

Driftless Area Restoration Effort

A Landscape of Opportunity

The Midwest's Driftless Area is a national treasure. Its distinctive topography, deep caves and springs, and vast number of coldwater streams make the region unique.

The Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE), coordinated by Trout Unlimited, is a geographically-focused, scientifically based, broad partnership operating in support of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan to improve rivers and streams throughout the Driftless Area region.

Mission

Working together to protect, restore and enhance cold, cool, and warmwater streams for fish and other aquatic life in the Driftless Area region for future generations.

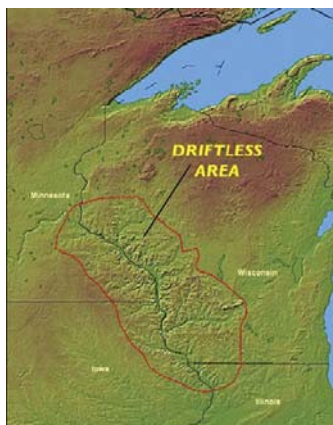
Vision

The Driftless Area Restoration Effort partnership envisions working more collaboratively with area partners to better manage the region's uplands, streams, and their floodplains. It is our desire that coordinated and more focused efforts at the watershed level will yield better water and habitat quality, expand successes in restoring self-sustaining fish populations and overall aquatic biodiversity, and enhance quality of life.

Driftless Area Landscape

The Driftless Area is a unique 24,000 square mile area encompassing southeast Minnesota, southwest Wisconsin, northeast Iowa, and northwest Illinois.

Bypassed by the last continental glacier, this distinct geographic area is characterized by steep valleys, forested hills, beautiful limestone and sandstone bluffs, and numerous sinkholes and caves. Additionally, the region is dotted with more than 600 spring creeks, many of which supply productive trout streams.



A history of poor and inconsistent land and water management practices have contributed to current levels of excessive sediment and nutrient loads to many streams, resulting in broad declines in fish populations and overall diversity of aquatic life.

Driftless Area Restoration Effort Goals:

GOAL Reduce sediment and nutrient inputs to Driftless Area rivers and streams.

GOAL Conserve and restore habitats that increase the natural abundance, diversity and health of fish and other aquatic life through landscape-scale community restoration and land protection efforts.

GOAL Increase the quantity and quality of angling and other recreational opportunities.

GOAL Increase public awareness about Driftless Area resources and the importance of aquatic conservation and restoration through outreach and education.



Driftless Area Restoration Effort Partners

Strengthening and building partnerships is essential to the overall success of this wide scale effort to improve aquatic habitat in the Driftless Area. Trout Unlimited is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resource Conservation Service and other federal agencies, Department of Natural Resources from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Land and Water Conservation Departments, The Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations, local angling groups, academic institutions, foundations, private landowners, tribes, local businesses, and industry.



For More Information Contact:
Jeff Hastings Project Manager
Trout Unlimited JHastings@tu.org
(608)606-4158

Or

Louise Mauldin
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Louise_Mauldin@fws.gov
(608)783-8407