



**Suggested factors to consider when:  
PRIORITIZING WATERSHEDS  
For the Development of Restoration and Protection Strategies**

<b>WATERSHED/WATERBODY CONCERNS</b>	<b>POTENTIAL LEVEL of CONCERN</b>			
	<b><u>low</u> 1</b>	<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>high</u> 4</b>
<b>Water use classification</b> (highest & best use)	D	C	B,C (T)	A, AA
<b>Severity of water quality impact on classified use</b>	threatened	stressed	impaired	precluded
<b>Threat to public health</b>	no present restriction on use	swimming temporarily banned, documented beach closures or boil water advisories	fishing advisory exists or intermittent presence of toxics affect use as public water supply	swimming, fishing and/or use as public water supply banned
<b>Waterbody priority</b>	not identified in County Water Quality Strategy	waterbody of local concern identified in county water quality strategy	filtered surface water supply or on DEC's Priority Waterbody List	unfiltered surface water supply, well head protection area or primary or principal aquifer
<b>Potential economic impact if not addressed</b>	no significant impact	local impact	regional or multi-county impact	state or multi-state impact
<b>Public access factor</b>	no public access	limited access for public use	moderate access for public use	extensive access for public use
<b>Size of impacted waterbody</b>	less than 1 mile stream; less than 10 acre lake/bay/estuary	Between 1 and 5 miles streams; between 10 and 100 acres lake/bay/estuary	more than 5 miles but less than 10 miles stream; more than 100 acres but less than 1000 acres lake/bay/estuary	more than 10 miles stream; more than 1000 acre lake/bay/estuary

## Additional factors to consider when prioritizing watersheds:

WATERSHED/WATERBODY CONCERNS	POTENTIAL LEVEL of CONCERN			
	<u>low</u> <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<u>high</u> <b>4</b>
<b>Prior NPS planning efforts in the watershed</b>	no previous studies or analysis have been conducted in the watershed	simple watershed analysis conducted by interdisciplinary team	river basin or similar studies performed or watershed water quality plan exists	comprehensive watershed plan recently prepared; implementation priorities clearly defined
<b>Pollutant being addressed</b>	pollutant not listed on PWL data sheet	pollutant not verified but suspected	secondary pollutant causing impact	primary pollutant causing impact
<b>Level of documentation of NPS pollutant or sources</b>	none	poor	fair	good
<b>Federal, State or local NPS programs affecting land use activities in the watershed</b>	none	local ordinance(s) addressing nps concerns  source water assessment-low susceptibility to contamination	waterfront revitalization plan(s)  303d listed waterbody  source water assessment-medium susceptibility	source water assessment – high susceptibility  watershed rules & regulations  TMDL being implemented
<b>Number of additional priority natural resource concerns in the watershed</b> (flooding, loss of farmland, loss of wetlands, rare & endangered species habitat, loss of biodiversity, invasive species, loss of view sheds, etc.)	No high priority natural resource concerns beyond water quality		One additional high priority natural resource concern	More than one high priority natural resource concern