

# Protecting water, by protecting land

## Measure of Success:

Protect 75% of the forested land within the minor watershed from land conversion or development.



### Woodlands are giant water filters

Forests and well vegetated lands serve as a giant natural sponge, filtering and retaining storm water. The root system and vegetative base of woodlands protect both groundwater and surface water.



### Land use affects water quality

The "Disturbance" of land has an effect on its ability to slow down and filter storm water runoff. As woodlands are developed or converted to crop or pasture lands the soil loses its ability to retain and filter water.

25%

### The tipping point for water quality

Studies show that when more than 25% of the forest within a watershed is converted to other land uses, the water quality, begins to decline. Much of the decline is due to greater amounts of phosphorus entering the water.



75%

### The protection goal is 75%

Because of water quality decline at 25% land disturbance, the protection goals for a watershed are then 75%. If this land percentage can be maintained, a certain quality of water can usually be reached.



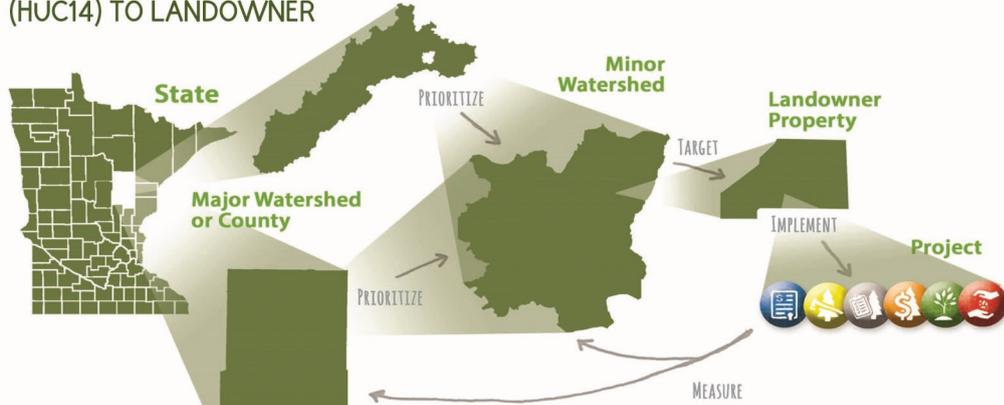
36% of Minnesota's forests are private, they are 100% essential for clean water!



We need to protect priority lakes and increase permanent protection funding for the iconic symbols of Minnesota's natural heritage... our lakes!

# Prioritization and Scoring Process

MAJOR WATERSHED (HUC8) TO SUB-WATERSHED (HUC10) TO MINOR WATERSHED (HUC14) TO LANDOWNER

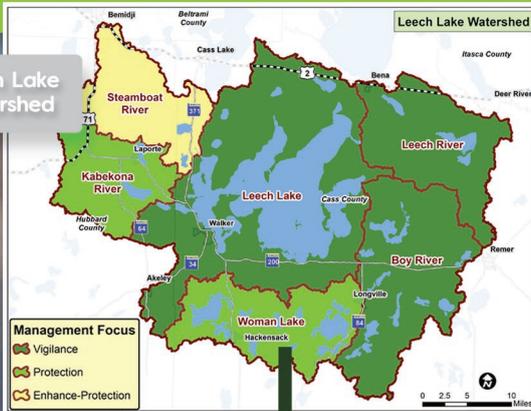


Drilling Down from the Major Watershed to the Parcel Scale

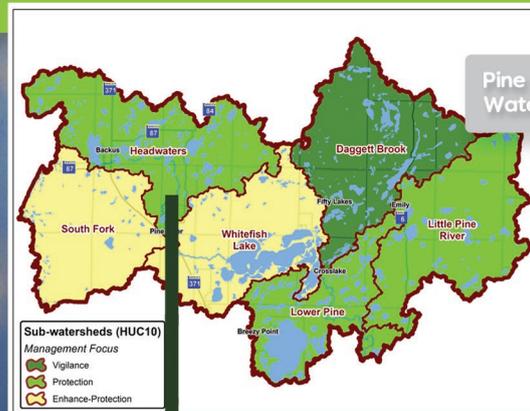
## Prioritization by Watershed

- Cisco Lakes, Wild Rice Lakes, Lakes of High/Outstanding Biodiversity
- "Protection" Watersheds (< 75% Protected: source One Watershed One Plan, DNR Landscape Stewardship Plan)

Leech Lake Watershed

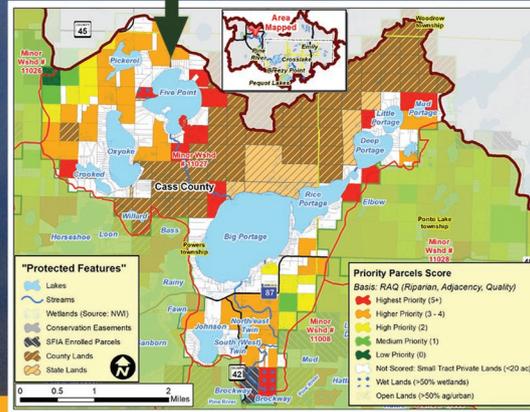
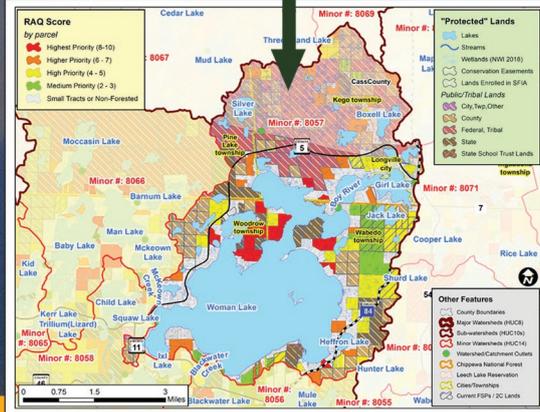


Pine River Watershed



Light Green = Protection Priority Sub-watershed

Red/Orange = High Priority Parcels



## RAQ Scoring Method Targets to the Private Parcel

- R = Riparian to Lake or Stream
- A = Adjacent to Public Lands (for larger habitat blocks)
- Q = Quality (High or Outstanding Terrestrial Biodiversity/DNR Wildlife Action Plan, Trout, Native, Muskie, Wild Rice, Old Growth Forests, + other locally important features)