Hunt Valley Creek (Cr. 17-15, township of Burnside, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 1.4 mile tributary of Traverse Valley Creek. The stream is managed as a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found eight minnow and other forage species. The stream substrate is primarily sand with lesser amounts of gravel, rubble and silt. Land use in the stream corridor is mostly open pasture and meadow. Water resource problems include severe streambank erosion and lack of instream cover.

Dubiel Creek (township of Burnside, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 1.0 mile tributary of Traverse Valley Creek. The stream is managed as a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found brook stickleback, white sucker, creek chub and Johnny darter. Sand is the dominant substrate type with some gravel present. Land use in the stream corridor is mostly open pasture and cropland. Water resource problems include sedimentation of riffles and pools, scarcity of stable instream cover, and streambank erosion.

Lyga Valley Creek (Cr. 17-11, township of Burnside, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 1.3 mile tributary of Traverse Valley Creek. The stream is managed as a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found brook stickleback and white sucker. Sand is the dominant substrate type with lesser amounts of gravel and silt.

Water resource problems include lack of stable instream cover, sedimentation of riffles and pools, and streambank erosion. Land use in the stream corridor is primarily woodland and cropland.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Traverse Valley subwatershed:

1. Improve habitat conditions in the Buffalo County portion of Traverse Valley Creek sufficient to upgrade the stream to a Class I brook trout fishery.

2. Improve habitat conditions in the Trempealeau County portion of Traverse Valley Creek sufficient to upgrade the stream to a Class II trout fishery.

3. Improve overall fish habitat conditions by reducing sediment and organic loading to the subwatershed streams.

Wickham Valley Subwatershed

Wickham Valley (map 5) subwatershed is southeast of the city of Independence between Traverse Valley and Lewis Valley subwatersheds. The Trempealeau River is the border to the east and is where this valley drains to. This subwatershed contains approximately 5,900 acres.

Water Resource Conditions

Wickham Valley Creek (Cr. 10-13, township of Arcadia, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 4.7 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream is managed as a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found ten minnow and other forage species. The dominant substrate type is sand with lesser amounts of gravel, silt and clay. The stream HBI was 4.02, indicating slight organic loading, and the Habitat Rating was "fair".

Water resource problems in Wickham Valley Creek include sedimentation of riffles and pools, excessive turbidity after rainfall events, streambank erosion, and scarcity of stable instream cover. The stream is adversely impacted by cattle grazing on streambanks and cropland runoff. Land use in the stream corridor is mostly pasture and open meadow. A portion of the stream was previously ditched.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Wickham Valley subwatershed:

1. Enhance the forage fish community in Wickham Valley Creek.

Lewis Valley Subwatershed

The Lewis Valley (map 6) subwatershed is 9,152 acres and drains southeasterly to the Trempealeau River. Significant streams in the subwatershed include Lewis Valley Creek and Rainey Valley Creek.

Water Resource Conditions

Lewis Valley Creek (Cr. 15-15, township of Arcadia, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 4.9 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream is managed as a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found creek chub, blacknose dace, Johnny darter, sand shiner, and brook stickleback. The stream substrate is mostly sand with some gravel and rubble in the riffle areas. The stream HBI was 4.07, indicating slight organic loading, and the Habitat Rating was "fair".

Water resource problems include sedimentation of pools and riffles and scarcity of stable instream cover. Land use in the stream corridor is primarily meadow and open pasture. Streambank erosion is heavy in the pastured areas, and gravel in the riffle areas is highly embedded with sand. A considerable portion of the stream was previously ditched.

Rainey Valley Creek (Cr. 29-15, township of Arcadia, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 1.4 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream is managed as a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found nine minnow and other forage species. The stream substrate is mostly shifting sand with lesser amounts of gravel, silt and clay.

Water resource problems include sedimentation of pools and riffle and lack of instream cover. Land use in the stream corridor is mostly open pasture and cropland. Streambank erosion is severe in the pastured areas. Several barnyards likely contribute organic loading.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Lewis Valley subwatershed:

1. Enhance the forage fish community in Lewis Valley Creek.

2. Reduce sediment and organic loading to the subwatershed streams.

Swinns Valley Subwatershed

The Swinns Valley (map 6) subwatershed is 10,112 acres and drains south to the Trempealeau River west of Arcadia. The only significant stream in the subwatershed is Swinns Valley Creek.

Water Resource Conditions

Swinns Valley Creek (Cr. 2-2, township of Glencoe, Buffalo Co.) - is a 7.5 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream is managed as a forage fishery; however, the 1990 survey found 11 brown trout ranging from 3-16.4 inches in length. Three different age classes of trout were found, including evidence of natural reproduction in the headwaters area. Seven minnow and other forage species were also found.

Sand is the dominant substrate type in the lower portion of Swinns Valley Creek and gravel is dominant in the upper portion. The stream HBI was 2.72, indicating no apparent organic pollution, and the Habitat Rating was "fair".

Water resource problems include scarcity of stable instream cover, streambank erosion and sedimentation of pools and riffles. Gravel in the lower reach is highly embedded with sand.

Swinns Valley Creek has considerable potential for improvement since some trout reproduction is already occurring. The stream should respond favorably to improving instream cover and reducing sediment and organic loading.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Swinns Valley subwatershed:

1. Improve habitat conditions in Swinns Valley Creek sufficient to upgrade the stream to a Class II trout fishery.

2. Improve fish habitat by significantly reducing sediment loading to the subwatershed streams.

Botana Valley Subwatershed

The Botana Valley (map 6) subwatershed is 4,736 acres and drains southerly to the Trempealeau River west of Arcadia. The only significant stream in the subwatershed is Botana Valley Creek.

Water Resource Conditions

Botana Valley Creek (Cr. 299, township of Glencoe, Buffalo Co.) - is a 5.2 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream is managed as a forage fish community and the 1990 survey found seven minnow and other forage species. Sand is the dominant substrate type with lesser amounts of gravel and silt. The stream HBI was 4.00, indicating slight organic pollution, and the Habitat Rating was "fair".

Water resource problems in Botana Valley Creek include sedimentation of riffles and pools, streambank erosion, elevated water temperatures, and scarcity of stable instream cover. A survey conducted in summer 1990 found a maximum stream temperature of 80° F, near the lethal limit for brown trout. Streambank erosion is moderate to severe and most of the stream corridor land use is open pasture. The stream fishery has little potential for improvement under the existing circumstances.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Botana Valley subwatershed:

1. Enhance the forage fish community in Botana Valley Creek.