

## Prioritizing Project Areas for the Ground Water Investigation Program (As of June, 2009)

Identification of problems/issues within a proposed project area:

- **Subdivision** growth rate (Data source: DEQ, actual number of new lots permitted per timeframe; then rank against the other projects in the matrix on a scale of 1-5)
- **New wells** (Data source: MBMG, actual numbers of wells recorded in GWIC over the specified timeframe used above; then rank against the other projects on a scale from 1-5)
- Designated **Closed Basin** (Data source: DNRC, yes (5) or no (1))
- Flood to **sprinkler** conversion (Data source: Dept of Ag or NRCS, acres change; rank 1 to 5)
- Impaired **water quality** (Data source: DEQ, yes (5) or no (1))
- Expansion of **industrial** water use (Industrial and municipal wells in GWIC or local input; rank 1 to 5)
- Expansion of **agricultural** water use (Data sources: Dept of Ag, DNRC Water Rights and MBMG, wells and surface withdrawal permits; rank 1 to 5)

After identifying the number of issues within a proposed project area, further characterize the area taking into account:

- **Population** density (Data source: NRIS, total people, rank 1 to 5)
- **Water class** or usability (Data source DEQ and MBMG: classification; value 1-5, higher for higher class)
- Some **information** is already known (may indicate the need to gather data before an investigation can begin; rated high for previously studied (3) low for no previous studies (1))
- System **complexity** (more complex (3) to less complex (1))
- County **growth plan** in place, with a high density area (Data source: County, yes (5) or no (1))
- **Contentious/** litigious (local input, Conservation District, NRCS; yes (5) or no (1))
- Highly valued **ecological** water system (i.e. commissioned stream, Murphy rights; rank low (1) to high (5))
- **Mitigation** water availability (may not identify until after a study; yes (1) or no (3))
- Basin fill or bedrock **aquifer systems** or both (like complexity issue, basin=1, bedrock=2, both=3)
- **Efficiency** of effort (adjacent watersheds are more efficient investigations; value of 0 for no efficiency associated; 2 for adjacent and sequential areas; maximum rank of 3 for adjacent and parallel watersheds investigated at same time.)
- **Diversity** of hydrogeology and issues (again, like complexity, new and different issue is ranked high up to 3, repeated issues are ranked low to 1)
- **Controlled** groundwater **area** (Data source DNRC, yes (5) or no (1))
- Priority for other funding sources (if the project could be used to attract additional funds as **match** a score up to 3 is assigned and if not a 0)