Creek	48.4	53.2		1	
25	070900021001	Fort Atkinson-Rock R.	48.3	49.1		2	4
26	070900040503	Gill Creek-Sugar R.	48.3	52.7		2	
27	070900010301	Butler Creek	48	52.0			
28	070900031003	Skinner Creek	48	46.7			1
29	070900031502	East Fork Raccoon Creek	48	52.1		1	1
30	070900011004	Chub Lake-Crawfish R.	47.5	45.6		1	5
31	070900030101	East Pecatonica R.	47.3	47.8		2	
32	070900010303	Rubicon R.	47.2	48.2			
33	070900010603	Ashippun R.	46.9	47.9			
34	070900010909	Beaver Dam R.	46.9	46.4			
35	070900030601	Ridgeway Branch	46.9	46.9		1	
36	070900010702	Headwaters North Branch Crawfish R.	46.7	52.5			
37	070900040402	Ward Creek-Little Sugar R.	46.6	50.8		3	
38	070900010502	Okauchee Lake-Oconomowoc R.	46.3	50.2	2	1	
39	070900030501	Pleasant Branch	46.2	52.7		3	
40	070900030403	Gribble Branch-Dodge Branch	45.8	47.0		4	2
41	070900040705	OK Creek-Sugar R.	45.5	48.9		1	2
42	070900011104	Deer Creek	45.4	52.5			
43	070900020303	Nemahbin Lake-Bark R.	45.4	57.2	2	1	
44	070900030402	Conley Lewis Creek	45	51.4		2	
45	070900020402	Mud Creek	44.7	52.0			1
46	070900040203	Paoli-Sugar R.	44.7	51.0		2	
47	070900010102	Kohlsville Branch	44.4	45.8			
48	070900020902	Lake Kegonsa-Yahara R.	43.8	45.9		1	2
49	070900040101	Mt. Vernon Creek	43.6	44.7		3	1
50	070900040702	Willow Creek	43.5	50.5		1	
51	070900010504	Oconomowoc R.	43.4	47.5		1	
52	070900040604	Sylvester Creek	43.4	44.6		1	
53	070900030802	Brennan Creek-E Branch Pecatonica R.	43.3	45.1		1	
54	070900021005	Saunders Creek	43.2	51.7			1
55	070900021301	Marsh Creek	42.7	51.0		1	
56	070900030602	Williams Creek-E Branch Pecatonica R.	42.6	46.7		1	

### Watershed Features

**Ecological Health Score & ID**

Healthiest

- High Quality Wetlands
- High Quality Waters

The top 30% healthiest watersheds in the HUC6 were selected to identify watershed protection priorities based on the ecological health score. High quality lakes and streams (based on waterbody identification code - WBIC), and high quality wetlands were then summed within each of the watersheds.

Watersheds are ranked and color-coded by ecological health score.

**11** High-Quality Lakes in Top 30% Healthiest Watersheds

**16** High-Quality Lakes in HUC6 Watershed

**69%** High-Quality Lakes are within the Healthiest Watersheds

**53** High-Quality Streams in Top 30% Healthiest Watersheds

**95** High-Quality Streams in HUC6 Watershed

**56%** High-Quality Streams are within the Healthiest Watersheds

# Milestones

**ACTION**  
**2D**

## Evaluate Water Resources Monitoring Strategy

### STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Verify if current monitoring efforts and parameters are adequately measuring water resource health and adapt accordingly.
- Track and report watershed and waterbody health, including verifying HWHQW monitoring results.
- Integrate volunteer monitoring like WAV and CLMN when able.

#### GENERAL READINESS:

	<b>NEXT</b> <b>(3-5 YEARS)</b>
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#### LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS:

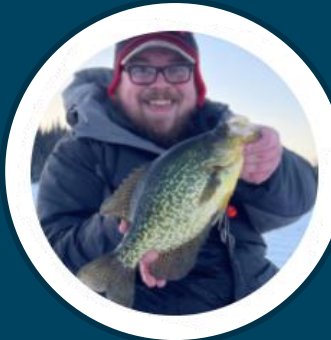
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