Objective 3: Maximize the benefits of the scientific watershed

analysis by encouraging location and practice prioritization that is

outcome oriented

This story was made with Esri's Story Map Journal. Read the interactive version on the web at https://arcg.is/0OWXqv.



- Strategy 1: Support projects that target priority landscape positions
 - Support projects that protect and/or restore stream and river corridor and floodplains
 - Support projects in priority HUC 12s
 - Support projects that demonstrate, educate, or implement practices that infiltrate and store excess water, and/or improve water quality
 - Support projects and practices that protect transportation infrastructure and other private and public infrastructure
 - Support flood mitigation projects that implement best management practices in the upland areas of the watershed

- Support upland projects that protect downstream at-risk community members from economic, emotional, health and social impacts of flooding
- Strategy 2: Provide research, content, and recommendations that encourage location and practice prioritization in local plans, projects, and programs
 - Hazard Mitigation Plans and Projects insert link to Mitigation Matrix for the Upper lowa River Watershed.
 - SWCD watershed plans, projects, and programs
 - City Stormwater Management Plans
 - Planning and Zoning ordinances, rules, and regulations
 - County Comprehensive Plans
 - Other plans as identified

Strategy 1: Support projects that target priority landscape positions



The UIRWMA will support projects that:

- Lower flood risk,
- Are targeted to priority areas and subwatersheds
- Provide education and outreach components regarding best management practices
- Protect and/or restore stream and river corridors

Support provided may include letters of support for grant applications by partner organizations, technical assistance through the watershed coordinator, education and outreach opportunities, or matching funds.

Action 1.1: Support upland projects that protect downstream at-risk community members from economic, emotional, health and social impacts of flooding

Projects that have a direct benefit for areas of the UIR Watershed have higher social vulnerability are a priority for the UIRWMA. These areas are identified within the <u>IWA Information System</u> to help emergency managers and other entities focus flood mitigation projects in areas that will have the most benefit to priority areas. Socially vulnerable populations include the elderly, minorities, or lower income households. These populations are less likely to have the means to recover from a flood event so the UIRWMA emphasizes mitigation practices to minimize the impact of floods.

Action 1.2: Support flood mitigation projects that implement best management practices in the upland areas of the watershed

Upland areas of the UIR Watershed are shown in the map at right. The UIRWMA recognizes that implementation of practices highlighted in **Objective 2**, within the green shaded area may be more impactful that those in lower parts of the watershed. For example, the **IDNR BMP Analysis** shows that there are a number of existing detention structures in the UIR Watershed, but many are located in the lower part of the watershed, particularly Allamakee County. However, it is NOT to say that the green shaded area is the only area where practices should be implemented and best management practices implemented in any part of the watershed will have some benefit and are supported by the UIRWMA.

Targeting projects



Within the upland areas, data from this plan can be used to identify specific target areas for best management practices to maximize the efficiency of resources available for plan implementation. The map right shows fields in the UIR Watershed rated by runoff risk. The rating is derived from slope of the field and adjacency to the nearest waterway. Targeting fields with higher slopes and/or directly adjacent to waterways for in-field practices such as cover crops, no-till, and multi-cropping will increase the impact of these mitigation strategies.

Action 1.3: Support projects and practices that protect transportation infrastructure and other private and public infrastructure

The UIRWMA supports projects that will directly benefit at risk infrastructure. The image at right shows how the data from the ACPF, BMP, and Cover Crop analyses can be used to help understand the land practices upstream from critical infrastructure.

Action 1.4: Support projects that demonstrate, educate, or implement practices that infiltrate and store excess water, and/or improve water quality

Demonstration sites and education and outreach efforts to go along with project implementation are supported by the UIRWMA. These efforts will help raise awareness and build support from the public, visitors to the UIR Watershed, and from project partners. Demonstration of implemented practices along with education and outreach efforts about water quality and flooding will help to build and strengthen the sense of watershed community within the UIR Watershed. Further information about potential education and outreach efforts are detailed in **Objective 4** of this plan.

Action 1.5: Support projects in priority HUC 12s



The UIRWMA will continue to rely on the SWCDs, NRCS, and other partners to help prioritize HUC 12 subwatersheds for targeted implementation projects. Information found in the <u>Subwatershed Explorer</u> can be used to help guide prioritization.

Action 1.6: Support projects that protect and/or restore stream and river corridor and floodplains



The UIRWMA supports projects that protect stream and river corridors. Streambank restoration, in-stream habitat, increasing riparian vegetation, and other in and near-stream projects that enhance river and stream corridors that will also improve water quality and reduce the impact of flooding are prioritized. The UIRWMA also supports permanent protection of land adjacent to waterways by public and private organizations through conservation easements.

Strategy 2: Provide research, content, and recommendations that encourage location and practice prioritization in local plans, projects, and programs

The UIRWMA recognizes the value in supporting partner projects and plans that support the UIR Resiliency Plan. Examples may include:

• Hazard Mitigation Plans and Projects

- SWCD watershed plans, projects, and programs
- City Stormwater Management Plans
- Planning and Zoning ordinances, rules, and regulations
- County Comprehensive Plans
- Other plans as identified