

1 Table 3. Potential threats to wetland condition, data needs, and management applications
 2 of wetland monitoring and assessment data.

Potential threats to wetland condition
Human-caused disturbance – direct and indirect - to wetlands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss and degradation of protective adjacent upland (buffers) • Water withdrawal - from community wells, agriculture, golf courses • Increased development – road density, residential 'sprawl', landuse changes • Invasive species • Loss of groundwater recharge • Upland forest removal, fragmentation • Storm water runoff to wetlands • Road salt/sand application on roads near wetlands • Sedimentation • Recreation projects • Loss/degradation of wetland types, and therefore, biodiversity – e.g. forested wetlands, wet meadows, vernal pools •
Data & database needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and regular future updates to RIGIS landcover and wetland coverages • Inventory of wetland abundance, type, and condition • Database for storage of wetland conditional information • Continued scientific research to better understand wetland function and condition and response of biological communities to human-caused disturbance • Data on extent of permitted alterations to adjacent upland ('perimeter wetland'), riverbank wetlands, floodplains • Estimates of historic freshwater wetland loss in the state •
Management applications for wetland monitoring and assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify causes and degree of degradation of wetland condition • Analyze short and long-term trends in wetland condition for decision-making • Identify reference wetlands along gradient of disturbance • Prioritize wetlands for open space protection/acquisition • Identify policy and program changes required to improve wetland condition • Monitor compliance & success for mitigation, creation, and restoration at proactive and enforcement sites • Eventual development and support of water quality standards for wetlands • Use data to help with "predictability" of permit applications • Monitor the application and effectiveness of BMP's • Relate wetland condition to size and condition of upland adjacent area (buffer) • Determine requirements for effective monitoring of wetlands near water withdrawal sites • Monitor biodiversity of species in wetlands • Develop education and outreach materials & programs for wetland monitoring & assessment •

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 4 To develop specific objectives for the plan, wetland partners suggested priority needs. Long-term
 5 objectives are understood to take longer than 10 years to meet. Short-term objectives are intended
 6 to be met in a 1-5 year timeframe.
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