



Iowa Wildlife Action Plan and State Wildlife Grant Success Story **PROTECTING THE BOONE RIVER AND ITS WILDLIFE**

In north central Iowa lies the Boone River, whose valley and waters may surprise anyone familiar with this region's vast landscape of corn and soybeans. Designated a "Protected Water Area" by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, this river exhibits scenery, water quality and wildlife rivaled by few other streams in Iowa. Hosting bald eagles, Acadian flycatchers, cerulean warblers, southern flying squirrels, western silvery minnows and Topeka shiners, the river and its surrounding forested hills provide critical habitat for all these animals, as well as many other Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan. A State Wildlife Grant was matched with DNR funds to secure and protect a 588-acre addition to the Boone Forks Wildlife Management Area. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, a key partner in DNR's land protection efforts, acquired the tract and held it until DNR received approval for State Wildlife Grant project funding. Encompassing almost two miles of the Boone River, this important parcel brings the total land protected to nearly 3,500 acres along this exquisite waterway. Besides hosting several declining or rare varieties of wildlife, the river boasts a thriving smallmouth bass fishery, while the surrounding hills are filled with white-tailed deer and wild turkey. The river is well-known and used by kayakers and canoeists, who enjoy scenic limestone palisades and the ride provided by central Iowa's only significant rapids. The Nature Conservancy in Iowa, another key DNR partner, has identified the Boone River as critical to its efforts in protecting the Upper Mississippi River Basin and for biodiversity conservation.

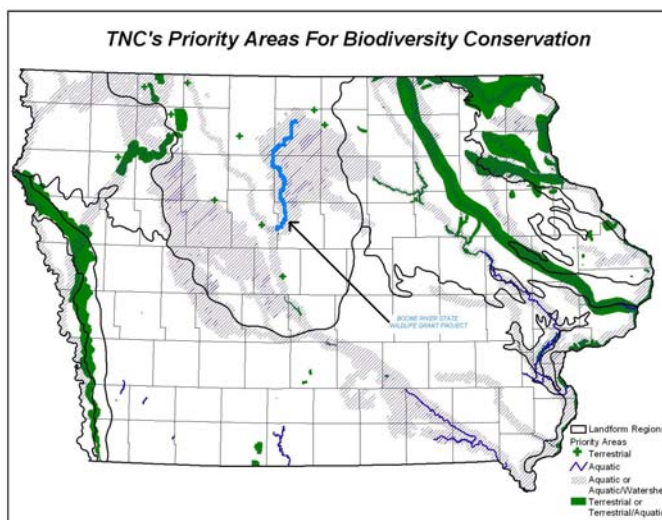


Fig.1—Location of Boone River in TNC's Iowa priorities



Fig. 2—Canoeists enjoy Boone River float trip