

# Nutrient Pollution and the 2012 Farm Bill

Are There Opportunities  
To Do Better?

# Why Care About Nutrients in our Waters

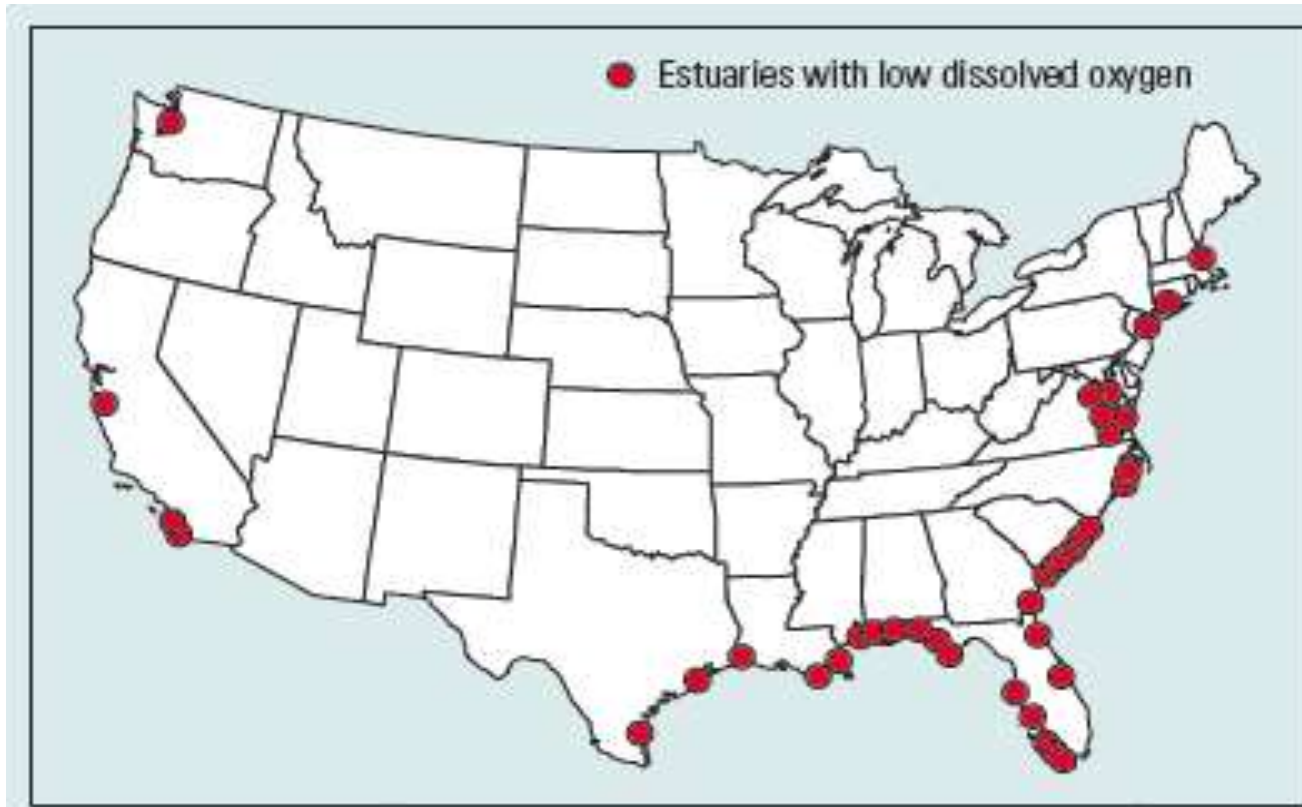
*Public Health Impacts: Drinking Water Supplies*

*Public Health Impacts: Recreational Contact*

*Ecological Impacts: Coastal Water Quality and  
Aquatic Species*

*Economic Impacts: Beach closures, loss of  
commercial and recreational fishing opportunities*

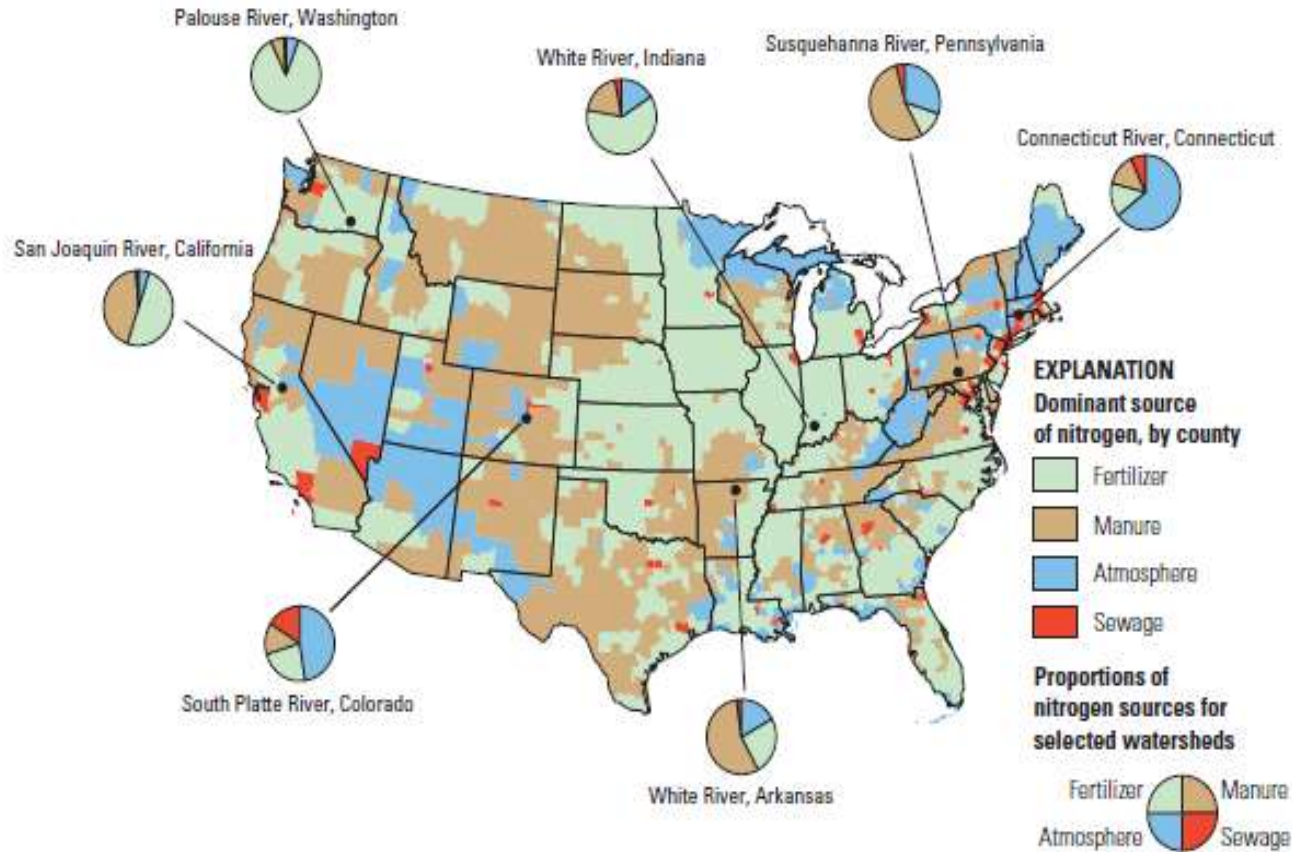
# Why Care About Nutrients in our Waters



USGS Circular 1350,  
2010

**NACWA**  
A Clear Commitment to America's Waters

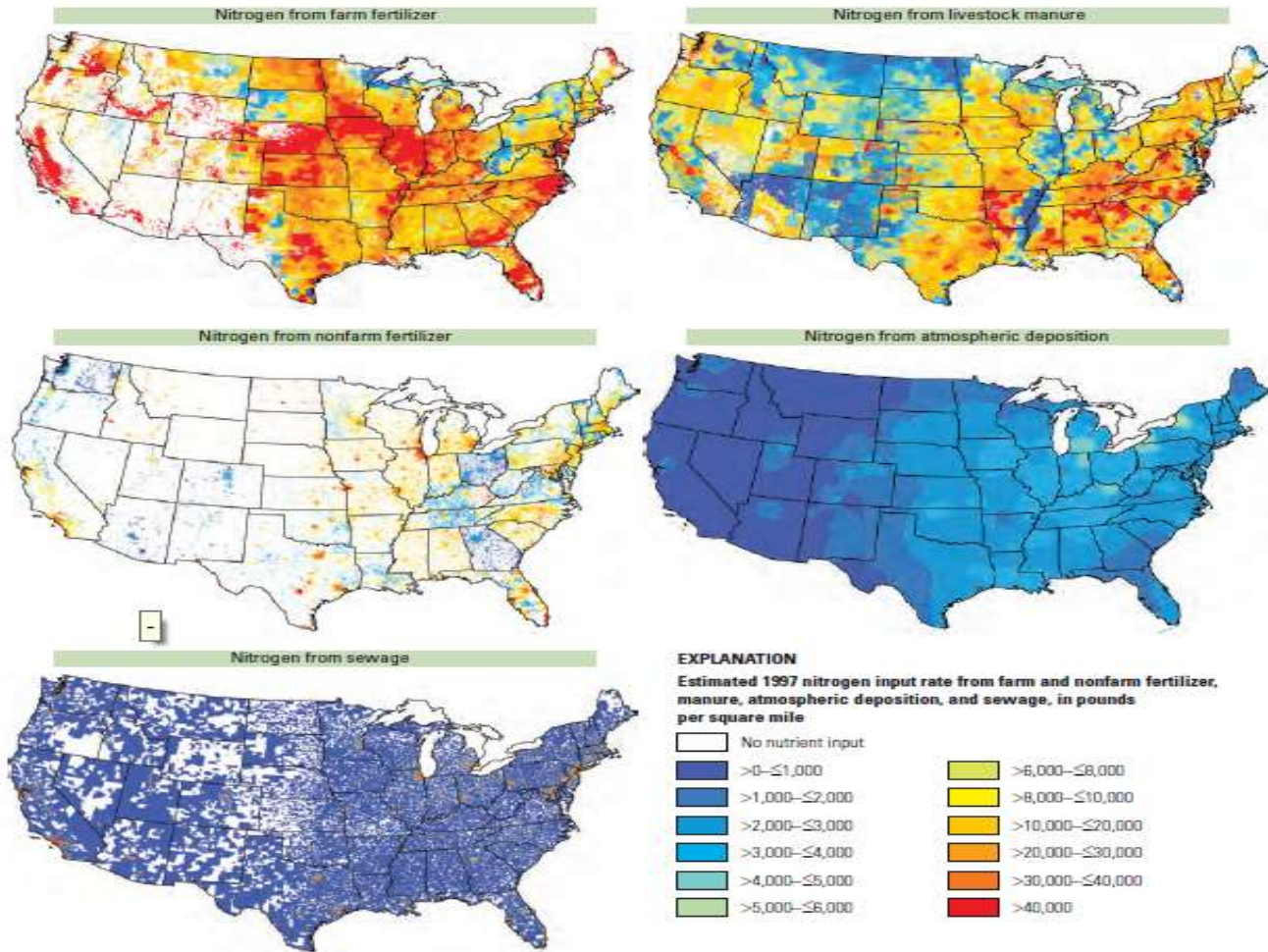
# Sources of Nutrients



USGS Circular 1350,  
2010



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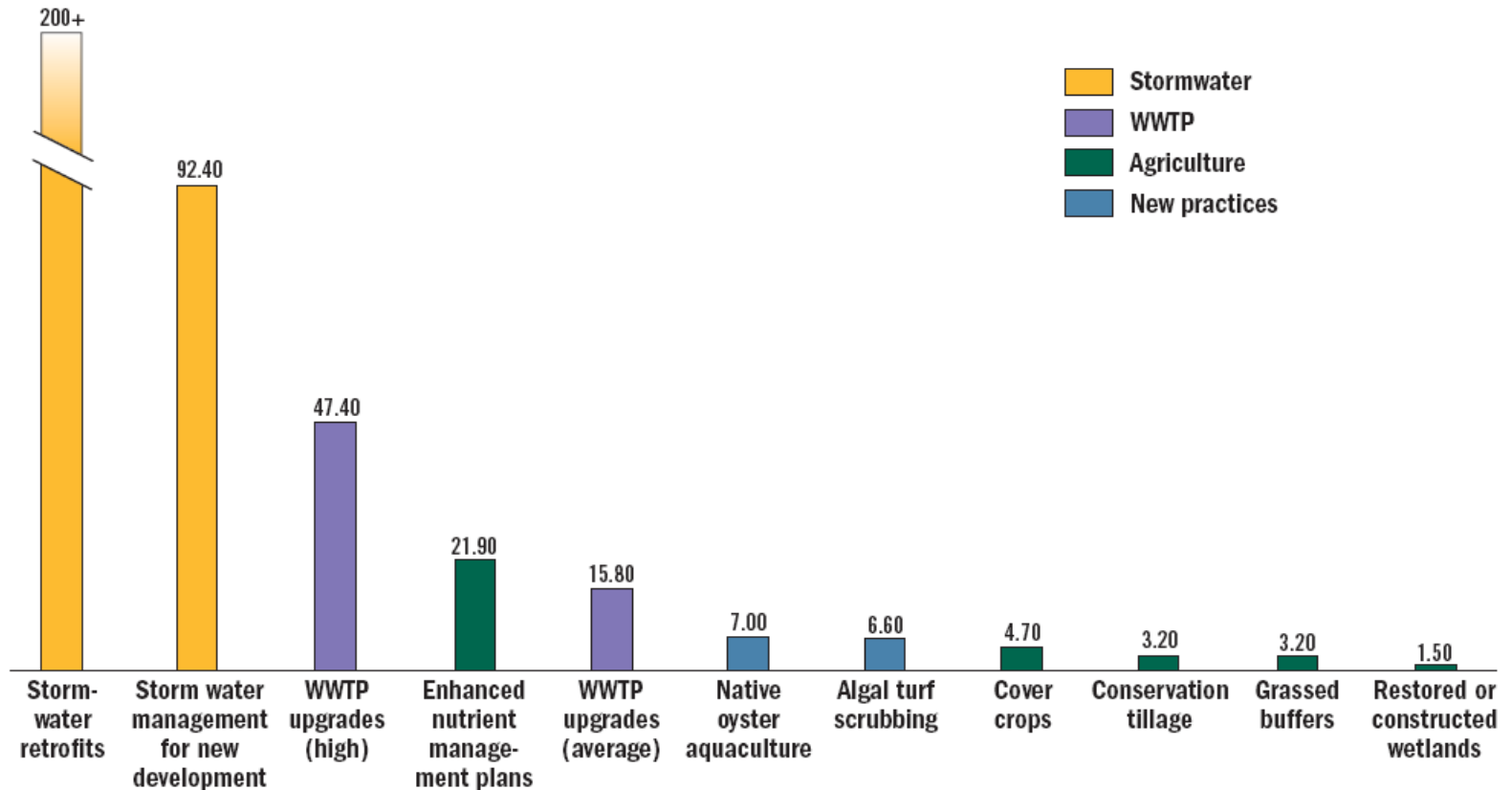


USGS Circular 1350,  
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Figure 2 | Nitrogen Reduction Costs Differ Among Sectors and Practices, Creating Economic Opportunities for Credit Trading

Dollars per pound of annual nitrogen reduction



Source: U.S. EPA and Abt Associates, 2009; Wieland, et al., 2009; MDNR, 2008; Stewart, E. A., 2006; WRI analysis using WWTP upgrade costs from MDE and VDEQ.

# Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)



## Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the Upper Mississippi River Basin



CEAP UMRB Report, June 2010

# CEAP: Upper Mississippi River Basin (UMRB)

## *Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the UMRB:*

- Complete and consistent use of nutrient management (rate, form, timing, and method) is generally lacking
- Treatment of erosion alone can exacerbate nitrogen leaching problem
- Good nitrogen management practices are in use on only about 14% of the acres each year



# CEAP: Upper Mississippi River Basin

- Land in long-term conserving cover: total nitrogen loss has been reduced by 81%, total phosphorus by 97%;
- Phosphorus reductions of 49%
- Models: 36 million acres under-treated with erosion and nutrient control:
  - 43% total nitrogen reduction
  - 51 % total phosphorus reduction

CEAP UMRB Report, June 2010

# 2012 Farm Bill

## Focus on Nutrients

- Prioritize nutrient control in nutrient-impaired watersheds
- Incorporate conservation compliance measures for better nutrient control as was done with highly erodible lands and wetlands
- Better monitoring data

# Survey of Americans

- Some people believe that farmers willing to use university-tested practices to protect water and air from pollution should receive more federal payments than farmers who refuse to do so... Do you favor more federal payments to farmers using anti-pollution practices?
  - 58% support
- Do you approve or disapprove of the condition that farmers receiving federal payments should adopt university-tested practices to prevent pollution of streams or other bodies of water?
  - 88% Approve

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