

Appendix D

Survey on Environmental Resources Categories

Survey Form (composite for three states)

Results of Survey

Analysis: Familiarity with National and State Policies and Programs for Protecting Streams

Analysis: Familiarity with State Conservation Plans and Data Sources

Analysis: Awareness of Regionally Significant Environmental Resources

Analysis: Local Agency Differences in Perceptions

Survey Questions and Scores

Survey on Environmental Resource Categories for 2010 Local Consultations

Name of county _____

Please check type of organization: Conservation Park Planning Stormwater management
 Water resource Other _____

	No/Never/Low ...	Yes/Always/High			
1. a. Is the term "natural heritage" useful for public communication?	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Comments</i>					
2. a. Have you reviewed or used the state wildlife plan?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Did you know about local rivers' importance for conserving aquatic species?	1	2	3	4	5
INDIANA: Did you know about the Whitewater River's importance for conserving aquatic species?					
<i>Comments</i>					
3. a. Did you know that individual streams are designated for certain uses?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Did you know that it's a national goal to maintain and restore clean streams?	1	2	3	4	5
c. Have you reviewed or used the State Water Quality Standards?	1	2	3	4	5
d. OHIO: Did you know the streams in your county with Exceptional Warmwater Habitat?	1	2	3	4	5
KENTUCKY: Did you know the Licking River segment and local streams designated as Outstanding State Resource Water?					
INDIANA: Are there Dearborn County streams that might warrant designation as Exceptional Use?					
<i>Comments</i>					
4. a. Do you review or use the Integrated Report?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Are you familiar with Assessment Categories for streams?	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Comments</i>					
5. a. Are you familiar with state antidegradation policy?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Did you know the streams in your county that are among "the state's best waters"?	1	2	3	4	5
INDIANA: Are you familiar with a category of streams called Outstanding State Resource Waters?					
<i>Comments</i>					
6. a. Did you know about the Little Miami River's designation as a National Scenic River?	1	2	3	4	5
b. OHIO: If your county includes the Little Miami River, then please indicate your view of the importance of its Scenic River designation to county decision-makers.	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Comments</i>					
7. a. How would you rate the Oxbow of the Great Miami River in comparison to other local resources and areas that merit conservation?	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Comments</i>					
8. a. Have you reviewed or used the Natural Heritage Database?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Has data on rare species/Natural Heritage Database affected your agency's decisions?	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Comments</i>					

Results of Survey on Environmental Resource Categories

(Local Perceptions of Regionally Significant Environmental Resources and State Conservation Policies and Data)

OKI integrated a survey of local agencies into the presentation of Regionally Significant Environmental Resources in the environmental consultations. The survey results indicate local agencies' awareness of state provisions for conserving these resources and local awareness of those resources within their jurisdictions that are conserved or protected by the states. Greater awareness would logically result in stronger strategies and more initiatives to support state policy for conservation and protection.

Sixteen questions were asked for which the average scores ranged from 45 to 19.* Survey responses were analyzed for three groups of questions and for scoring differences among different types of agencies. Analysis is provided below, followed by a list of the survey questions arranged with scores from high to low.

Analysis: Familiarity with National and State Policies and Programs for Protecting Streams

The survey inquired about familiarity with the national goal to maintain and restore clean streams, state anti-degradation policy, the designation of uses for individual streams, and assessment categories that indicate water quality attainment for streams.

- All participants indicated familiarity with the national goal to maintain and restore clean streams. This question received the highest score among the sixteen questions asked, with strong responses from stormwater management and water resource agencies and most conservation agencies.
- Planning agencies and park districts are generally unfamiliar with state anti-degradation policy, use designations for streams, and stream assessment categories. Greater awareness would enable local agencies to use opportunities in anti-degradation policy to advocate for the least impaired local streams to be classified for the highest levels of protection, to use the development process and conservation strategies to enhance stream abilities to support their designated uses, and to understand the environmental and financial implications of assessment categories.

Questions asked and average scores are as follows:

Did you know that it's a national goal to maintain and restore clean streams?	45
Are you familiar with state anti-degradation policy?	41
Did you know that individual streams are designated for certain uses?	39
Are you familiar with Assessment Categories for streams?	30

Analysis: Familiarity with State Conservation Plans and Data Sources

Survey questions asked participating agencies about their review or use of state water quality standards (designates uses for individual streams), the Natural Heritage Database (identifies species endangered, threatened, or at risk), the state Integrated Report (contains data for individual streams and categorizes streams for water quality attainment), and the state wildlife conservation plan (identifies conservation priorities, needs, and strategies). These documents are more relevant for some local agencies than for others, but they provide perspective for local planning, policy-making, and strategizing by providing data on local resources, context for understanding the environmental and financial implications of resource degradation, and explanations of the sources and causes of resource impairments. The state wildlife conservation plans and integrated reports provide uniquely useful data and perspective.

- Relatively few of the participating agencies have used the state data sources referenced above nor reviewed their data on local environmental resources or their rationales in support of conservation. Inquiries about familiarity with these documents received the lowest scores in the survey (account for four of the five low-end scores).

Questions asked and average scores are as follows:

Have you reviewed or used the State Water Quality Standards?	35
Has data on rare species/Natural Heritage Database affected your agency's decisions?	32
Have you reviewed or used the Natural Heritage Database?	26
Do you review or use the Integrated Report?	24
Have you reviewed or used the state wildlife plan?	19

Analysis: Awareness of Regionally Significant Environmental Resources

The survey inquired about local agencies' familiarity with designations and resources associated with high ecological value.

- Participating agencies are highly aware of the Little Miami River's designation as a National Scenic River (second highest score among the sixteen questions and high awareness among all agency types).
- Participating agencies are generally aware that local streams are important for conserving rare species but less aware of which streams are least impaired and have the greatest conservation value. Greater familiarity with the potential role of individual local streams in conserving rare species would provide perspective for local agencies to use the development process and conservation strategies to protect these streams.
- The Whitewater River's ecological value has a relatively low profile among agencies that could serve as advocates in state policy.

Questions asked and average scores are as follows:

Did you know about the Little Miami River's designation as a National Scenic River?	44
Did you know about local rivers' importance for conserving aquatic species? / INDIANA: Did you know about the Whitewater River's importance for conserving aquatic species?	40
How would you rate the Oxbow of the Great Miami River in comparison to other local resources and areas that merit conservation?	37
OHIO: Did you know the streams in your county with Exceptional Warmwater Habitat? / KENTUCKY: Did you know the Licking River segment and local streams designated as Outstanding State Resource Water? / INDIANA: Are there Dearborn County streams that might warrant designation as Exceptional Use?	36
Did you know the streams in your county that are among "the state's best waters"? / INDIANA: Are you familiar with a category of streams called Outstanding State Resource Waters?	35

Analysis: Local Agency Differences in Perceptions

The agencies surveyed have responsibilities for parks, land use planning, natural resource conservation, stormwater management, and water resources. The number of agencies surveyed is inappropriate for detailed analysis, but responses indicate the following.

- Land use planning agencies are generally less aware of state conservation policy and programs, state conservation plans and data sources, and the conditions of local environmental resources than other types of agencies involved in the consultations. Greater awareness would potentially result in stronger efforts to conserve Regionally Significant Environmental Resources and distinguish their conservation value from the more general needs of other resources.
- Agencies with responsibilities for water resources, stormwater management, and natural resource conservation are generally familiar with state conservation policy and programs and, to a lesser extent, with the Regionally Significant Environmental Resources in their jurisdiction.
- Park agencies are more familiar with state wildlife conservation plans than the other types of agencies, but only one responded with a "5" (highly familiar; the three responses of "4" were distributed among conservation, stormwater management, and water resource agencies).

Survey Questions and Scores

The sixteen survey questions are listed below in the order of highest to lowest average score.*

Did you know that it's a national goal to maintain and restore clean streams?	45
Did you know about the Little Miami River's designation as a National Scenic River?	44
OHIO: If your county includes the Little Miami River, then please indicate your view of the importance of its Scenic River designation to county decision-makers.	41

Are you familiar with state antidegradation policy?	41
Did you know about local rivers' importance for conserving aquatic species? / INDIANA:	
Did you know about the Whitewater River's importance for conserving aquatic species?	40
Did you know that individual streams are designated for certain uses?	39
How would you rate the Oxbow of the Great Miami River in comparison to other local resources and areas that merit conservation?	37
OHIO: Did you know the streams in your county with Exceptional Warmwater Habitat? / KENTUCKY: Did you know the Licking River segment and local streams designated as Outstanding State Resource Water? / INDIANA: Are there Dearborn County streams that might warrant designation as Exceptional Use?	36
Have you reviewed or used the State Water Quality Standards?	35
Did you know the streams in your county that are among "the state's best waters"? / INDIANA: Are you familiar with a category of streams called Outstanding State Resource Waters?	35
Has data on rare species/Natural Heritage Database affected your agency's decisions?	32
Are you familiar with Assessment Categories for streams?	30
Is the term "natural heritage" useful for public communication?	30
Have you reviewed or used the Natural Heritage Database?	26
Do you review or use the Integrated Report?	24
Have you reviewed or used the state wildlife plan?	19

* Average scores were calculated by summing the individual numerical scores for each question, dividing the sum by the number of responses to that question, and multiplying the result by ten (to provide a whole number that would facilitate analysis). Each individual response was a numerical value ranging from "1" to "5" in which 1 represented no/never/low and 5 represented yes/always/high.