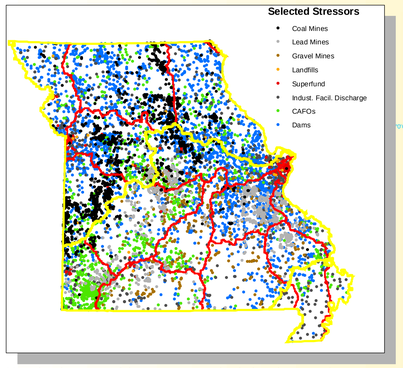
# Missouri Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Areas




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.

***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.

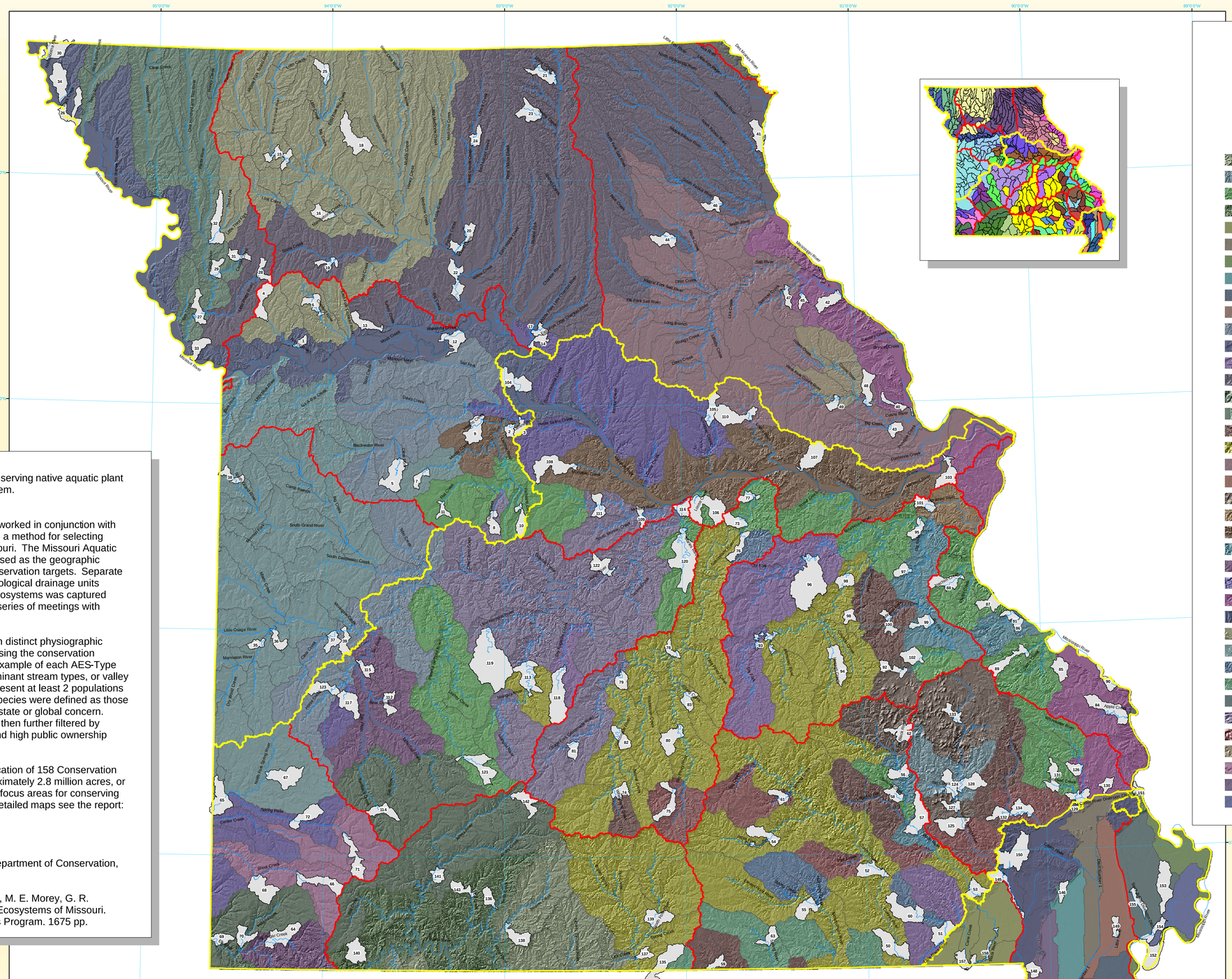
Aquatic ecological systems (AESs) are sub-watersheds with distinct physiographic character, stream types and aquatic assemblages. In choosing the conservation opportunity areas (COAs) the intent was to represent one example of each AES-Type within each EDU. Assessment targets consisted of the dominant 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.



## 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
- Wilkerson Ditch

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

N

0 15 30 60 90 120 Miles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**Annis G. M., S. P. Sowa, M. E. Morey, and D. D. Diamond. 2005. Missouri Aquatic Conservation Oppertunity Areas. MoRAP Map Series MS-2005-014.**

**Cartographer: Gust M. Annis**