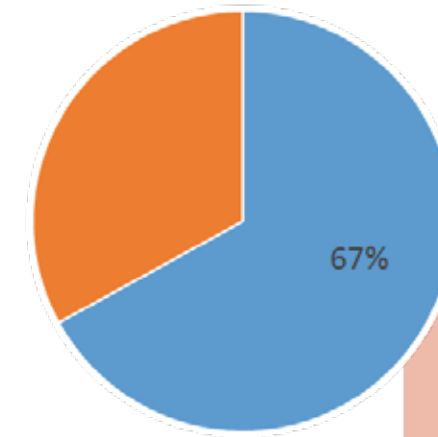


THE UPPER IOWA RIVER WATERSHED

Unlike the rest of the state of Iowa, **Upper Iowa River Watershed nitrate and phosphorous levels have trended DOWN** over the course of the last 20 years—thanks to practices put in place by Upper Iowa River Watershed farmers and producers.



In a recent survey, **67% of landowners** in the Upper Iowa River Watershed report that, within the last 5 years, **flooding closed a road or bridge they use regularly.**

COUNTY SWCDs—SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS—IN THE UPPER IOWA RIVER WATERSHED HAVE WORKED WITH PRODUCERS TO IMPLEMENT **MORE CONSERVATION THAN MOST OTHER COUNTIES IN IOWA.**

FEDERAL AID HELPS COMMUNITIES REBUILD AFTER A FLOODING DISASTER, BUT THOSE FUNDS **NEVER COVER THE FULL COST OF RECOVERY.**

Estimated county-wide **damage to roads and bridges** during the 2008 flood was more than...
\$1.3 million in Howard County
\$1.5 million in Winneshiek County
\$650,000 in Allamakee County
(Brian Ridenour, Allamakee Co. Engineer; Nick Rissman, Howard Co. Engineer; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek Co. Engineer)

98% OF THE LAND IN THE UPPER IOWA RIVER WATERSHED IS PRIVATELY OWNED (EQUALS 625,077 ACRES, UIR WATERSHED RAPID WATERSHED ASSESSMENT).

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME THROUGHOUT THE WATERSHED IS APPROXIMATELY \$36,863 ANNUALLY.

The Upper Iowa River Watershed's **unique landscape is home to many diverse populations of threatened and endangered species**, such as the Pleistocene Snail and the Cerulean Warbler.



THE UPPER IOWA WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY was founded in 2015 as a formal partnership between cities, counties, and county soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). Members work together to assess and reduce flood risk, improve water quality, educate & empower watershed residents, and increase watershed resilience.

The members of the Upper Iowa River Watershed Management Authority are:

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY
ALLAMAKEE COUNTY SWCD
CITY OF DECORAH
CITY OF LIME SPRINGS
HOWARD COUNTY
HOWARD COUNTY SWCD
WINNESHIEK COUNTY
WINNESHIEK COUNTY SWCD

80% of farmers in the Upper Iowa River Watershed are **interested in learning more about funding opportunities for adopting conservation practices** (UIR Landowner Survey 2017).

According to a report by Driftless Area

Trout Unlimited, **recreational angling brings \$1.6 billion into the Driftless region**



National Geographic Magazine says canoeing the Upper Iowa River is one of “America’s 100 Greatest Adventures.”



Much of the watershed is in the **Driftless Region**. This area is known for its steep, rugged, **karst topography**, which is defined by land that is underlain by soluble bedrock, such as limestone, and characterized by **sinkholes, caves**, and underground drainage.

Iowa DNR estimates more than **314,000 angler trips per year** are made to the Upper Iowa River Watershed.

According to Iowa DNR, there are approximately **6,652 sinkholes** in the Upper Iowa River Watershed out of 33,967 sinkholes in all of Iowa. **That’s 20% of the total number of sinkholes in Iowa.**

ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE THE CEDAR RAPIDS GAZETTE, THE LATE AUGUST FLOODS OF 2016 CAUSED A **HALF-MILE CLOT OF DEBRIS TO FORM IN BIG SLOUGH**, A FLOWING BACKWATER CHANNEL OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEAR LANSING.



17% of the Upper Iowa River Watershed is forested, while statewide only 7% of land is in forest.

The Upper Iowa River Watershed boasts more than **1,419 miles of streams and rivers**, including **152 miles of coldwater streams** (Strallhers Stream Order Survey). The Upper Iowa River Watershed is home to **more coldwater streams** than any other large watershed in Iowa.

