Monitoring Water Quality with the WiseH2O Mobile App: Driftless Area Project



Dan Dauwalter, Ph.D., TU National Carter Borden, Ph.D., MobileH2O, LLC TU Webinar, April 10, 2024





Introduction - The Problem

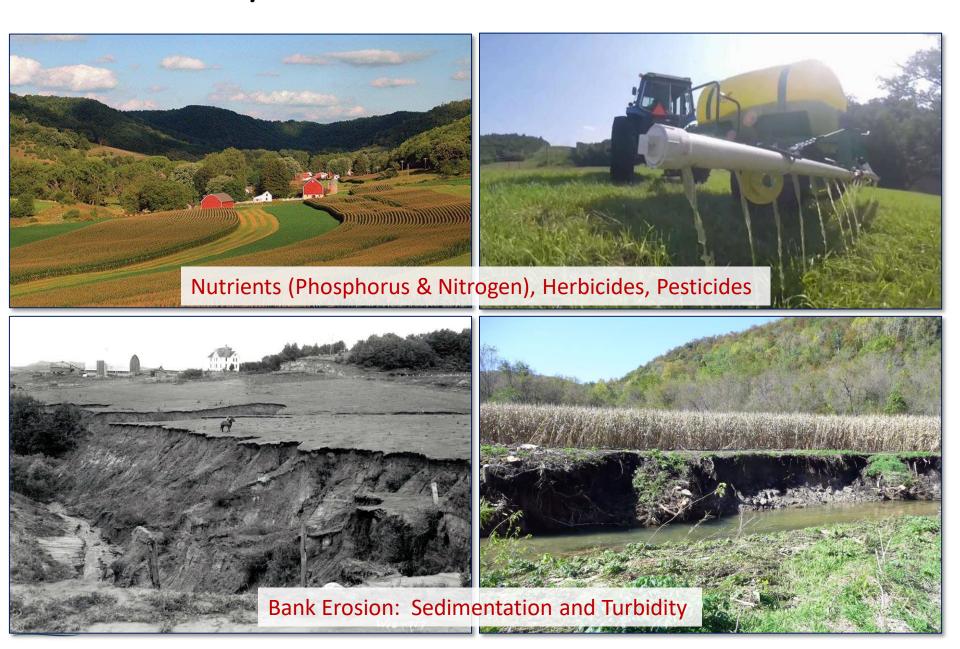


- Poor water quality impairs fish habitat
- Traditional water qualitymonitoring can be expensiveand limited in scope
- Lack of data limits our understanding of where rivers need protection and restoration
- The ability to target resources is restricted without access to accurate information





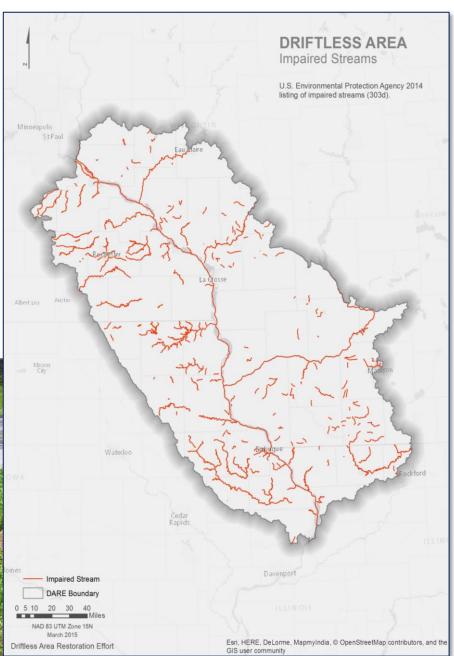
Water Quality Problems in the Driftless Area



Water Quality Problems in the Driftless Area







Driftless Angler Science Program Overview

TU and Partner Benefits

- Large data set generated with low-cost
- Characterize WQ/habitat conditions
- Map WQ "hot spots"
- Recruitment tool to reach technologically engaged anglers
- Data for strategic conservation investments with partners
 - Spatial analysis for strategic restoration projects
 - Brook trout stream habitat characterization
 - Nutrient management
 - Kinnikinnic Dam Removal monitoring







Driftless Angler Science Program Overview

Anglers Benefit

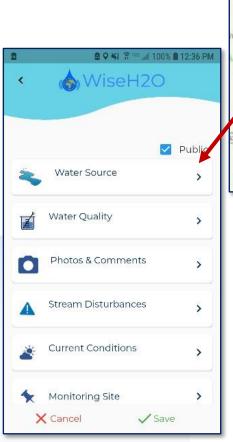
- Real-time water quality results
- Maps of analytical results
- Greater awareness of causes of the poor water quality
- A feeling of contributing to a greater cause
- Long-term, better fishing

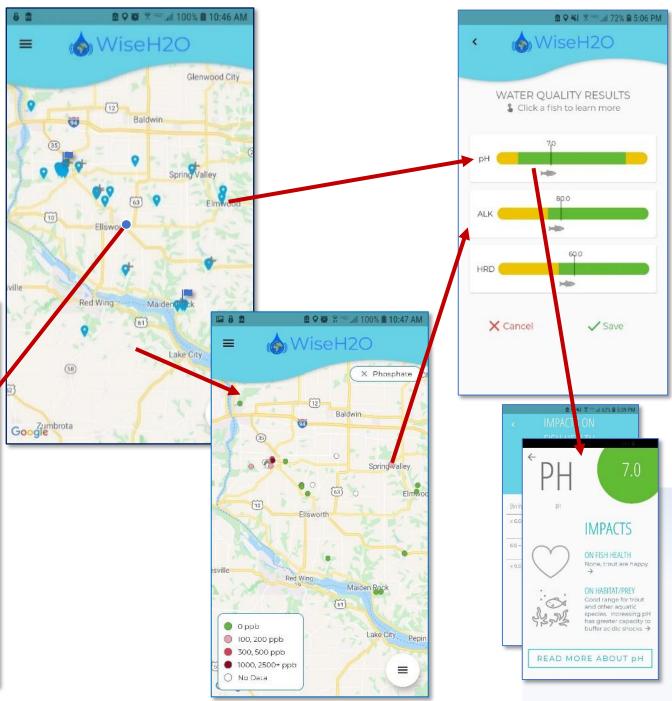




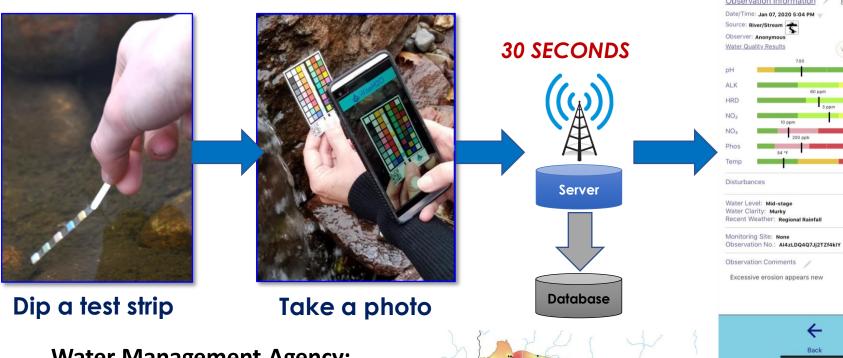


$\begin{array}{c} WiseH2O_{TM} \\ mApp \end{array}$



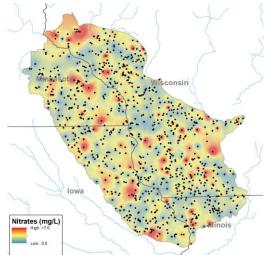


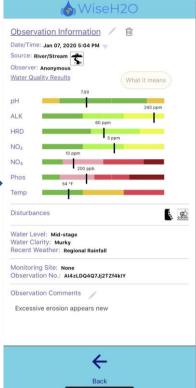
WiseH2O mApp



Water Management Agency:

- Logs results, locations, metadata to database
- Trigger alerts
- Scientific studies on water quality conditions





Get results

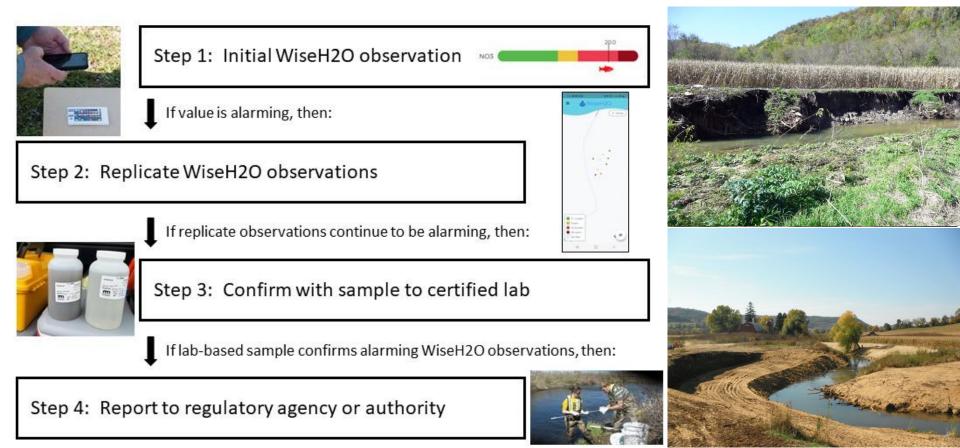




Angler Monitoring Observations

Analyte/ Observation	Range	Method
Alkalinity	0, 40, 80, 120, 180, 240 mg/L	
Hardness	0, 30, 60, 120, 180 mg/L	
рН	6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0	
Nitrate-Nitrogen (NO3)	0,1,2,5,10,20,50 mg/L	
Nitrite-Nitrogen (NO2)	0,0.15,0.3,1.0,1.5,3.0 mg/L	
Orthophosphate	0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, 1.0, 2.5 mg/L	
Stream Disturbance	Fish Barrier, Bank Erosion, Trash, Drain Outflow, Algal Bloom, Fish Kill, Livestock in River	•
Temperature	0-100 °F (user's thermometer)	

Actionable Data Framework





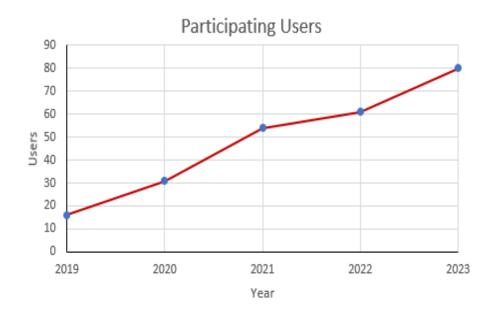


TU Involvement/Results: 2019-2023

DRIFTLESS AREA OBSERVATIONS 2020-23 Observations (as of Oct 31st) Overall Number Percentage Target 2000 100% Observations 1849 92% Remaining 151 8%

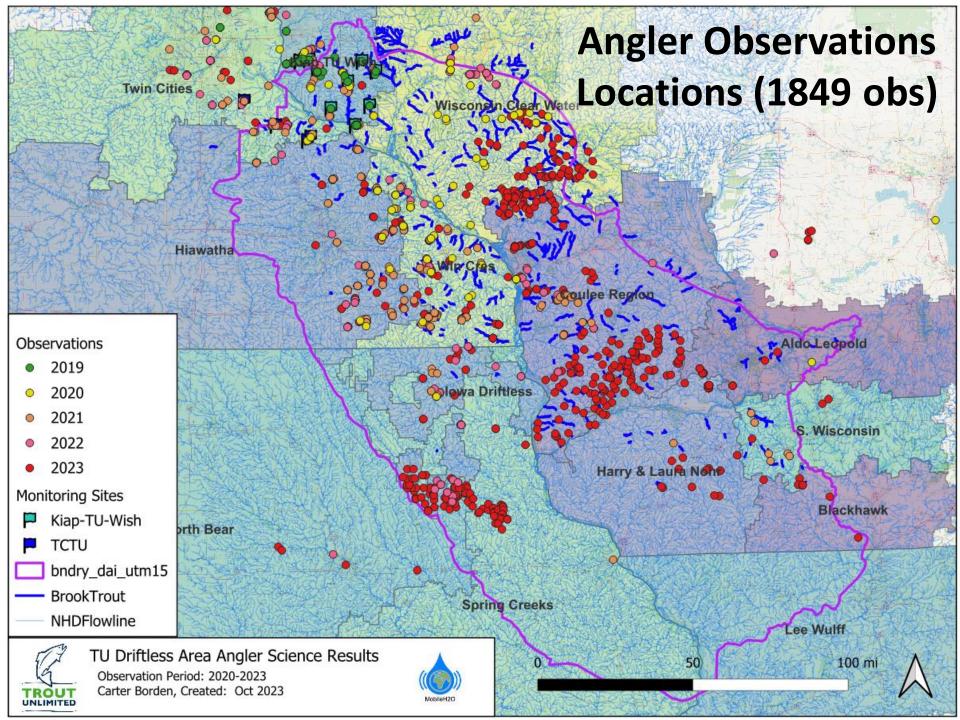
92%

Participation



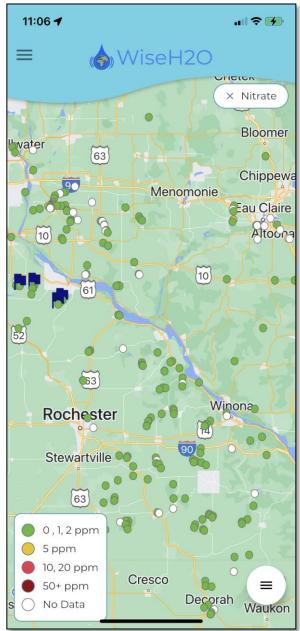
Use Metrics

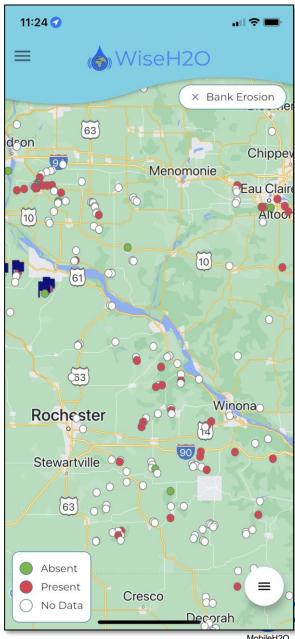
- 1849 observations
- 146 contributing individuals
- TU Chapter members from 9/15
- Super Chapters
 - Hiawatha
 - Kiap-TU-WISH (Monitoring Network)
 - Twin Cities (Monitoring Network)
- Outputs: Database, Reports, Website, DA Scorecard
- Non-TU Organizations
 - Kinnic Corridor Collaboration
 - WI, MN DNRs
 - USFWS
 - St Mary's U. Upper Iowa U.
 - Holeman Middle School



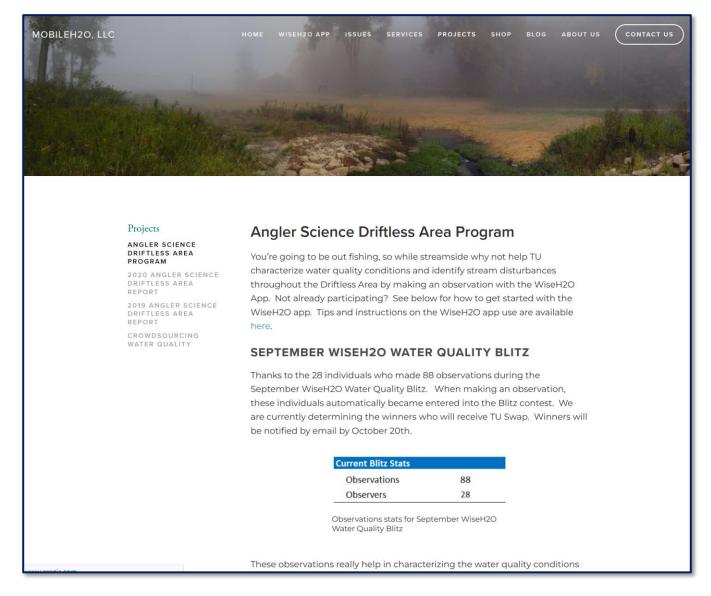
Output: Ortho-Phos, NO₃, Bank Erosion







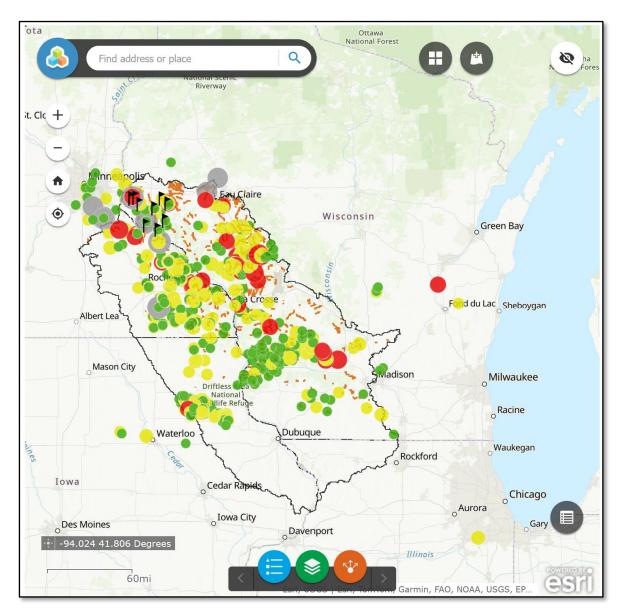
Angler Science Driftless Program Webpage







Output: Trout Unlimited Visualization Tool







Output: TU DARE Database (MS EXCEL)

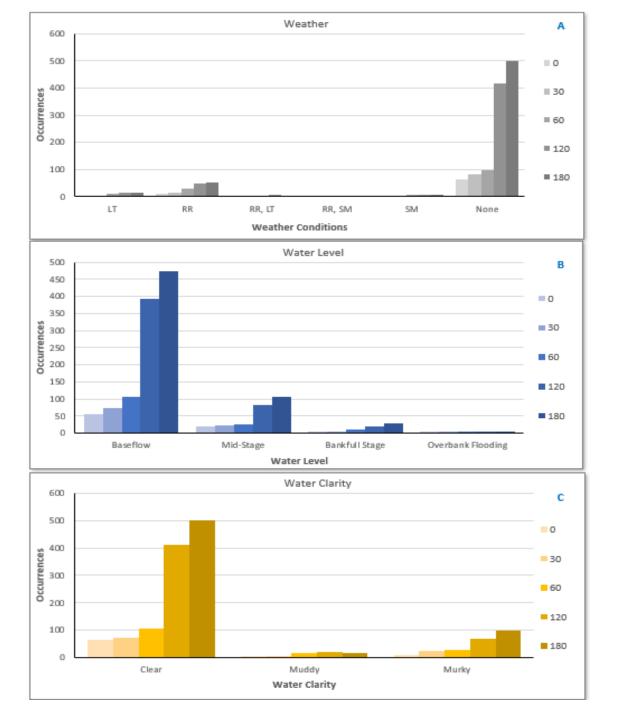
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	ng_231030_v01.xlsm		rsZXjPJalmKV	10/19/23 16:54	10/19/23 10:54	10/20/2023	2023	10	1KBGtvFeSbEVNlbit9EhqtOO7u2			-91.91698638	42.46256234	2025-10-20 1.	0
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10															•





Concentrations (ppm)

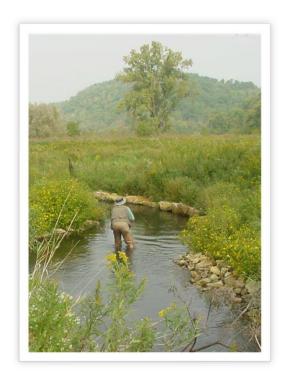
Hardness







Output: Driftless Area Angler Science Reports



Driftless Area Angler Science: 2020 Annual Report

Carter Borden (MobileH2O, LLC) Kent Johnson (Trout Unlimited) Dan Dauwalter (Trout Unlimited)



July 2021







Output: Report Analysis of WQ Conditions

Analyte	Water Quality Summary^	Fishery Condition	Trout and Coldwater Ecosystem Impacts
Alkalinity [ppm CaCO₃]	Min: 0 Median: 80 Max: 240 N: 72		High alkalinity concentrations provide buffering capacity to offset increasing acid levels (decreasing pH) in streams [1]. Pierce County trout streams have higher alkalinity concentrations, so are less likely to become acidic (Table 5).
Hardness [ppm CaCO ₃]	Min: 0 Median: 60 Max: 180 N: 72		Lower hardness concentrations can increase the toxicity of some metals (e.g. Cd, Hg) in fish [1]. Based on the higher hardness concentrations observed, Pierce County trout streams exhibit moderately hard to hard water conditions (Table 8).

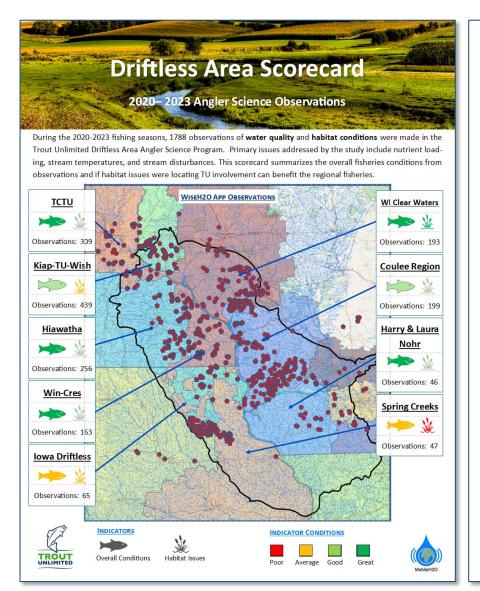
Alkalinity Impact on Trout and Coldwater Ecosystems

Bin Value (ppm)	Fishery Condition ^a	Trout and Coldwater Ecosystem Impacts
0		Direct: Low alkalinity concentrations may increase the uptake of trace metals (e.g. cadmium) in fish.
40	40	Habitat/Prey: Streams with lower alkalinity concentrations are more susceptible to acidic shocks from wastewater discharges, agricultural runoff, and acid rainfall.
80		Direct: No direct impact from alkalinity.
120		Habitat/Prey: Higher alkalinity concentrations in streams create a greater buffering
180		capacity against acidic stressors, such as wastewater discharges, agricultural runoff,
240	_	and acid rainfall.
a	Fisheries condition	on: ➤►Good ➤►Fair ➤►Poor ➤►Lethal





Output: Driftless Area Scorecard



DRIFTLESS AREA TU CHAPTERS	NUTRIENTS	WATER TEMP.	STREAM DISTURBANCE	ISSUES /RESTORATION POTENTIAL
Kiap-TU-WISH	Å			Bank erosion located opportunities for stream restoration and Trash involves cleanup projects.
титс	Å			Excess nutrients: Few observations with high NO3/ orthophosphate (Opportunity increase stream buffer zones width Bank erosion observations identified for stream restoration.
Hiawatha	Å		The state of the s	Excess nutrients: Few observations with high NO3/ orthophosphate (Opportunity increase stream buffer zones width) Bank erosion observations identified for stream restoration.
WI. Clear Water	Ĭ		· ·	Bank erosion and fish barriers located opportunities for stream restoration and barrier removal.
Win-Cres	Å		To the second	Bank erosion and fish barriers located opportunities for stream restoration and barrier removal.
Coulee Region	Î		No. of the last of	Bank erosion and fish barriers located opportunities for stream restoration and barrier removal.
Iowa Driftless	Ė		To the second	Excess nutrients: Few observations with high NO3/ orthophosphate (Opportunity increase stream buffer zones width Bank erosion located opportunities for stream restoration and Trash involves cleanup projects.
Harry & Laura Nohr	Ĺ		- Copy	Bank erosion and fish barriers located opportunities for stream restoration and barrier removal. Livestock in water degrades stream bank vegetation.
Spring Creeks	İ		<u>s</u>	Bank erosion and fish barriers located opportunities for stream restoration and barrier removal. Livestock in water degrades banks.

ABOUT THE DATA: The assessment is based on 1788 observations made throughout the Driftless Area using the WiseH2O_{TM} app. Observation information reported by the app includes alkalinity, hardness, nitrate, nitrite, orthophosphate, pH, water temperature and clarity, and stream disturbances. Information is posted to the cloud, allowing water quality screening data to be crowd-sourced across broad geographies



GET INVOLVED: You're going to be out fishing, so while streamside why not help TU characterize water quality conditions and identify stream disturbances throughout the Driftless Area by making an observation with the WiseH2O App. Not already participating? Visit the project page on the MobileH2O website to find out more: https://www.mobileh2o.com/driftlessprogram. Or contact Dan Dauwalter (Daniel.Dauwalter@tu.org) or Carter Borden (carter@mobileh2o.com/driftlessprogram.

SPONSORS The Driftless Area Angler Science Program are made possible through the generous support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with participation by numerous Trout Unlimited chapters, state councils and individuals, Minnesota DNR. and Wisconsin DNR.



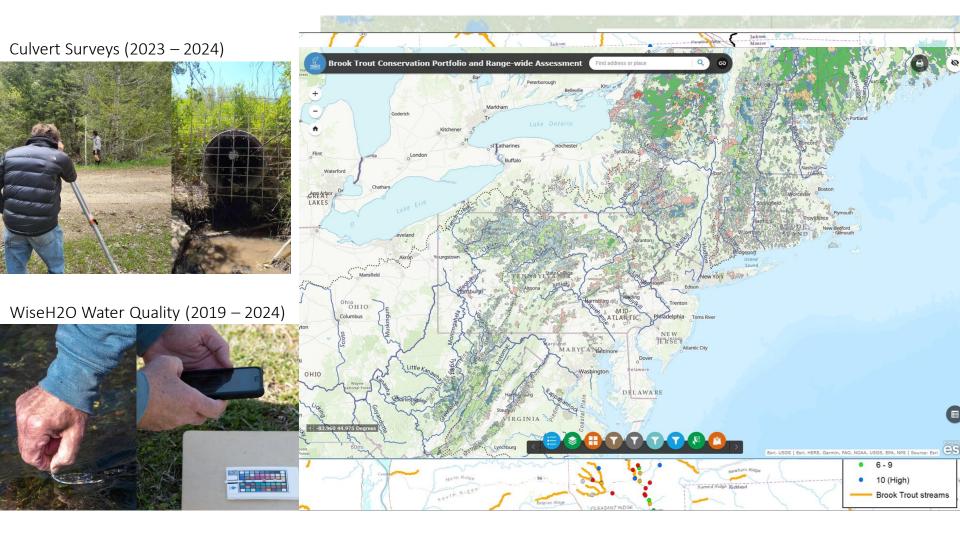








Putting Data to Use: Brook Trout Conservation Portfolio







Online Resources

www.MobileH2O.com

- How to use the app (WiseH2O App)
 - Videos
 - How to manual
- "Get Started Guide" individuals/groups: (Projects=>Angler Science Report)
- Monitoring Plan Development: (Projects=>2019 Angler Science Report)
- Driftless Angler Program (Projects)
 - 2019-2023 Angler Science in the Driftless Area
 - Angler Science Driftless Area Program
 - Driftless Area Score Card
 - Database & documentation
- Overview of Crowdsourcing (Projects)
- More strips: (Shop)
- Education
 - Blog
 - WQ issues: Issues (in progress)

https://www.mobileh2o.com/driftlessprogram





Troubleshooting the App

Online Help

App => Tutorials

How to Guide



www.MobileH2O.com =>WiseH2O App

- Videos
- How to Guide

Direct Help

Carter Borden (208) 972-7906 carter@mobileh2o.com

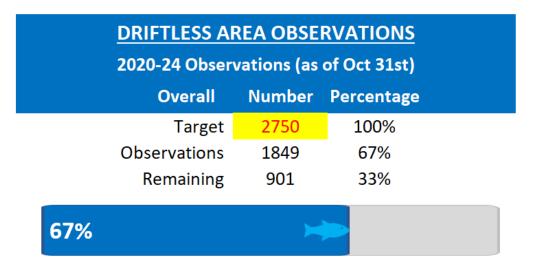
Dan Dauwalter (208) 345-8339 <u>Daniel.Dauwalter@tu.org</u>

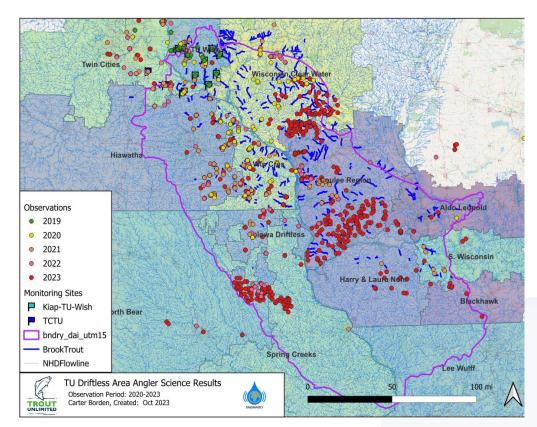




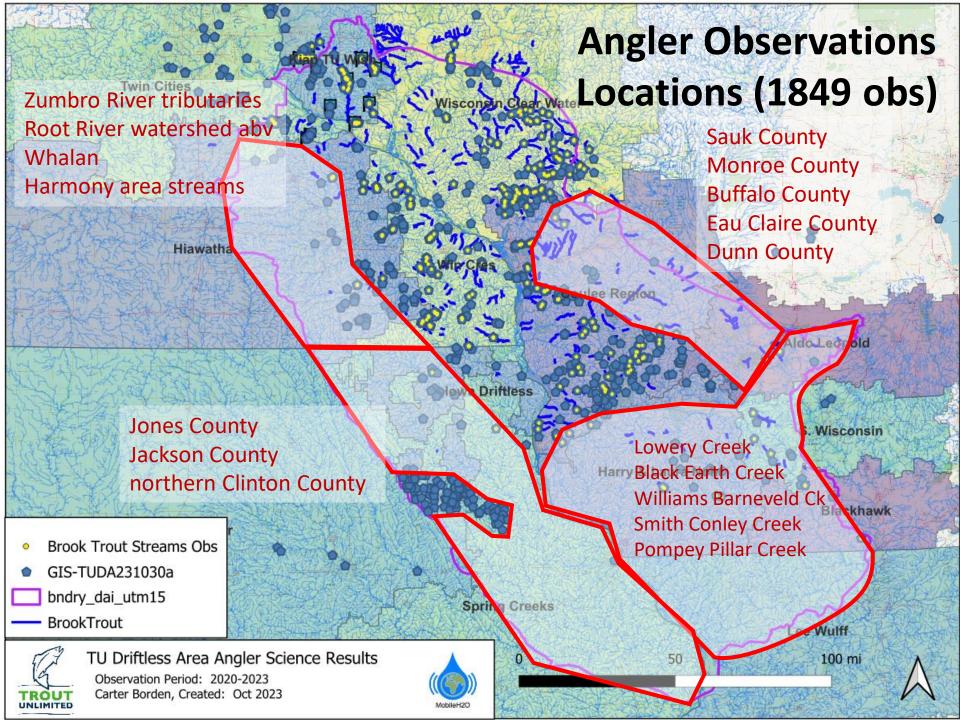
2024 Goals

- Maintain level of observations in northern Driftless
- Expand TU Chapters,
 Organizations in the Driftless
- >2750 observations
- Spatially cover all Driftless
- Post goals/monitoring status online





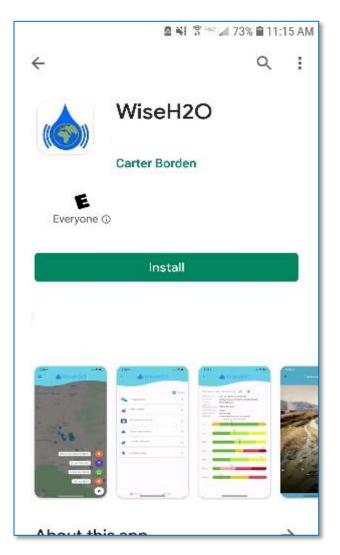




Getting Involved: Individuals

- 1. Download the WiseH2O App
- 2. Review online training
- 3. Obtain water quality test kits
- 4. Register affiliation (optional)
- 5. Get sampling/learn

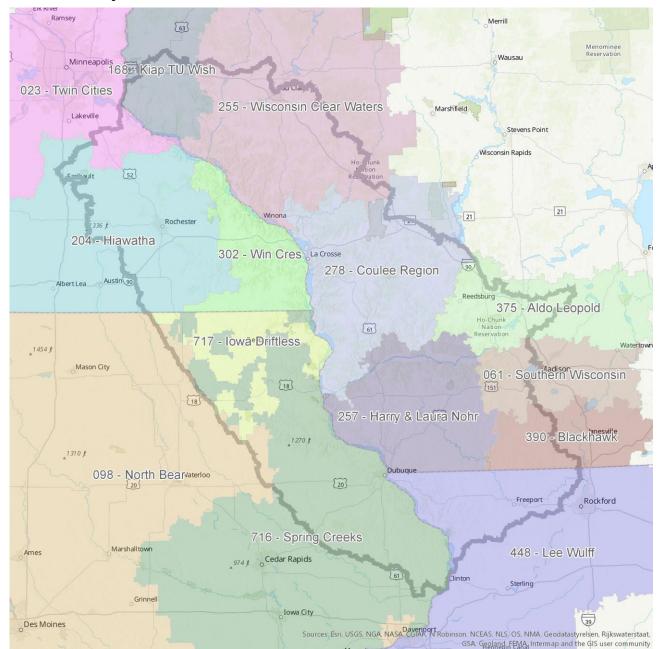








TU Chapters: Driftless Area







Getting Involved: TU Chapter/Organizations

- 1. Select a Group Liaison
- 2. Solicit Participants
- 3. Download the WiseH2O App
- 4. Review online training
- 5. Obtain water quality test kits
- 6. Develop a monitoring plan (optional)
- 7. Participants register affiliation (optional)
- 8. Get sampling







Programs Sponsors





























WiseH2O: User Guide & Tutorials

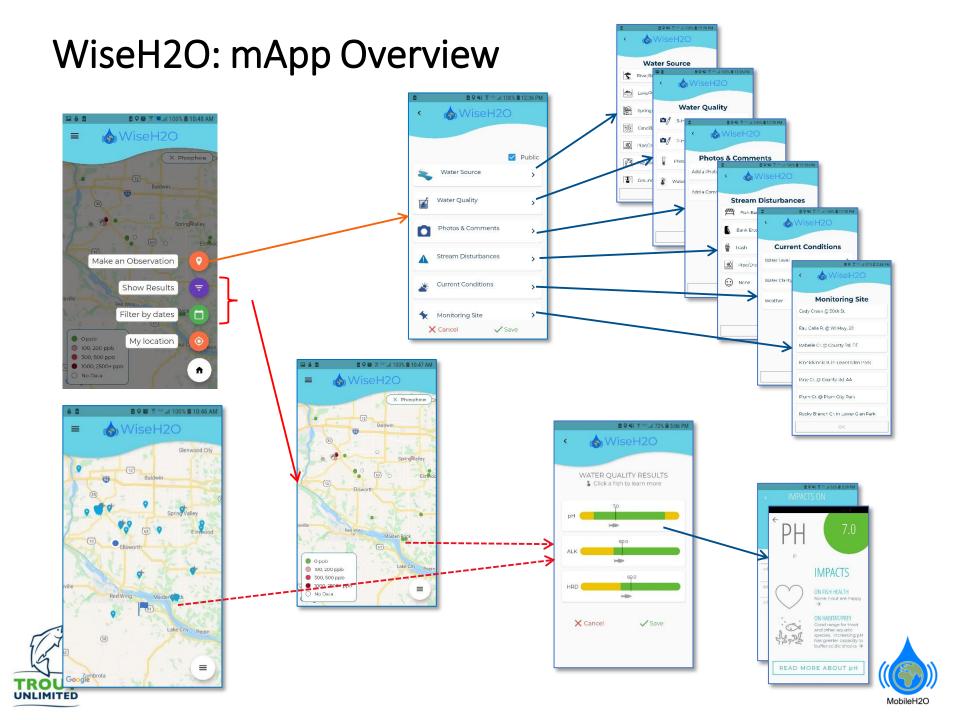




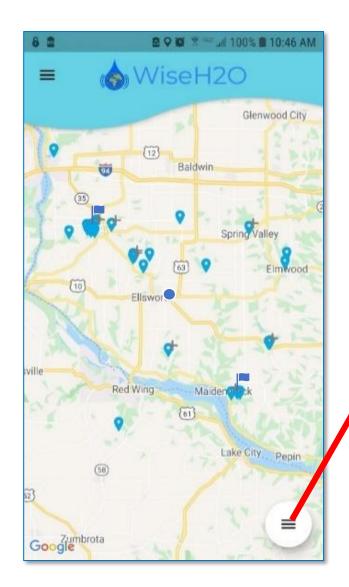
Tutorial for the WiseH2O app

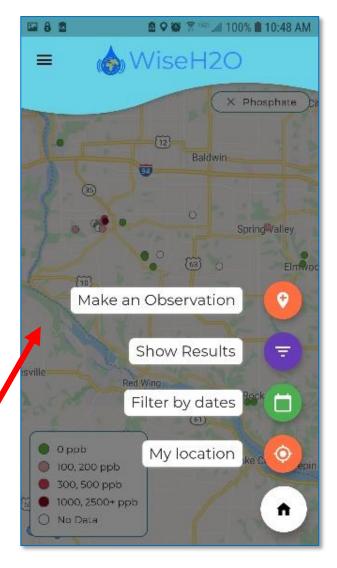






WiseH2O: Home/Option Pages

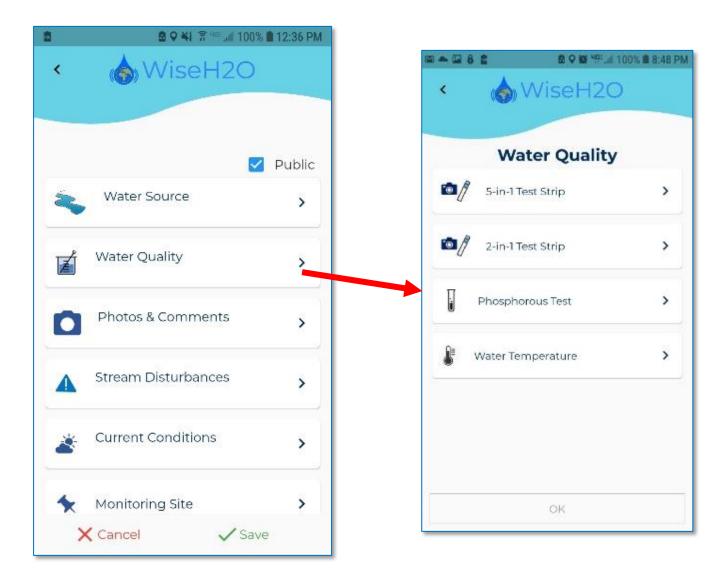








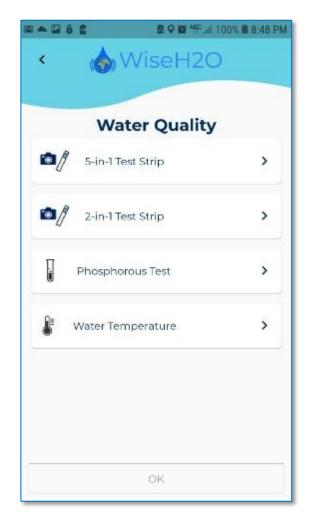
WiseH2O: Observation







WiseH2O: Water Quality









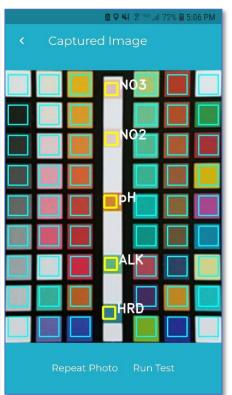


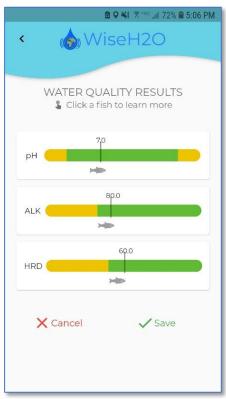


WiseH2O: 5n1, 2n1 Strips













WiseH2O: Image Capture Best Practices



Camera too far away



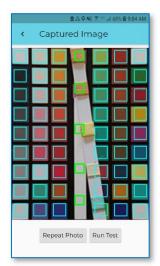
Camera too close



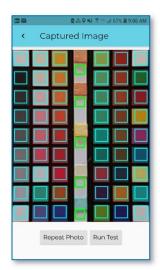
Strip not aligned



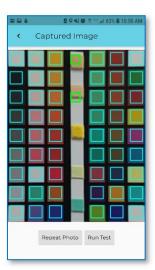
Shadow across image. Take photo in full shade.



Test strip not aligned



Test strip pads not aligned

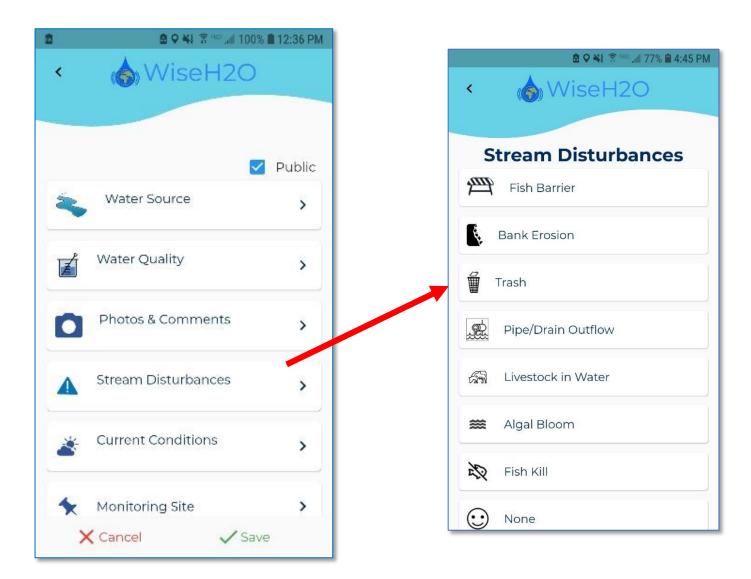


Wrong test! Calibration boxes must match test pads. Switch tests.





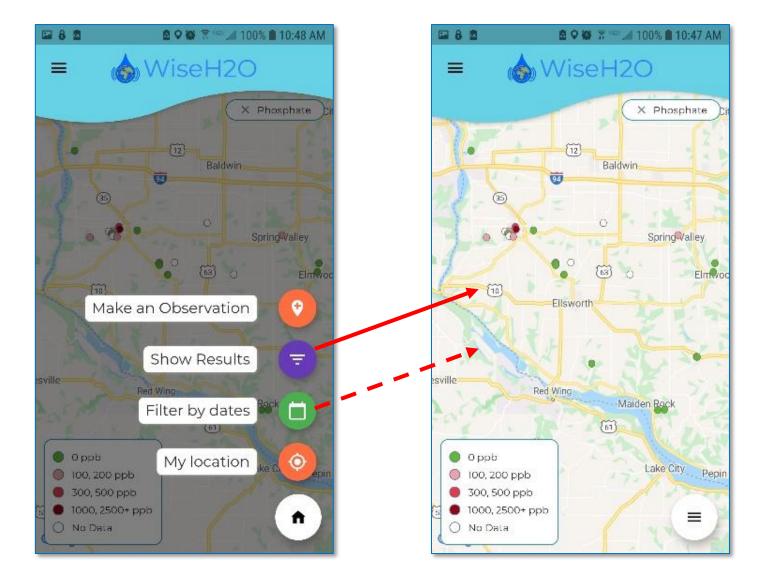
WiseH2O: Observation







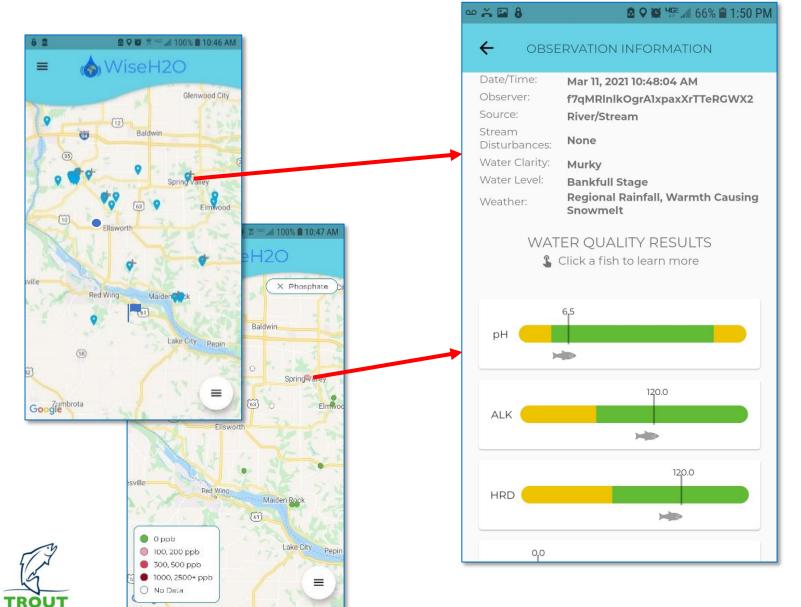
WiseH2O: Regional Results





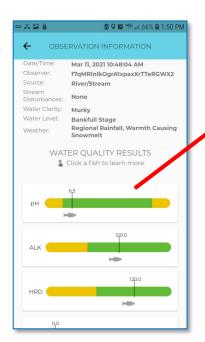


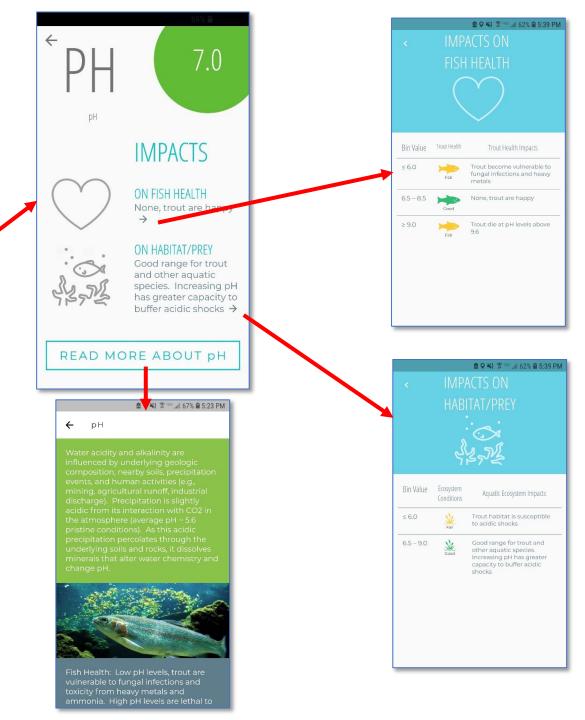
WiseH2O: Site Results





WiseH2O: Educational

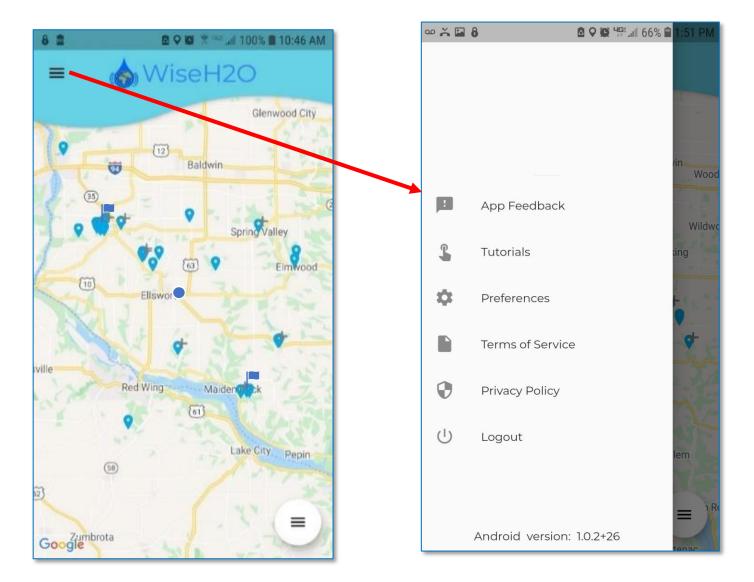








WiseH2O: Preferences







WiseH2O: User Guide & Tutorials





Tutorial for the WiseH2O app



