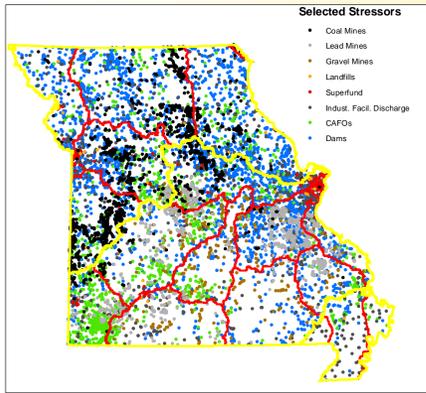
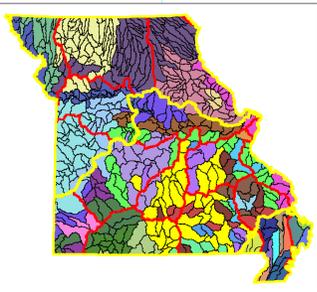
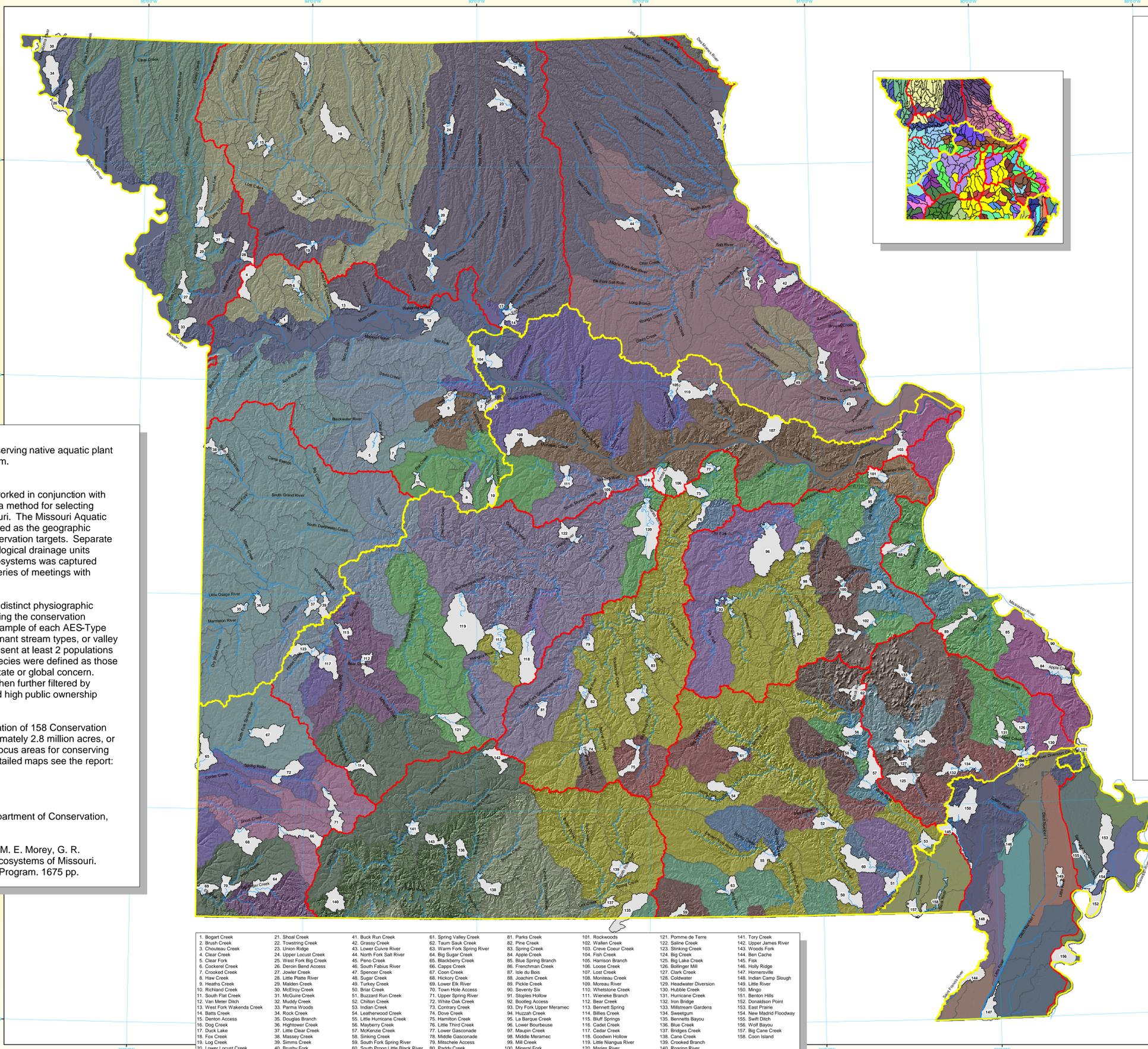


# Missouri Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Areas



Map showing some of the stressors used to help select aquatic conservation opportunity areas (COA). When selecting locations for the COAs in the geographical context described in the box below, the intent was to identify areas with the fewest stressors as possible.



**Legend**

- Aquatic Subregion Boundary
- Ecological Drainage Unit
- Major Streams
- Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area

**Aquatic Ecological System Types**

- Beaver Creek
- Big Creek of the St. Francis
- Boeuf Creek
- Bull Creek
- Cane Creek
- City of Chaffee
- City of Charleston
- City of Gideon
- City of Hayti
- City of Senath
- Clear Creek
- Crowley's Ridge
- Dry Fork of the Meramec
- East Locust Creek
- Finley Creek
- Honey Creek
- Indian Creek
- Jacks Fork
- Lick Creek
- Little River
- Little St. Francis River
- Lower Meramec
- Middle River
- Middle Upper Big River
- Middle Upper Little Sac
- Moniteau Creek
- Ramsey Creek
- Rock Creek
- Sampson Creek
- South Deepwater Creek
- Spring Creek of the Eleven Point
- Spring River of the Eleven Point
- St. Johns Diversion Ditch
- Tavern Creek
- Upper Big Piney
- Upper Cuivre River
- Upper Spring River of the Neosho
- West Ditch
- Wilkinson Ditch

**Objective**  
To identify a set of small watersheds to focus efforts for conserving native aquatic plant and animal communities, and the processes that sustain them.

**General Description**  
The Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership (MoRAP) worked in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to develop a method for selecting aquatic conservation opportunities across the state of Missouri. The Missouri Aquatic Ecological Classification Hierarchy (Sowa et al 2005) was used as the geographic framework for planning regions, assessment units, and conservation targets. Separate assessments were conducted for each of the seventeen ecological drainage units (EDUs) in Missouri to ensure that the diversity of aquatic ecosystems was captured across the state. Assessments were conducted through a series of meetings with teams of regional experts from across the state.

Aquatic ecological systems (AESs) are sub-watersheds with distinct physiographic character, stream types and aquatic assemblages. In choosing the conservation opportunity areas (COAs) the intent was to represent one example of each AES-Type within each EDU. Assessment targets consisted of the dominant stream types, or valley segment types, by stream size class. We attempted to represent at least 2 populations of all the target species within each EDU. In short, target species were defined as those species that are characteristic to an EDU or are species of state or global concern. COA locations were chosen that met the above criteria and then further filtered by selecting locations with relatively low human disturbance and high public ownership (MDC 2005).

The aquatic biodiversity assessment resulted in the identification of 158 Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) statewide, encompassing approximately 2.8 million acres, or 6.6% of the state (MDC 2005). The COAs should serve as focus areas for conserving Missouri's aquatic biodiversity. For more information and detailed maps see the report: *Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment* (MDC 2005).

**References:**

MDC. 2005. Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment. Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, Missouri. 327 pp.

Sowa, S. P., D. D. Diamond, R. Abbitt, G. Annis, T. Gordon, M. E. Morey, G. R. Sorensen, and D. True. 2005. A Gap Analysis for Riverine Ecosystems of Missouri. Final Report, submitted to the USGS National Gap Analysis Program. 1675 pp.

- |                             |                         |                                    |                            |                            |                           |                          |                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bogert Creek             | 21. Shoal Creek         | 41. Buck Run Creek                 | 61. Spring Valley Creek    | 81. Parks Creek            | 101. Rockwoods            | 121. Pomme de Terre      | 141. Tory Creek          |
| 2. Brush Creek              | 22. Township Creek      | 42. Grassy Creek                   | 62. Team Sawk Creek        | 82. Pine Creek             | 102. Walnut Creek         | 122. Saline Creek        | 142. Upper James River   |
| 3. Chouteau Creek           | 23. Union Ridge         | 43. Lower Cuivre River             | 63. Warm Fork Spring River | 83. Spring Creek           | 103. Creve Coeur Creek    | 123. Sinking Creek       | 143. Woods Fork          |
| 4. Clear Creek              | 24. Upper Locust Creek  | 44. North Fork Salt River          | 64. Big Sugar Creek        | 84. Apple Creek            | 104. Fish Creek           | 124. Big Creek           | 144. Ben Cache           |
| 5. Clear Fork               | 25. West Fork Big River | 45. Peru Creek                     | 65. Blackberry Creek       | 85. Blue Spring Branch     | 105. Harrison Branch      | 125. Big Lake Creek      | 145. Fish                |
| 6. Cockerel Creek           | 26. Deroin Bend Access  | 46. South Fabus River              | 66. Capps Creek            | 86. Frenchman Creek        | 106. Loose Creek          | 126. Ballinger Mill      | 146. Holly Ridge         |
| 7. Crooked Creek            | 27. Joser Creek         | 47. Spencer Creek                  | 67. Coon Creek             | 87. Hickory Creek          | 107. Lost Creek           | 127. Clark Creek         | 147. Hornersville        |
| 8. Haw Creek                | 28. Little Platte River | 48. Sugar Creek                    | 68. Hickory Creek          | 88. Joachim Creek          | 108. Moniteau Creek       | 128. Coldwater           | 148. Indian Camp Slough  |
| 9. Heath's Creek            | 29. Madison Creek       | 49. Turkey Creek                   | 69. Lower Elk River        | 89. Pickle Creek           | 109. Moreau River         | 129. Headwater Diversion | 149. Little River        |
| 10. Richard Creek           | 30. McShay Creek        | 50. Bear Creek                     | 70. Town Hole Access       | 90. Severyn St.            | 110. Whetstone Creek      | 130. Hubbs Creek         | 150. Mingo               |
| 11. South Flat Creek        | 31. McGuire Creek       | 51. Buzzard Run Creek              | 71. Upper Spring River     | 91. Slopes Hollow          | 111. Wiencke Branch       | 131. Hurricane Creek     | 151. Benton Hills        |
| 12. Van Meter Ditch         | 32. Muddy Creek         | 52. Chilton Creek                  | 72. White Oak Creek        | 92. Stoney Access          | 112. Bear Creek           | 132. Iron Bridge         | 152. Donaldson Point     |
| 13. West Fork Wakenda Creek | 33. Palma Woods         | 53. Indian Creek                   | 73. Contrary Creek         | 93. Dry Fork Upper Meramec | 113. Bennett Spring       | 133. Millsream Gardens   | 153. East Prairie        |
| 14. Batts Creek             | 34. Rock Creek          | 54. Leatherwood Creek              | 74. Dove Creek             | 94. Huzzah Creek           | 114. Biles Creek          | 134. Sweetgum            | 154. New Madrid Floodway |
| 15. Denton Access           | 35. Douglas Branch      | 55. Little Hurricane Creek         | 75. Hamilton Creek         | 95. La Barque Creek        | 115. Bluff Springs        | 135. Bennetts Bayou      | 155. Swift Ditch         |
| 16. Dog Creek               | 36. Hightower Creek     | 56. Mayberry Creek                 | 76. Little Third Creek     | 96. Lower Bourbeuse        | 116. Cadet Creek          | 136. Blue Creek          | 156. Wolf Bayou          |
| 17. Duck Lake               | 37. Little Clear Creek  | 57. McKenka Creek                  | 77. Lower Gasconade        | 97. Maquin Creek           | 117. Coster Creek         | 137. Bridges Creek       | 157. Big Cane Creek      |
| 18. Fox Creek               | 38. Matsey Creek        | 58. Sinking Creek                  | 78. Middle Gasconade       | 98. Middle Meramec         | 118. Goodwin Hollow       | 138. Cane Creek          | 158. Coon Island         |
| 19. Log Creek               | 39. Simms Creek         | 59. South Fork Spring River        | 79. Mischele Access        | 99. Mill Creek             | 119. Little Niangua River | 139. Crooked Branch      |                          |
| 20. Lower Locust Creek      | 40. Brushy Fork         | 60. South Prong Little Black River | 80. Paddy Creek            | 100. Mineral Fork          | 120. Maize River          | 140. Roaring River       |                          |



Annis G. M., S. P. Sowa, M. E. Morey, and D. D. Diamond. 2005. Missouri Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Areas. MoRAP Map Series MS-2005-014.

Cartographer: Gust M. Annis