



**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**OHIO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND  
(WPCLF) INTEGRATED PRIORITY SYSTEM (IPS)**



**Little Darby Creek**

**May 2014**

**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) INTEGRATED PRIORITY SYSTEM (IPS)**

**I. INTRODUCTION TO THIS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

**Overview of the IPS**

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) staff use the IPS to evaluate (score) and rank WPCLF projects. More specifically, we use this system to determine the effect of the project on human health or water resources. For example, water resources can include surface water components, such as lakes and rivers, and ground water features, such as aquifers. In more precise terms, DEFA staff consider: (1) the potential uses of water resources; (2) the restorability of water resources to their potential uses, or the protection of existing uses; and (3) the effectiveness of projects in addressing identified sources of impairment or threat when evaluating and ranking projects.

Since its inception in 1998, the IPS has placed the highest level of priority on projects that address human health concerns and continues to do so. Next, the IPS places a second level of priority on categories of projects which: (1) protect or restore the aquatic life uses of surface water resources, (2) protect or restore the ecological integrity of wetlands, or (3) protect or restore the quality of ground water resources for human use.

Human Health. Under the Human Health Category, there are four tiers of priority. The first tier consists of projects where a documented disease outbreak can be attributed to a water-borne source of pathogens, bacteria, or pollutants. The second tier consists of cases where a documented public health threat from a water-borne source has been identified. The third and fourth tiers consist of projects where dry weather overflows and wet weather overflows are present respectively, but no in-stream bacteriological data is available. Projects are grouped into one of the four sub-categories, with scores ranging from 40 points for addressing a disease outbreak to 35 points for resolving a public health threat, 30 points for eliminating a dry weather overflow, and 9 points for controlling a wet weather overflow, with an extra 0.2 point for each wet weather overflow physically eliminated.

Surface and Ground Water Resources. Within the Surface Water and Ground Water Resources Category, projects affecting rivers and streams, inland lakes, Lake Erie, the Ohio River, wetlands, and ground water are evaluated using measures appropriate to the resource in question. In general, regardless of the type of water resource, final scores range between 0 and 30 points, so that similar priority projects affecting each water resource category can be compared. This approach allows projects affecting different types of water resources to be placed on a single WPCLF project priority list (PPL).

Readers should note that Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) projects are handled somewhat differently. While WRRSP projects benefitting lakes and restoring streams are scored like their WPCLF counterparts, updates to stream preservation and wetland scoring have been implemented to better assess these projects in relation to the goals of the program. Evaluation of the WRRSP scoring system is ongoing and it is expected further updates will be made in the future to help assess all WRRSP projects. For instance, updates included in this document have allowed for more differentiation between wetland projects. This eliminates the issue of having so many projects receive maximum points and the use of multiple tie-breakers.

Shown below is a general schematic of the IPS. Specific information on each category of the scoring system is contained in subsequent sections of this guidance document.

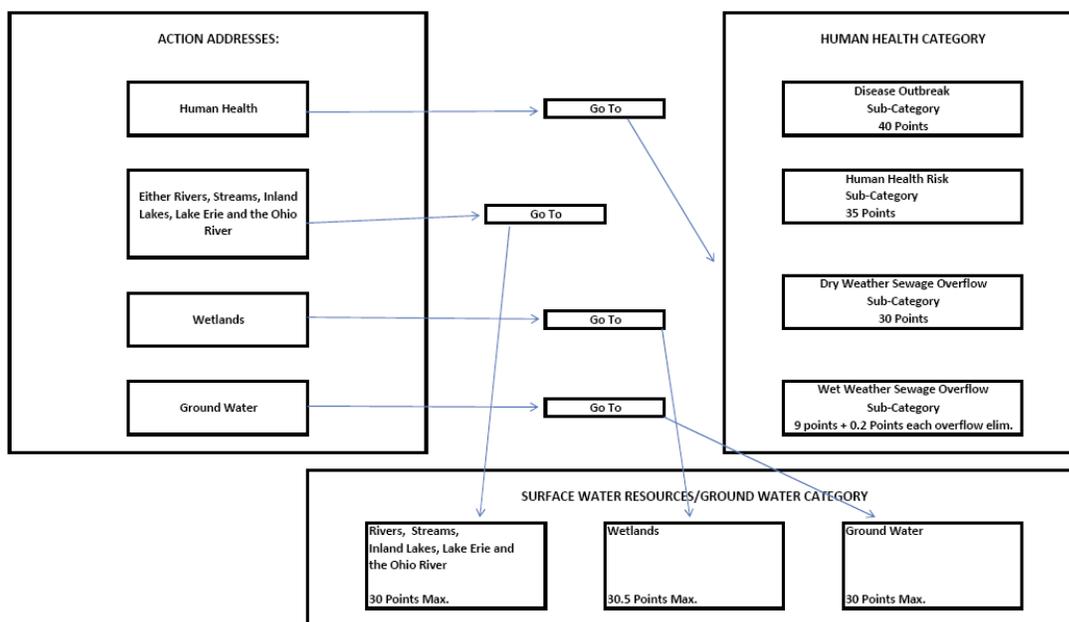


Figure Number 1

Figure 1 – Schematic Overview of the IPS

## II. THE INTEGRATED PRIORITY SYSTEM (IPS)

### A. Human Health Category

Projects addressing documented human health concerns arising from waterborne pathogens or pollutants form the first tier of priority within the IPS and reflect the importance of protecting public health and sanitation. Within the Human Health category, there are four levels of priority. The highest level of priority (and points) covers those situations where there is a confirmed disease outbreak. At the second

level of priority (and points) is the situation where a documented human health risk is present. Next, the third level of priority is specific to the presence of dry weather overflows of sewage into the environment, while the fourth level of priority is unique to the occurrence of wet weather overflows of sewage into areas where human contact is possible. Both of these latter situations may pose a potential for human health risks.

All projects evaluated and ranked through the IPS are assessed to determine whether they qualify for ranking within the Human Health category, based on information provided with the project nomination form or specifically referenced by the applicant, such as reports by Ohio EPA or agencies (e.g., local health departments) otherwise recognized as following acceptable water quality sampling protocols. Projects are initially evaluated by determining whether a disease outbreak has occurred, a risk to human health exists, dry weather overflow of sewage are present, or wet weather overflows of sewage are active. If any of these conditions are present, projects are then evaluated as to whether they address the source of the disease outbreak, human health risk, or overflow of sewage. If projects address the source of the problem, they are scored based on the applicable sub-category, according to whether they address one or more of these sources. If projects do not address the source of the problem, then they are not scored within the human health category, but are instead evaluated under the other IPS categories, as appropriate. Notably, if the information accompanying the nomination form shows that the project will also address other designated uses of the water resource, then the project will be evaluated under the Surface Water or Ground Water resources category. The project's points will serve as the basis for ranking the project under whichever category (or subcategory) results in a higher score. Please refer to the following figure when reviewing the information on the human health category of IPS.

#### **A.1. Disease Out-Break Sub-Category**

In order to be placed within this sub-category, the nominated project must address a documented water-borne disease outbreak. Documentation must be provided by or through the local health department which demonstrates a correlation between the location of failing home sewage treatment systems (HSTS) or other proven sources of water pollutants, location of incidents of suspected water-borne disease, and the dates of occurrences of reported illnesses. The correlation must also be supported by surface water and/or drinking water well sampling showing elevated concentrations of Escherichia coli or fecal coliform bacteria. The information must show that the numbers of reported illnesses are greater in the area in question than in surrounding areas.

A clear demonstration must be provided that the nominated project will eliminate the water pollution sources suspected of being the origin of the

reported water-borne diseases. If such a demonstration is provided, then the nominated project will receive **40 points**.

## **A.2. Human Health Risk Sub-Category**

Six different types of human health risks are evaluated under this sub-category: (1) HSTS failures in unsewered areas, (2) surface water bacterial levels in excess of water quality standards, (3) drinking water supply contamination, (4) bathing beach contamination, (5) fish consumption advisories, and (6) discharge of untreated sewage into basements or onto streets or properties. Projects which meet the rating criteria under this sub-category and are determined to be effective at addressing the source of the problem will receive **35 points**.

### **A.2.a. HSTS Failures in Unsewered Areas**

If failure rate documentation is provided, the documentation must be from the local health department. The documentation can consist of the results of surveys of HSTS in the area in question, or data obtained from unresolved nuisance complaints, unresolved failures identified during real estate transactions, unresolved failures found during inspections, unresolved private drinking water well contamination, or other comparable sources of information. If the documented failure rate is equal to or greater than 30% of the systems in the area in question, then it is assumed that there is a significant human health risk. In addition, we need a letter from the health department or other agency with the same authority to enforce connections to a sanitary sewer. This criterion applies to all unsewered area projects nominated for WPCLF funding.

HSTS failures can also be established in an unsewered area through analysis of surface water samples for bacterial contamination. Multiple sampling points need to be chosen for the drainage ways serving the unsewered areas in question. If 50% or more of the samples show a violation of water quality standards for secondary human contact, then it is assumed that there is a significant human health risk.

A third way in which HSTS failures can be established is if the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water (DSW), district office staff has documented, based on field observation, failure of the HSTS in the unsewered area in question to such an extent that Director's Findings and Orders have been issued. With such documentation from DSW, we can assume that there is a significant health risk.

If a human health risk is established through one of the three means above, then the effectiveness of the nominated project at addressing the

source of the risk is evaluated. A nominated project is considered effective if it will eliminate the failing HSTS.

### **A.2.b. Surface Water Bacteria Levels in Excess of Water Quality Standards**

Bacteriological sampling data ([Escherichia coli](#) or fecal coliform bacteria) is used to determine the presence of a potential risk to human health. Projects are evaluated using either in-stream bacteria sampling contained in the Ecological Assessment and Analysis Application (EA3) database, included in Ohio EPA water quality reports, or provided by other reliable sources (i.e., local health departments or other sources if the Ohio EPA sampling protocol has been followed).

Exceedance of water quality standards for in-stream bacterial levels is determined by comparing sampling results to the water quality standards established for the degree of recreation use designated for the water body (i.e., bathing water, Class A primary contact, Class B primary contact, Class C primary contact, secondary contact, or not rated). Reference is made to OAC 3745-1-07, Table 7-13, for the water quality standards applicable to the designated degree of recreation use (see <http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/rules/01-07.pdf>). For water bodies that are not rated, the secondary contact recreation standard is used. If the bacteria water quality standards are exceeded for the designated degree of human contact, then a potential human health risk exists.

A determination is then made as to whether the nominated project addresses the sources of the bacterial inputs. Specific sampling data must be supplied that documents the sources of the inputs in question. Based on this documentation, the applicant must describe the extent to which the nominated project will reduce or eliminate the sources of bacterial contamination. If the nominated project will reduce bacterial inputs to a level that meets the designated human use for the water body in question, then the nominated project is considered to be effective.

### **A.2.c. Drinking Water Supply Contamination**

The project nomination form must provide information from the drinking water supplier documenting that algal toxin, nitrate, or pesticide advisories have been issued for the supply. If such drinking water advisories have been issued within the last two years, then a potential human health risk exists. The nominated project is considered effective if it controls the contaminant in question down to a level that permits the

water treatment plant to meet its drinking water threshold or maximum contaminate levels (MCLs) for the pollutant(s) in question.

#### **A.2.d. Bathing Beach Contamination**

In Ohio, bathing beaches are monitored either by county health departments, the Ohio Department of Health, or the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The Ohio Department of Health also sponsors the “Bathing Beach Monitoring Program,” which is a cooperative effort between the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, local health departments with public beaches within their jurisdictions, and private and public organizations along the Lake Erie border and throughout Ohio. The goal of the program is to assure a safe and healthy aquatic recreational environment by protecting the bathing public from risks of contracting waterborne diseases from exposure to contaminated waters. These monitoring programs result in beach postings whenever monitoring indicates that water quality standards are being exceeded for algal toxins or E. coli bacteria levels.

If a beach posting has been issued within the last two calendar years, then a potential human health risk exists and the effectiveness of the project at reducing the risk is evaluated. The point- or non-point source project is considered effective if it will eliminate the identified human or non-human sources of algal toxins or bacterial contamination.

#### **A.2.e. Fish or Turtle Consumption Advisory**

The Ohio EPA sport fish health and consumption advisory, available online at <http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/fishadvisory/index.aspx> identifies the locations of fish consumption advisories within Ohio. If there is a fish or turtle consumption advisory for the water body in question, the contaminant(s) for which the consumption advisory has been issued are noted.

Any identified fish or turtle consumption advisories indicate a potential risk to human health. Proposed projects which will reduce the contaminant or contaminants in question at the location of the advisory are considered to be effective.

#### **A.2.f. Discharge of Untreated Sewage into Basements or onto Streets or Properties**

Either combined or separate sewer systems carrying sanitary sewage that lack sufficient capacity may cause back-ups into residential basements or onto properties or streets. This may occur particularly during wet weather periods. If such back-ups are present, documentation must be provided with the project nomination form which demonstrates the presence of back-ups into basements or overflows onto streets or properties. The number of such occurrences within the last two calendar years must be indicated. Also, documentation must be provided which demonstrates that the source of the back-ups to basements or overflows to properties is insufficient sewer capacity or other structural problems, as opposed to needed maintenance, such as sewer cleaning to remove blockages. Such documented back-ups or overflows indicate a potential risk to human health and actions which reduce occurrences of this problem by 50% or more annually are considered effective.

### **A.3. Dry Weather Overflow Sub-Category**

This sub-category includes those situations where either separate or combined sewer systems experience overflows during periods of dry weather. Projects which meet the rating criteria under this sub-category and are determined to be effective at addressing the source of the problem will receive **30 points**. The cause of the overflows must be related to capacity deficiencies in the sewer system in question, as opposed to maintenance issues, such as sewer cleaning to remove blockages or overflow regulator maintenance.

Documentation must be provided which shows the number of overflow occurrences in the last two calendar years prior to the submission of the nomination form. A map showing the locations of the dry weather overflows must also be provided.

If the documentation establishes the presence of an overflow problem, then the effectiveness of the nominated project in addressing the identified problem is assessed. If the nominated project will result in the physical elimination of the overflows, so that no dry weather overflow occurrences take place, then it is considered to be effective.

Neither this section nor the next apply to situations where wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) are experiencing internal bypasses. All dry or wet weather overflows must be within the collection system (i.e., at or before the last manhole).

### **A.4. Wet Weather Overflow Sub-Category**

This sub-category includes those situations where either separate or combined sewer systems experience overflows during periods of wet weather. The cause of the overflows must be related to capacity deficiencies in the sewer system in question, as opposed to maintenance issues, such as sewer cleaning to remove blockages or overflow regulator maintenance. Projects qualifying under this sub-category receive a score of **9 points**, plus an additional **0.2 point** for each overflow location eliminated. No points beyond the 9 points are given for projects which reduce, but do not eliminate, individual overflows.

Documentation must be provided which shows the name, condition (activation history and if the overflow will be eliminated), and location of each wet weather overflow for the last two calendar years prior to the submission of the nomination. A map of the locations of these overflows is necessary for proper scoring.

If the documentation establishes the presence of an overflow problem, then the effectiveness of the nominated project in addressing the identified problem is assessed. If the nominated project will result in a reduction or elimination of the overflows, then it is considered to be effective.

## **B. Surface Water and Ground Water Resources Category**

Nominated projects addressing surface water and ground water resources constitute the second major category of the IPS project evaluation and ranking system. Within this category, projects are evaluated relating to: 1) Streams and Rivers, Inland Lakes, the Ohio River and Lake Erie; 2) Wetlands; and 3) Ground Water.

Projects affecting streams and rivers, inland lakes, the Ohio River, and Lake Erie are evaluated using the same system of factors, which is based on the aquatic life use of these resources. In contrast, projects affecting wetlands are scored using a system which considers wetland quality and function. Projects affecting ground water resources are ranked using a system which considers factors influencing ground water quality for human use. While each of these three major water resource types has its own system for assigning points, all of the systems provide final scores which range from **0 to 30 points**. The three ranking systems within this category are presented below by water resource type.

## B.1. Rivers, Streams, Inland Lakes, Lake Erie, and the Ohio River Sub-Category

- **Focus on Aquatic Life**

This portion of the IPS focuses on aquatic life and how actions can protect or restore surface water resources, so that full attainment of the potential aquatic life use designation can be realized. Ohio EPA continues to be fortunate in that it has an excellent biological monitoring history and a rich body of data on the major surface water resources in the state. These data are contained in Ohio EPA's EA3 database (and in its 305(b) predecessor), and are the basis for this project scoring system. The databases are extensive enough to allow ranking of projects affecting unmonitored stream segments by using watershed level information for such stream segments. The following information describes how projects that affect streams, rivers, inland lakes, the Ohio River, and Lake Erie will be evaluated and scored. (Note: Project ranking is a separate process done during the preparation of the annual project priority list and intended project list.)

- **System Overview**

Please refer to the figure below, which contains an overview of this system when reviewing this information.

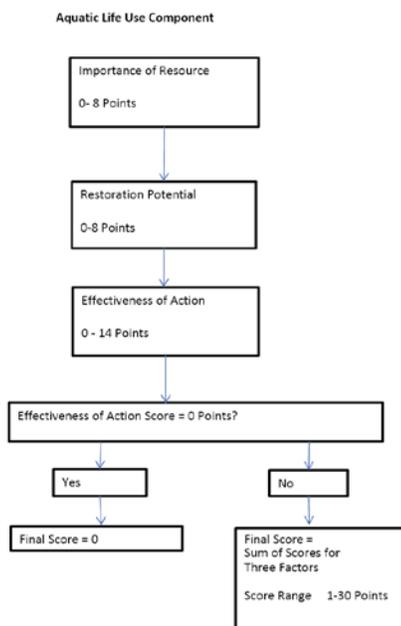


Figure Number 3

Figure 3 - Flow Chart of Aquatic Life Use Component of IPS

Based on the original concept, the aquatic life use-based priority ranking system continues to consist of three factors: 1) Importance of Resource, 2) Restoration Potential, and 3) Effectiveness of Action. In this system, the points assigned under each of the three factors are summed to yield scores for the projects being evaluated. The Importance of Resource and Restoration Potential factors collectively have a slightly greater weight than Effectiveness of Action, reflecting an emphasis on protecting and restoring the water resources with the highest potential aquatic life uses and the greatest potential for being restored. Effectiveness of Action, however, is still an important factor in determining a project's relative overall score, with a maximum of 14 points, as compared to a maximum score of 16 points for the other two factors combined. The Effectiveness of Action factor is specific to the project being ranked, rather than the aquatic resource being benefitted.

Each of the three factors has components which are specific to the surface water resource types being evaluated: a) rivers and streams, b) inland lakes, and c) Lake Erie and the Ohio River. The three factors are described in more detail in the following sections.

#### **B.1.a. Importance of Resource Factor**

The Importance of Resource factor refers to the potential for a water body to support a healthy biological community. In general, those resources that have the potential to support a high diversity of aquatic organisms will score higher than those resources that can only support pollution-tolerant organisms. This factor's score is determined by using the aquatic life habitat use designations in Ohio's Water Quality Standards (WQS) and which is recorded in rule (OAC Chapter 3745-1-xx) and in EA3. For example, a stream that is designated Exceptional Warm Water Habitat will receive a higher score than a Modified Warm Water Habitat stream. This factor also incorporates the antidegradation classifications assigned to the rivers and streams of the state, as these classifications reflect the presence of declining, threatened, rare and endangered species, or unique aquatic resources. For streams which are undesignated in the WQS rule, the designated aquatic life habitat use of the next downstream water body will be used to determine the Importance of Resource Factor. Where a water body has more than one monitoring station in EA3 within a project area and thus potentially more than one aquatic life habitat use designation or antidegradation classification, the average aquatic life habitat use designation or antidegradation classification score will be assigned to the nominated project. This approach is consistent with how watershed projects are scored (see below).

For watershed projects, all of the water bodies in the watershed will be listed and the respective aquatic life habitat use designations or antidegradation classifications noted. These designations or classifications are then converted

into numerical values using the table below. An Importance of Resource average of this list of values is then calculated by taking the sum of these scores and dividing it by the total number of water bodies in the watershed or project area. Table 1 below shows the scoring system for this factor.

<b>WPCLF Table 1 - Importance of Resource Values</b>	
<u>Surface Water Resource's Antidegradation or Aquatic Life Use Designation</u>	<u>Points</u>
*Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW)	8
*Outstanding State Water Based Upon Ecological Values (OSWE)	7
*Superior High Quality Water (SHQW)	6
Cold Water Habitat (CWH)	5
Exceptional Warm Water Habitat (EWH)**	4
Warm Water Habitat (WWH)	3
Modified Warm Water Habitat (MWH)	2
Limited Resource Water (LRW) or comparable use designation	1

\* These are antidegradation categories.

\*\* Lakes and reservoirs, including Lake Erie are considered EWH.

<b>WRRSP* Table 1 - Importance of Resource Values</b>	
<u>Antidegradation, Aquatic Life Use Designation or Primary Headwater Classification</u>	<u>Points</u>
Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) Outstanding State Water Based Upon Ecological Values (OSWE)	8
Superior High Quality Water (SHQW)	7
Cold Water Habitat (CWH), Exceptional Warm Water Habitat (EWH),	6
Class III and rheocrene	5
Warm Water Habitat (WWH),	4
Class II Headwaters	3
Modified Warm Water Habitat (MWH), Class I Headwaters	2
Limited Resource Water (LRW) or comparable use designation	1

\* This table is only used for WRRSP.

### **B.1.b. Restoration Potential Factor**

The Restoration Potential Factor uses different sets of criteria for: 1) rivers, streams and watersheds; 2) inland lakes; and 3) Lake Erie. These criteria are described separately below. However, the point scale used for scoring this factor (0-8 points) is the same for all water bodies addressed.

#### **B.1.b.1. Rivers, Streams and Watersheds**

For rivers, streams, and watersheds, a methodology is presented in the Appendix F of the year 2000 305(b) Report for rating stream segments based on the likelihood of restoring aquatic life use to a condition comparable to minimally impacted regional reference streams. In the year 2000 305(b) Report (see [http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/documents/Ohio305b2000\\_app.pdf](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/documents/Ohio305b2000_app.pdf)), this factor is termed the “ultimate aquatic life use restorability factor” and data for monitored stream segments is available in Appendix F. This system will be used to rate the restorability of these resources.

Restorability ratings have also been developed for Ohio’s larger watersheds and also can be found in Appendix F. Watershed restorability ratings are useful in a variety of ways. First, they give an indication of how typical any particular stream segment is in a watershed with respect to restorability. A stream that is present in a watershed with a high restorability rating is likely to be restored more quickly and with less effort than one in a watershed with low restorability. This is because the rating connotes either the presence or absence of sensitive species in the watershed that are needed to re-populate degraded areas, and the corresponding habitat and physical nature of streams in the watershed which are needed to support healthy aquatic biological communities.

For actions affecting impaired streams, the Restoration Potential Factor is calculated for stream segments by taking an average of the restoration potential for the stream segment and the restoration potential for the watershed in which the stream segment is located. This helps account for watershed influences upon stream segment restorability, as well as instances where stream segments may have a lower restorability than the watershed which they affect. When a restoration potential rating is not available for a stream segment due to a lack of monitoring data, the watershed restoration potential rating is used.

For actions affecting watersheds, the watershed restoration potential will be used for the Restoration Potential Factor. When a watershed restoration potential is unknown then either the next downstream watershed value will be used, or if this is not possible, then a comparable watershed, in terms of land use, in the same geographic area as the watershed in question, will be used.

There are eight levels for the Restoration Potential Factor, shown in Table 2 below. In segments that are achieving full attainment of their Warm Water Habitat (or better) designated aquatic life habitat use, a comparative restoration rating is not needed. Since protection rather than restoration is needed for these high quality segments, they will be given the same score as “extremely high” restoration potential water bodies.

In summary, the Restoration Potential Factor is designed to give first priority to unaffected or highly restorable water resources and lowest priority to the least restorable water resources.

<b>Table 2A - Restoration Potential Rating For Rivers and Streams</b>	
<u>Restoration Potential</u>	<u>Points</u>
Most Restorable: Extremely High or a Fully Attaining Water Body	8
Very High	7
High - Very High	6.5
High	6
Moderate – High	5
Moderate	4
Low-Moderate	3
Low	2
Very Low	1
Essentially None	0

### **B.1.b.2. Inland Lakes**

For inland lakes, there are relative measures of impairment contained in the Ohio Lake Condition Index (LCI) that was previously approved for use to provide a restoration potential rating. Prior to 2003 when Ohio’s Credible Data Law took effect, the Ohio Lake Condition Index was approved for use to assess the overall ecosystem health of Ohio’s public lakes. This index uses information gathered on 14 different parameters to allow assessment of the overall condition of lake ecosystems. Table 3 below relates LCI values to lake condition and shows the restoration ratings that have been assigned to the LCI values. Ohio EPA, DEFA continues to use the LCI as no replacement is available. When one becomes

available and Ohio has a lake habitat aquatic life use designation in place, DEFA expects to update this section of the IPS manual.

<b>Table 3 - Restoration Potential Ratings for Inland Lakes</b>		
<u>Restoration Potential/ Condition</u>	<u>LCI Value</u>	<u>Points</u>
Excellent	0-21	8
Good	21-25	7
Good-Fair	25-30	6
Fair	30-35	5
Fair-Poor	35-40	4
Poor	40-45	3
Poor-Very Poor	45-50	2
Very Poor	>50	1

### **B.1.c. Effectiveness of Action Factor**

The Effectiveness of Action factor reflects whether the project being evaluated will improve the quality of its associated water resource. This is determined based on: 1) what the sources of impairment are for the water body based on the nearest water quality monitoring station, 2) which of the identified impairments the action will address, and 3) the degree to which the action will address the sources of impairment. The causes (not used for scoring) and sources (used for scoring) of impairments are contained in the EA3 database for all monitored streams, rivers, and lakes of the state. For those water quality monitoring stations that have not been monitored, the nearest downstream station's data will be used to identify sources of impairment. In evaluating projects using this factor, both the primary and secondary environmental effects of the action are taken into consideration in determining a score.

#### **B.1.c.1. Rivers and Streams**

The Effectiveness of Action rating for river and stream stations is calculated as follows.

- From the EA3 database, the condition of the nearest station that will be influenced by the project is determined by noting all the sources of impairment. The EA3 database indicates the sources of impairment for each station, but does not assign a level of impairment (in contrast to the old 305(b) FoxPro/Access database). As a result, each impairment source listed in EA3 is assumed to have a high magnitude associated with it and receives 4 points. If source of impairment data are unavailable in EA3, the older 305(b) data stored in an Access database will be used in its place. In that case, each source is rated as either being a high, moderate, or slight source of impairment, or a threat. The Effectiveness of Action factor converts these ratings into points by

assigning:

4 points for high sources,  
3 points for moderate sources,  
2 points for threats, and  
1 point for slight sources.

- An Effectiveness Percentage for the project is then calculated by first obtaining the sum of points for all sources at a station or in a stream segment. Next, the sources addressed by the project are summed. For those actions which do not completely address a source, a fractional point value is assigned. A percentage is then calculated by taking the sum of the points for the sources addressed and dividing by the total points for the sources present at a station or in the stream segment (depending on the data source being used).
- The Effectiveness Percentage is then converted into an Effectiveness of Action score. This is done by matching a project's Effectiveness Percentage to one of seven groups of Effectiveness Percentages, with scores ranging from 0 to 14.

**NOTE: When an action scores 0 points for this factor, it receives 0 points for rank in the Rivers, Streams, Inland Lakes and Lake Erie portion of the IPS regardless of scores it receives in the other two factors.**

Ranges of Effectiveness Percentages are used to assign Effectiveness of Action scores because this matches this factor's level of resolution (i.e., actions close to each other in effectiveness percentages are similar in effectiveness). At the same time, the distribution of percentages among the groups is not uniform. That is, high scoring groups encompass larger Effectiveness Percentage ranges than the lower scoring groups.

The non-uniform distribution of percentages was done for two reasons. First, in pilot testing the system, only a few projects had high Effectiveness Percentages; consequently, using uniform percentage distributions resulted in a large spread of scores between a few projects with high Effectiveness Percentages and a clumping of many projects at the middle and bottom percentage ranges into several scores. Second, it was observed that actions with high Effectiveness Percentages were similar to each other in terms of their anticipated effectiveness. An additional consideration is that the non-uniform distribution of percentages in this factor allows projects of equivalent effectiveness to receive the same scores, while at the same time permitting more differentiation between projects with lower Effectiveness Percentages, where cut-offs in priority are more likely to be located for the WPCLF program.

Table 4 below shows the Effectiveness scores and the Effectiveness Percentages associated with them.

Table 4 – Effectiveness of Actions Scores	
Percentage Range	Score
71-100	14
51-70	12
41-50	10
31-40	8
21-30	6
11-20	4
1-10	2
0	0

### B.1.c.2 Watersheds

Projects affecting watersheds will be rated using the same process developed for stream segments and individual stations, but at a larger scale. The Effectiveness Percentage will be calculated as the sum of impairment sources addressed in the watershed, divided by the total of the points for all sources of impairment within the watershed. An Effectiveness of Action score will be assigned to watershed actions using the conversions shown in Table 4.

### B.1.c.3. Inland Lakes

For inland lakes, information on the sources of impairment is available from the EA3 and the older 305(b) FoxPro-Access database, as well as on-line resources. This data is in the same format as the stream and river information. Effectiveness of Action scores will be assigned using the same scoring system as used for river and stream segments.

### B.1.c.4. Protection

There are projects, which while not directly addressing a source of impairment, could nonetheless be important because they address a problem that will result in an impairment or threat to water quality if not corrected. This can occur in water bodies fully attaining their water quality standards or in water bodies which currently have some impairment of function. Giving priority to protection actions is consistent with the Clean Water Act objective, "...to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters", as well as with the Ohio EPA goal of increasing the percentage of stream miles in Ohio fully attaining their designated uses.

Protection actions must have as their primary purpose one or more of the following:

- Protect or restore in-stream or riparian habitat or other important habitat areas.

- Prevent an increase in the loading of pollutants entering surface waters from nonpoint sources.
- Prevent adverse impacts from storm water influx.
- Repair or replacement of critical wastewater systems in order to prevent a surface water pollution problem at facilities currently in attainment with their NPDES permits. Such projects should address wastewater system problems that could result in NPDES permit violations if action is not taken promptly.

The following information, along with Table 5 below, shows how different types of protection actions will be scored.

<b>Table 5 - Effectiveness Scores for Protection Actions</b>	
<b>Action Type</b>	<b>Score</b>
Habitat Protection for Unimpaired Water Bodies	13
Other Protection Actions for Unimpaired Water Bodies	7
Protection Actions for Impaired Water Bodies	1

#### **B.1.c.4.a. Habitat Protection for Unimpaired Water Bodies**

According to Ohio’s 2012 Integrated Report and related water quality reports, the primary threats to streams currently attaining their water quality standards continue to be from habitat and physical modifications. Therefore, actions which remediate direct habitat or physical modifications constitute the highest protection category. These actions could include the following: riparian protection or restoration, stream bank stabilization, agricultural or urban erosion control, or headwater restoration. This category of protection action will be given an Effectiveness of Action score of 13, reflecting the importance of such projects to the maintenance of Ohio’s water resources.

#### **B.1.c.4.b. Other Protection Actions for Unimpaired Water Bodies**

Other protection actions at fully attaining monitoring stations or on fully attaining water bodies are given more priority than those on impaired segments. This reflects the fact that keeping a water body in attainment requires less effort than the restoration of an impaired water body and also has a much greater chance of success. The Effectiveness score for these projects will be 7, a mid-level of priority.

#### **B.1.c.4.c. Protection Actions for Impaired Water Bodies**

Protection projects at impaired monitoring stations or on impaired segments will receive a score of 1 point. While sources of impairment exist, which are immediately apparent at such locations, it is recognized that protection actions can still prevent further impairment of these water bodies. However, the water body will remain in its present state of impairment after implementation of the protection action.

**B.1.c.4.d. Protection Actions for Lake Erie and the Ohio River**

All projects which benefit either Lake Erie or the Ohio River and are ranked under “Rivers, Streams, Inland Lakes, Lake Erie and the Ohio River” will be given points under protection if they are actions which provide replacement or upgrades to critical infrastructure necessary to maintain NPDES permit compliance. Due to their sizes and the complexity of factors which influence them, Lake Erie and the Ohio River represent special cases. Individual projects generally will have negligible effects on these resources, due to the size and dynamics of the water bodies relative to the contribution of individual sources of pollution. However, actions which involve critical infrastructure replacement/upgrades will be ranked using the protection portion of the ranking system, because such projects will serve to maintain current water quality. All other projects benefitting Lake Erie or the Ohio River which are ranked under this category will receive 0 points.

The default scores for projects providing protection to Lake Erie and the Ohio River are calculated as follows:

**B.1.c.4.d.1. Lake Erie**

Actions which provide replacement or upgrades to critical infrastructure necessary to maintain NPDES permit compliance in Lake Erie will receive a total score of 12 points based on the following:

<b>Table 6 - Protection Action Score for Lake Erie</b>	
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Score</b>
Importance of Resource	6 points
<b>Reason:</b> Lake Erie is classified as a Superior High Quality water resource.	
Restoration Potential	5 points
<b>Reason:</b> The Aquatic Habitat Indicator Metric in the Lake Erie Index, contained in the State of the Lake Report - 2004 from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, rates aquatic habitat as fair. This equates to 5 points in the Restoration Potential Factor in Table 3 above.	
Effectiveness of Action	1 point
<b>Reason:</b> Protection of an impaired water resource, as Lake Erie does not currently meet its exceptional warmwater habitat aquatic life use water quality standards.	

#### B.1.c.4.d.2. The Ohio River

Actions which provide replacement or upgrades to critical infrastructure necessary to maintain NPDES permit compliance in the Ohio River will receive a total score of 18 points based on the following:

<b>Table 7 - Protection Action Score for the Ohio River</b>	
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Score</b>
Importance of Resource	3 points
<b>Reason:</b> The Ohio River is attaining General Warmwater Habitat water quality standards	
Restoration Potential	8 points
<b>Reason:</b> The Ohio River is in full attainment of its designated aquatic life use.	
Effectiveness of Action	7 points
<b>Reason:</b> Protection of an unimpaired water resource, as the Ohio River is currently meeting its designated aquatic life use.	

#### B.1.d. Rating Actions Benefitting Water Bodies with Multiple Sources of Impairment

Where multiple sources of impairment are present, WPCLF-nominated loan projects will be rated under the Integrated Priority System in the following manner:

- If the action provides full restoration to the designated aquatic life use of the water resource, the action will be rated based upon full restoration of the water resource.
- If the action provides partial restoration to the designated aquatic life use of the water resource and funding has been secured<sup>1</sup> by the responsible parties to address the other sources of impairment, the action will be rated based on full restoration of the benefitted water resource.
- If the action provides partial restoration to the designated aquatic life use of the water resource and funding has not been secured by the responsible parties to address the other sources of impairment, the action will receive a score based on the degree of restoration of the water resource that is attributable to the WPCLF-nominated project and any other improvement actions for which funding has been secured.

---

<sup>1</sup> "funding has been secured" means that the entity(ies) responsible for implementing improvements have either a commitment of funding from a funding agency or have local funds committed to finance completion of the improvements.

**B.1.e. Preservation of Streams under WRRSP**

**Preservation of stream resources will be scored based on the quality and rarity of the stream, as well as the effectiveness of the preservation action proposed. A summary and outline of scoring is presented below:**

**Quality (20 pts)**

QHEI or HHEI score divided by 5

- The appropriate stream assessment score (QHEI or HHEI) for the proposed stretch of stream for preservation will be divided by 5 to give a maximum score of 20 points for the quality score which comprises two thirds of the total score.

**Rarity (5 pts)**

	<b>5 points</b>	<b>3 points</b>	
Anti-deg. Category or ALU	OSWE, SHQW, CWH	EWH, Class III/rheocrene	

- Anti-degradation categories of Outstanding State Waters based on Ecological values (OSWE) and Superior High Quality Waters (SHQW), as well as streams with an Aquatic Life Use of Cold Water Habitat (CWH) will be awarded five additional points.
- Streams with an Aquatic Life Use of Exceptional Warm Water Habitat (EWH) and headwater streams that meet the definition of Class III or rheocrene in accordance with the most recent Ohio Primary Headwater Habitat manual are awarded three additional points.
- All other streams will not receive additional points under the rarity component of the score.

**Effectiveness**

<b>Modifiers</b>	<b>1 point Each</b>
Only Acceptable Easements	1
Protection from development	1
Efficiency (Price/LF < \$100)	1
Watershed Protection/Resource Integration	1
Riparian Buffers provided (> 50 meters)	1

- The effectiveness score consists of five potential modifiers worth one point each:
- Acceptable Easements – One point will be awarded if the rater determines there are no easements that will or have the potential to negatively affect the integrity of the

preserved resource or that resources ability to achieve its highest potential. For example, lack of minerals rights, access roads, utility corridors all have the potential to harm stream integrity if they encroach on the stream proper or their immediate buffers.

- Protection from Development – One point will be awarded if the rater determines the proposed project will protect the resource from imminent or likely future development.
- Efficiency – One point will be awarded if price per linear foot of stream preserved for the entire project is less than \$100 per linear foot. This calculation includes the streams on the site that will be protected by the covenant and are rated Class II or higher from the Importance of Resource table.
- Watershed Protection/Resource Integration – One point will be awarded if the project also protects the watershed of the stream proposed for protection. This includes headwater streams, wetlands, tributaries to the main stream, or other quality water resources on the site.
- Riparian Buffers – One point will be awarded if quality buffers of greater than 50 meters will be preserved as part of the stream preservation project. This point can be awarded if quality buffers currently do not exist, but will be restored as part of the project.

#### **B.1.f Final Score**

The final score for a project is the sum of the scores for the three factors: 1) Importance of Resource, 2) Restoration Potential, and 3) Effectiveness of Action. Higher scores will indicate a higher priority action. The maximum score achievable is 30 points.

- Projects with Tied Scores

For any regular WPCLF projects with tied IPS scores, such projects will be ranked as they have been in the past, with scores being broken in accordance with the effective Program Management Plan (e.g., by economic need points and the amount of the loan request -- lower cost projects given priority over the higher cost ones). WRRSP projects with tied scores will have their ties broken as is done with regular WPCLF projects (lowest cost projects get funded first).

- Projects Affecting Multiple Water Resources

Except as provided for in B.1.c.2.(actions affecting watersheds), for projects affecting multiple water resources, such as projects affecting both streams and lakes, scores will be calculated for each of the affected resources. The highest score, or in some WRRSP cases the resource that is the focus of the project will be the one used to rank the project.

#### **B.2. WETLANDS**

The system used to rank wetland projects has historically been different than the other ranking systems. Although the system is still different, this update attempts to normalize scoring by using the same concepts used to score other resources.

- **Protecting Existing Wetlands**

Projects to preserve existing wetlands are important to prevent further declines in wetland acreage. In general, wetland preservation efforts also have a higher probability of success than wetland restoration efforts, so it is important to the program to try to preserve the high quality and unique wetlands that remain in Ohio. Scoring is similar to the stream preservation system, in that the score is obtained using the concepts of quality, rarity and effectiveness as detailed below.

**Quality (20 pts)**

ORAM score divided by 5

- The Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) score for wetland proposed for preservation will be divided by 5 to give a maximum score of 20 points for the quality score which comprises two thirds of the total score.

**Rarity (5 pts)**

	<b>5 points</b>	<b>3 points</b>	
Special Wetland Type	Bogs, Fens, Old Growth or Mature Forest, Lake Erie Coastal (unrestricted hydrology), Oak Openings, Relict Wet Prairies	Vernal pools, threatened or endangered species, Modified Hydrology- Lake Erie coastal, other	

- Special Wetland type points will be awarded if the wetland meets the definition of the wetland type defined in the ORAM manual, Version 5.0.
- The documented presence of state or federal threatened or endangered species qualifies a site for the three points under rarity.
- As defined in OAC 3745-1-50 "Vernal pools" means shallow, temporarily flooded, depressional forested or forest edge wetlands, that are typically dry for most of the summer and fall. These wetlands are generally inundated in the late winter and spring when they are subject to a burst of biological activity, including amphibian breeding. When flooded, vernal pools are often comprised of areas of open water that are not densely vegetated. They also tend to accumulate organic (woody) debris. To be eligible for the 3 points under rarity, there should be evidence or a reasonable expectation the pool is used by amphibian species that rely on this type of wetland. Examples of amphibians that often or only use vernal pools include salamanders, wood frogs, spring peepers, and chorus frogs.
- If a wetland meets more than one of the special wetland type categories points will be awarded for the highest type not combined. The maximum score is 5 points for the Rarity factor.
- The "other" type can be awarded at the raters discretion if a wetland is of a unique type that has not been captured by one of the other categories.

## Effectiveness

Modifiers	1 point Each
Only Acceptable Easements	1
Protection from development	1
Efficiency (total acreage - Price /acre < \$5000) (wetland acreage - Price/acre < \$20,000)	1
Watershed Protection/Resource Integration	1
Adequate Buffers provided (> 50 meters)	1

- The effectiveness score consists of five potential modifiers worth one point each:
  - Acceptable Easements – One point will be awarded if the rater determines there are no easements that will or have the potential to negatively affect the integrity of the preserved resource or that resources ability to achieve its highest potential. For example, lack of minerals rights, access roads, and utility corridors all have the potential to impact wetlands if they encroach on the wetland or their immediate buffers.
  - Protection from Development – One point will be awarded if the rater determines the proposed project will protect the resource from imminent or likely future development.
  - Efficiency – One point will be awarded if price per acre of wetland preserved for the project is less than \$20,000 and the price per acre of the covenant area, including wetlands and buffers is <\$5000. Partial points can be awarded is a project meets one of the criteria but not the other. This calculation includes the wetlands on the site that will be protected by the covenant and are rated Category II or higher.
  - Watershed Protection/Resource Integration – One point will be awarded if the project also protects the watershed of the wetland proposed for protection. This includes headwater streams, other wetlands, stream corridors, or other quality water resources on the site.
  - Adequate Buffers – One point will be awarded if quality buffers of greater than 50 meters will be preserved as part of the wetland preservation project. This point can be awarded if quality buffers currently do not exist, but will be restored as part of the project.
- **Restoring Wetlands**

Projects to restore wetlands to at least a Category 3 wetland condition are needed to stabilize these resources and prevent further decline in quality. This can be accomplished by addressing the three essential characteristics of wetlands: hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic

vegetation. Of these three traits, hydrology is the most essential component of wetlands, since it is the driving force which creates all wetlands. Thus, wetland restoration projects rely initially on re-establishing or developing the hydrology, on a sustainable basis, necessary to create and/or maintain hydric soils and provide habitat where hydrophytic vegetation can grow and maintain itself. Since wetland creation is a difficult task, the best candidate for restoration is a location which previously contained a functioning wetland, but had its hydrology modified at some point in time (e.g., water table was lowered). These sites are usually in agricultural production. In many cases, a functioning wetland can be restored if the hydrology is re-established and hydrophytic vegetation is re-introduced. Accordingly, these types of projects are eligible for WPCLF and WRRSP funding. However, wetlands creation projects are not eligible for WRRSP funding as their ability to achieve Category 3 condition is questionable. Note that wetland creation projects are potentially eligible for regular WPCLF loan funding.

**Importance of Resource (IR) (5 pts)**

Existing Condition	Points
Category 3	5 (60-100)
Category 2	4 (30-59.5)
Category 1	3 (0-29.5)
Non-wetland(hydric soils)	2
Non-wetland(non-hydric soils)	1

- The Importance of Resource score for a wetland restoration project will be determined based on the current condition of the restoration site. This factor will receive a maximum of five points. Sites that are not currently wetland will be rated based on the current soil condition.

**Restoration Potential (RP) (10 pts.) (Score each category)**

Existing & Proposed Condition	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points
Protected Buffers	Buffers > 100 m	Buffers > 50 m	Buffers < 50 m
Current/Previous Land Use(soil condition)	Undisturbed healthy organic soils	Restoring drained soils	History of compaction (farming, industrial, etc.) or disturbance (mining, etc.)

Hydrology Sources	Perennial surface or groundwater	Intermittent/seasonal surface water	Precipitation only
Invasive Species	<5%	5-50%	>50%
Special Wetland Type	Bogs, Fens, Mature Forest, Lake Erie Coastal, Oak openings, Relict Wet Prairies	Vernal pools, known occurrence of threatened or endangered species, other	

- The Restoration Potential factor is based on the accumulated points from five categories:
- Protected Buffers – Award 0, 1, or 2 points based on the width of proposed buffers that will be protected for the wetland(s).
- Current/Previous Land Condition and soil condition – Award 0, 1, or 2 points based on the previous land use and the current condition of the site, considering historical land uses.
- Hydrology Sources – Award 2 points for perennial surface water sources as defined in the ORAM manual or for wetlands with a groundwater connection. Award 1 point for seasonal or intermittent surface water connections.
- Invasive species – These points are awarded based on the current condition of the vegetation within the wetland restoration area. If there is a question of whether a plant species is considered invasive or not check the ORAM manual invasive list or the ODNR list at <http://ohiodnr.gov/invasive-species/terrestrial-plants/list-of-ohios-top-invasive-plants>
- Please see the definitions of the special wetland types in the rarity section under wetland protection.

### Effectiveness of Action (EA) (15 pts)

Activity	Points	Modifiers	1 point Each
Restore to Cat 3(create wetlands)	10	Only Acceptable Easements	1
		Protection from development	1
Enhance existing wetland to Cat 3	6	Efficiency(total acreage)(Price /acre < \$5000)	1
		Watershed Protection/Resource Integration	1
Enhance existing Cat 3	2		
Final Category not expected to be 3	0	Efficiency(wetland acreage)Price/acre < \$20,000	1

- A maximum of 15 points can be awarded for the effectiveness of the action. Ten points are based on the activity considering the current condition of the project area. If the

restoration project is not expected to obtain Category 3 status then the project is not eligible for funding.

- The modifiers are scored the same as they are in the effectiveness section under wetland protection. Note the Efficiency metric is split in this section and is scored based on the projected final wetland acreage restored.

- **Information Required to Rank Wetlands Actions**

For all actions, whether intended to protect or restore wetlands, the project implementer or nominator will need to submit all of the ORAM scoring sheets, not just the scoring summary, and a description of how the site will be protected or restored. In the project description, the project implementer or nominator will need to indicate the wetland category type the site will maintain when the action is completed and, using the ORAM Version 5.0 scoring forms, identify the functions the wetland will maintain after implementation of the action.

The protection or restoration plan, along with supporting information and all the ORAM Version 5.0 scoring forms will be reviewed to establish a score for the project.

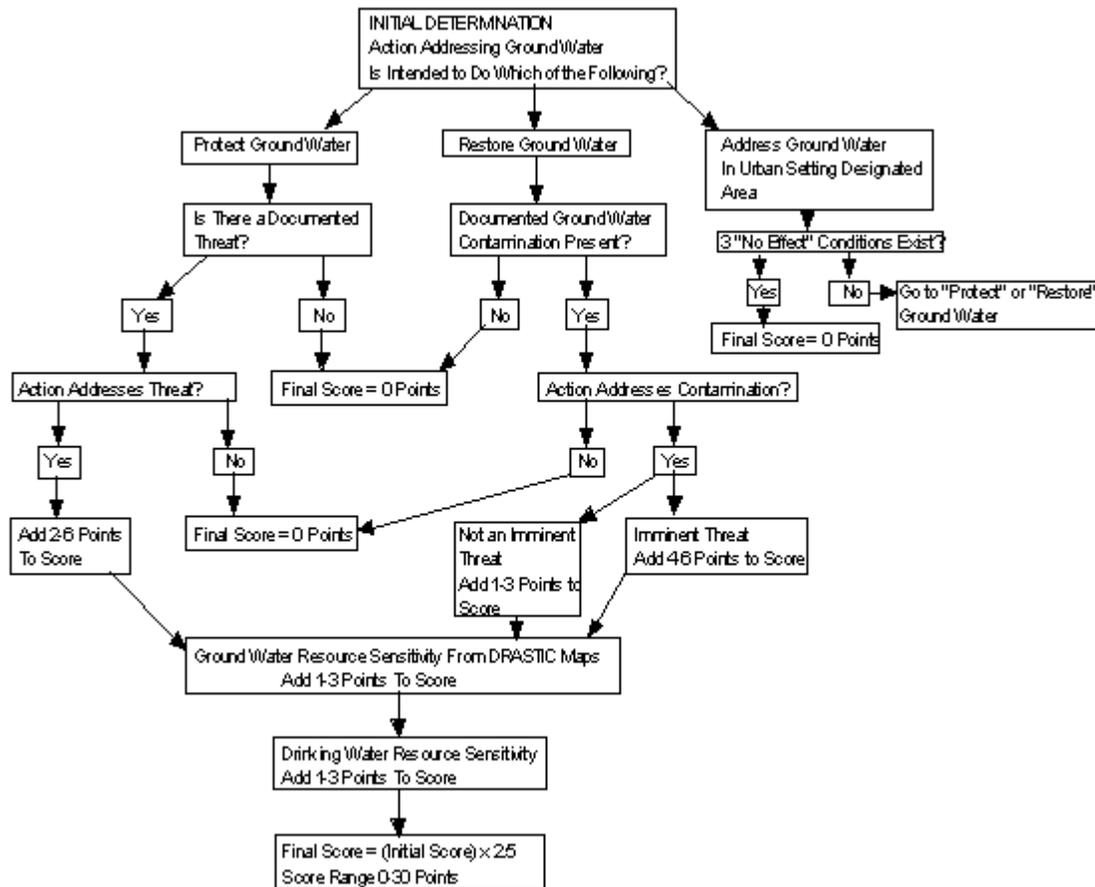
#### **B.2.a. Final Score for Wetlands**

1. For any projects that remain tied after employing the scoring system, the lower funding request amounts given priority over the higher funding request amounts.

#### **B.4. GROUND WATER**

Ground water is evaluated by the IPS because it is a part of Ohio's water resources and because projects affecting surface water features can also affect ground water resources. The ranking system presented below and developed for ground water was created initially with input from the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW).

Projects affecting ground water will be ranked based on whether they protect or restore the quality of ground water resources. The ranking systems used for projects that protect and projects that restore ground water resources are described separately below. The figure below provides an overview of the Ground Water ranking system.



- ### Initial Determination

First, a determination is made as to whether the nominated project is intended to protect or restore ground water quality. Projects are then scored using either the protection or restoration portion of the ranking system, as appropriate. This determination is made by reviewing plans for nominated projects and determining whether the action is intended to address threats or existing impacts to ground water resources. The initial determination includes identifying if the ground water resource is in an “Urban Setting Designation” under Ohio EPA’s Voluntary Action Program rules. If the project is intended to address problems in such an area, the action will receive 0 points and no priority if the following three conditions exist: a) the problem being addressed does not extend beyond the area covered by the “urban setting designation,” b) the problem does not involve contamination with volatile compounds or human exposure that can be traced back to a contaminated water source, and c) the problem does not affect ground water outside of the Urban Setting Designated area. Conversely, where one or more of these conditions exist, the project will be reviewed and scored in accordance with the following system.

#### B.3.a. Ground Water Protection

Protection of existing high quality ground water resources is important to maintaining the quality of those resources for human use. Where the nominated project is intended to protect ground water resources, an IPS score is assigned by evaluating four factors described below. Scores will range from 0, indicating a low priority action, to 12, indicating a high priority project.

#### **B.3.a.1. Documented Ground Water Contamination Threat**

Before a nominated project can be evaluated, documentation should be obtained concerning the ground water contamination threat. The source of this information can be from Ohio EPA or another responsible party, as long as Ohio EPA data collection standards have been satisfied (e.g., data from approved wellhead protection plans). If there is a documented contamination threat, the next step is to determine whether the proposed project addresses the threat. If there is no documented threat, no points are assigned to the nominated project and the evaluation is concluded.

#### **B.3.a.2. Determine if the Nominated Project Addresses the Threat**

Where a documented threat to ground water exists, the nominated project should be reviewed to determine if it will address the source(s) of the threat. If the proposed project does address the source of the threat, 6 points are assigned to the action and the sensitivity of the ground water resource is then evaluated. If the proposed project does not address a documented threat, no points are assigned to the nominated project and the evaluation is concluded.

#### **B.3.a.3. Ground Water Resource Sensitivity**

Where the nominated project will address a source that threatens ground water, county-level DRASTIC mapping, completed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) will be used. For counties where the ODNR maps are not available, DRASTIC maps done by the Ohio Department of Agriculture for the Ohio Pesticide Management Plan will be used to determine if ground water sensitivity is high, medium, or low. DRASTIC mapping identifies sensitivity of areas to contamination from surface sources of pollution, based on soil permeability. Proposed projects which address a documented threat in areas of high sensitivity receive 3 additional points. Two (2) points are assigned in areas of medium sensitivity and 1 point is assigned in low sensitivity areas. The ground water resource is then evaluated to determine its sensitivity as drinking water source.

#### **B.3.a.4. Drinking Water Resource Sensitivity**

One of the most important human uses for ground water is as a source of drinking water. Points are assigned based on the degree of importance of the ground water resource for this use. If the nominated project addresses a problem which threatens ground water in a wellhead protection area, 3 additional points are added to the score. If the proposed project addresses a problem that is not within a wellhead protection area, but threatens any public or private water system, 2 additional points are added to the score. If none of the previous conditions exist, but

the problem threatens a sole source aquifer, 1 additional point is added to the score. If none of these situations apply, then the nominated project receives 0 points for this factor.

### **B.3.b. Ground Water Restoration**

Where the nominated project is intended to restore ground water resource quality, an IPS score is assigned by evaluating four factors described below. Scores will range from 0, indicating a low priority action, to 12, indicating a high priority project.

#### **B.3.b.1. Documented Ground Water Contamination Problem**

Before a nominated project can be evaluated, documentation should be obtained concerning the ground water contamination problem. The source of this information could be Ohio EPA or another responsible party, as long as Ohio EPA data collection standards have been satisfied. Such information could include ground water monitoring data, leachate samples, or land use information. If there is a documented contamination problem, the next step is to determine whether the proposed project will address the problem. If there is no documented contamination problem, no points are assigned to the nominated project and the evaluation is concluded.

#### **B.3.b.2. Determine if the Nominated Project Addresses the Contamination Problem**

Where ground water contamination has been documented, the nominated project should be reviewed to determine if it will address the source of contamination, the plume of contamination, or both. A determination is also made as to whether the contamination is or is not imminently threatening public or private drinking water sources.

In cases where the contamination is not an imminent threat to public or private drinking water wells, if the plume of contamination is addressed the proposed project receives 1 point, if the source of contamination is addressed the project receives 2 points, and if both the source and plume of contamination are addressed, the nominated project receives 3 points.

In cases where the contamination is an imminent threat to public or private drinking water wells, if the plume of contamination is addressed, the proposed project receives 4 points, if the source of contamination is addressed the project receives 5 points, if both the source and plume of contamination are addressed, the nominated project receives 6 points.

If the nominated project does not address the contamination problem, no points are assigned to the action and the evaluation is concluded. When a proposed project does address a ground water contamination problem, the sensitivity of the ground water resource is to be evaluated as a part of ranking the nominated project.

#### **B.3.b.3. Ground Water Resource Sensitivity**

For nominated projects which address a source of ground water contamination, county-level DRASTIC mapping, completed for the Ohio Pesticide Management Plan, is reviewed to determine if ground water sensitivity is high, medium, or low. Proposed projects which address documented contamination in areas of high sensitivity receive 3 additional points. Two (2) points are assigned in areas of medium sensitivity and 1 point is assigned in low sensitivity areas. The ground water resource is then evaluated to determine its sensitivity as a drinking water supply.

#### **B.3.b.4. Drinking Water Resource Sensitivity**

If the nominated project addresses ground water contamination affecting a wellhead protection area, 3 additional points are added to the score. If the ground water contamination being addressed does not affect a wellhead protection area, but affects public or private water systems, 2 additional points are added to the score. If none of the previous conditions exist, but the problem affects a sole source aquifer, 1 additional point is added to the score. If none of these conditions apply to the problem, then the nominated project receives 0 points for this factor.

#### **2.3.3. Final Score for Ground Water Resources**

The raw score for actions addressing ground water is the sum of the points obtained either in the protection or restoration category for the action being ranked. The final score for an action is obtained by multiplying the raw score by 2.5, to make the range of points for actions affecting ground water comparable with actions affecting other types of water resources. Scores can range from 0 to 30 points.

