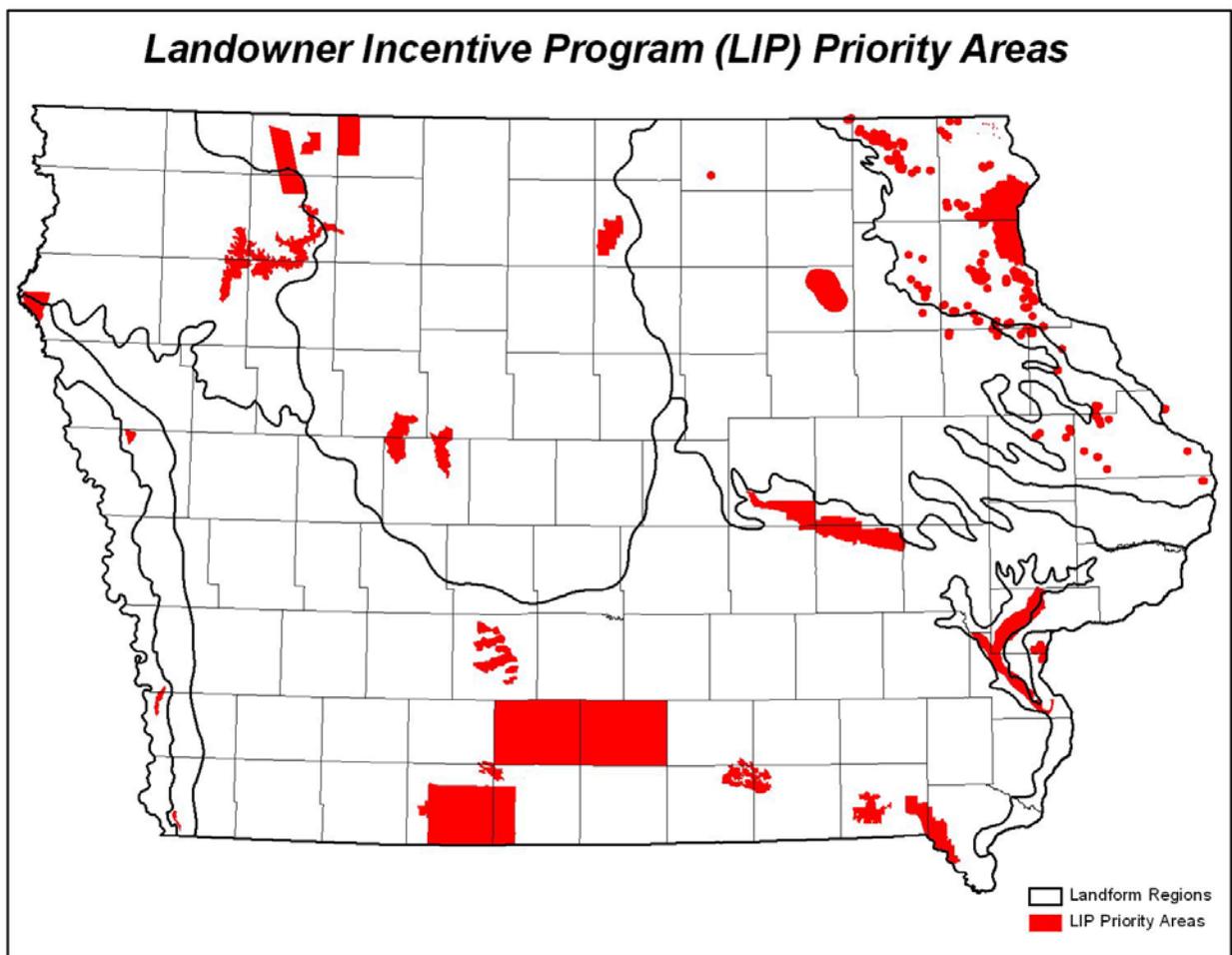


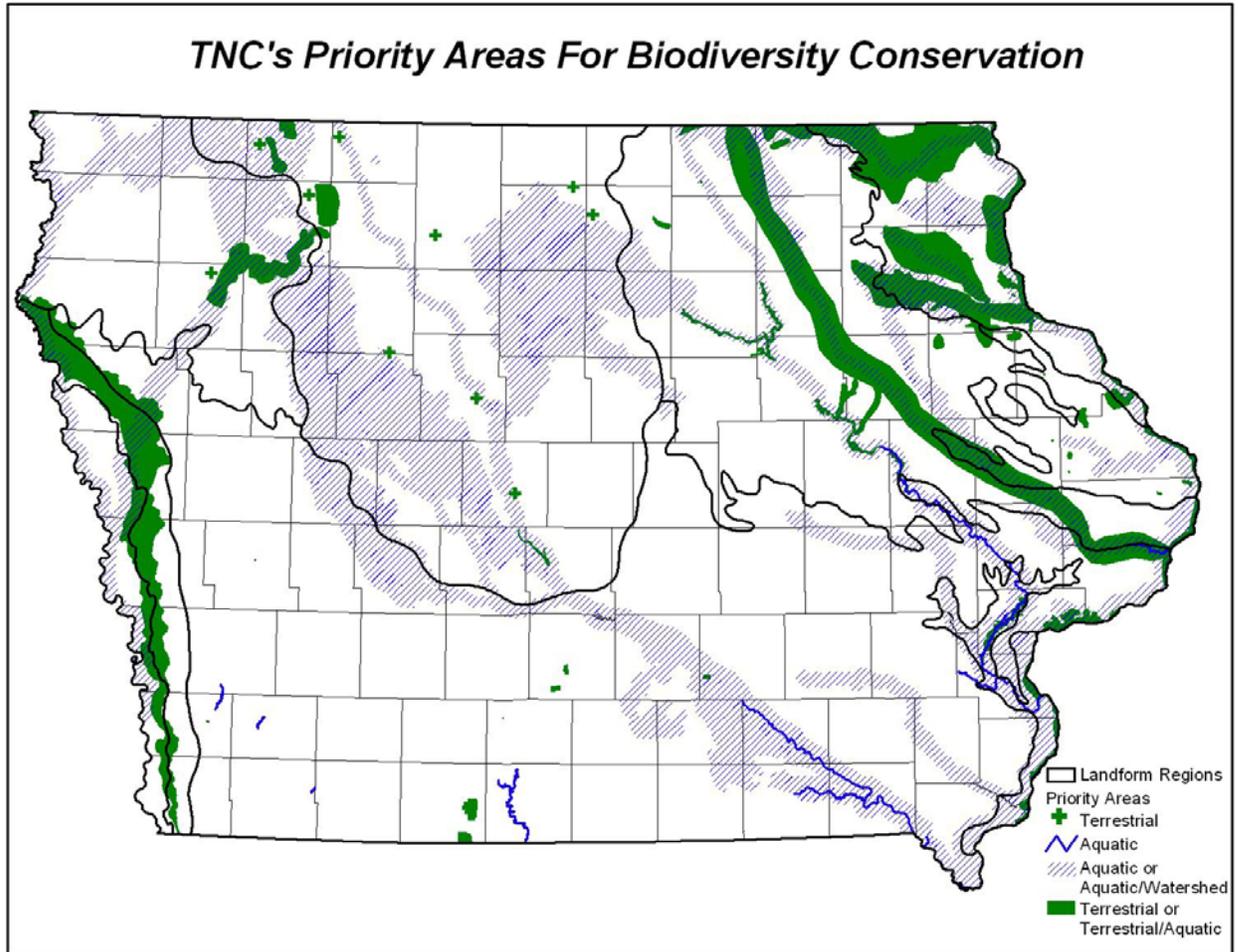
The **Landowner Incentive Program** is designed to protect and restore habitat for state and federally listed endangered and threatened plant and animal species on private lands (Map 8-9). The program provides financial incentives and educational materials to private landowners that are willing to participate in the program. Scientists knowledgeable about Iowa's Threatened and Endangered species have established site priorities. The identified sites include known and potential habitats for endangered and threatened species. Although targeted specifically at listed species, habitat work in these areas would also benefit SGCN that utilize similar habitats.

Map 8-10. Landowner Incentive Program Site Priorities



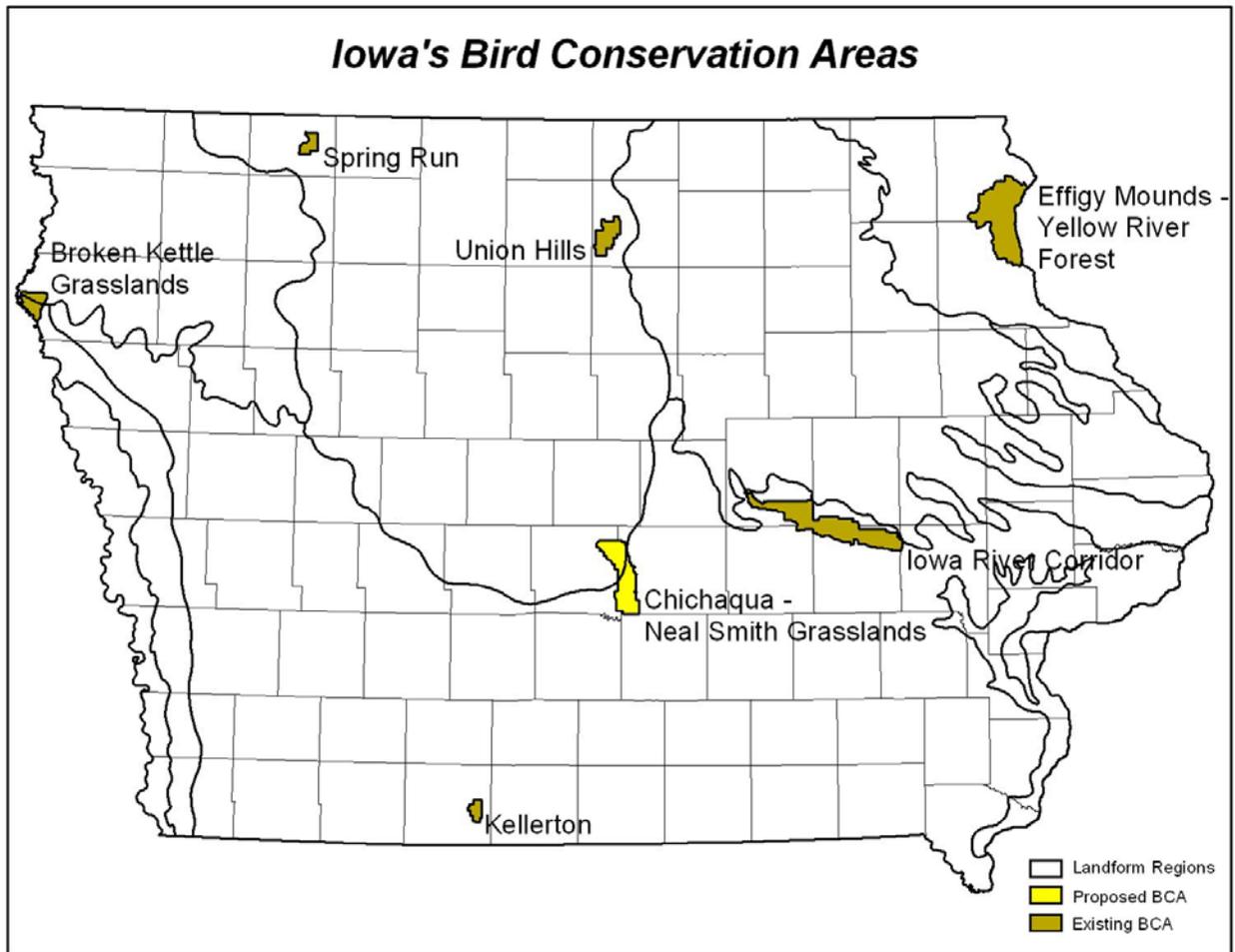
The Nature Conservancy's Priority Conservation Areas designate significant natural areas targeted by TNC for conducting biodiversity conservation (Map 8-11). These sites were identified through analyses of plant, animal, and natural community data, along with other information. They also show where this important conservation organization may be willing to partner in conservation actions that may be identified in this Plan.

Map 8-11. The Nature Conservancy's Priority Conservation Areas



Bird Conservation Areas (Map 8-12) have been designated by IDNR as significant habitat complexes for birds generally following guidelines established by Partners-in-Flight. They are areas of 10,000 acres or more made up of a core area of permanently protected natural habitat surrounded by a matrix of public and private natural lands. While targeted specifically at birds, large tracts of natural habitat such as these have been identified throughout this Plan as providing significant habitat protection and restoration potential for SGCN.

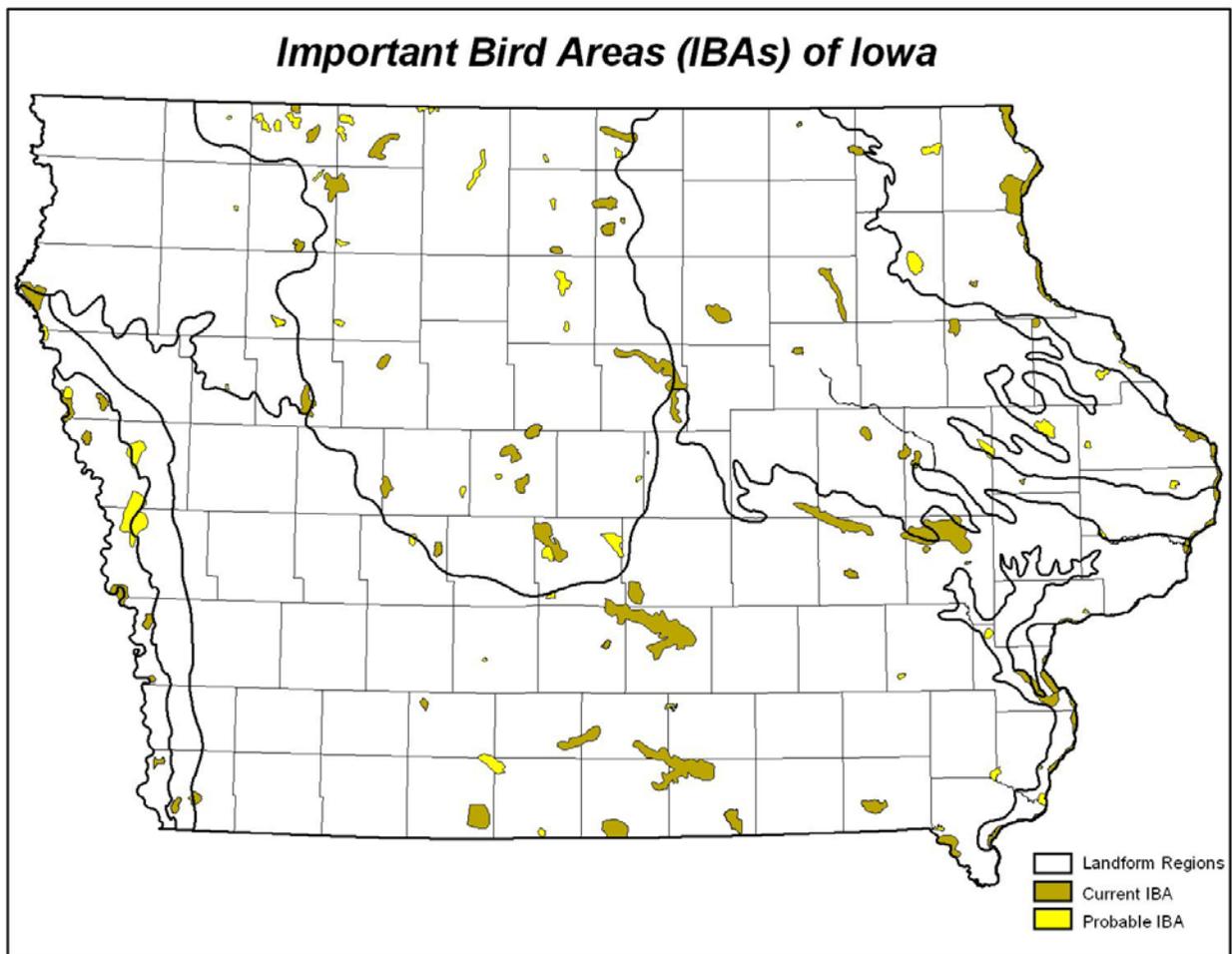
Map 8-12. Existing and Proposed Bird Conservation Areas



Iowa Audubon's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a citizen-led, science-based and data-driven bird conservation initiative. Phase I of this long-term effort is the identification, recognition and prioritization of habitats that support the most seriously declining species of birds. A State IBA Technical Committee evaluated all data received on a habitat-by-habitat basis, and then voted to confer IBA recognition when criteria were met. Habitats that meet criteria are considered to be the most essential habitats. A total of 70 IBA's in 55 counties have been officially recognized in Iowa (Map 8-13) and 130 additional habitats have been nominated

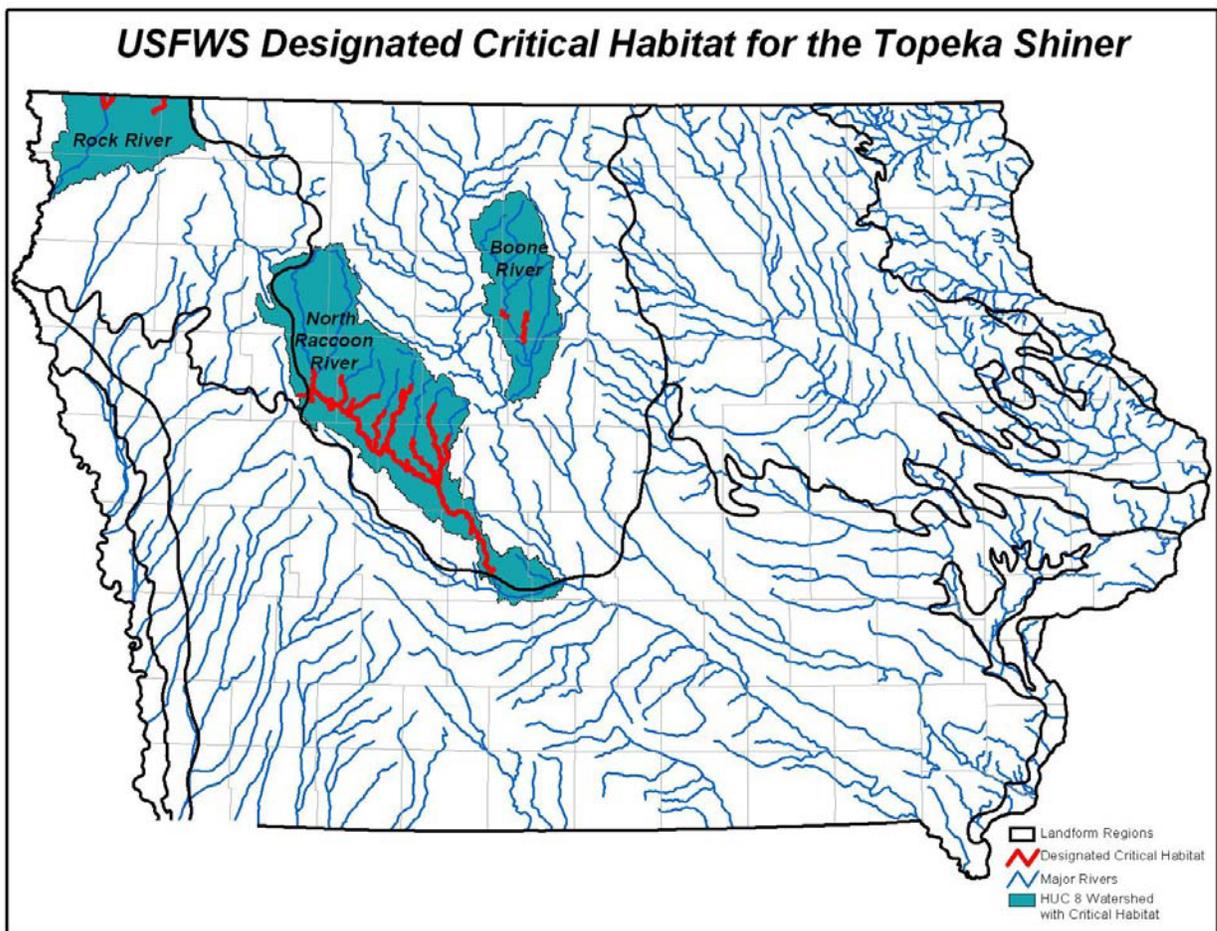
Phase 2 of the IBA Program is long-term monitoring of bird populations and habitat conditions, and organizing education programs at designated IBA sites where appropriate. Phase 3 is working with landowners and land managers to develop and implement long-term conservation plans to protect, restore, enhance and manage IBAs according to their environmental threats and conservation needs.

Map 8-13. Iowa Audubon's Important Bird Areas



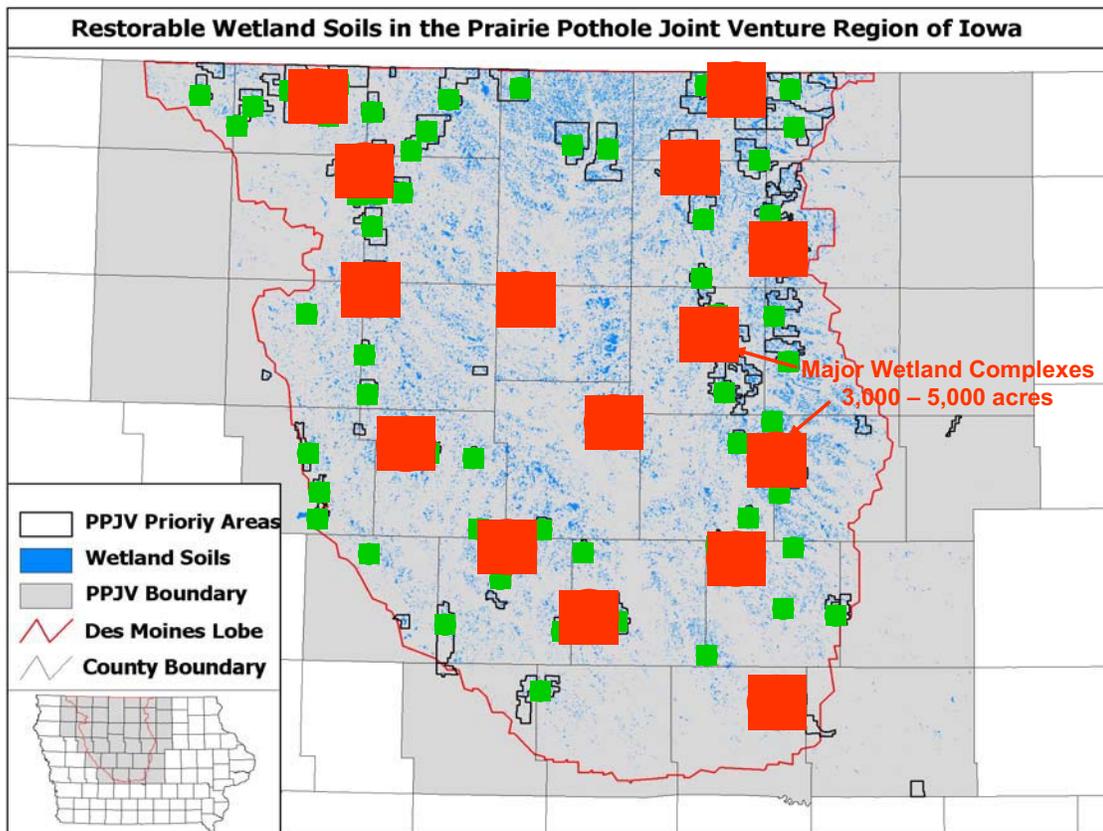
The **Topeka Shiner**, *Notropis topeka*, is a federally listed threatened species of minnow. Map 8-14 shows known and potential critical habitat for Topeka Shiners in Iowa. This habitat is essential for the conservation of the Topeka Shiner and may require special management and protection. All indicated areas designated as critical habitat are occupied by the species or are short segments that provide critical links between habitats. An area is designated as critical habitat through the federal regulatory process. The designation does not set up a preserve or refuge and has no specific regulatory impact on landowners' actions on lands that do not involve federal agency funds, authorization, or permits. Although this map designates critical habitat for only a single species, it can be used to help set priorities for conservation actions in this part of the state.

Map 8-14. Topeka Shiner Critical Habitat



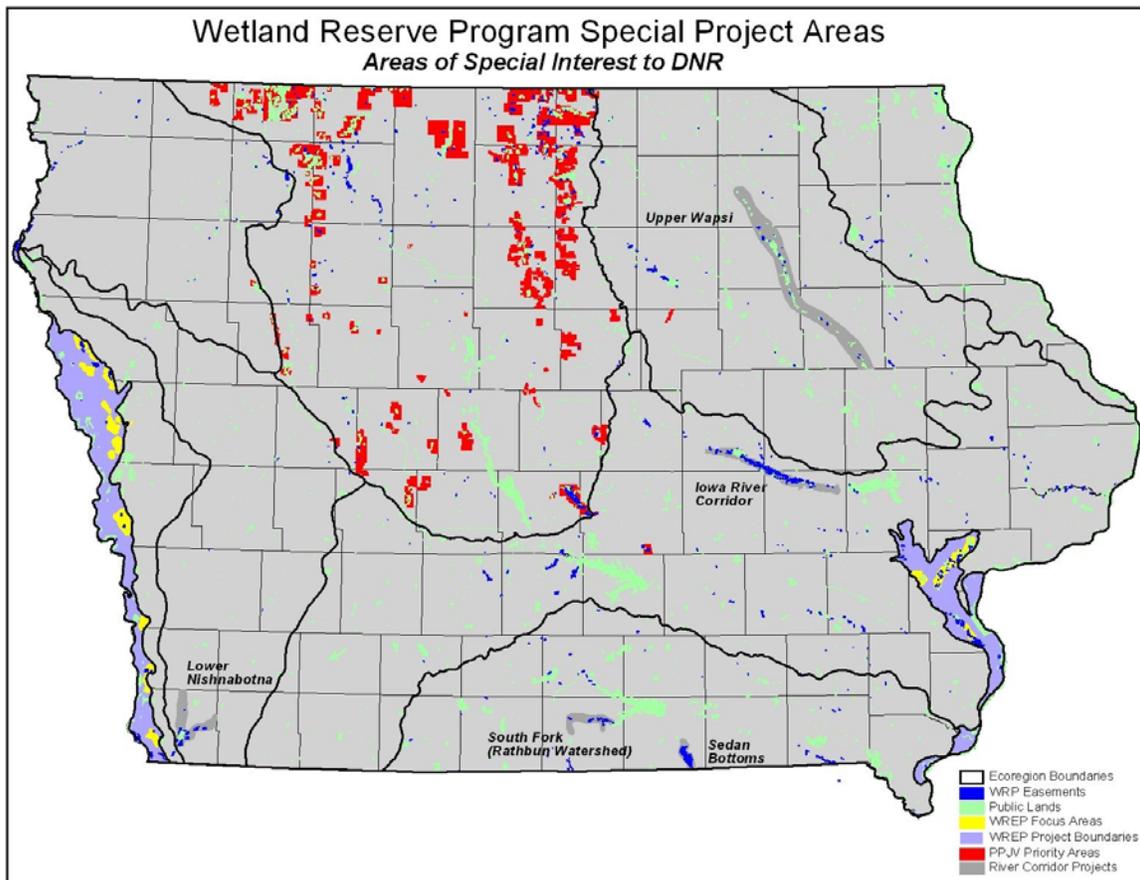
Migration Stepping Stones Across Iowa is a proposal by IDNR, USFWS and DU to provide high-quality feeding and resting areas for migratory birds as they cross the intensively farmed Des Moines lobe. Recent research suggests migrating waterfowl are losing weight as they cross the Upper Midwest because of the lack of adequate food and they arrive on their Canadian breeding grounds in poor condition for nesting. This proposal would provide 3,000 - 5,000 acre wetland complexes at less than 75-mile intervals so that birds can move at a more leisurely pace and maintain their body condition.

Map 8-15. Migration Habitat Across Northern Iowa



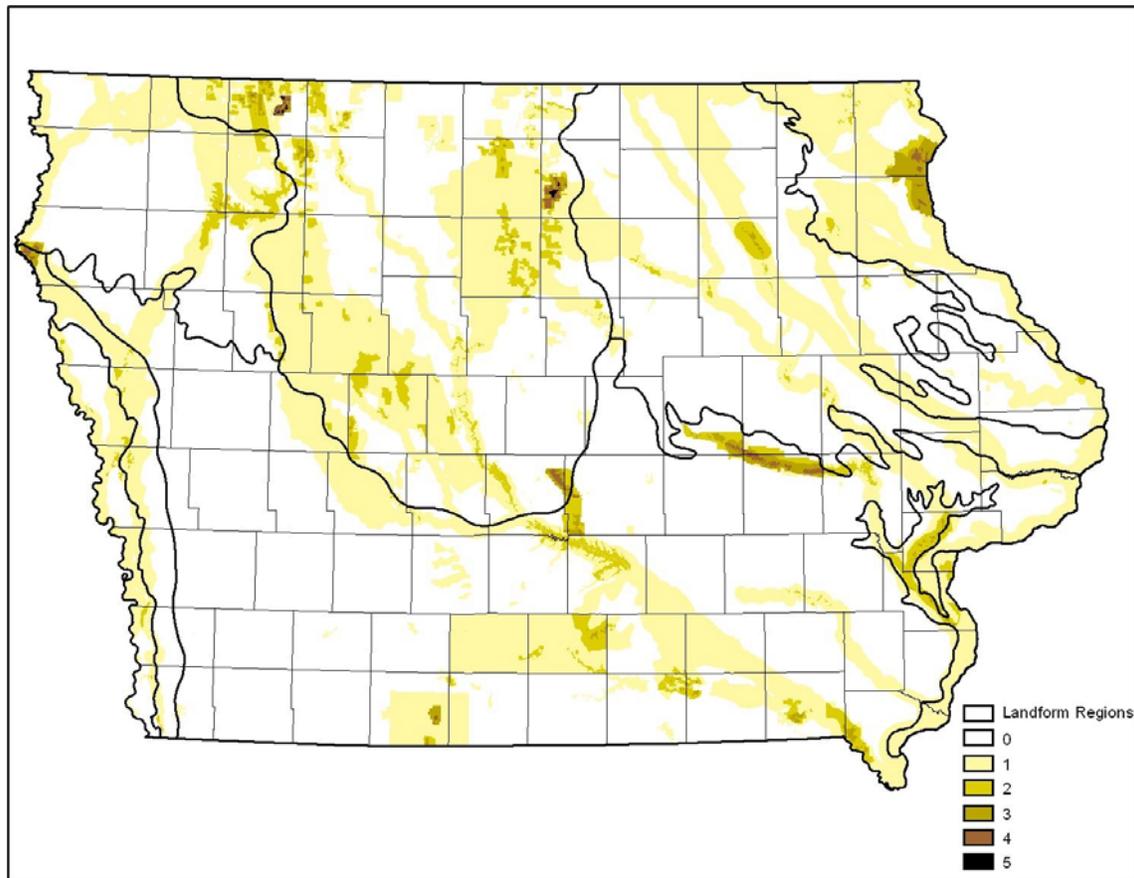
Major flooding that covered Iowa and the Midwest in 1993 led to the passage of the Federal **Wetland Reserve** Act designed to get development and agriculture out of areas prone to flood and return them to their original wetland condition. IDNR in cooperation with NRCS and NGO partners have been able to acquire permanent easements on 100,000 acres in Iowa. Map 8-16 identifies areas IDNR is working with landowners to enroll lands in WRP and acquire their residual value so that these lands will be managed for wildlife.

Map 8-16. WRP Special Project Areas



Maps 8-9 through 8-14 were combined to identify **priority areas for conservation actions** (Map 8-17). The shaded areas on the map indicate areas identified as a priority for action by one or more of the plans referenced above. Darker shading indicates areas where progressively more of the plans have overlapping priorities and indicate where partnering to maximize the effect of resources should be possible.

Map 8-17. High Priority Areas for Cooperative Conservation Actions



Goal: Protected habitats will be diverse, representative, native plant communities in large and small blocks on public and privately-owned land and water.

While most terrestrial and aquatic habitat classes occur in every region of the state, certain habitat classes were historically more prevalent in specific landforms. Habitat-oriented conservation actions aimed at SGCN should primarily protect, restore, and enhance native habitats and native SGCN. Priority habitat classes by region are shown in Table 8-1.

Table 8-1. Priority Habitats by Landform

LANDFORM	PRIORITY HABITAT CLASS	
	TERRESTRIAL	AQUATIC
Northwest Iowa Plains	Herbaceous Warm Season Herbaceous Wetlands	Streams
Des Moines Lobe - Uplands	Herbaceous Warm Season - Herbaceous Wetlands	Natural lakes - Herbaceous Wetlands
Des Moines Lobe - Riparian River Corridors	Deciduous Forest (Uplands) Wet Forest (Floodplains)	Rivers, oxbows
Iowan Surface - Uplands	Herbaceous Warm Season Herbaceous Wetlands	Rivers & Streams
Iowan Surface - Riparian	Wet Forest	Rivers & Streams
Paleozoic Plateau - Slopes	Deciduous Forest Warm Season Herbaceous (Goat prairies)	Cold water streams
Paleozoic Plateau - Riparian	Wet Forest	Oxbows Backwaters
Missouri Alluvial Plain	Wet Forest	Missouri River Channel Oxbows
Loess Hills	Herbaceous Warm Season (northern one-third) Forest (southern two-thirds)	Streams
Southern Iowa Drift Plain	Savanna Warm Season Herbaceous Shrublands	Rivers- streams threatened by straightening & erosion, Ponds, Man-made lakes
Mississippi Alluvial Plain	Wet Forest	Large rivers, Backwaters

Habitat protection and management decision-makers, however, must be realistic in assessing changes that have occurred since pre-settlement times. Many native habitats have been displaced from their original sites. The Loess Hills is a primary example where forests have supplanted the native prairies that were originally maintained by fire. Forest-dwelling wildlife communities have replaced the original prairie species over most of the southern two-thirds of the Hills. Some of these forest birds are also on the list of SGCN. The human population of western Iowa has embraced the hills in their current condition and

many of the forested acres are held privately as wooded home sites. Any attempt to revert the entire Loess Hills back to prairie would likely meet with intense opposition. Concentrating large-scale prairie restoration and management in the northern Loess Hills seems the best approach. Small-scale prairies can be maintained in the southern Hills to provide biodiversity to otherwise primarily wooded habitats.

Management Vision: Diverse wildlife communities will be developed on public and private lands and waters through the use of adaptive ecological management principles.

Goal: Wildlife management will be based on science.

Strategies within this vision stress educated partners working together. Conservation actions adopted as part of the IWAP should be based on the best available science. The lack of specific knowledge about the abundance and distribution of SGCN has been mentioned several times (see Chapter 7). Too frequently land management actions are implemented without intent or regard for the possibility of evaluation. Better communication must be developed between wildlife scientists, the staffs of government land management agencies at all levels, public land managers, and private landowners to assure that an adaptive approach is built into land management decisions.

Recreation Vision: More Iowans will participate in wildlife-associated recreation, and all Iowans will have access to publicly owned recreation areas to enjoy wildlife in its many forms.

Goal: The number of Iowans participating in wildlife-associated recreation (wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, photography, hiking, outdoor classrooms, etc.) will increase 50 percent by 2030.

The 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation in Iowa estimates that in 2001 there were 690,000 resident anglers, 236,000 resident hunters, and 1,129,000 resident wildlife watchers six years of age and older in Iowa. Residents who view and utilize the wildlife resource will be more open to protecting that resource. A broad and expanded base of support is needed to help insure that wildlife and habitat management and protection efforts receive adequate funding.

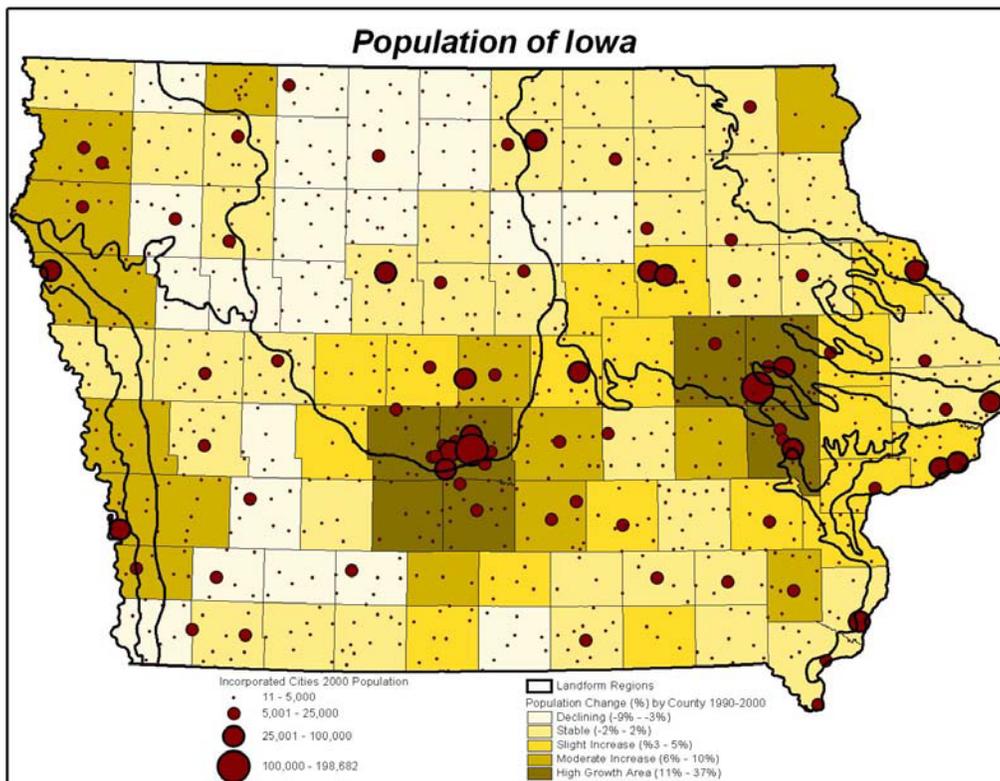
Goal: Wildlife-associated recreation will be available to all lowans on public lands near their home.

In a culture where time for leisure activities is limited, new participants in wildlife -associated recreation will need to find public lands on which to recreate close to home. While all lowans deserve access to quality natural areas, the first priority should be given to acquiring and protecting public natural areas close to larger population centers. This will create an appreciation for wildlife-associated recreation among the greatest number of citizens in the early stages of the 25-year effort and generate the support needed completing the Plan. Major populations centers in Iowa are shown in Map 8-18. The distribution of existing public lands is shown in Map 8- 19.

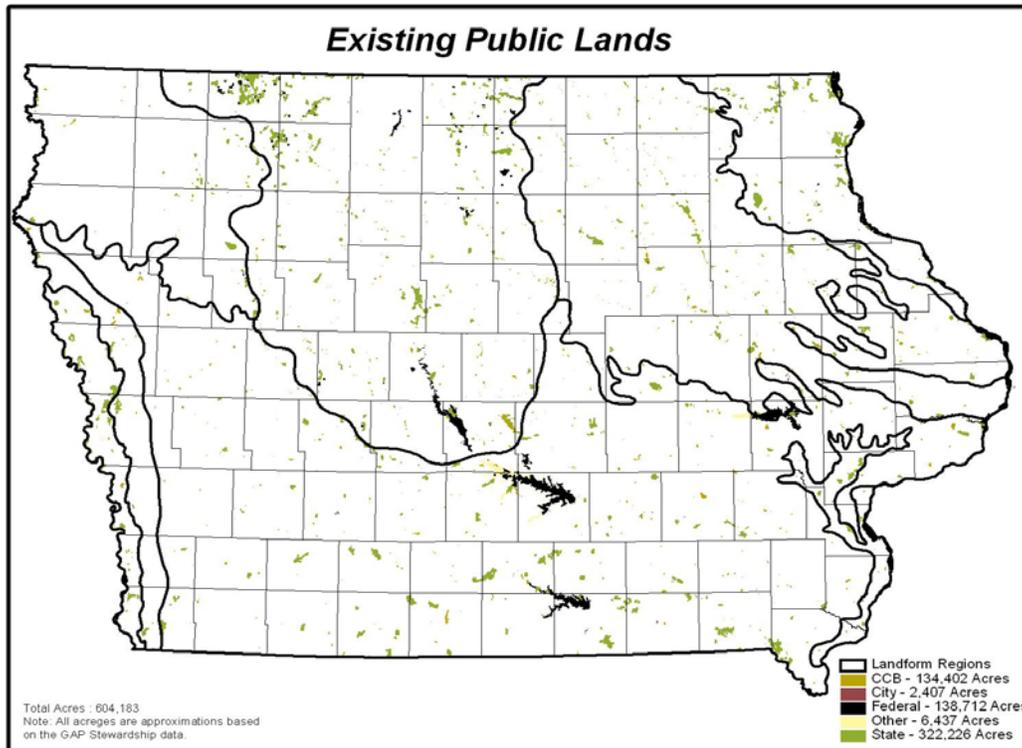
Goal: Increasing wildlife-associated recreation will improve public health.

Priority should be given to promoting the health benefits to young and old of wildlife-associated recreation.

Map 8-18. Distribution of Iowa's Human Population



Map 8-19. Distribution of Existing Public Lands



Education Vision: Iowans will respect wildlife for its many values and they will advocate effectively for conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Goal: Iowans will understand the relationships between land use, wildlife diversity and abundance, the quality of life for all citizens, and the positive effects wildlife has on Iowa's economy.

The conservation actions proposed to implement this vision incorporate national standards proposed by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Priority should be given to educational programs that effectively reach the most people at the least expense. Electronic communication such as the use of the Internet and television can be used to reach every corner of the state, and include urban and rural residents alike.

Focused messages must be developed to encourage participation in wildlife-associated recreation and to develop support for expanded funding. Targeting first time participants with outdoor skills information will be important.

Funding Vision: Stable, permanent funding will be dedicated to the management of wildlife at a level adequate to achieve the visions of this plan.

Goal: Government (Federal, state, and county) and private conservation spending will be increased so that the goals of this Plan are reached by 2030. Funding will be dependable, secure, and appreciated as a powerful economic and social investment.

Of the six vision statements, reaching the Funding Vision goal is the highest priority. None of the other visions can be implemented in anything near the 25-year time frame without increased funding. An estimate of the costs for implementing the IWAP is included in Chapter 10.

No single conservation organization or stakeholder group has the power to attain the necessary funding on their own. An effort comparable to the coalition that has lobbied for Teaming With Wildlife and the Conservation and Reinvestment Act but vastly broadened to include all potential stakeholders will be necessary. A grass roots coalition of wildlife enthusiasts of all types - birdwatchers, bird feeders, hikers, back packers, hunters, anglers, photographers, etc. - is a start, but it should also include local government leaders whose communities stand to benefit from increased recreation revenues and improved quality of life. Only a broad-based coalition will have the strength necessary to obtain funding.

Lobbying must be done at the Federal level to convince Congress to supply basic funding to the states equivalent to the \$350 million targeted in the Conservation and Reinvestment Act. Lobbying at the state level will be essential to obtain whatever level of non-Federal matching funds will be mandated by Congress.