

2002 Survey of Landowners in the Upper Iowa River Watershed

Summary of Results

Survey Conducted by the Upper Iowa River Watershed Project

Survey Procedure: 1000 randomly selected landowners in the Upper Iowa River Watershed were surveyed to gain insight on their views of water quality related issues in Northeast Iowa. The following document outlines the results of the survey.

Question: How much of a problem do you think each of the following is in the UIRW?

	Not	%	Slight	%	Moderate	%	Serious	%	Don't Know	%
Water quality of stream, rivers, and lakes	27	12%	61	27%	75	33%	52	23%	13	6%
Groudwater quality	33	14%	60	26%	67	29%	54	24%	12	5%
Frequency and extent of flooding	32	14%	81	36%	78	34%	29	13%	7	3%
Loss of wetlands	64	28%	58	25%	47	21%	39	17%	20	9%
Soil erosion	8	4%	46	20%	87	38%	84	37%	3	1%
Siltation of lakes	24	11%	61	27%	57	25%	28	12%	58	25%
Erosion of streambanks	14	6%	58	25%	81	36%	64	28%	10	4%
Quality of fish habitat	32	14%	51	22%	84	37%	35	15%	26	11%
Quality of wildlife habitat	77	34%	61	27%	55	24%	25	11%	10	4%
Loss of forest	69	30%	48	21%	54	24%	46	20%	11	5%
Residential on-site septic systems	69	30%	76	33%	35	15%	13	6%	36	16%
Sinkholes	37	16%	76	33%	62	27%	30	13%	23	10%
Barnyard runoff	27	12%	80	35%	65	29%	46	20%	10	4%
Manure application to fields	49	21%	76	33%	66	29%	27	12%	10	4%
Livestock in streams or rivers	54	24%	83	36%	47	21%	27	12%	16	7%
Agricultural chemical runoff	20	9%	64	28%	69	30%	68	30%	7	3%
Effects of feedlots of groundwater quality	27	12%	60	26%	51	22%	70	31%	20	9%
Lawn chemical runoff	31	14%	84	37%	62	27%	38	17%	13	6%
Municipal waste water	31	14%	69	30%	57	25%	22	10%	49	21%
Industrial waste water	25	11%	50	22%	65	29%	35	15%	53	23%

Question: Of all the items listed in the previous question, which one do you think is the largest problem?

	Responses	%
Soil Erosion	45	21.5%
Agricultural Chemical Runoff	26	12.4%
Ground Water Quality	25	12.0%
Effects of feedlots on groundwater quality	16	7.7%
Other	97	46.4%

Question: Below are several statements concerning the management of the environment in the UIRW. Please indicate if you agree, disagree, or have no opinion with each statement.

	Agree	%	Disagree	%	No Opinion	%
An important step in maintaining environment quality in our area is to develop community goals for the environment.	172	75%	15	7%	40	17%
Private landowners currently work to effectively protect the environment.	155	67%	47	20%	28	12%
Private landowners and public land managers currently work together effectively to protect the environment	120	52%	60	26%	50	22%
More incentives need to be made available for private landowners to adopt practices that benefits the environment	204	89%	10	4%	16	7%
Landowners know all the different federal, stat, and county programs available to them for implementing conservation practices on their land.	50	22%	153	67%	27	12%
Landowners have other funding available to them, non-governmental funding, to help them implementing conservation practices.	37	16%	132	57%	61	27%
There needs to be more coordination among public programs providing assistance to private landowners for land management activities.	188	82%	15	7%	27	12%
We should maintain or enhance the diversity of wildlife populations	165	72%	36	16%	29	13%
We should maintain or enhance the diversity of natural plant communities.	162	70%	28	12%	39	17%
We should maintain or improve our surface water quality.	216	94%	6	3%	8	3%
Landowners are recognized for been conservation minded.	154	67%	47	20%	29	13%

Question: Which of the following do you think are major barriers to getting people to implement additional land conservation practices on their land? (Check all that apply)

	Yes	%
Lack of information on appropriate conservation practices	86	37%
Lack of knowledge of the beneficial effects of conservation practices	85	37%
Cost of implementing conservation practices	196	85%
Lack of technical assistance on how to implement conservation practices	54	23%
Confusion about conservation programs	112	49%

Question: The following statements have to do with the UIRW. Please indicate if you agree, disagree, or don't know about each statement.

	Agree	%	Disagree	%	Don't Know	%
The boundaries of the UIRW are clearly defined in my mind	68	30%	85	37%	78	34%
I influence the water quality of other residents of the UIRW	160	70%	24	10%	45	20%
The quality of the surface and ground water in the UIRW is better than it was 25 year ago.	80	35%	64	28%	85	37%
A healthy economy in the UIRW depends on the health of the UIR	127	55%	57	25%	45	20%
The surface and ground water in the UIRW are interconnected	187	82%	9	4%	33	14%
The majority of citizens in the UIRW can drink the water from their tap without it being treated	110	48%	41	18%	77	34%
Most of the individual septic systems in the watershed are functioning properly.	87	38%	33	14%	108	47%

Question: Do you treat your water to make it drinkable?

	Responses	%
Yes	34	15%
No	196	85%