University of Arkansas, Fayetteville ScholarWorks@UARK

**Technical Reports** 

Arkansas Water Resources Center

7-2022

# Watershed prioritization to reduce nutrient export: A framework for the State of Arkansas based on ambient water quality monitoring data

Erin Grantz

Brian E. Haggard

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uark.edu/awrctr

Part of the Fresh Water Studies Commons, and the Water Resource Management Commons

# WATERSHED PRIORITIZATION TO REDUCE NUTRIENT EXPORT: A FRAMEWORK FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS BASED ON AMBIENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA

# 2022 July





# Watershed prioritization to reduce nutrient export: A framework for the State of Arkansas based on ambient water quality monitoring data

### Erin Grantz and Brian E. Haggard

Arkansas Water Resources Center, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, Fayetteville, AR Corresponding Author Email: haggard@uark.edu (B.E. Haggard)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The annual formation of the Northern Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone is driven by nutrient loading from the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB). Member States of The Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task have developed statewide strategies to identify priorities and opportunities for nutrient export reduction in the MARB. In 2014, the State of Arkansas joined the Task Force and initiated an Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy (ANRS), which currently prioritizes ten Hydrologic Unit Code 8 (HUC-8) watersheds (ANRD, 2014). These priority watersheds were not selected based on measured in-stream nutrient concentrations or trends, which impedes quantitative assessment, goal setting, and linking investments to nutrient reduction progress. The ANRS is currently under revision to address these concerns, and the goal of this project was to develop a prioritization framework for the State of Arkansas based on robust statistical analysis of extensive, statewide ambient water quality monitoring data sets.

This study used available data sets to calculate HUC-8 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site median total nutrient (total nitrogen, or TN, and total phosphorus, or TP) concentrations (subsequently, screening levels) on an annual basis as inputs to HUC-level analyses of nutrient magnitude and trend. The magnitude assessment compared screening levels to

screening thresholds that were based on ecological responses to nutrient gradients to identify nutrient reduction needs, identifying 21 HUC-8s for TN and 18 for TP. Trend analysis provided the context of directional change in screening levels over time, suggesting that total nutrient concentrations are widely decreasing and near total absence of increasing trends. Each HUC-8 was also characterized by level of data availability (insufficient, marginal, or sufficient) for each component of the overall analysis, with approximately 1/3 of Arkansas HUC-8s having insufficient data to qualify for any component. A four-Tier framework was developed based on synthesis of magnitude and trend results and data availability to assign all Arkansas HUC-8s to priority Tiers.

The prioritization framework identified seven HUC-8s for maximum focus in Tier 1 as the priority watershed candidates for the ANRS update:

- 08020205 –
   L'Anguille
- 08020402 –
   Bayou Meto
- 11010003 Bull Shoals Lake
- 11010004 Middle White
- 11110103 Illinois
- 11110203 Lake Conway-Point Remove
- 11110207 Lower Arkansas-Maumelle

Tier 1 criteria targeted Arkansas HUC-8s with multiple lines of evidence (TN and TP) from the data analysis supporting prioritization, as well as sufficient data availability. Thus, these Tier 1 HUC-8 recommendations hone in on a select set of HUC-8s with the greatest demonstrated nutrient reduction need based on analysis of measured ambient nutrient concentrations in Arkansas waterbodies, paired with the level of data availability required to support a quantitative and goal-oriented ANRS.

The prioritization framework identified 23 Arkansas HUC-8s for focus status in Tier 2. Tier 2 criteria also targeted Arkansas HUC-8s with demonstrated nutrient reduction need, including equivalent lines of evidence to Tier 1, but without sufficient data for quantitative assessment and goal setting, as well as needs demonstrated by fewer lines of evidence, both with and without sufficient data. The HUC-8s with insufficient data for any component of the analysis, but that were partner priorities in programs with stated nutrient reduction goals also fell in Tier 2. All Arkansas HUC-8s that were not assigned to Tier 1 or Tier 2, were divided between Tier 3 (less focus) and in Tier 4 (least focus), depending on data availability. Tier 3 assignments acknowledge that HUC-8s with relatively less weight of evidence suggesting nutrient reduction need, but with data limitations, require a greater focus status, with the goal of investing in monitoring programs. Twenty-three data-limited HUC-8s were assigned to Tier 3, while five HUC-8s with sufficient data were assigned to Tier 4.

### INTRODUCTION

Coastal and estuarine seasonal hypoxic zones are a global environmental challenge and have increased in size and scale over the last half century (Diaz and Rosenberg, 2008). Marine hypoxic zones are areas of low oxygen

availability resulting from an interplay of natural density stratification due to salinity or temperature gradients and excessive algal growth due to nutrient enrichment (Rabalais et al., 2002). The largest marine hypoxic zone in the United States coastal waters is in the Northern Gulf of Mexico and is also one of the largest in the world. Though nutrient enrichment and oxygen minimum zones occur naturally through processes such as upwelling, the source of nutrient enrichment to the Gulf of Mexico is excessive nutrient loading from the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB; Turner et al., 2006). The MARB drains approximately 40% of the contiguous United States, and nutrient loading to the Gulf of Mexico has increased over the last century or more (Turner and Rabalais, 1991; Justic et al., 1995).

The Gulf of Mexico hypoxia task force was formed to advance understanding of the drivers of hypoxic zone formation, as well as possible mitigations. The task force has set a goal of limiting the dead zone to a running 5-year average of 5000 km<sup>2</sup> (Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force, 2008). Meeting this goal will hinge on nutrient load reduction to the Gulf of Mexico from the MARB in both total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP), which both potentially limit the primary production fueling the eutrophication cycle in the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone, depending on temporally and spatially variable conditions (Dodds, 2006; Turner and Rabalais, 2013; Fennel and Laurent, 2017). Long-term data continues to support observations that nutrient load drives the extent of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone (Rabalais et al., 2007), with estimated reductions in TN and TP loads of 48 ± 21% required to reach task force goals (Fennel and Laurent, 2017).

The task force also coordinates federal, state, and tribal agencies in developing plans to reduce nutrient export to the Gulf of Mexico from the

MARB. State Nutrient Reduction Strategies are considered the cornerstone in reducing nutrient loads to the Gulf of Mexico. The State of Arkansas joined the Task Force and initiated a Nutrient Reduction Strategy (ANRS) as part of the 2014 Water Plan update (ANRD, 2014). The goal of the ANRS is to improve overall aquatic health and viability in Arkansas waters for recreational, economic, environmental, and human health benefits. Identifying priority watersheds and waterbodies is a key component of the ANRS and is foundational for maximizing the impact of available resources. Currently, ten priority watersheds are identified under the ANRS. Designation as a priority watershed considered the priority areas of conservation and nutrient reduction programs in the state, waterbody impairments, interstate cooperative efforts, local conservation district goals, and nutrient export model estimates for the MARB (Spatially Referenced Regression on Watershed attributes, or SPARROW).

However, the prioritization of Arkansas watersheds under the ANRS was not based on measured in-stream nutrient concentrations or trends (i.e. directional change). This missing piece feeds into other concerns related to updating and advancing the ANRS, including no defined methods to evaluate progress or lack of progress, challenges to documenting clear links between resource expenditures and water quality improvement, and no clearly defined goal or water quality target. The ANRS is currently under revision to address these concerns, with emphasis on demonstrating a need for nutrient reduction using measured data and targeting watersheds where data are sufficient to allow quantitative assessment and goal setting.

The goal of this project was to develop a framework for the State of Arkansas to prioritize watersheds based on robust statistical analysis of extensive, statewide ambient water quality monitoring program datasets to identify trend and central tendency in nutrient concentrations. Project objectives were:

- Develop a statewide water quality database using ADEQ ambient water quality monitoring program data from 1990 – 2019.
- At the watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code, or HUC-8) scale, assess magnitude of 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of TN and TP concentration annual site medians against screening thresholds for levels of ecological concern.
- At the HUC-8 scale, assess 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of TN and TP concentration annual site medians for trend over time.
- 4. Assign HUC-8s to prioritization categories based on synthesis of HUC-8 level trend and magnitude assessment results, data availability, and priorities of select Arkansas programs with a nutrient export reduction focus.
- 5. At the site-level, within priority category 1 HUC-8s, assess total nutrient concentrations for trend over time.

### METHODS

### Database development

The primary data source for this project was the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) ambient water quality monitoring database accessed via the water quality monitoring data portal (https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/techsvs/env mu lti\_lab/water\_quality\_station.aspx). All observations for focus nutrient parameters were downloaded for the time period January 1, 1990 - December 31, 2019. Focus parameters were Nitrite+nitrate-nitrogen (mg/L; NOx-N), Total Kjeldahl nitrogen (mg/L; TKN), Total Nitrogen (mg/L; TN), and Total Phosphorus (mg/L; TP). The

parameters NOx-N and TKN were used to calculate TN for sites and time intervals with no direct TN measurements. Calculated TN and direct TN measurements were merged into a single TN dataset, with priority given to direct measurements of TN when available.

Datasets from the Arkansas Natural Resource Division's Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program (subsequently, 319) were added as a secondary data source after initial analyses showed limited coverage of HUC-8s in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, a key agricultural region in Arkansas, by the ADEQ's ambient water quality monitoring network. Many Section 319(h) monitoring projects target these HUC-8s, and analyzed nutrient parameters were compatible between the data sources. Therefore, datasets from projects from across the state were compiled and organized for inclusion in HUC-8 level analyses of recent TN and TP concentration magnitudes to address the ADEQ data gap.

Prior to analysis, database formats were standardized for compatibility with statistical software using R 4.0.4 (R Core Team, 2021) and the packages tidyverse (Wickham et al. 2019) and lubridate (Grolemund and Wickham, 2011). Non-numeric information accompanying observation values was separated from numeric information and stored in supplemental information columns. Data were most commonly flagged because an analyte was not detected at concentrations above reporting limits. Non-detections were recorded as the value of the provided reporting limit and flagged as non-detections in a supplemental information column. Data were screened for potential outlier values or transcription errors and a subset of data were flagged in the final database as out of quality control compliance including 1) values that were an order of magnitude out of range of typical values for that parameter and HUC-8, 2) values flagged as non-detections that were out of range of typical reporting limits for that parameter, 3) values flagged with "?", and 4) zero or negative values. These observations were not included in analysis and were not used to calculate TN. The final water quality database was reviewed according to quality assurance and quality control protocols by checking 10% of database entries for accuracy against original data files following an approved secondary data quality assurance project plan.

Annual TN and TP concentration site medians were calculated for all monitoring stations in the ADEQ and 319 databases. For site years with only one observation, the median was equal to the single measured value. Where multiple values were recorded for a single day, values were averaged prior to median calculation. In cases of overlapping monitoring locations between data sources, sites were treated as separate and unique. Two iterations of frequency distributions of annual site medians were then calculated for each HUC-8 and year combination with at least three site medians. The first iteration included both ADEQ and 319 monitoring stations with a five-year focus period (2015 - 2019) in order to target current nutrient levels for assessing HUC-8 nutrient magnitudes. The second iteration included only ADEQ monitoring stations and analyzed data for the full study period (1990 -2019) for the purpose of trend analysis. The 319 data were not included in percentiles for trend analysis because of limited monitoring duration (typically < 5 years) compared to ADEQ stations, which would introduce new sources of variability unevenly through time and potentially reduce the probability of detecting trends. The resulting frequency distribution data sets consisted of HUC-8 percentile estimates for each year in which data availability requirements were met (i.e., up to 5 years or up to 30 years for the first

and second iterations of percentiles, respectively).

### HUC-8 nutrient magnitude assessment

For the nutrient magnitude assessment, the average of 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site medians (ADEQ and 319 sites; 2015 - 2019) was selected as the measure (subsequently, screening level) of HUC-8 nutrient concentrations to be compared to screening thresholds. Screening thresholds in TN and TP concentrations were derived by calculating frequency distributions of nutrient thresholds for biological response compiled from a review of stressor-response studies in the scientific literature (see Table S1 and accompanying References in Supplementary Materials). The compiled nutrient thresholds were identified for responses in a wide range of algal, aquatic macroinvertebrate, and fish indicator species, functional groups, and communities. Response thresholds were grouped based on geospatial characteristics of the studied systems, including size (ex: wadeable or non-wadeable) and dominant watershed agricultural land use types (ex: row-crop or pasture). Frequency distributions of TN and TP thresholds were calculated for geospatial groupings based on these characteristics and across all studies. Many included studies analyzed statewide, regional, or even global datasets, representing spatial scales that could not be linked to a single dominant land use type. Thresholds from these studies were included in frequency distribution calculations for any relevant geospatial grouping.

For both TN and TP, two screening scenarios were developed, each selecting one or more concentrations as screening thresholds (Table 1). Multiple scenarios were used to identify a gradient in nutrient concentrations and allow flexibility in bringing together magnitude assessment results for TN and TP with trend results into a final priority categorization framework. The primary difference between scenarios was the degree to which the selected thresholds were tailored to HUC-8 characteristics that reflect Arkansas's diverse geography and land use (Figure 1A). Seven Omernik, 1987 Level III ecoregions are present in Arkansas: Arkansas Valley (ARV), Boston Mountains (BOSM), Mississippi Alluvial Plain (MAP), Mississippi Valley Loess Plains, Ouachita Mountains (OUAM), Ozark Highlands (OZKH), and South Central Plains (SCP). Each HUC-8 was assigned to a dominant ecoregion based on the location of the greatest percentage of monitoring sites in the database (Figure 1B). In most cases, a clear majority (i.e. >2/3 of sites) were located in a single ecoregion. However, sites in 11110207 - Lower Arkansas-Maumelle were split across four ecoregions, with only 42% of sites in the dominant ecoregion (OUAM), and sites in 08040102 - Upper Ouachita were near evenly divided between 2 ecoregions (56% in the OUAM and 44% in the SCP).

**Table 1.** Scenarios for screening HUC-8 total nutrient concentration magnitudes for levels of ecological concern.

| Scenario | Parameter | Ecoregion            | Screening<br>Threshold (mg/L) | Explanation                           |
|----------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1        | TN        | All ecoregions       | 1.0                           | Median all systems                    |
| 2        | TN        | Miss. Alluvial Plain | 0.81                          | Median row-crop, non-wadeable systems |
|          |           | All other ecoregions | 0.66                          | Median pasture, non-wadeable systems  |
| 1        | ТР        | Miss. Alluvial Plain | 0.14                          | Median row-crop non-wadeable systems  |
|          |           | All other ecoregions | 0.10                          | Median pasture, non-wadeable systems  |
| 2        | TP        | Forested uplands     | 0.07                          | Median pasture, wadeable systems      |



**Figure 1.** Omernik Level IIII ecoregions in Arkansas A) overlying Arkansas HUC-8s and B) as assigned to individual HUC-8s based on analysis of the ecoregion in which the greatest number of sites were located.

No monitoring sites were located in the Mississippi Valley Loess Plains.

Under TN scenario 1, a single screening threshold (TN = 1.0 mg/L) was selected for comparison with TN screening levels for all Arkansas HUC-8's and was approximately the median of all compiled TN stressor-response thresholds. For TN, scenario 2 set separate screen thresholds for the MAP, Arkansas's primary row-crop production region, and all other ecoregions, which were the medians of thresholds derived for non-wadeable systems with row-crop watershed influence (TN = 0.81 mg/L) and pasture watershed influence (TN = 0.66 mg/L), respectively. For TP, scenario 1 also set separate screen thresholds for the MAP and all other ecoregions, which were also equivalent to the median of thresholds derived for nonwadeable systems with row-crop watershed influence (TP = 0.14 mg/L) and pasture watershed influence (TP = 0.10 mg/L), respectively. For TP, scenario 2 set the median of thresholds derived for wadeable systems with pasture influence (TP = 0.070 mg/L) as the screening threshold for HUC-8s in Arkansas's three forested upland ecoregions (BOSM, OUAM, and OZKH). The scenario 1 screening thresholds were applied for all other ecoregions under scenario 2. The degree of geospatial specificity differed between TN and TP scenarios, reflecting that many compiled studies estimated thresholds for TP only and considerably less information was available for dividing and analyzing TN thresholds by geospatial groupings.

For each scenario, all HUC-8s with a TN or TP screening level that was greater than the relevant screening threshold were identified as having nutrient concentrations at levels of potential ecological concern. These HUC-8s were flagged as candidate HUC-8s in need of nutrient reduction based on the magnitude component of the overall categorization framework. A subset of HUC-8s was flagged as having marginal data availability in the magnitude assessment if 75<sup>th</sup> percentile estimates were available for fewer than three years of the five-year focus period or if the median number of site medians used to calculate a 75<sup>th</sup> percentile each year was less than four per year (2015 – 2019).

### **HUC-8 Trend Analysis**

Trend analysis was conducted on the second iteration of HUC-8 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site median TN and TP concentrations (ADEQ sites only) after log-transformation using linear regression analysis (LR) and the Mann-Kendall test (MK) to detect monotonic change in concentrations over time. The analyses were carried out in R 4.0.4 using the rkt package for MK (Marchetto, 2017). Trend analysis data availability requirements were at least ten years of 75th percentile estimates, with at least 50% of years in a HUC-8's period of record represented. A subset of HUC-8s was assigned marginal data availability status if less than 2/3 of years in a HUC-8's period of record were represented, the total number of years with 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles was less than 15 years, or if the median number of site medians used to calculate a 75<sup>th</sup> percentile each year was less than four per year (1990 – 2019).

Results were typically in agreement between LR and MK, but MK results were used for determining statistical significance due to the limited sample size (i.e. maximum one 75<sup>th</sup> percentile per year, or  $n_{max} = 30$ ). Statistical significance was interpreted as follows: for p $\geq$ 0.20, trend was unlikely; for 0.10 $\geq$ p<0.20, trend may exist; for 0.05 $\geq$ p<0.10, trend was likely; and for p<0.05, trend was very likely. Positive and negative Sen line slopes reflected increasing and decreasing trends, respectively; a slope with magnitude less than 0.01% in either direction was considered not changing, regardless of significance. The HUC-8s where

increasing nutrient concentrations were detected were flagged as candidates in need of nutrient reduction based on the trend component of the overall categorization framework.

### Site-level trend analysis

Trend analysis was also conducted on logtransformed TN and TP concentrations at qualifying ADEQ monitoring sites (n≥50) located in HUC-8s that were flagged as candidates in need of nutrient reduction based on magnitude or trend for at least one nutrient (scenarios 1 and 2). For site-level trends, a focus period of 2000 -2019 was targeted, and the seasonal Kendall test (SKT) was used in addition to LR and MK. When results of the three analyses were not in agreement, added weight was given to SKT results, because SKT corrects for common sources of outside variability in ambient monitoring datasets, such as seasonality, missing data, and irregular sampling intervals. Further, the site-level trend analysis results shown in state maps and summary tables are SKT results. More selective thresholds for statistical significance were applied for site-level analyses since the number of observations was less limited. The statistical significance of site-level trend analysis results was interpreted, as follows: for p≥0.10, trend was unlikely; for  $0.05 \ge p < 0.10$ , trend was likely; and for p < 0.05, trend was very likely. Positive and negative Sen line slopes reflected increasing and decreasing trends, respectively; a slope with magnitude less than 0.01% in either direction was considered not changing regardless of significance.

### **HUC-8** priority categorization

The prioritization framework divided HUC-8s into four tiers: 1) maximum focus for nutrient reduction, with sufficient monitoring, 2) focus for nutrient reduction, with more monitoring needed, 3) less focus, with more monitoring

needed, and 4) least focus, with sufficient monitoring. Tiered rankings correspond to the level of demonstrated nutrient reduction need in synthesis with assessment of available data. HUC-8s were considered data-limited if flagged for marginal data availability for any component of analysis, or if the HUC-8 did not qualify for one or both components. The framework also considered select substantiating prioritization layers (National Resources Conservation Service Mississippi River Basin Initiative, or MRBI, priority watersheds and Nutrient Surplus Areas, or NSA, under AR Code § 15-20-1104, 2019) as an approach to separate data-deficient HUC-8s into categories with more or less evidence of nutrient reduction need. Designations as MRBI priority watershed (Figure 2A) or NSA (Figure 2B) are not based directly on measured in-stream nutrient concentrations, but nutrient export reduction is a stated goal.

The framework was designed to capture a limited number of HUC-8s in Tier 1 in order to focus investment of limited resources in nutrient reduction strategies and maximize returns by targeting HUC-8s with both the most evidence for nutrient reduction need and sufficient baseline data for quantitative assessment and goal setting. Specific qualifying criteria for Tier 1 were identification as a nutrient reduction focus for both TN and TP (scenarios 1 and 2 qualify), with sufficient data to assess both trend and magnitude.

In contrast, Tier 2 was set up to focus on a number of identified concerns that were not eligible for prioritization in Tier 1 due to data limitations or because the observed evidence of nutrient reduction need did not cumulatively meet Tier 1 criteria, or both. The primary goal under the ANRS for Tier 2 was investment in evaluating and meeting monitoring needs to support assessment under future ANRS updates. Qualifying criteria for Tier 2 were 1) magnitude



**Figure 2.** Arkansas HUC-8s designated as A) Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) priority watersheds and B) Nutrient Surplus Areas by AR Code § 15-20-1104, 2019.

greater than scenario 1 threshold for one nutrient with sufficient data to assess both trend and magnitude, 2) identification for increasing trend for one nutrient, 3) identification for two nutrients (scenario 1 and 2 qualify) with limited data to assess, 4) identification for one nutrient under scenario 1 with limited data to assess, and 5) insufficient data to assess, but MRBI or NSA.

Tier 3 and 4 were designed to encompass HUC-8's with the fewest lines of evidence suggesting nutrient reduction need, acknowledging that data-limited HUC-8s merit greater prioritization in Tier 3 from the perspective of investment in future data collection efforts. All HUC-8s that did not qualify for Tier 1 or 2 status were assigned to Tier 3 or 4 based on data availability, with data-limited HUC-8s assigned to Tier 3 and HUC-8s with sufficient data assigned to Tier 4.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### Nutrient magnitudes by Arkansas ecoregion

The TN and TP magnitude screening levels varied across the state (Figure 3A-B; Table S2-3). The HUC-8 TN screening levels were greatest in the OZKH, where the median level was greater than the scenario 1 screening threshold (TN = 1 mg/L). For HUC-8s in the ARV, MAP, and SCP, the upper quartile of screening levels was also greater than 1 mg/L. The median screening levels for MAP, ARV, and SCP HUC-8s were greater than the applicable scenario 2 screening threshold (TN = 0.81 mg/L for MAP; TN = 0.66 mg/L for all other ecoregions). The OUAM and BOSM HUC-8 TN screening levels were the lowest in central tendency and range. However, the upper quartile of OUAM HUC-8 TN screening levels was greater than 0.66 mg/L, while all Boston Mountain TN screening levels were less than the screening thresholds.

In contrast to TN, the greatest HUC-8 TP screening levels were observed in the MAP, with

the median screening level  $\sim 2x$  greater than the scenario 1 screening threshold (TP = 0.14 mg/L).

The OZKH HUC-8 median TP screening level and upper quartile of screening levels for the ARV, BOSM, and SCP were greater than the applicable scenario 1 screening threshold (TP = 0.10 mg/L). For both ARV and SCP HUC-8s the median TP screening level was close in range with 0.10 mg/L. As with TN, the TP screening levels were lowest range in the BOSM and OUAM HUC-8s. However, the range in TP screening levels for BOSM HUC-8s was far greater for TP than for TN, with the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile screening level > 0.10 mg/L, but the median less than the scenario.

### Magnitudes of HUC-8 nutrient 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles

The magnitude assessment identified a number of HUC-8s where nutrient screening levels were greater than screening thresholds, representing the HUC-8s with the greatest potential for nutrient reduction (Figure 4A-B). Twenty-one HUC-8s were flagged for TN reduction based on the magnitude component (13 under scenario 1; 8 under scenario 2); while 18 HUC-8s were flagged for TP (15 under scenario 1; 3 under scenario 2). The magnitude assessment results reflect the regional gradient (Figure 3A-B) in nutrient levels among qualifying Arkansas HUC-8 watersheds, with flagged HUC-8s clustered in the OZKM and MAP ecoregions. This pattern was especially apparent for HUC-8s that were flagged under the less restrictive scenario 1, which were the HUC-8s with the highest nutrient levels relative to the screening thresholds.

Approximately 2/3 of HUC-8s met data availability requirements for the magnitude assessment, but 19 were not included due to data limitations. Of qualifying HUC-8s, 11 were flagged for marginal data availability to assess



**Figure 3.** Boxplots showing the A) TN and B) TP concentration frequency distribution of the HUC-8 averages of 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site medians from 2015 - 2019 (i.e., HUC-8 screening levels) by ecoregion. screening level (TP = 0.070 mg/L). The upper quartile of OUAM HUC-8 TP screening levels was greater than 0.070 mg/L, but the median was ~2x less.

magnitude for either TN or TP, or both. The main limitation on data availability was spatial coverage, or having too few active monitoring sites (n<3) within a HUC during the focus period 2015 – 2019. However, some HUC-8s were flagged for marginal data availability based on limited temporal coverage, or having <3 years of 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles. These HUC-8s were 11110104 – Robert S. Kerr Reservoir, 11010009 – Lower Black, 11140205 – Bodcau Bayou, 11140302-Lower Sulpher, and 08020203 Lower St. Francis.



**Figure 4.** Results of HUC-8 magnitude assessment on A) total nitrogen and B) total phosphorus 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of site median concentrations for the period 2015 - 2019.

### Trend analysis on HUC-8 nutrient 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles

A notable study finding is that 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site median nutrient concentrations have widely declined or remained stable across Arkansas HUC-8s (Figure 5A-B; Table S4-5). This finding suggests that the State of Arkansas has seen a return on investment in nutrient reduction strategies made over the last 30 years. In fact, trend analysis results suggested increasing nutrient concentrations in only one HUC-8 (i.e. TN in 11010010 - Spring). For TP, increases in 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site medians were not detected in any HUC-8. No changes were detected for 5 HUC-8s for TN and for 7 HUC-8s for TP. For all other qualifying HUC-8s, trend analysis results suggested that 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site median total nutrient concentrations are decreasing.

However, data availability was insufficient for trend analysis for approximately half of Arkansas HUC-8s; therefore, it was not possible to determine if this finding applies statewide, including for the majority of MAP HUC-8s, a substantial number of which were flagged for nutrient levels greater than screening thresholds. The lack of increasing trends and inability to assess trends statewide with this approach had practical implications for the HUC-8 focus categorization process. Namely, the categorization process was largely based on the magnitude assessment.

Two HUC-8s were flagged for marginal data availability to assess trend in TN (11110205 -Cadron and 08020301 - Lower White-Bayou Des Arc). These same HUC-8s were also flagged for TP, as well as 08040205 - Bayou Bartholomew, which did not meet data qualifications for trend analysis for TN. For HUC-8s flagged for insufficient data availability, limited number of long-term monitoring sites (n<3) drove data limitations. However, HUC-8s flagged for marginal data availability all had monitoring periods that were truncated or had data gaps.

### Data analysis focus categorization

The prioritization framework identified seven HUC-8s for maximum focus status in Tier 1 with sufficient monitoring data to guide investment in nutrient reduction strategies (Figure 6):

- 08020205 - 11110103 – L'Anguille Illinois 11110203 – Lake
- 08020402 -**Bayou Meto**
- 11010003 Bull Shoals Lake
- Remove 11110207 – Lower Arkansas-

**Conway-Point** 

- 11010004 -Middle White
- Maumelle

Nutrient levels in these watersheds represent the greatest potential for reduction. Though total nutrient magnitudes were the primary driver, Tier 1 also encompasses several HUC-8s where trend analysis suggested that conditions were not improving, namely 11110103 - Illinois for TN, 08020402 - L'Anguille for TP, and 11010004 - Middle White and 11010003 - Bull Shoals Lake for both TN and TP.

Twenty-three HUC-8s were assigned to Tier 2 focus status, with emphasis under the ANRS on future monitoring program investments due to demonstrated nutrient reduction needs, data limitations, or both. Of HUC-8's not assigned to Tier 1 or Tier 2 focus status, 23 were categorized as data-limited and assigned to Tier 3, while only five were categorized as data-sufficient and assigned to Tier 4. See Table 2 for Tier assignments for all Arkansas HUC-8s, including a weight of evidence summary of magnitude and trend results, partner priority status, and data availability.



**Figure 5.** Results of HUC-8 level trend analysis on A) total nitrogen and B) total phosphorus 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of site median concentrations.



**Figure 6.** Categorization framework for HUC-8's under the ANRS update. Priority categories were 1) maximum focus for nutrient reduction activities, sufficient data; 2) Focus, but more data needed 3) less focus, but more data needed; and 4) least focus, with sufficient data.

**Table 2.** Priority tier assignments for all Arkansas HUC-8's, including summary of results for TN and TP magnitude assessment and trend analysis components of the data analysis, partner priority status, and data availability. Synthesis of these factors was the basis for priority tier assignments. Magnitude assessment scenarios (Sc) compared HUC-8 screening levels to a range of screening thresholds, as follows: Sc 1 TN threshold = 1.0 mg/L for all ecoregions; Sc2 TN threshold for Mississippi Alluvial Plain (MAP) = 0.81 mg/L; Sc2 TN threshold for other ecoregions = 0.66 mg/L; Sc1 TP threshold for MAP = 0.14 mg/L; Sc1 TP threshold for other ecoregions = 0.10 mg/L; Sc2 thresholds for Boston Mountains (BOSM), Ouachita Mountains (OUAM), and Ozark Highlands (OZKH) = 0.07 mg/L. For MAP, Arkansas River Valley (ARV) and South Central Plains (SCP), only a Sc1 threshold was used in the TP screening.

|          |                                  |           |      | Factors d                        | Data availability                  |                     |              |              |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| HUC-8    | Name                             | Ecoregion | Tier | TN<br>Magnitude, Trend           | TP<br>Magnitude, Trend             | Partner<br>Priority | Magnitude    | Trend        |
| 08010100 | Lower Mississippi-<br>Memphis    | MAP       | 3    | Not Assessed                     | Not assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 08020100 | Lower Mississippi-<br>Helena     | MAP       | 3    | Not Assessed                     | Not Assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 08020203 | Lower St. Francis                | MAP       | 2    | Above Sc 1 threshold             | Above Sc 1 threshold               | MRBI                | Marginal     | Insufficient |
| 08020204 | Little River Ditches             | MAP       | 2    | Below Sc 1 threshold             | Above Sc 1 threshold               | MRBI                | Marginal     | Insufficient |
| 08020205 | L'Anguille                       | MAP       | 1    | Above Sc 1 threshold, decreasing | Above Sc 1 threshold, not changing | MRBI                | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 08020301 | Lower White-Bayou<br>Des Arc     | MAP       | 3    | Below Sc 1 threshold, decreasing | Below Sc 1 threshold, decreasing   | MRBI                | Sufficient   | Marginal     |
| 08020302 | Cache                            | MAP       | 2    | Below Sc 1 threshold             | Above Sc 1 threshold               | MRBI                | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 08020303 | Lower White                      | MAP       | 2    | Not Assessed                     | Not assessed                       | MRBI                | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 08020304 | Big                              | MAP       | 2    | Not Assessed                     | Not assessed                       | MRBI                | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 08020401 | Lower Arkansas                   | MAP       | 2    | Not Assessed                     | Not assessed                       | MRBI                | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 08020402 | Bayou Meto                       | MAP       | 1    | Above Sc 1 threshold, decreasing | Above Sc 1 threshold, decreasing   | MRBI                | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 08030100 | Lower Mississippi-<br>Greenville | MAP       | 3    | Not Assessed                     | Not Assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 08040101 | Ouachita Headwaters              | OUAM      | 3    | Below Sc 2 threshold             | Below Sc 2 threshold               | -                   | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 08040102 | Upper Ouachita                   | OUAM      | 4    | Below Sc 2 threshold, decreasing | Below Sc 2 threshold, decreasing   | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |

| -        |                                    |           |      | Factors d                           | Data availability                  |                     |              |              |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| HUC-8    | Name                               | Ecoregion | Tier | TN<br>Magnitude, Trend              | TP<br>Magnitude, Trend             | Partner<br>Priority | Magnitude    | Trend        |
| 08040103 | Little Missouri                    | SCP       | 4    | Below Sc 2 threshold,<br>decreasing | Below Sc 1 threshold, decreasing   | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 08040201 | Lower Ouachita-<br>Smackover       | SCP       | 2    | Above Sc 1 threshold, decreasing    | Below Sc 1 threshold, decreasing   | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 08040202 | Lower Ouachita-<br>Bayou De Loutre | SCP       | 3    | Above Sc 2 threshold, decreasing    | Below Sc 1 threshold, not changing | -                   | Marginal     | Sufficient   |
| 08040203 | Upper Saline                       | OUAM      | 4    | Below Sc 2 threshold,<br>decreasing | Below Sc 2 threshold, decreasing   | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 08040204 | Lower Saline                       | SCP       | 4    | Below Sc 1 threshold,<br>decreasing | Below Sc 1 threshold, decreasing   | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 08040205 | Bayou Bartholomew                  | МАР       | 2    | Above Sc 1 threshold                | Above Sc 1 threshold, decreasing   | MRBI                | Sufficient   | Marginal     |
| 08040206 | Bayou D'Arbonne                    | SCP       | 3    | Not Assessed                        | Not Assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 08050001 | Boeuf                              | MAP       | 2    | Not Assessed                        | Not Assessed                       | MRBI                | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 08050002 | Bayou Macon                        | MAP       | 2    | Not Assessed                        | Not assessed                       | MRBI                | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11010001 | Beaver Reservoir                   | OZKH      | 2    | Above Sc 1 threshold, not changing  | Below Sc 2 threshold, decreasing   | NSA                 | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 11010003 | Bull Shoals Lake                   | ОΖКН      | 1    | Above Sc 1 threshold, not changing  | Above Sc 1 threshold, not changing | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 11010004 | Middle White                       | ОΖКН      | 1    | Above Sc 2 threshold, not changing  | Above Sc 1 threshold, not changing | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 11010005 | Buffalo                            | BOSM      | 3    | Below Sc 2 threshold                | Below Sc 2 thresholds              | -                   | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 11010006 | North Fork White                   | OZKH      | 2    | Below Sc 2 threshold                | Above Sc 1 threshold               | -                   | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 11010007 | Upper Black                        | MAP       | 3    | Not Assessed                        | Not Assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11010008 | Current                            | OZKH      | 3    | Not Assessed                        | Not Assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11010009 | Lower Black                        | MAP       | 3    | Below Sc 1 threshold                | Below Sc 1 threshold               | -                   | Marginal     | Insufficient |
| 11010010 | Spring                             | OZKH      | 2    | Above Sc 2 threshold, increasing    | Below Sc 2 threshold, not changing | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |

|          |                             |           |      | Factors c                           | Data availability                        |                     |              |              |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------|------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| HUC-8    | Name                        | Ecoregion | Tier | TN<br>Magnitude, Trend              | TP<br>Magnitude, Trend                   | Partner<br>Priority | Magnitude    | Trend        |
| 11010011 | Eleven Point                | OZKH      | 3    | Not Assessed                        | Not Assessed                             | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11010012 | Strawberry                  | OZKH      | 2    | Below Sc 2 threshold                | Above Sc 1 threshold                     | MRBI                | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 11010013 | Upper White-Village         | MAP       | 2    | Not Assessed                        | Not assessed                             | MRBI                | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11010014 | Little Red                  | BOSM      | 3    | Below Sc 2 threshold, not changing  | Below Sc 2 threshold, decreasing         | -                   | Marginal     | Sufficient   |
| 11070206 | Lake O' The<br>Cherokees    | ОΖКН      | 2    | Not Assessed                        | Not assessed                             | NSA                 | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11070208 | Elk                         | OZKH      | 2    | Above Sc 1 threshold                | Above Sc 2 threshold                     | NSA                 | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 11070209 | Lower Neosho                | OZKH      | 2    | Not Assessed                        | Not assessed                             | NSA                 | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11110103 | Illinois                    | ОΖКН      | 1    | Above Sc 1 threshold, not changing  | Above Sc 2 threshold, decreasing         | NSA                 | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 11110104 | Robert S. Kerr<br>Reservoir | ARV       | 3    | Above Sc 2 threshold                | Below Sc 2 threshold                     | NSA                 | Marginal     | Insufficient |
| 11110105 | Poteau                      | ARV       | 2    | Above Sc 1 threshold, decreasing    | Below Sc 2 threshold                     | NSA                 | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 11110201 | Frog-Mulberry               | BOSM      | 3    | Below Sc 2 threshold                | Below Sc 2 threshold                     | -                   | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 11110202 | Dardanelle Reservoir        | BOSM      | 2    | Below Sc 2 threshold,<br>decreasing | Above Sc 1 threshold, not changing       | -                   | Marginal     | Sufficient   |
| 11110203 | Lake Conway-Point<br>Remove | ARV       | 1    | Above Sc 1 threshold                | Above Sc 1 threshold                     | MRBI                | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 11110204 | Petit Jean                  | ARV       | 3    | Below Sc 2 threshold, decreasing    | Below Sc 2 threshold, decreasing         | -                   | Marginal     | Sufficient   |
| 11110205 | Cadron                      | ARV       | 3    | Below Sc 1 threshold                | Below Sc 1 & 2<br>thresholds, decreasing | -                   | Sufficient   | Marginal     |
| 11110206 | Fourche La Fave             | OUAM      | 3    | Below Sc 2 threshold                | Below Sc 2 threshold                     | -                   | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 11110207 | Lower Arkansas-<br>Maumelle | OUAM      | 1    | Above Sc 2 threshold, decreasing    | Above Sc 2 threshold, decreasing         | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 11140105 | Kiamichi                    | OUAM      | 3    | Not Assessed                        | Not assessed                             | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |

|          |                                    |           |      | Factors d                        | Data availability                  |                     |              |              |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| HUC-8    | Name                               | Ecoregion | Tier | TN<br>Magnitude Trend            | TP<br>Magnitude Trend              | Partner<br>Priority | Magnitude    | Trend        |
| 11140106 | Pecan-Waterhole                    | SCP       | 3    | Not Assessed                     | Not Assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11140108 | Mountain Fork                      | OUAM      | 3    | Above Sc 2 threshold             | Below Sc 2 threshold               | NSA                 | Sufficient   | Insufficient |
| 11140109 | Lower Little Arkansas,<br>Oklahoma | SCP       | 4    | Above Sc 2 threshold, decreasing | Below Sc 1 threshold, not changing | -                   | Sufficient   | Sufficient   |
| 11140201 | McKinney-Posten<br>Bayous          | SCP       | 2    | Above Sc 2 threshold, decreasing | Above Sc 1 threshold, decreasing   | -                   | Marginal     | Sufficient   |
| 11140203 | Loggy Bayou                        | SCP       | 3    | Not Assessed                     | Not Assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| 11140205 | Bodcau Bayou                       | SCP       | 2    | Above Sc 1 threshold             | Above Sc 1 threshold               | -                   | Marginal     | Insufficient |
| 11140302 | Lower Sulpher                      | SCP       | 2    | Above Sc 1 threshold             | Above Sc 1 threshold               | -                   | Marginal     | Marginal     |
| 11140304 | Cross Bayou                        | SCP       | 3    | Not Assessed                     | Not Assessed                       | -                   | Insufficient | Insufficient |

### Statewide prioritization framework challenges

Uneven coverage in the State's ambient water quality monitoring data sets was the primary challenge to a statewide HUC-8 prioritization framework. Approximately one third of Arkansas HUC-8s did not qualify for either component of the analysis. In many cases, data-deficient HUC-8s may not represent the appropriate scale for ANRS prioritization. Some are data limited because only a small area is located in Arkansas, most notably 11140105 -Kiamichi. In some cases, Arkansas contains only a small downstream portion of the HUC-8, such as 11140106 - Pecan Waterhole, 11010007 -Upper Black, 11010011 - Eleven Point, and 11010008 - Current. Additionally, the scale of some HUC-8s may be too large for ANRS prioritization, such as three Mississippi River mainstem HUC-8s located on Arkansas's eastern border. For all these HUC-8s, Arkansas's ability to effect or demonstrate nutrient reduction with a single-state strategy is unlikely.

However, some data-deficient HUC-8s with limited area in Arkansas are known nutrient export hotspots, such as the Spavinaw Creek and Honey Creek sub-watersheds of 11070209 – Lower Neosho and 11070206 – Lake O' The Cherokees. Further, issues of scale largely do not apply for a cluster of Tier 2 HUC-8s located in the lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plain in Southeast Arkansas. The lack of a robust data record that includes multiple active monitoring locations and regular sample collection is an impediment to understanding how watersheds in these regions fit into a data-based prioritization framework for watershed prioritization under the ANRS.

A second challenge was related to the goal of maintaining a streamlined prioritization framework with a maximum of four tiers, with the first tier having a stated target number of only 5 – 8 HUC-8s. Gradients both in the weight of evidence for nutrient reduction need and data availability were observed across Arkansas HUC-8s, with a number of complex scenarios arising from synthesis of these factors that could not be accommodated uniquely with only four tiers. Thus, Tier 2 groups a broad range of scenarios, and sub-categories were needed that differentiate the HUC-8s with a common set of factors resulting in Tier 2 categorization, as well as the types of action and monitoring investments needed under the ANRS.

Subcategories describing these scenarios were: 2a) equivalent evidence for nutrient reduction need to Tier 1, but with insufficient data for quantitative assessment and goal setting; 2b) evidence of nutrient reduction need, but less than qualifying criteria for Tier 1, with sufficient data; 2c) evidence of nutrient reduction need, with limited data; and 2d) a partner priority (Mississippi River Basin Initiative or Nutrient Surplus Area) for nutrient reduction focus, but with insufficient data for assessment in any component of the data analysis (Figure 7).

### **Current ANRS priority watershed comparisons**

The 2014 ANRS qualitatively identified ten priority HUC-8s: 08040205 -Bayou Bartholomew, 08020302 - Cache River. 11110203 -Lake Conway-Point Remove, 08040201 -Lower Ouachita-Smackover, 11010012 - Strawberry, 11010001 - Beaver Reservoir, 11110103 - Illinois, 08020205 -L'Anguille, 11110105 - Poteau, and 08040203 -Upper Saline. Three, or 43%, of tier 1 HUC-8s identified in this study, overlap the 2014 priority HUC-8s (11110203 - Lake Conway-Point Remove, 11110103 - Illinois, and 08020205 -L'Anguille). Three 2014 priority HUC-8s (HUC-8s were 08040205 – Bayou Bartholomew, 08020302 - Cache River, and 11010012 -Strawberry) were identified in the data analysis



- 2a Max nutrient reduction need, enhanced data needed
- 08020203 Lower St. Francis
- 08040205 Bayou Bartholomew
- 11070208 Elk
- 11140201 McKinney-Posten Bayous
- 11140205 Bodcau Bayou
- 11140302 Lower Sulpher

2b - Nutrient reduction need, sufficient data

- 08040201- Lower Ouachita Smackover
- 11010001 Beaver Reservoir
- 11010010 Spring
- 11110105 Poteau

2c - Nutrient reduction need, enhanced data needed

- 08020204 Little River Ditches
- 08020302 Cache
- 11010006 North Fork White
- 11010012 Strawberry
- 11110202 Dardanelle Reservoir
- 2d Partner priority, baseline data needed
- 08020303 Lower White
- 08020304 Big
- 08020401 Lower Arkansas
- 08050001 Boeuf
- 08050002 Bayou Macon
- 11010013 Upper White-Village
- 11070206 Lake O' The Cherokees
- 11070209 Lower Neosho

**Figure 7.** Tier 2 HUC-8s grouped by four subcategories that summarize the level of nutrient reduction need suggested by the data analysis, data availability, and partner priority status

**Table 3.** Summary of trend analysis results, as percentage of sites with decreasing, increasing, or not changing TN and TP concentrations, for sites in HUC-8s that were flagged for a nutrient reduction focus for one or more component (trend or magnitude for TN or TP) of the overall categorization framework.

|          |                  |            |          |            | Trend      |              |
|----------|------------------|------------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| HUC-8    | Name             | Site count | Nutrient | Decreasing | Increasing | Not changing |
| 0000000  | L'Anguille       | 2          | TN       | 67         | 0          | 33           |
| 08020205 | L'Anguille       | 3          | ТР       | 0          | 33         | 67           |
| 00000400 | Payou Moto       | 4          | TN       | 75         | 0          | 25           |
| 08020402 | Bayou Meto       | 4          | ТР       | 50         | 0          | 50           |
| 11010002 | Bull Shools Lako | 7          | TN       | 0          | 71         | 29           |
| 11010003 | Bull Shoals Lake | ,          | ТР       | 14         | 29         | 57           |
| 11010004 | Middle White     | 4          | TN       | 0          | 25         | 75           |
| 11010004 | white            | 4          | ТР       | 50         | 0          | 50           |
| 11110102 | Illinois         | 0          | TN       | 44         | 33         | 22           |
| 11110103 | minois           | 9          | ТР       | 67         | 11         | 22           |
| 11110000 | Lake Conway –    | 0          | TN       | 44         | 0          | 33           |
| 11110203 | Point Remove     | 9          | ТР       | 33         | 11         | 44           |
| 11110207 | Lower Arkansas – | 7          | TN       | 71         | 0          | 29           |
| 11110207 | Maumelle         | 7          | ТР       | 71         | 0          | 29           |

for nutrient reduction need, but were not eligible for Tier 1 based on data limitations. These HUC-8's were assigned to Tier 2 as priorities for monitoring program investments for future ANRS updates. Three 2014 priority HUC-8s (08040201 – Lower Ouachita-Smackover, 11010001 - Beaver Reservoir, and 11110105 - Poteau) were fully assessed in the data analysis and were assigned Tier 2 focus status based on nutrient reduction need, but short of criteria qualifying for Tier 1. In contrast, 08040203 – Upper Saline was assigned to Tier 4, least focus status. Neither TN nor TP screening levels in the Upper Saline were greater than screening thresholds, while trend analysis suggested that the 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site median concentrations were decreasing for both nutrients.

### Trend analysis on sites in focus watersheds

Site-level TN and TP trend analysis results show that sites with increasing TN concentrations are clustered in a band across northern Arkansas, while increasing TP

concentrations are more diversely spread across the state (Figure 8A-B; Table S6-7). Site-level results were largely in-line with HUC-level findings for trend in 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site median total nutrient concentrations (Table 3). Increasing nutrient concentrations, which were detected for only one nutrient-HUC combination in the HUC-level analysis, were also the least common result at the site-level, representing just 12 - 21% of 42 qualifying sites. Nutrient concentrations that were decreasing or not changing were far more commonly detected. For TN, decreasing trend was identified for 43% of sites; static concentrations for 31%. Trend results suggesting decreasing or static TP concentrations both comprised 43% of sites.

Agreement between site- and HUC-level analysis was also typical for individual HUC-8s, with limited exceptions. Most notably, trend analysis suggested TN concentrations were increasing at 71% of sites within 11010003 - Bull Shoals Lake, in contrast to the HUC-level finding that TN concentrations were not changing. For TP, no change was detected for 44% of sites in



**Figure 8.** Site-level trend analysis results on A) TN and B) TP concentrations for qualifying sites located in HUC-8s flagged for a nutrient reduction focus for at least one component (trend or magnitude, TN or TP) of the overall prioritization framework.

11110203 - Lake Conway-Point Remove, but HUC-8 level analysis suggested decreasing TP concentrations. Conversely, HUC-level trend analysis suggested no change in 11110103 – Illinois TN concentrations, but the most frequent site-specific result suggested decreasing trends (44 – 100%).

### CONCLUSIONS

This project presents an approach to identify watersheds with the greatest nutrient reduction need at a statewide scale. Key findings of component assessments of the overall framework included regional gradients in HUC-8 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of site median total nutrient concentrations, broadly decreasing nutrient trends and near statewide absence of increasing trends, clustering of increasing TN concentrations at sites in northern Arkansas, and spatial gaps in the State's ambient water quality monitoring program that prevented approximately one-third of HUC-8s from qualifying for any component of the data analysis.

The prioritization framework targeted HUC-8s with the greatest nutrient reduction need demonstrated in the data analysis for maximum focus in Tier 1 under the ANRS. These criteria identified seven HUC-8s:

- 08020205 –
   L'Anguille
- 08020402 Bayou Meto
- 11010003 Bull Shoals Lake
- 11010004 Middle White
- 11110103 Illinois
- 11110203 Lake Conway-Point
- Remove11110207 Lower
  - Arkansas-Maumelle

Most of these watersheds had other substantiating factors for prioritization, including nutrient levels that were not changing at the HUC-8 level (11010004 - Middle White, 11010004 - Bull Shoals Lake, and 11110103 -Illinois), a majority of sites with increasing nutrients (11010004 - Bull Shoals Lake), MRBI priority watershed (08020205 - L'Anguille, 08020402 - Bayou Meto) or Nutrient Surplus Area (11010003 Bull Shoals Lake and 11110103 -Illinois) designation, or qualitative selection for prioritization under the 2014 ANRS (08020205 -L'Anguille, 11110103 – Illinois, 11110203 - Lake Conway-Point Remove).

The framework also honed in on HUC-8s with demonstrated nutrient reduction need based on less selective requirements, with data limitations, or both, for Tier 2. Twenty-three HUC-8s were assigned to Tier 2 focus status, with emphasis under the ANRS on future monitoring program investments to support assessment as part of future ANRS updates. Of HUC-8's not assigned to Tier 1 or Tier 2 focus status, 23 were categorized as data-limited and assigned to Tier 3, while only five were categorized as datasufficient and assigned to Tier 4.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported in part by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Hatch Project 2660, the Arkansas Water Resources Center through the USGS Water Resources Research Institute Program, and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### REFERENCES

AR Code § 15-20-1104. 2019.

- Arkansas National Resources Division (ANRD). 2014. Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Arkansas Natural Resources Division, Little Rock, AR.
- Diaz, R.J. and R. Rosenberg. 2008. Spreading Dead Zones and Consequences for Marine Ecosystems. Science, 32: 926-929.
- Dodds, W.K. 2006. Nutrients and the "Dead Zone": The Link Between Nutrient Ratios and Dissolved Oxygen in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, 4: 211-217.
- Fennel, K. and A. Laurent. 2017. N and P as Ultimate and Proximate Limiting Nutrients in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Implications for Hypoxia Reduction Strategies. Biogeosciences, 15:3121-3131.
- Grolemund, G and H. Wickham. (2011). Dates and Times Made Easy with lubridate. Journal of Statistical Software, 40(3), 1-25. https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v040.i03.
- Justić, D., N.N. Rabalais, and R.E. Turner. 1995. Stoichiometric Nutrient Balance and Origin of Coastal Eutrophication. Marine Pollution Bulletin, 30(1): 41-46. https://doi.org/10.1016/0025-326X(94)00105-I
- Marchetto, A. 2017. rkt: Mann Kendall Test, Seasonal and Regional Kendall Tests. R package version 1.5. https://CRAN.Rproject.org/package=rkt
- Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force. 2008. Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008 for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico and Improving Water

Quality in the Mississippi River Basin. Washington, DC.

- Omernik, J.M. 1987. Ecoregions of the Conterminous United States. Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 77: 118-125.
- Rabalais, N.N., R.E. Turner, Q. Dortch, D. Justic,
  V.J. Bierman, Jr., and W.J. Wiseman, Jr.
  2002. Nutrient-Enhanced Productivity in
  the Norther Gulf of Mexico, Past, Present,
  and Future. Hydrobiologia, 475/476: 39-63.
- Rabalais, N.N., R.E. Turner, B.K. Sen Gupta, and D.F. Boesch. 2007. Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Does the Science Support the Plan to Reduce, Mitigate, and Control Hypoxia? Estuaries and Coasts, 30: 753-772.
- R Core Team. 2021. R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. https://www.Rproject.org/.
- Turner R.E. and N.N. Rabalais. 1991. Changes in Mississippi River Water Quality this Century: Implications for Coastal Food Webs. Bioscience, 41: 140-147.
- Turner, R.E. and N.N. Rabalais. 2013. N and P Phytoplankton Growth Limitation, Northern Gulf of Mexico. Aquatic Microbial Ecology, 68: 159-169.
- Wickham, et al. 2019. Welcome to the tidyverse. Journal of Open Source Software, 4(43), 1686 https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01686.

### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

**Table S1.** Summary of compiled biological response thresholds in TN and TP concentration observed in the scientific literature for measures of benthic and sestonic algae, macroinvertebrates (Macros), and fish communities.

|               |                           |             | Watershed |                                  |                 |           |           |                          |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Community     | Geo_unit                  | System size | LULC      | Response                         | Method          | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation                 |
| Benthic Algae | Global                    | Range       | Range     | Mean chl-a                       | regression      | 0.540     | 0.043     | Dodds et al., 2002, 2006 |
| Benthic Algae | Global                    | Range       | Range     | Maximum chl-a                    | regression      | 0.600     | 0.062     | Dodds et al., 2002, 2006 |
| Benthic Algae | Global                    | Range       | Range     | Mean chl-a                       | 2DKS            | 0.520     | 0.027     | Dodds et al., 2002, 2006 |
| Benthic Algae | Global                    | Range       | Range     | Maximum chl-a                    | 2DKS            | 0.370     | 0.027     | Dodds et al., 2002, 2006 |
| Benthic Algae | Wisconsin                 | Wadeable    | Range     | chl-a                            | regression tree | 0.920     | 0.039     | Robertson et al., 2006   |
| Benthic Algae | Wisconsin                 | Wadeable    | Range     | Diatom nutrient index            | regression tree | 1.200     | 0.057     | Robertson et al., 2006   |
| Benthic Algae | Wisconsin                 | Wadeable    | Range     | Diatom siltation index           | regression tree | 0.870     | 0.074     | Robertson et al., 2006   |
| Benthic Algae | Wisconsin                 | Wadeable    | Range     | Diatom biotic index              | regression tree | 1.200     | 0.072     | Robertson et al., 2006   |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Mean chl-a                       | nCPA            | NA        | 0.0127    | Stevenson et al., 2008   |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Mean AFDM                        | nCPA            | NA        | 0.0082    | Stevenson et al., 2008   |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Acid phosphatase activity        | nCPA            | NA        | 0.0065    | Stevenson et al., 2008   |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Alkaline phosphatase activity    | nCPA            | NA        | 0.0065    | Stevenson et al., 2008   |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Number of diatom taxa            | nCPA            | NA        | 0.0115    | Stevenson et al., 2008   |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Diatom evenness                  | nCPA            | NA        | 0.0195    | Stevenson et al., 2008   |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Proportion of native diatom taxa | nCPA            | NA        | 0.0115    | Stevenson et al., 2008   |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Proportion of low-P native taxa  | nCPA            | NA        | 0.0185    | Stevenson et al., 2008   |

|               |                           |             | Watershed |   |            |                  |           |                        |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|---|------------|------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Community     | Geo_unit                  | System size | LULC      | Response                                    | Method     | TN (mg/L)        | TP (mg/L) | Citation               |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | Diatom species similarity to reference      | nCPA       | NA               | 0.0265    | Stevenson et al., 2008 |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | low-P diatom individuals, %                 | nCPA       | NA               | 0.0185    | Stevenson et al., 2008 |
| Benthic Algae | Mid-Atlantic<br>Highlands | Wadeable    | Range     | High-P diatom individuals, %                | nCPA       | NA               | 0.0115    | Stevenson et al., 2008 |
| Benthic Algae | Ohio                      | Wadeable    | Range     | Mean chl-a                                  | nCPA       | 0.435            | 0.038     | Miltner, 2010          |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of pollution tolerant diatoms, %  | regression | 0.86             | 0.28      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Alkalophilus diatom richness                | regression | NS <sup>++</sup> | 0.05      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of pollution-sensitive diatoms, % | regression | NS               | 0.09      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of high-TN diatoms, %             | regression | 0.61             | 0.06      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of high-TP diatoms, %             | regression | 0.71             | 0.06      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of N heterotrophs, %              | regression | 1.5              | 0.1       | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of motile algae, %                | regression | 0.27             | 0.06      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Richness of motile algae, %                 | regression | 1.49             | 0.09      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Alkalophilus diatom richness                | regression | 1.25             | 0.03      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of high TN diatoms, %             | regression | 1.45             | 0.07      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of high-TP diatoms, %             | regression | 1.3              | 0.08      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of N heterotrophs, %              | regression | 0.59             | 0.13      | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Abundance of motile algae, %                | regression | NS               | 0.2       | Black et al., 2011     |
| Benthic Algae | Western US                | Wadeable    | Range     | Richness motile algae, %                    | regression | 1.79             | 0.07      | Black et al., 2011     |

|               | <b>•</b> •                           |             | Watershed | _                                      |                   |           | ( ())     |                     |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Community     | Geo_unit                             | System size | LULC      | Response                               | Method            | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation            |
| Benthic algae | Texas Brazos River-<br>Cross Timbers | Wadeable    | Pasture   | TITAN diatom sum(z-)                   | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.02      | Taylor et al. 2017  |
| Benthic algae | Texas Brazos River-<br>Cross Timbers | Wadeable    | Pasture   | TITAN diatom sum(z+)                   | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.04      | Taylor et al. 2017  |
| Benthic algae | Texas Brazos River-<br>Cross Timbers | Wadeable    | Pasture   | TITAN diatom sum(z-)                   | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.025     | Taylor et al. 2017  |
| Benthic algae | Texas Brazos River-<br>Cross Timbers | Wadeable    | Pasture   | TITAN diatom sum(z+)                   | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.027     | Taylor et al. 2017  |
| Benthic algae | Texas Brazos River-<br>Cross Timbers | Wadeable    | Pasture   | TITAN diatom sum(z-)                   | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.032     | Taylor et al. 2017  |
| Benthic algae | Texas Brazos River-<br>Cross Timbers | Wadeable    | Pasture   | TITAN diatom assemblage sum(z+)        | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.14      | Taylor et al. 2017  |
| Benthic algae | Texas Brazos River-<br>Cross Timbers | Wadeable    | Pasture   | TITAN diatom assemblage sum(z-)        | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.037     | Taylor et al. 2017  |
| Benthic algae | Texas Brazos River-<br>Cross Timbers | Wadeable    | Pasture   | TITAN diatom assemblage sum(z+)        | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.036     | Taylor et al. 2017  |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | TITAN sum(Z-) TP (sensitive species)   | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.027     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | %Z- IC (sensitive species)             | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.034     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | TITAN community                        | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.039     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | NMS axis 1 score (community structure) | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.042     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | % low P (sensitive species)            | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.05      | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | TITAN sum(Z+)TP (tolerant species)     | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.051     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | Chlorophyll a                          | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.058     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | %Z+ IC (tolerant species)              | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.066     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | %high P (tolerant species)             | nCPA -threshold   | NA        | 0.072     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | TITAN sum(Z-) TP (sensitive species)   | nCPA - <b>90%</b> | NA        | 0.033     | Smucker et al. 2013 |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut                          | Wadeable    | Urban     | %Z-IC (sensitive species)              | nCPA - 90%        | NA        | 0.039     | Smucker et al. 2013 |

|               |               |                  | Watershed |   |                   |           |           |                      |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Community     | Geo_unit      | System size      | LULC      | Response                                | Method            | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation             |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut   | Wadeable         | Urban     | TITAN community                         | nCPA - 90%        | NA        | 0.058     | Smucker et al. 2013  |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut   | Wadeable         | Urban     | NDMS axis 1 score (community structure) | nCPA - 90%        | NA        | 0.048     | Smucker et al. 2013  |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut   | Wadeable         | Urban     | % low P (sensitive species)             | nCPA - <b>90%</b> | NA        | 0.062     | Smucker et al. 2013  |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut   | Wadeable         | Urban     | TITAN sum(Z+)TP (tolerant species)      | nCPA - 90%        | NA        | 0.066     | Smucker et al. 2013  |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut   | Wadeable         | Urban     | Chlorophyll a                           | nCPA - 90%        | NA        | 0.22      | Smucker et al. 2013  |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut   | Wadeable         | Urban     | %Z+ IC (tolerant species)               | nCPA - 90%        | NA        | 0.067     | Smucker et al. 2013  |
| Benthic Algae | Connecticut   | Wadeable         | Urban     | %high P (tolerant species)              | nCPA - 90%        | NA        | 0.074     | Smucker et al. 2013  |
| Benthic Algae | Ohio          | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | threshold ranges multiple analyses      | multiple          | NA        | 0.075     | Smucker et al. 2020  |
| Benthic Algae | Ohio          | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | threshold ranges multiple analyses      | multiple          | NA        | 0.15      | Smucker et al. 2020  |
| Benthic Algae | Ohio          | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | threshold ranges multiple analyses      | multiple          | NA        | 0.3       | Smucker et al. 2020  |
| Benthic Algae | Ohio          | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | threshold ranges multiple analyses      | multiple          | 0.28      | NA        | Smucker et al. 2020  |
| Benthic Algae | Ohio          | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | threshold ranges multiple analyses      | multiple          | 0.53      | NA        | Smucker et al. 2020  |
| Benthic Algae | Ohio          | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | threshold ranges multiple analyses      | multiple          | 0.85      | NA        | Smucker et al. 2020  |
| Benthic algae | Minnesota     | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | Chlorophyll a                           | AQUATOX           | 2.7       | 0.1       | Carleton et al. 2009 |
| Benthic algae | Central Texas | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum(z-)                           | nCPA - threshold  | 1.9       | 0.021     | Taylor et al. 2014   |
| Benthic Algae | Central Texas | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum(z-)                           | nCPA - 95%        | 2.3       | 0.048     | Taylor et al. 2014   |
| Benthic algae | Central Texas | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum(z+)                           | nCPA - threshold  | 0.44      | 0.027     | Taylor et al. 2014   |
| Benthic algae | Central Texas | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum(z+)                           | nCPA - 95%        | 2.4       | 0.03      | Taylor et al. 2014   |
| Benthic algae | Montana       | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Chlorophyll a                           | nCPA              | NA        | 0.024     | Suplee et al. 2012   |
| Benthic algae | Montana       | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Chlorophyll a                           | QUAL2K            | 0.66      | 0.055     | Suplee et al. 2015   |
| Benthic algae | Montana       | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Chlorophyll a                           | QUAL2K            | 0.82      | 0.095     | Suplee et al. 2015   |

|               |                                      |                  | Watershed |                                       |                   |           |           |                       |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Community     | Geo_unit                             | System size      | LULC      | Response                              | Method            | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation              |
| Benthic algae | Mississippi (Alluvial<br>Plain)      | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | diatom assemblage                     | nCPA              | NA        | 0.12      | Hicks and Taylor 2018 |
| Benthic algae | Ontario & Quebec                     | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | Chlorophyll a                         | Linear regression | 1.8       | 0.046     | Chambers et al. 2008  |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma<br>Arkansas & | Wadeable         | Pasture   | Mean chl-a                            | nCPA - threshold  | NA        |           | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Oklahoma                             | Wadeable         | Pasture   | Mean chl-a                            | nCPA - 95%        | NA        |           | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | Mean (24 mo) Cladophora biovolume     | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.039     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | Mean (24 mo) Cladophora biovolume     | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.047     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | Biovolume proportion of nuisance taxa | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.039     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | Biovolume proportion of nuisance taxa | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.059     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN community                       | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.033     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN community                       | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.04      | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum z-                          | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.021     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum z-                          | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.025     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum z+                          | nCPA - threshold  | NA        | 0.021     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Arkansas &<br>Oklahoma               | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum z+                          | nCPA - 95%        | NA        | 0.037     | King 2016             |
| Benthic algae | Michigan, Indiana &<br>Kentucky      | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | %Cladophora cover                     | regression        | 1         | 0.03      | Stevenson et al. 2006 |
| Benthic algae | Montana                              | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Chlorophyll a                         | regression        | 0.35      | 0.03      | Dodds et al. 1997     |

|               |                                  |             | Watershed                                       |   |   |           |           |                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Community     | Geo_unit                         | System size | LULC  | Response                                | Method  | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation             |
| Benthic algae | New Jersey                       | Range       | Range   | Biological Condition Gradient threshold | Impaired BCG<br>threshold<br>nutrient conc        | 1         | 0.05      | Charles et al. 2019  |
| Benthic algae | New Jersey                       | Range       | Range   | Biological Condition Gradient threshold | Concentrations<br>protective of<br>good condition | NA        | 0.045     | Hausmann et al. 2016 |
| Benthic algae | New Jersey                       | Range       | Range   | Biological Condition Gradient threshold | Concentrations protective of fair condition       | NA        | 0.058     | Hausmann et al. 2016 |
| Benthic algae | Canada                           | Range       | Range   | Trophic Diatom Index                    | regression tree                                   | NA        | 0.032     | Chambers et al. 2012 |
| Benthic algae | Canada                           | Range       | Range   | Diatom Shannon diversity                | regression tree                                   | 0.59      | NA        | Chambers et al. 2012 |
| Benthic algae | Canada                           | Range       | Range   | Mean chl-a                              | regression tree                                   | 1.2       | 0.046     | Chambers et al. 2012 |
| Benthic algae | New York<br>(Ecoregions VIII/XI) | Wadeable    | Upland<br>pristine<br>forested                  | NBI-P                                   | nCPA - threshold                                  | NA        | 0.016     | Smith et al. 2013    |
| Benthic algae | New York<br>(Ecoregions VIII/XI) | Wadeable    | Upland<br>pristine<br>forested                  | NBI-N                                   | nCPA - threshold                                  | 0.41      | NA        | Smith et al. 2013    |
| Benthic algae | New York<br>(Ecoregions VIII/XI) | Wadeable    | Upland<br>pristine<br>forested                  | TRI                                     | nCPA - threshold                                  | 0.53      | 0.015     | Smith et al. 2013    |
| Benthic algae | New York<br>(Ecoregions VIII/XI) | Wadeable    | Upland<br>pristine<br>forested                  | НВІ                                     | nCPA - threshold                                  | NA        | NA        | Smith et al. 2013    |
| Benthic algae | New York<br>(Ecoregions VII/XIV) | Wadeable    | Nutrient<br>enriched<br>(pasture &<br>row-cron) | NBI-P                                   | nCPA - threshold                                  | 0.61      | 0.016     | Smith et al. 2013    |
| Benthic algae | New York<br>(Ecoregions VII/XIV) | Wadeable    | Nutrient<br>enriched<br>(pasture &<br>row-crop) | NBI-N                                   | nCPA - threshold                                  | 0.54      | 0.017     | Smith et al. 2013    |
| Benthic algae | New York<br>(Ecoregions VII/XIV) | Wadeable    | Nutrient<br>enriched<br>(pasture &<br>row-cron) | TRI                                     | nCPA - threshold                                  | 0.56      | 0.018     | Smith et al. 2013    |
| Benthic algae | New York<br>(Ecoregions VII/XIV) | Wadeable    | Nutrient<br>enriched                            | НВІ                                     | nCPA - threshold                                  | 2.8       | NA        | Smith et al. 2013    |

|           |  |                  | Watershed               |                                       |                 |           |           |   |
|-----------|--|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Community | Geo_unit   | System size      | LULC                    | Response                              | Method          | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation                                    |
|           |  |                  | (pasture &<br>row-crop) |                                       |                 |           |           |   |
| Chemical  | British Columbia,<br>Canada (Montane<br>Cordillera)    | Range            | Range                   | Multiple methods                      |                 | 0.21      | 0.02      | Chambers et al. 2012                        |
| Chemical  | Alberta, Canada<br>(Prairie)                           | Range            | Range                   | Multiple methods                      |                 | 0.98      | 0.11      | Chambers et al. 2012                        |
| Chemical  | Manitoba, Canada<br>(Prairies/Boreal<br>Plains)        | Range            | Range                   | Multiple methods                      |                 | 0.39      | 0.1       | Chambers et al. 2012                        |
| Chemical  | Ontario, Canada<br>(Mixedwood Plains)                  | Range            | Range                   | Multiple methods                      |                 | 1         | 0.026     | Chambers et al. 2012                        |
| Chemical  | Quebec, Canada<br>(Mixedwood Plains)                   | Range            | Range                   | Multiple methods                      |                 | 1.2       | 0.042     | Chambers et al. 2012                        |
| Chemical  | New Brunswick,<br>Canada (Atlantic<br>Maritime)        | Range            | Range                   | Multiple methods                      |                 | 0.87      | 0.013     | Chambers et al. 2012                        |
| Chemical  | Prince Edward<br>Island, Canada<br>(Atlantic Maritime) | Range            | Range                   | Multiple methods                      |                 | 1.2       | 0.048     | Chambers et al. 2012                        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Wadeable         | Range                   | Percentage of carnivorous individuals | regression tree | 1.22      | 0.09      | Wang et al., 2007; Robertson et al. 2006    |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Wadeable         | Range                   | Index of biotic integrity             | regression tree | 1.36      | 0.07      | Wang et al., 2007; Robertson et<br>al. 2006 |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Wadeable         | Range                   | Salmonid individuals                  | regression tree | 0.63      | 0.06      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Wadeable         | Range                   | Percentage of intolerant individuals  | regression tree | 1.83      | 0.09      | Wang et al., 2007; Robertson et<br>al. 2006 |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Wadeable         | Range                   | Percentage of carnivorous individuals | 2DKS§           | 0.54      | 0.06      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Wadeable         | Range                   | Index of biotic integrity             | 2DKS            | 0.54      | 0.06      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Wadeable         | Range                   | Salmonid individuals                  | 2DKS            | 0.61      | 0.06      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Wadeable         | Range                   | Percentage of intolerant individuals  | 2DKS            | 0.54      | 0.07      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Fish      | Wisconsin  | Non-<br>wadeable | Range                   | Index of biotic integrity             | regression tree | 0.634     | 0.139     | Weigel and Robertson, 2007                  |

|           |                |                  | Watershed |                                  |  |           |           |                            |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Community | Geo_unit       | System size      | LULC      | Response                         | Method   | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation                   |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Percent biomass of round suckers | regression tree  | 0.634     | 0.091     | Weigel and Robertson, 2007 |
| Fish      | Nebraska       | Range            | Row-crop  | Pollution tolerance index        | threshold 95% of<br>streams good or<br>excellent       | NA        | 0.6       | Heatherley 2014            |
| Fish      | Central Texas  | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum(z-)                    | nCPA - threshold                                       | NA        | 0.034     | Taylor et al. 2014         |
| Fish      | Central Texas  | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum(z-)                    | nCPA - 95%   | NA        | 0.6       | Taylor et al. 2014         |
| Fish      | Central Texas  | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum(z+)                    | nCPA - threshold                                       | 0.24      | 0.034     | Taylor et al. 2014         |
| Fish      | Central Texas  | Wadeable         | Pasture   | TITAN sum(z+)                    | nCPA - 95%   | 0.49      | 0.052     | Taylor et al. 2014         |
| Fish      | Georgia        | Wadeable         | Urban     | Nitrate tolerance score          | Segmented regression                                   | NA        | NA        | Meador 2013                |
| Fish      | Indiana & Ohio | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | Nitrate tolerance score          | Segmented regression                                   | NA        | NA        | Meador 2013                |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | IBI                              | Nonparametric<br>deviance<br>reduction                 | NA        | 0.39      | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | IBI                              | Piecewise<br>regression                                | NA        | 0.07      | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | IBI                              | Bayesian<br>changepoint                                | NA        | 0.03      | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | IBI                              | Quantile<br>piecewise<br>constant (90th<br>percentile) | NA        | 0.04      | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | IBI                              | piecewise<br>constant (99th<br>percentile)             | NA        | 0.06      | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | IBI                              | QPL 90%  | NA        | 0.04      | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | IBI                              | QPL 99%  | NA        | 0.07      | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | Percent intolerant individuals   | Nonparametric<br>deviance<br>reduction                 | NA        | 0.16      | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | Percent intolerant individuals   | Piecewise regression                                   | NA        | 0.1       | Brenden et al. 2008        |
| Fish      | Wisconsin      | Wadeable         | Range     | Percent intolerant individuals   | Bayesian<br>changepoint                                | NA        | 0.08      | Brenden et al. 2008        |

|           |                     |             | Watershed |                                |  |           |           |                      |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Community | Geo_unit            | System size | LULC      | Response                       | Method   | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation             |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Percent intolerant individuals | Quantile<br>piecewise<br>constant (90th<br>percentile)<br>Quantile | NA        | 0.11      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Percent intolerant individuals | piecewise<br>constant (99th<br>percentile)                         | NA        | 0.06      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Percent intolerant individuals | QPL 90%  | NA        | 0.11      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Percent intolerant individuals | QPL 99%  | NA        | 0.06      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Number of salonidae fish       | Nonparametric<br>deviance<br>reduction                             | NA        | 0.14      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Number of salonidae fish       | Piecewise<br>regression  | NA        | 0.09      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Number of salonidae fish       | Bayesian<br>changepoint  | NA        | 0.12      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Number of salonidae fish       | Quantile<br>piecewise<br>constant (90th<br>percentile)             | NA        | 0.09      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Number of salonidae fish       | Quantile<br>piecewise<br>constant (99th<br>percentile)             | NA        | 0.07      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Number of salonidae fish       | QPL 90%  | NA        | 0.09      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Wisconsin           | Wadeable    | Range     | Number of salonidae fish       | QPL 99%  | NA        | 0.13      | Brenden et al. 2008  |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Sensitive                     | regression tree  | NA        | 0.042     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Darter                        | regression tree  | NA        | 0.103     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Simple Lithophils             | regression tree  | NA        | 0.136     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant                      | regression tree  | NA        | 0.199     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Piscivores                    | regression tree  | NA        | 0.081     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Intolerant                    | regression tree  | NA        | 0.081     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Sensitive                     | regression   | NA        | 0.152     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |

|           |                     |             | Watershed |                    |                 |           |           |                      |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Community | Geo_unit            | System size | LULC      | Response           | Method          | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation             |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Darter            | regression      | NA        | 0.094     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression      | NA        | 0.121     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression      | NA        | 0.192     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression      | NA        | 0.106     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression      | NA        | 0.043     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Darter            | regression      | NA        | 0.036     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression      | NA        | 0.046     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Insectivores      | regression      | NA        | 0.075     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Piscivores        | regression      | NA        | 0.121     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression      | NA        | 0.154     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression      | NA        | 0.048     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression      | NA        | 0.081     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Darter            | regression      | NA        | 0.158     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression      | NA        | 0.118     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression      | NA        | 0.188     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression      | NA        | 0.209     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression      | NA        | 0.105     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression      | NA        | 0.095     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression      | NA        | 0.106     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression      | NA        | 0.383     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression      | NA        | 0.373     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression tree | NA        | 0.033     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Darter            | regression tree | NA        | 0.057     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression tree | NA        | 0.039     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression tree | NA        | 0.034     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Insectivores      | regression tree | NA        | 0.053     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Piscivores        | regression tree | NA        | 0.033     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression tree | NA        | 0.042     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |

|           |                   |             | Watershed |                    |                 |           | (         |                      |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Community | Geo_unit          | System size | LULC      | Response           | Method          | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation             |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression tree | NA        | 0.066     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression tree | NA        | 0.124     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Darter            | regression tree | NA        | 0.201     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression tree | NA        | 0.16      | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression tree | NA        | 0.174     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Piscivores        | regression tree | NA        | 0.085     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression tree | NA        | 0.187     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Range       | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression tree | NA        | 0.086     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression tree | NA        | 0.066     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Darter            | regression tree | NA        | 0.086     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression tree | NA        | 0.146     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression tree | NA        | 0.31      | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression tree | NA        | 0.395     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression      | NA        | 0.116     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression      | NA        | 0.123     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression      | NA        | 0.11      | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Piscivores        | regression      | NA        | 0.099     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression      | NA        | 0.131     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | NonWadeable | Range     | %Insectivores      | regression      | NA        | 0.131     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | NonWadeable | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression tree | NA        | 0.027     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | NonWadeable | Range     | %Piscivores        | regression tree | NA        | 0.029     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression tree | NA        | 0.086     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression tree | NA        | 0.075     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression tree | NA        | 0.086     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression tree | NA        | 0.086     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | NonWadeable | Range     | %Insectivores      | regression tree | NA        | 0.199     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression      | NA        | 0.043     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Darter            | regression      | NA        | 0.1       | Heiskary et al. 2013 |

|           |                   |             | Watershed |                    |                 |           |           |                      |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Community | Geo_unit          | System size | LULC      | Response           | Method          | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation             |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression      | NA        | 0.049     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Insectivores      | regression      | NA        | 0.075     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Piscivores        | regression      | NA        | 0.052     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression      | NA        | 0.048     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression      | NA        | 0.081     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Darter            | regression      | NA        | 0.202     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression      | NA        | 0.118     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression      | NA        | 0.154     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression      | NA        | 0.188     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression      | NA        | 0.081     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression      | NA        | 0.05      | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Darter            | regression      | NA        | 0.076     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression      | NA        | 0.105     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression      | NA        | 0.339     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression tree | NA        | 0.034     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Darter            | regression tree | NA        | 0.057     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression tree | NA        | 0.034     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Insectivores      | regression tree | NA        | 0.053     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Piscivores        | regression tree | NA        | 0.033     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | Taxa Richness      | regression tree | NA        | 0.084     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Intolerant        | regression tree | NA        | 0.034     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Sensitive         | regression tree | NA        | 0.122     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Darter            | regression tree | NA        | 0.201     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Simple Lithophils | regression tree | NA        | 0.174     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Tolerant          | regression tree | NA        | 0.169     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |

|           |                   |                  | Watershed |                                |                  |           |           |   |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Community | Geo_unit          | System size      | LULC      | Response                       | Method           | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation                                    |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable         | Range     | Taxa Richness                  | regression tree  | NA        | 0.159     | Heiskary et al. 2013                        |
| Fish      | Central Minnesota | Wadeable         | Range     | %Intolerant                    | regression tree  | NA        | 0.093     | Heiskary et al. 2013                        |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable         | Range     | %Sensitive                     | regression tree  | NA        | 0.066     | Heiskary et al. 2013                        |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable         | Range     | %Darter                        | regression tree  | NA        | 0.086     | Heiskary et al. 2013                        |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable         | Range     | %Simple Lithophils             | regression tree  | NA        | 0.145     | Heiskary et al. 2013                        |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable         | Range     | %Tolerant                      | regression tree  | NA        | 0.287     | Heiskary et al. 2013                        |
| Fish      | South Minnesota   | Wadeable         | Range     | Taxa Richness                  | regression tree  | NA        | 0.287     | Heiskary et al. 2013                        |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Wadeable         | Range     | Percentage of EPT individuals  | regression tree  | 1.68      | 0.08      | Wang et al., 2007; Robertson et<br>al. 2006 |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Wadeable         | Range     | Percentage of EPT taxa         | regression tree  | 1.3       | 0.09      | Wang et al., 2007; Robertson et<br>al. 2006 |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Wadeable         | Range     | Hilsenhoff Biotic Index        | regression tree  | 1.14      | 0.09      | Wang et al., 2007; Robertson et<br>al. 2006 |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Wadeable         | Range     | Taxa richness                  | regression tree  | 0.87      | 0.04      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Wadeable         | Range     | Percentage of EPT¶ individuals | 2DKS             | 0.98      | 0.09      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Wadeable         | Range     | Percentage of EPT taxa         | 2DKS             | 1.11      | 0.09      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Wadeable         | Range     | Hilsenhoff Biotic Index        | 2DKS             | 0.61      | 0.09      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Wadeable         | Range     | Taxa richness                  | 2DKS             | 0.85      | 0.04      | Wang et al., 2007                           |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Taxa richness                  | regression tree  | 1.925     | 0.15      | Weigel and Robertson, 2007                  |
| Macros    | Wisconsin         | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Mean pollution tolerance value | regression tree  | 0.634     | 0.064     | Weigel and Robertson, 2007                  |
| Macros    | Central Plains US | Wadeable         | Range     | Taxa richness                  | nCPA - threshold | 1.04      | 0.05      | Evans-White et al., 2009                    |
| Macros    | Central Plains US | Wadeable         | Range     | Taxa richness                  | nCPA - 95%       | 2.00      | 0.09      | Evans-White et al., 2009                    |
| Macros    | Central Plains US | Wadeable         | Range     | Primary consumer richness      | nCPA - threshold | 1.14      | 0.05      | Evans-White et al., 2009                    |
| Macros    | Central Plains US | Wadeable         | Range     | Primary consumer richness      | nCPA - 95%       | 2.00      | 0.09      | Evans-White et al., 2009                    |

|           |                     |                  | Watershed |                                     |                  |           |           |                          |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Community | Geo_unit            | System size      | LULC      | Response                            | Method           | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation                 |
| Macros    | Central Plains US   | Wadeable         | Range     | Gathering consumer richness         | nCPA - threshold | 0.93      | 0.06      | Evans-White et al., 2009 |
| Macros    | Central Plains US   | Wadeable         | Range     | Gathering consumer richness         | nCPA - 95%       | 1.70      | 0.08      | Evans-White et al., 2009 |
| Macros    | Central Plains US   | Wadeable         | Range     | Scraping consumer richness          | nCPA - threshold | NS        | 0.05      | Evans-White et al., 2009 |
| Macros    | Central Plains US   | Wadeable         | Range     | Scraping consumer richness          | nCPA - 95%       | NS        | 0.10      | Evans-White et al., 2009 |
| Macros    | Central Plains US   | Wadeable         | Range     | Shredding consumer richness         | nCPA - threshold | NS        | 0.05      | Evans-White et al., 2009 |
| Macros    | Central Plains US   | Wadeable         | Range     | Shredding consumer richness         | nCPA - 95%       | NS        | 0.06      | Evans-White et al., 2009 |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Biological Assessment Profile Score | nCPA - threshold | NA        | 0.07      | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Nutrient Biotic Index-P             | nCPA - threshold | 0.51      | 0.011     | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | %mesotrophic individual             | nCPA - threshold | 0.41      | 0.009     | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | %eutrophic individuals              | nCPA - threshold | 0.5       | 0.02      | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Hilsenhoff biotic index             | nCPA - threshold | NA        | 0.03      | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Pollution tolerance index           | nCPA - threshold | 1.2       | NA        | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Biological Assessment Profile Score | nCPA - 95%       | NA        | 0.14      | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Nutrient Biotic Index-P             | nCPA - 95%       | 0.76      | 0.036     | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | %mesotrophic individual             | nCPA - 95%       | 0.48      | 0.013     | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | %eutrophic individuals              | nCPA - 95%       | 1.1       | 0.077     | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Hilsenhoff biotic index             | nCPA - 95%       | NA        | 0.14      | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | New York            | Non-<br>wadeable | Range     | Pollution tolerance index           | nCPA - 95%       | 1.3       | NA        | Smith and Tran 2010      |
| Macros    | Statewide Minnesota | Range            | Range     | Taxa Richness                       | regression tree  | 1.4       | 0.153     | Heiskary et al. 2013     |
| Macros    | Statewide Minnesota | Range            | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer                 | regression tree  | NA        | 0.182     | Heiskary et al. 2013     |

|           |                     |             | Watershed |                     |                 |           |           |                      |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Community | Geo_unit            | System size | LULC      | Response            | Method          | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation             |
| Macros    | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression tree | 3.6       | NA        | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression      | NA        | 0.154     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Statewide Minnesota | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression      | NA        | 0.233     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression      | NA        | 0.126     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression      | NA        | 0.087     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression      | NA        | 0.112     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #EPT                | regression      | NA        | 0.058     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #Intolerant         | regression      | NA        | 0.087     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression      | NA        | 0.107     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression      | NA        | 0.128     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression      | NA        | 0.118     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #EPT                | regression      | NA        | 0.111     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Intolerant         | regression      | NA        | 0.092     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression      | NA        | 0.234     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression      | NA        | 0.234     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression tree | NA        | 0.098     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression tree | NA        | 0.074     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression tree | NA        | 0.102     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #EPT                | regression tree | NA        | 0.091     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | #Intolerant         | regression tree | NA        | 0.091     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant           | regression tree | NA        | 0.071     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression tree | NA        | 0.149     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression tree | NA        | 0.142     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression tree | NA        | 0.149     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #EPT                | regression tree | NA        | 0.148     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Intolerant         | regression tree | NA        | 0.142     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant           | regression tree | NA        | 0.204     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota     | Range       | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression tree | NA        | 0.337     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |

|           |                   |             | Watershed |                     |                 |           |           |                      |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Community | Geo_unit          | System size | LULC      | Response            | Method          | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation             |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression tree | NA        | 0.145     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression tree | NA        | 0.329     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #EPT                | regression tree | NA        | 0.329     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | #Intolerant         | regression tree | NA        | 0.411     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Range       | Range     | %Tolerant           | regression tree | NA        | 0.411     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression      | NA        | 0.123     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression      | NA        | 0.084     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | #EPT                | regression      | NA        | 0.144     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | NonWadeable | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression tree | NA        | 0.029     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression tree | NA        | 0.102     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | NonWadeable | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression tree | NA        | 0.102     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression      | NA        | 0.126     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression      | NA        | 0.087     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #EPT                | regression      | NA        | 0.057     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression      | NA        | 0.127     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression      | NA        | 0.103     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | #EPT                | regression      | NA        | 0.092     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | #Intolerant         | regression      | NA        | 0.089     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Tolerant           | regression      | NA        | 0.29      | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression      | NA        | 0.277     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression      | NA        | 0.277     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Intolerant         | regression      | NA        | 0.199     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | Taxa Richness       | regression tree | NA        | 0.098     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Filterer | regression tree | NA        | 0.074     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer | regression tree | NA        | 0.102     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #EPT                | regression tree | NA        | 0.073     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Intolerant         | regression tree | NA        | 0.075     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |

| Community | Goo unit          | System size | Watershed | Bosnonso                                   | Mathad                               | TN(mg/l) | TD(mg/l) | Citation             |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| Macros    | North Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Tolerant                                  |                                      |          | 0.071    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    |                   |             | Devee     |  |                                      |          | 0.071    |                      |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | Taxa Richness                              | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.149    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Filterer                        | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.113    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer                        | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.149    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | #EPT                                       | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.148    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | #Intolerant                                | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.142    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Central Minnesota | Wadeable    | Range     | %Tolerant                                  | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.152    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | Taxa Richness                              | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.411    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Filterer                        | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.156    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Collector-Gatherer                        | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.269    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #EPT                                       | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.329    | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | #Intolerant                                | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.35     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | South Minnesota   | Wadeable    | Range     | %Tolerant                                  | regression tree                      | NA       | 0.35     | Heiskary et al. 2013 |
| Macros    | Canada            | Range       | Range     | EPT relative abundance                     | regression tree                      | 0.59     | 0.024    | Chambers et al. 2012 |
| Macros    | Canada            | Range       | Range     | EPT taxonomic richness                     | regression tree                      | 2.8      | 0.022    | Chambers et al. 2012 |
| Macros    | Canada            | Range       | Range     | Modified Family Biotic Index               | regression tree                      | 2.1      | 0.021    | Chambers et al. 2012 |
| Macros    | Canada            | Range       | Range     | Diptera + noninsect relative<br>abundance  | regression tree                      | 2.1      | 0.063    | Chambers et al. 2012 |
| NA        | New York          | Wadeable    | Range     | 1o contact usability, public<br>perception | median "slightly<br>impacted"        | 0.71     | 0.026    | Smith et al. 2015    |
| NA        | New York          | Wadeable    | Range     | 2o contact usability, public<br>perception | median "slightly<br>impacted"        | 0.71     | 0.029    | Smith et al. 2015    |
| NA        | New York          | Wadeable    | Range     | 1o contact usability, public perception    | median<br>"substantially<br>reduced" | 0.97     | 0.036    | Smith et al. 2015    |
| NA        | New York          | Wadeable    | Range     | 2o contact usability, public<br>perception | median<br>"substantially<br>reduced" | 1.04     | 0.05     | Smith et al. 2015    |

|                |                  |                  | Watershed |               |                        |           |           |                        |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Community      | Geo_unit         | System size      | LULC      | Response      | Method                 | TN (mg/L) | TP (mg/L) | Citation               |
| Sestonic algae | Wisconsin        | Wadeable         | Range     | chl-a         | regression tree        | 1.200     | 0.070     | Robertson et al., 2006 |
| Sestonic algae | Illinois         | Non-<br>wadeable | Row-crop  | Chlorophyll a | Estimated<br>threshold | NA        | 0.07      | Royer et al. 2008      |
| Sestonic algae | Ontario & Quebec | Wadeable         | Row-crop  | Chlorophyll a | Linear regression      | 0.95      | 0.021     | Chambers et al. 2008   |
| Sestonic algae | Canada           | Range            | Range     | Mean Chl-a    | regression tree        | NA        | 0.014     | Chambers et al. 2012   |
| Sestonic algae | Texas & Oklahoma | Range            | Range     | Chl a         | regression             | 1.6       | 0.15      | Haggard et al. 2013    |
| Sestonic algae | Texas & Oklahoma | Range            | Range     | Chl a         | regression tree        | 0.75      | 0.14      | Haggard et al. 2013    |
| Sestonic algae | Texas & Oklahoma | Range            | Range     | Chl a         | regression             | NA        | 0.16      | Haggard et al. 2013    |
| Sestonic algae | Texas & Oklahoma | Range            | Range     | Chl a         | regression             | 1.4       | 0.22      | Haggard et al. 2013    |
| Sestonic algae | Texas & Oklahoma | Range            | Range     | Chl a         | regression             | 1.7       | 0.11      | Haggard et al. 2013    |
| Sestonic algae | Texas & Oklahoma | Range            | Range     | Chl a         | regression             | 0.87      | 0.23      | Haggard et al. 2013    |

### REFERENCES

- Black, R.W., P.W. Moran, and J.D. Frankforter. 2011. Response of algal metrics to nutrients and physical factors and identification of nutrient thresholds in agricultural streams. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment 175:397-417, doi: 10.1007/s10661-010-1539-8
- Brenden, T.O., L. Wang, and Z. Su. 2008. Quantitative identification of disturbance thresholds in support of aquatic resource management. Environmental Management 42:821-832, doi: 10.1007/s00267-008-9150-2
- Carleton, J.N., R.A. Park, and J.S. Clough. 2009. Ecosystem modeling applied to nutrient criteria development in rivers. Environmental Management 44:485-492, doi: 10.1007/s00267-009-9344-2
- Chambers, P.A., C. Vis, R.B. Brua, M. Guy, J.M. Culp, and G.A. Benoy. 2008 Eutrophication of agricultural streams: defining nutrient concentrations to protect ecological condition. Water Science and Technology, 58:2203-2210.
- Chambers, P.A., D.J. McGoldrick, R.B. Brua, C. Vis, J.M. Cup, and G.A. Benoy. 2012 Development of environmental thresholds for nitrogen and phosphorus in streams. Journal of Environmental Quality, 41:7-20, doi:10.2134/jeq2010.0273
- Charles, D.F., A.P. Tuccillo, and T.J. Belton. 2019. Use of diatoms for developing nutrient criteria for rivers and streams: A biological condition gradient approach. Ecological Indicators 96:258-269, doi: 10.1016/j.ecolind.2018.08.048
- Dodds, W.K., V.H. Smith, and B. Zander 1997. Developing nutrient targets to control benthic chlorophyll levels in streams: A case study of the Clark Fork River. Water Research, 31:1738-1750.
- Dodds, W.K., V.H. Smith, and K. Lohman. 2002. Nitrogen and phosphorus relationships to benthic algal biomass in temperate streams. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science, 59: 865-874, doi: 10.1139/F02-063
- Dodds, W.K., V.H. Smith, and K. Lohman. 2006. Erratum: Nitrogen and phosphorus relationships to benthic algal biomass in temperate streams. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science, 63: 1190-1191, doi: 10.1139/F06-040
- Evans-White, M.A., W.K. Dodds, D.G. Huggins, and D.S. Baker. 2009. Thresholds in macroinvertebrate biodiversity and stoichiometry across water-quality gradients in Central Plains (USA) streams. Journal of the North American Benthological Society, 28:855-868, doi: 10.1899/08-113.1
- Haggard, B.E., J.T. Scott, and S.D. Longing. 2013. Sestonic chlorophyll-a shows hierarchical structure and thresholds with nutrients across the Red River Basin, USA. Journal of Environmental Quality, 42:437-445, doi: 10.2134/jeq2012.0181
- Hausmann, S., D.F. Charles, J. Gerritsen, and T.J. Belton. 2016. A diatom-based biological condition gradient (BCG) approach for assessing impairment and developing nutrient criteria for streams. Science of the Total Environment 562:914-927, doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.03.173

- Heatherley, T., II. 2014. Acceptable nutrient concentrations in agriculturally dominant landscapes: A comparison of nutrient criteria approaches for Nebraska rivers and streams. Ecological Indicators, 45:355-363, doi: 10.1016/j.ecolind.2014.04.037
- Heiskary, S.A. and R.W. Bouchard, Jr. 2015. Development of eutrophication criteria for Minnesota streams and rivers using multiple lines of evidence. Freshwater Science, 34:574-592, doi: 10.1086/680662
- Hicks, M.B. and J.M. Taylor. 2018. Diatom assemblage changes in agricultural alluvial plain streams and application for nutrient management. Journal of Environmental Quality, 48:83-92, doi: 10.2134/jeq2018.05.0196
- King, R.S. 2016. Oklahoma-Arkansas Scenic Rivers Joint Phosphorus Study: Final Report.
- Meador, M.R. 2013. Nutrient enrichment and fish nutrient tolerance: Assessing biologically relevant nutrient criteria. Journal of the American Water Resources Association, 49: 253-263, doi: 10.1111/jawr.12015
- Miltner, R. 2010. A method and rationale for deriving nutrient criteria for small rivers and streams in Ohio. Environmental Management, 45: 842-855, doi: 10.1007/s00267-010-9439-9
- Robertson, D.M., D.J. Graczyk, P.J. Garrison, L. Wang, G.D. LaLiberte, and R. Bannerman. 2006b. Nutrient concentrations and their relations to the biotic integrity of wadeable streams in Wisconsin. United States Geological Survey Professional Paper, Vol. 1722. USGS, Reston, VA.
- Royer, T.V., M.B. David, L.E. Gentry, C.A. Mitchell, K.M. Starks, T. Heatherley, II, and M.R. Whiles. 2008. Assessment of chlorophyll-a as a criterion for establishing nutrient standards in streams and rivers of Illinois. Journal of Environmental Quality, 37:437-477, doi: 10.2134/jeq2007.0344
- Smith, A.J. and C.P. Tran. 2010. A weight-of-evidence approach to define nutrient criteria protective of aquatic life in large rivers. Journal of the North American Benthological Society, 29:875-891.
- Smith, A.J., R.L. Thomas, J.K. Nolan, D.J. Velinsky, S. Klein, and B.T. Duffy. 2013. Regional nutrient thresholds in wadeable streams of New York State protective of aquatic life. Ecological Indicators, 29:455-467, doi: 10.1016/j.ecolind.2013.01.021
- Smith, A.J., B.T. Duffy, and M.A. Novak. 2015. Observer rating of recreational use in wadeable streams of New York State, USA: Implications for nutrient criteria development. Water Research 69:195-209, doi: 10.1016/j.watres.2014.11.022
- Smucker, N.J., M. Becker, N.E. Detenbeck, and A.C. Morrison. 2013. Using algal metrics and biomass to evaluate multiple ways of defining concentration-based nutrient criteria in streams and their ecological relevance. Ecological Indicators, 32:51-61.
- Smucker, N.J., E.M. Pilgrim, C.T. Nietch, J.A. Darling, and B.R. Johnson. 2020. DNA metabarcoding effectively quantifies diatom responses to nutrients in streams. Ecological Applications 00, (00):e2205, doi: 10.1002/eap.2205

- Stevenson, R.J., B.H. Hill, A.T. Herlihy, L.L. Yan, and S.B. Norton. Algae-P relationship, thresholds, and frequency distributions guide nutrient criterion development. Freshwater Science, 27:783-799, doi: 10.1899/07-077.1
- Stevenson, R.J., S.T. Rier, C.M. Riseng, R.E. Schultz, and M.J. Wiley. 2006. Comparing effects of nutrients on algal biomass in streams in two regions with different disturbance regimes and with applications for developing nutrient criteria. Hydrobiologia, 561:149-165, doi: 10.1007/s10750-005-1611-5
- Suplee, M.W., V. Watson, W.K. Dodds, and C. Shirley. Response of algal biomass to large-scale nutrient controls in the Clark Fork River, Montana, United States. Journal of the American Water Resources Association, 48:1008-1021, doi: 10.1111/j.175201688.2012.00666.x
- Suplee, M.W., K.F. Flynn, and S.C. Chapra. Model-based nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrient) criteria for large temperate rivers: 2. Criteria derivation. 2015. Journal of the American Water Resources Association, 51: 447-470, doi: 10.1111/jawr.12252
- Taylor, J.M., R.S. King, A.A. Pease, and K.O. Winemiller. 2014. Nonlinear response of stream ecosystem structure to low-level phosphorus enrichment. Freshwater Biology, 59:969-984, doi: 10.1111/fwb.12320
- Taylor, J.M., J.A. Back, B.W. Brooks, and R.S. King. 2017. Spatial, temporal and experimental: Three study design cornerstones for establishing defensible numeric criteria in freshwater ecosystems. Journal of Applied Ecology, 55:2114-2123, doi: 10.1111/1365-2664.13150
- Wang, L., D.M. Robertson, and P.J. Garrison. 2007. Linkages between nutrients and assemblages of macroinvertebrates and fish in wadeable streams: Implication to nutrient criteria development. Environmental Management 39:194-212, doi: 10.1007/s00267-006-0135-8
- Weigel, B.M. and D.M. Robertson. 2007. Identifying biotic integrity and water chemistry relations in nonwadeable rivers of Wisconsin: Toward the development of nutrient criteria. Environmental Management 40:691-708, doi: 10.1007/s00267-006-0452-6

**Table S2.** Summary of TN screening levels by Arkansas HUC-8, which were the average of 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of TN concentration site medians (2015 – 2019) and were compared to screening thresholds for biological response to TN concentration compiled from the scientific literature.

|          |                                   |                            |       | Median # | Screening |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----------|-----------|
|          |                                   |                            | #     | Annual   | Level     |
| HUC-8    | Name                              | Ecoregion                  | Years | Medians  | (mg/L)    |
| 08010100 | Lower Mississippi-Memphis         | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 08020100 | Lower Mississippi-Helena          | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 08020203 | Lower St. Francis                 | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 2     | 3        | 1.11      |
| 08020204 | Little River Ditches              | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 4     | 3        | 0.71      |
| 08020205 | L'Anguille                        | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5     | 13       | 1.40      |
| 08020301 | Lower White-Bayou Des Arc         | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5     | 4        | 0.74      |
| 08020302 | Cache                             | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5     | 24       | 0.52      |
| 08020303 | Lower White                       | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 08020304 | Big                               | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 08020401 | Lower Arkansas                    | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 08020402 | Bayou Meto                        | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5     | 4        | 1.26      |
| 08030100 | Lower Mississippi-Greenville      | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 08040101 | Ouachita Headwaters               | Ouachita Mountains         | 4     | 15.5     | 0.45      |
| 08040102 | Upper Ouachita                    | Ouachita Mountains         | 5     | 20       | 0.28      |
| 08040103 | Little Missouri                   | South Central Plains       | 5     | 5        | 0.46      |
| 08040201 | Lower Ouachita-Smackover          | South Central Plains       | 5     | 16       | 1.05      |
| 08040202 | Lower Ouachita-Bayou De<br>Loutre | South Central Plains       | 5     | 3        | 0.70      |
| 08040203 | Upper Saline                      | Ouachita Mountains         | 5     | 21       | 0.54      |
| 08040204 | Lower Saline                      | South Central Plains       | 5     | 4        | 0.60      |
| 08040205 | Bayou Bartholomew                 | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5     | 12       | 1.41      |
| 08040206 | Bayou D'Arbonne                   | South Central Plains       | -     | -        | -         |
| 08050001 | Boeuf                             | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 08050002 | Bayou Macon                       | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 11010001 | Beaver Reservoir                  | Ozark Highlands            | 5     | 22       | 1.55      |
| 11010003 | Bull Shoals Lake                  | Ozark Highlands            | 5     | 13       | 1.60      |
| 11010004 | Middle White                      | Ozark Highlands            | 5     | 9        | 0.77      |
| 11010005 | Buffalo                           | Boston Mountains           | 5     | 33       | 0.45      |
| 11010006 | North Fork White                  | Ozark Highlands            | 3     | 5        | 0.53      |
| 11010007 | Upper Black                       | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |
| 11010008 | Current                           | Ozark Highlands            | -     | -        | -         |
| 11010009 | Lower Black                       | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 2     | 4.5      | 0.51      |
| 11010010 | Spring                            | Ozark Highlands            | 5     | 6        | 0.88      |
| 11010011 | Eleven Point                      | Ozark Highlands            | -     | -        | -         |
| 11010012 | Strawberry                        | Ozark Highlands            | 5     | 9        | 0.55      |
| 11010013 | Upper White-Village               | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -     | -        | -         |

|          |                                    |                      |            | Median #          | Screening       |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| HUC-8    | Name                               | Ecoregion            | #<br>Years | Annual<br>Medians | Level<br>(mg/L) |
| 11010014 | Little Red                         | Boston Mountains     | 5          | 3                 | 0.34            |
| 11070206 | Lake O' The Cherokees              | Ozark Highlands      | -          | -                 | -               |
| 11070208 | Elk                                | Ozark Highlands      | 3          | 5                 | 3.42            |
| 11070209 | Lower Neosho                       | Ozark Highlands      | -          | -                 | -               |
| 11110103 | Illinois                           | Ozark Highlands      | 5          | 21                | 3.47            |
| 11110104 | Robert S. Kerr Reservoir           | Arkansas Valley      | 2          | 6.5               | 0.78            |
| 11110105 | Poteau                             | Arkansas Valley      | 5          | 19                | 1.04            |
| 11110201 | Frog-Mulberry                      | Boston Mountains     | 3          | 7                 | 0.35            |
| 11110202 | Dardanelle Reservoir               | Boston Mountains     | 5          | 3                 | 0.60            |
| 11110203 | Lake Conway-Point Remove           | Arkansas Valley      | 5          | 19                | 1.08            |
| 11110204 | Petit Jean                         | Arkansas Valley      | 5          | 3                 | 0.62            |
| 11110205 | Cadron                             | Arkansas Valley      | 5          | 7                 | 0.63            |
| 11110206 | Fourche La Fave                    | Ouachita Mountains   | 4          | 7                 | 0.38            |
| 11110207 | Lower Arkansas-Maumelle            | Ouachita Mountains   | 5          | 16                | 0.74            |
| 11140105 | Kiamichi                           | Ouachita Mountains   | -          | -                 | -               |
| 11140106 | Pecan-Waterhole                    | South Central Plains | -          | -                 | -               |
| 11140108 | Mountain Fork                      | Ouachita Mountains   | 3          | 4                 | 0.68            |
| 11140109 | Lower Little Arkansas,<br>Oklahoma | South Central Plains | 5          | 21                | 0.97            |
| 11140201 | McKinney-Posten Bayous             | South Central Plains | 5          | 3                 | 0.84            |
| 11140203 | Loggy Bayou                        | South Central Plains | -          | -                 | -               |
| 11140205 | Bodcau Bayou                       | South Central Plains | 1          | 3                 | 1.17            |
| 11140302 | Lower Sulpher                      | South Central Plains | 1          | 4                 | 2.12            |
| 11140304 | Cross Bayou                        | South Central Plains | -          | -                 | -               |

**Table S3.** Summary of TP screening levels by Arkansas HUC-8, which were the average of 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of TP concentration site medians (2015 – 2019) and were compared to screening thresholds for biological response to TP concentration compiled from the scientific literature.

|          |   |                            |         | Median<br># Appual  | Screening |
|----------|---|----------------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------|
| HUC-8    | Name  | Ecoregion                  | # Years | # Annual<br>Medians | (mg/L)    |
| 08010100 | Lower Mississippi-Memphis                           | Ozark Highlands            |         | _                   | -         |
| 08020100 | Lower Mississippi-Helena                            | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | _       | -                   | -         |
| 08020203 | Lower St. Francis                                   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 2       | 3                   | 0.22      |
| 08020204 | Little River Ditches                                | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 4       | 3                   | 0.56      |
| 08020205 | L'Anguille  | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5       | 13                  | 0.25      |
| 08020301 | Lower White-Bayou Des Arc                           | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5       | 4                   | 0.10      |
| 08020302 | Cache   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5       | 24                  | 0.28      |
| 08020303 | Lower White   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -       | -                   | -         |
| 08020304 | Big   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -       | -                   | -         |
| 08020401 | Lower Arkansas                                      | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -       | -                   | -         |
| 08020402 | Bayou Meto  | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5       | 4                   | 0.26      |
| 08030100 | Lower Mississippi-Greenville                        | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -       | -                   | -         |
| 08040101 | Ouachita Headwaters                                 | Ouachita Mountains         | 4       | 15.5                | 0.05      |
| 08040102 | Upper Ouachita                                      | Ouachita Mountains         | 5       | 20                  | 0.03      |
| 08040103 | Little Missouri                                     | South Central Plains       | 5       | 5                   | 0.04      |
| 08040201 | Lower Ouachita-Smackover<br>Lower Ouachita-Bayou De | South Central Plains       | 5       | 16                  | 0.10      |
| 08040202 | Loutre  | South Central Plains       | 5       | 3                   | 0.07      |
| 08040203 | Upper Saline  | Ouachita Mountains         | 5       | 21                  | 0.04      |
| 08040204 | Lower Saline  | South Central Plains       | 5       | 4                   | 0.06      |
| 08040205 | Bayou Bartholomew                                   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 5       | 12                  | 0.32      |
| 08040206 | Bayou D'Arbonne                                     | South Central Plains       | -       | -                   | -         |
| 08050001 | Boeuf   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -       | -                   | -         |
| 08050002 | Bayou Macon   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -       | -                   | -         |
| 11010001 | Beaver Reservoir                                    | Ozark Highlands            | 5       | 22                  | 0.05      |
| 11010003 | Bull Shoals Lake                                    | Ozark Highlands            | 5       | 13                  | 0.15      |
| 11010004 | Middle White  | Ozark Highlands            | 5       | 9                   | 0.28      |
| 11010005 | Buffalo   | Boston Mountains           | 5       | 33                  | 0.03      |
| 11010006 | North Fork White                                    | Ozark Highlands            | 3       | 5                   | 0.20      |
| 11010007 | Upper Black   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -       | -                   | -         |
| 11010008 | Current   | Ozark Highlands            | -       | -                   | -         |
| 11010009 | Lower Black   | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | 2       | 4.5                 | 0.07      |
| 11010010 | Spring  | Ozark Highlands            | 5       | 6                   | 0.04      |
| 11010011 | Eleven Point  | Ozark Highlands            | -       | -                   | -         |
| 11010012 | Strawberry  | Ozark Highlands            | 5       | 9                   | 0.27      |
| 11010013 | Upper White-Village                                 | Mississippi Alluvial Plain | -       | -                   | -         |

|          |                                    |                      |         | Median              | Screening       |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------|
| HUC-8    | Name                               | Ecoregion            | # Years | # Annual<br>Medians | Level<br>(mg/L) |
| 11010014 | Little Red                         | Boston Mountains     | 5       | 3                   | 0.03            |
| 11070206 | Lake O' The Cherokees              | Ozark Highlands      | -       | -                   | -               |
| 11070208 | Elk                                | Ozark Highlands      | 3       | 5                   | 0.09            |
| 11070209 | Lower Neosho                       | Ozark Highlands      | -       | -                   | -               |
| 11110103 | Illinois                           | Ozark Highlands      | 5       | 21                  | 0.08            |
| 11110104 | Robert S. Kerr Reservoir           | Arkansas Valley      | 2       | 6.5                 | 0.10            |
| 11110105 | Poteau                             | Arkansas Valley      | 5       | 19                  | 0.10            |
| 11110201 | Frog-Mulberry                      | Boston Mountains     | 3       | 7                   | 0.04            |
| 11110202 | Dardanelle Reservoir               | Boston Mountains     | 5       | 3                   | 0.16            |
| 11110203 | Lake Conway-Point Remove           | Arkansas Valley      | 5       | 19                  | 0.11            |
| 11110204 | Petit Jean                         | Arkansas Valley      | 5       | 3                   | 0.06            |
| 11110205 | Cadron                             | Arkansas Valley      | 5       | 7                   | 0.05            |
| 11110206 | Fourche La Fave                    | Ouachita Mountains   | 4       | 7                   | 0.03            |
| 11110207 | Lower Arkansas-Maumelle            | Ouachita Mountains   | 5       | 16                  | 0.09            |
| 11140105 | Kiamichi                           | Ouachita Mountains   | -       | -                   | -               |
| 11140106 | Pecan-Waterhole                    | South Central Plains | -       | -                   | -               |
| 11140108 | Mountain Fork                      | Ouachita Mountains   | 3       | 4                   | 0.07            |
| 11140109 | Lower Little Arkansas,<br>Oklahoma | South Central Plains | 5       | 21                  | 0.09            |
| 11140201 | McKinney-Posten Bayous             | South Central Plains | 5       | 3                   | 0.14            |
| 11140203 | Loggy Bayou                        | South Central Plains | -       | -                   | -               |
| 11140205 | Bodcau Bayou                       | South Central Plains | 1       | 3                   | 0.42            |
| 11140302 | Lower Sulpher                      | South Central Plains | 1       | 4                   | 0.15            |
| 11140304 | Cross Bayou                        | South Central Plains | -       | -                   | -               |

**Table S4.** Summary of trend analysis results on log-transformed annual 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of TN concentration site medians for all qualifying Arkansas HUC-8s using linear regression (LR) and the Mann Kendall test (MK). Results of MK were considered a very likely change for p<0.05, a likely change for p<0.10, and may be changing for p<0.20. Rates of annual change represent increases when positive, and decreases when negative. For HUC-8s with p≥0.20, or if the estimated rate of annual change was less than 0.01%, TN concentrations were not changing.

|          |                                    |       |             |          | LR       |        | MK       |        |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------|-------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
|          |                                    |       |             |          |          | TN     |          | TN     |
|          |                                    |       |             | Average  |          | Annual |          | Annual |
|          |                                    | #     |             | # Annual |          | Change |          | Change |
| HUC-8    | Name                               | Years | Data Range  | Medians  | р        | (%)    | р        | (%)    |
| 08020205 | L anguille                         | 19    | 2001 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001  | -1.1   | 0.033    | -0.96  |
| 08020301 | Lower White-<br>Bayou Des Arc      | 12    | 2002 - 2019 | 6        | <0.0001  | -2.9   | 0.064    | -3.1   |
| 08020402 | Bayou Meto                         | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001  | -1.1   | 0.042    | -1.3   |
| 08040102 | Upper Ouachita                     | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 14       | <0.0001  | -4.7   | <0.0001  | -5.2   |
| 08040103 | Little Missouri                    | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 5        | <0.0001  | -1.3   | 0.13     | -1.5   |
| 08040201 | Lower Ouachita-<br>Smackover       | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 5        | <0.0001  | -2.5   | 0.073    | -1.9   |
| 08040202 | Lower Ouachita-<br>Bayou De Loutre | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 3        | <0.0001  | -3.1   | <0.0001  | -3.7   |
| 08040203 | Upper Saline                       | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 10       | <0.0001  | -3.2   | <0.0001  | -3.4   |
| 08040204 | Lower Saline                       | 22    | 1998 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001  | -1.8   | 0.00013  | -1.7   |
| 11010001 | Beaver<br>Reservoir                | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 12       | 0.31     | -      | 0.84     | -      |
| 11010003 | Bull Shoals Lake                   | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 6        | < 0.0001 | -0.5   | 0.32     | -      |
| 11010004 | Middle White                       | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 7        | 0.012    | -0.58  | 0.32     | -      |
| 11010010 | Spring                             | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 7        | <0.0001  | 0.42   | 0.13     | 0.56   |
| 11010014 | Little Red                         | 18    | 1998 - 2019 | 9        | 0.035    | -0.49  | 0.45     | -      |
| 11110103 | Illinois                           | 23    | 1994 - 2019 | 9        | 0.13     | -      | 0.53     | -      |
| 11110105 | Poteau                             | 22    | 1998 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001  | -3.1   | 0.08     | -1.8   |
| 11110202 | Dardanelle<br>Reservoir            | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 6        | <0.0001  | -4.3   | 0.17     | -3.4   |
| 11110203 | Lake Conway-<br>Point Remove       | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 7        | <0.0001  | -8.7   | <0.0001  | -8     |
| 11110204 | Petit Jean                         | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 4        | < 0.0001 | -3.9   | < 0.0001 | -3     |
| 11110205 | Cadron                             | 14    | 1998 - 2019 | 7        | < 0.0001 | -4.6   | 0.016    | -3.8   |
| 11110207 | Lower Arkansas-<br>Maumelle        | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 10       | <0.0001  | -1.5   | <0.0001  | -1.6   |
| 11140109 | Lower Little                       | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 13       | <0.0001  | -2.5   | 0.0024   | -2.6   |
| 11140201 | Mckinney-<br>Posten Bayous         | 23    | 1997 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001  | -0.92  | 0.02     | -1.1   |

**Table S5.** Summary of trend analysis results on log-transformed annual 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles of TP concentration site medians for all qualifying Arkansas HUC-8s using linear regression (LR) and the Mann Kendall test (MK). Results of MK were considered a very likely change for p<0.05, a likely change for p<0.10, and may be changing for p<0.20. Rates of annual change represent increases when positive, and decreases when negative. For HUC-8s with p≥0.20, or if the estimated rate of annual change was less than 0.01%, TP concentrations were not changing.

|          |                                    |       |             |          | LR      |        | N       | MK     |  |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------|-------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--|
|          |                                    |       |             | Average  |         | TP     |         | ТР     |  |
|          |                                    |       |             | # Appual |         | Annual |         | Annual |  |
|          |                                    | #     |             | # Annual |         | Change |         | Change |  |
| HUC-8    | Name                               | Years | Data Range  | weulans  | р       | (%)    | р       | (%)    |  |
| 08020205 | L anguille                         | 22    | 1994 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001 | 0.66   | 0.45    | -      |  |
| 08020301 | Lower White-<br>Bayou Des Arc      | 15    | 1994 - 2019 | 6        | <0.0001 | -1.5   | 0.048   | -1.5   |  |
| 08020402 | Bayou Meto                         | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001 | -1.2   | 0.1     | -1.1   |  |
| 08040102 | Upper Ouachita                     | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 12       | <0.0001 | -1.3   | 0.027   | -1.3   |  |
| 08040103 | Little Missouri                    | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 5        | <0.0001 | -1.5   | 0.12    | -1.7   |  |
| 08040201 | Lower Ouachita-<br>Smackover       | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 6        | <0.0001 | -3.1   | 0.046   | -3.3   |  |
| 08040202 | Lower Ouachita-<br>Bayou De Loutre | 27    | 1993 - 2019 | 3        | 0.00036 | -0.52  | 0.33    | -      |  |
| 08040203 | Upper Saline                       | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 12       | <0.0001 | -2.3   | 0.0024  | -2.4   |  |
| 08040204 | Lower Saline                       | 29    | 1991 - 2019 | 5        | <0.0001 | -1     | 0.045   | -0.85  |  |
| 08040205 | Bayou<br>Bartholomew               | 12    | 1994 - 2014 | 12       | <0.0001 | -1.4   | 0.11    | -1.2   |  |
| 11010001 | Beaver<br>Reservoir                | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 16       | <0.0001 | -2.1   | 0.077   | -2.5   |  |
| 11010003 | Bull Shoals Lake                   | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 6        | <0.0001 | -1.2   | 0.69    | -      |  |
| 11010004 | Middle White                       | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 6        | 0.34    | -      | 0.84    | -      |  |
| 11010005 | Buffalo                            | 15    | 1990 - 2019 | 18       | <0.0001 | -2.9   | 0.73    | -      |  |
| 11010010 | Spring                             | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 7        | 0.041   | -0.16  | 0.89    | -      |  |
| 11010014 | Little Red                         | 25    | 1990 - 2019 | 8        | <0.0001 | -2.6   | 0.00034 | -2.6   |  |
| 11110103 | Illinois                           | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 10       | <0.0001 | -6     | <0.0001 | -5.8   |  |
| 11110105 | Poteau                             | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001 | -7.3   | <0.0001 | -8.6   |  |
| 11110201 | Frog-Mulberry                      | 12    | 1994 - 2018 | 5        | <0.0001 | -2.4   | 0.054   | -4.5   |  |
| 11110202 | Dardanelle<br>Reservoir            | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 6        | 0.17    | -0.41  | 0.63    | -      |  |
| 11110203 | Lake Conway-<br>Point Remove       | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 8        | <0.0001 | -9     | 0.0016  | -7.7   |  |
| 11110204 | Petit Jean                         | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001 | -0.52  | 0.13    | -0.57  |  |
| 11110205 | Cadron                             | 17    | 1994 - 2019 | 7        | <0.0001 | -2.4   | 0.077   | -1.7   |  |
| 11110206 | Fourche La Fave                    | 14    | 1991 - 2019 | 8        | <0.0001 | -0.5   | 0.17    | -0.37  |  |
| 11110207 | Lower Arkansas-<br>Maumelle        | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 10       | <0.0001 | -0.96  | 0.012   | -0.92  |  |
| 11140109 | Lower Little                       | 30    | 1990 - 2019 | 15       | 0.12    | -0.43  | 0.52    | -      |  |
| 11140201 | Mckinney-<br>Posten Bavous         | 26    | 1994 - 2019 | 4        | <0.0001 | -2.1   | 0.098   | -1.2   |  |

**Table S6.** Summary of trend analysis results on log-transformed TN concentration at qualifying sites located in Tier 1 HUC-8s using linear regression (LR), the Mann Kendall test (MK), and the seasonal Kendall test (SKT). Results of SKT were considered a very likely change for p<0.05 or a likely change for p<0.10. Rates of annual change represent increases when positive, and decreases when negative. For HUC-8s with  $p\geq0.10$ , or if the estimated rate of annual change was less than 0.01%, TN concentrations were not changing.

|          |          |          |          |         | LR |       |         | MK     | SKT     |        |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----|-------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
|          |          |          |          | -       |    |       |         |        |         |        |
|          |          |          |          |         |    |       | TN      | TN     |         | TN     |
|          |          |          |          |         |    | Ar    | nnual   | Annual |         | Annual |
|          | -        |          |          |         |    | Ch    | ange    | Change |         | Change |
| HUC-8    | Site     | Lat      | Long     |         | р  |       | (%) p   | (%)    | р       | (%)    |
| 08020205 | UWLGR01  | 35.145   | -90.8783 | 0.0081  |    | -1.3  | 0.0024  | -1.2   | 0.0021  | -1.1   |
| 08020205 | FRA0012  | 35.0389  | -90.9111 | 0.016   |    | -0.86 | 0.024   | -0.86  | 0.011   | -0.92  |
| 08020205 | FRA0010  | 34.79037 | -90.7519 | 0.97    |    | -     | 0.87    | -      | 0.86    | -      |
| 08020402 | ARK0097  | 34.7694  | -91.7514 | <0.0001 |    | -2.5  | <0.0001 | -2.5   | <0.0001 | -2.6   |
| 08020402 | ARK0023  | 34.2019  | -91.5306 | <0.0001 |    | -1.3  | <0.0001 | -1.4   | <0.0001 | -1.1   |
| 08020402 | ARK0060  | 34.86631 | -92.1624 | 0.0042  |    | -1.8  | <0.0001 | -2.3   | <0.0001 | -2.3   |
| 08020402 | ARK0050  | 34.8442  | -92.1221 | 0.85    |    | -     | 0.64    | -      | 0.45    | -      |
| 11010003 | WHI0067  | 36.2329  | -93.0914 | 0.0067  |    | 0.74  | 0.004   | 0.48   | 0.0061  | 0.48   |
| 11010003 | WHI0048B | 36.251   | -92.6001 | 0.013   |    | 2     | 0.027   | 1.8    | 0.0097  | 1.7    |
| 11010003 | WHI0048C | 36.2433  | -92.5461 | 0.23    |    | -     | 0.092   | 1.5    | 0.025   | 1.9    |
| 11010003 | WHI0200  | 36.19813 | -93.1208 | 0.060   |    | 2.1   | 0.044   | 1.8    | 0.053   | 1.9    |
| 11010003 | WHI0066  | 36.2443  | -93.0777 | 0.060   |    | 0.69  | 0.077   | 0.65   | 0.084   | 0.54   |
| 11010003 | WHI0193  | 36.22925 | -92.7106 | 0.46    |    | -     | 0.63    | -      | 0.24    | -      |
| 11010003 | WHI0047  | 36.366   | -92.577  | 0.84    |    | -     | 0.78    | -      | 0.52    | -      |
| 11010004 | WHI0029  | 35.6433  | -91.4617 | 0.013   |    | 0.93  | 0.018   | 0.75   | 0.017   | 0.75   |
| 11010004 | WHI0046  | 36.223   | -92.299  | 0.14    |    | -     | 0.21    | -      | 0.34    | -      |
| 11010004 | WHI0011  | 35.91031 | -92.1659 | 0.30    |    | -     | 0.67    | -      | 0.38    | -      |
| 11010004 | WHI0065  | 36.2922  | -92.3758 | 0.90    |    | -     | 1       | -      | 0.61    | -      |
| 11110203 | ARK0032  | 35.22592 | -93.1488 | <0.0001 |    | -1.6  | <0.0001 | -1.6   | <0.0001 | -1.6   |
| 11110203 | ARK0051  | 35.05453 | -92.4291 | <0.0001 |    | -14   | <0.0001 | -12    | <0.0001 | -12    |
| 11110203 | ARK0067  | 35.22632 | -93.1424 | 0.0016  |    | -2.4  | 0.0005  | -2.6   | 0.0002  | -3.2   |
| 11110203 | ARK0167  | 35.49965 | -92.6559 | 0.0006  |    | -6.6  | 0.0021  | -5.7   | 0.0009  | -6.5   |
| 11110203 | ARK0030B | 35.07764 | -92.5436 | 0.074   |    | -0.67 | 0.1     | -      | 0.19    | -      |
| 11110203 | ARK0031B | 35.12708 | -92.7881 | 0.11    |    | -     | 0.11    | -      | 0.28    | -      |
| 11110203 | ARK0053  | 35.25475 | -92.8942 | 0.42    |    | -     | 0.92    | -      | 0.91    | -      |
| 11110207 | ARK0029  | 34.7908  | -92.3589 | <0.0001 |    | -1.9  | <0.0001 | -1.9   | <0.0001 | -1.7   |
| 11110207 | ARK0046  | 34.6686  | -92.155  | <0.0001 |    | -1.5  | <0.0001 | -1.4   | <0.0001 | -1.3   |
| 11110207 | ARK0048  | 34.2488  | -91.9061 | <0.0001 |    | -1.8  | <0.0001 | -1.7   | <0.0001 | -1.5   |
| 11110207 | ARK0049  | 34.4133  | -92.1019 | <0.0001 |    | -1.8  | <0.0001 | -1.7   | <0.0001 | -1.6   |
| 11110207 | ARK0147C | 34.70246 | -92.3248 | 0.15    |    | -     | 0.080   | -0.94  | 0.066   | -0.82  |
| 11110207 | ARK0131  | 34.71684 | -92.2066 | 0.0023  |    | -1.5  | 0.024   | -1.1   | 0.15    | -      |
| 11110207 | ARK0147H | 34.69194 | -92.3614 | 0.67    |    | -     | 0.61    | -      | 0.33    | -      |

**Table S7.** Summary of trend analysis results on log-transformed TP concentration at qualifying sites located in Tier 1 HUC-8s using linear regression (LR), the Mann Kendall test (MK), and the seasonal Kendall test (SKT). Results of SKT were considered a very likely change for p<0.05 or a likely change for p<0.10. Rates of annual change represent increases when positive, and decreases when negative. For HUC-8s with p $\geq$ 0.10, or if the estimated rate of annual change was less than 0.01%, TP concentrations were not changing.

|          |          |          |            | LI       | LR                     |          | ΙK                     | Sk      | T                      |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|
|          |          |          |            |          | TP<br>Annual<br>Change |          | TP<br>Annual<br>Change |         | TP<br>Annual<br>Change |
| HUC-8    | Site     | Lat      | Long       | р        | (%)                    | р        | (%)                    | р       | (%)                    |
| 08020205 | FRA0010  | 34.79037 | -90.751938 | 0.52     | -                      | 0.26     | -                      | 0.26    | -                      |
| 08020205 | FRA0012  | 35.0389  | -90.9111   | 0.026    | 1.1                    | 0.014    | 1.2                    | 0.018   | 1.2                    |
| 08020205 | UWLGR01  | 35.145   | -90.878304 | 0.57     | -                      | 0.42     | -                      | 0.19    | -                      |
| 08020402 | ARK0023  | 34.2019  | -91.530602 | 0.12     | -                      | 0.12     | -                      | 0.27    | -                      |
| 08020402 | ARK0050  | 34.8442  | -92.122101 | 0.47     | -                      | 0.43     | -                      | 0.15    | -                      |
| 08020402 | ARK0060  | 34.86631 | -92.162376 | 0.089    | -1.3                   | 0.0007   | -1.9                   | <0.0001 | -1.8                   |
| 08020402 | ARK0097  | 34.7694  | -91.751404 | 0.0003   | -3.1                   | 0.0007   | -2.2                   | <0.0001 | -2.6                   |
| 11010003 | WHI0047  | 36.366   | -92.577003 | < 0.0001 | 7.7                    | < 0.0001 | 6.0                    | <0.0001 | 6.2                    |
| 11010003 | WHI0048B | 36.251   | -92.600098 | 0.040    | 2.6                    | 0.14     | -                      | 0.60    | -                      |
| 11010003 | WHI0048C | 36.2433  | -92.546097 | 0.11     | -                      | 0.24     | -                      | 0.28    | -                      |
| 11010003 | WHI0066  | 36.2443  | -93.077698 | 0.51     | -                      | 0.43     | -                      | 0.45    | -                      |
| 11010003 | WHI0067  | 36.2329  | -93.0914   | 0.0002   | 2.9                    | 0.0002   | 2.3                    | 0.0021  | 2.2                    |
| 11010003 | WHI0193  | 36.22925 | -92.710648 | 0.96     | -                      | 0.55     | -                      | 0.20    | -                      |
| 11010003 | WHI0200  | 36.19813 | -93.120811 | 0.014    | -8.4                   | 0.075    | -4.8                   | 0.061   | -4.1                   |
| 11010004 | WHI0011  | 35.91031 | -92.165855 | 0.17     | -                      | 0.057    | 1.0                    | 0.19    | -                      |
| 11010004 | WHI0029  | 35.6433  | -91.4617   | 0.14     | -                      | 0.023    | -1.1                   | 0.061   | -1.1                   |
| 11010004 | WHI0046  | 36.223   | -92.299004 | 0.99     | -                      | 0.92     | -                      | 1.00    | -                      |
| 11010004 | WHI0065  | 36.2922  | -92.375801 | 0.22     | -                      | 0.15     | -                      | 0.048   | -2.1                   |
| 11110103 | ARK0004A | 36.21716 | -94.602409 | 0.75     | -                      | 0.66     | -                      | 0.56    | -                      |
| 11110103 | ARK0005  | 36.19893 | -94.583565 | < 0.0001 | -11.0                  | <0.0001  | -11.0                  | <0.0001 | -11.0                  |
| 11110103 | ARK0006  | 36.10941 | -94.534454 | < 0.0001 | -8.0                   | <0.0001  | -7.8                   | <0.0001 | -7.8                   |
| 11110103 | ARK0007A | 35.87679 | -94.468338 | < 0.0001 | -3.4                   | <0.0001  | -3.9                   | <0.0001 | -3.8                   |
| 11110103 | ARK0010C | 36.1344  | -94.2022   | < 0.0001 | -5.7                   | <0.0001  | -5.5                   | <0.0001 | -5.9                   |
| 11110103 | ARK0040  | 36.10306 | -94.344223 | 0.0060   | -2.0                   | 0.0044   | -1.8                   | 0.0021  | -1.9                   |
| 11110103 | ARK0082  | 36.1914  | -94.387497 | < 0.0001 | -3.9                   | < 0.0001 | -3.6                   | <0.0001 | -3.6                   |
| 11110103 | ARK0141  | 36.0939  | -94.508904 | 0.0049   | 1.5                    | 0.0007   | 1.5                    | <0.0001 | 1.7                    |
| 11110103 | OSC0004  | 36.2406  | -94.253098 | 0.97     | -                      | 0.65     | -                      | 0.54    | -                      |
| 11110203 | ARK0030B | 35.07764 | -92.54361  | 0.26     | -                      | 0.26     | -                      | 0.071   | 0.8                    |
| 11110203 | ARK0031B | 35.12708 | -92.788139 | 0.81     | -                      | 0.66     | -                      | 0.92    | -                      |
| 11110203 | ARK0032  | 35.22592 | -93.148811 | 0.041    | -0.7                   | 0.033    | -0.8                   | 0.0070  | -1.0                   |
| 11110203 | ARK0051  | 35.05453 | -92.429077 | < 0.0001 | -16.0                  | <0.0001  | -13.0                  | <0.0001 | -13.0                  |
| 11110203 | ARK0053  | 35.25475 | -92.894188 | 0.068    | 1.5                    | 0.38     | -                      | 0.53    | -                      |
| 11110203 | ARK0067  | 35.22632 | -93.14241  | <0.0001  | -6.5                   | <0.0001  | -6.6                   | <0.0001 | -6.1                   |
| 11110203 | ARK0167  | 35.49965 | -92.655907 | 0.97     | -                      | 0.66     | -                      | 0.90    | -                      |
| 11110203 | ARK0168  | 35.51048 | -92.648933 | 0.72     | -                      | 0.38     | -                      | 0.29    | -                      |

|          |          |          |            | LR     |        | МК     |        | SI     | КТ     |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|          |          |          |            |        | ТР     |        | ТР     |        | ТР     |
|          |          |          |            |        | Annual |        | Annual |        | Annual |
|          |          |          |            |        | Change |        | Change |        | Change |
| HUC-8    | Site     | Lat      | Long       | р      | (%)    | р      | (%)    | р      | (%)    |
| 11110207 | ARK0029  | 34.7908  | -92.358902 | 0.019  | -1.2   | 0.022  | -1.0   | 0.0062 | -1.0   |
| 11110207 | ARK0046  | 34.6686  | -92.154999 | 0.016  | -1.1   | 0.011  | -0.9   | 0.0020 | -1.0   |
| 11110207 | ARK0048  | 34.2488  | -91.906097 | 0.0003 | -1.8   | 0.0008 | -1.6   | 0.0008 | -1.4   |
| 11110207 | ARK0049  | 34.4133  | -92.101898 | 0.0074 | -1.2   | 0.028  | -0.9   | 0.021  | -0.9   |
| 11110207 | ARK0131  | 34.71684 | -92.206581 | 0.0047 | -2.3   | 0.070  | -1.4   | 0.44   | -      |
| 11110207 | ARK0147C | 34.70246 | -92.324783 | 0.028  | -1.5   | 0.021  | -1.5   | 0.060  | -1.0   |
| 11110207 | ARK0147H | 34.69194 | -92.361389 | 0.14   | -      | 0.089  | -1.3   | 0.51   | -      |