

Upper Fox and Wolf River Basins Volunteer Monitoring Program

Upper Fox and Wolf Basins TMDL

2025 Annual Summary



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Upper Fox and Wolf River Basins Volunteer Monitoring Program

2025 Data Summary

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Project Overview

The Upper Fox and Wolf River Basins (UFWB) volunteer monitoring program started in 2020 and is in support of the Upper Fox and Wolf Basins Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The project area is located within the UFWB in northeast and central Wisconsin. The Upper Fox River Basin is 2,200 square miles and extends from the headwaters of the Fox River in Columbia and Adams Counties to the outlet of Lake Winnebago. The Upper Fox River Basin also includes the direct drainage areas to Lake Winnebago. The Wolf River Basin is 3,700 square miles and extends from the headwaters of the Wolf River in Forest County to the Wolf River confluence with Lake Butte des Morts in Winnebago County.

The UFWB volunteer monitoring program started in 2020 with 12 surface water monitoring sites, there have been sites added throughout the program for a total of 26 sites in 2025. There were 24 volunteers who participated in 2025, and since the start of the program there has been over 40 volunteers. Samples are taken once a month during the growing season (May-October) and are analyzed for total phosphorus (TP), total suspended solids (TSS), dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP), and total nitrogen (TN).

Phosphorus and sediment cause numerous impairments to waterways, including low dissolved oxygen concentrations, degraded habitat, and excessive turbidity. These impairments adversely impact fish and aquatic life, water quality, recreation, and potentially navigation.

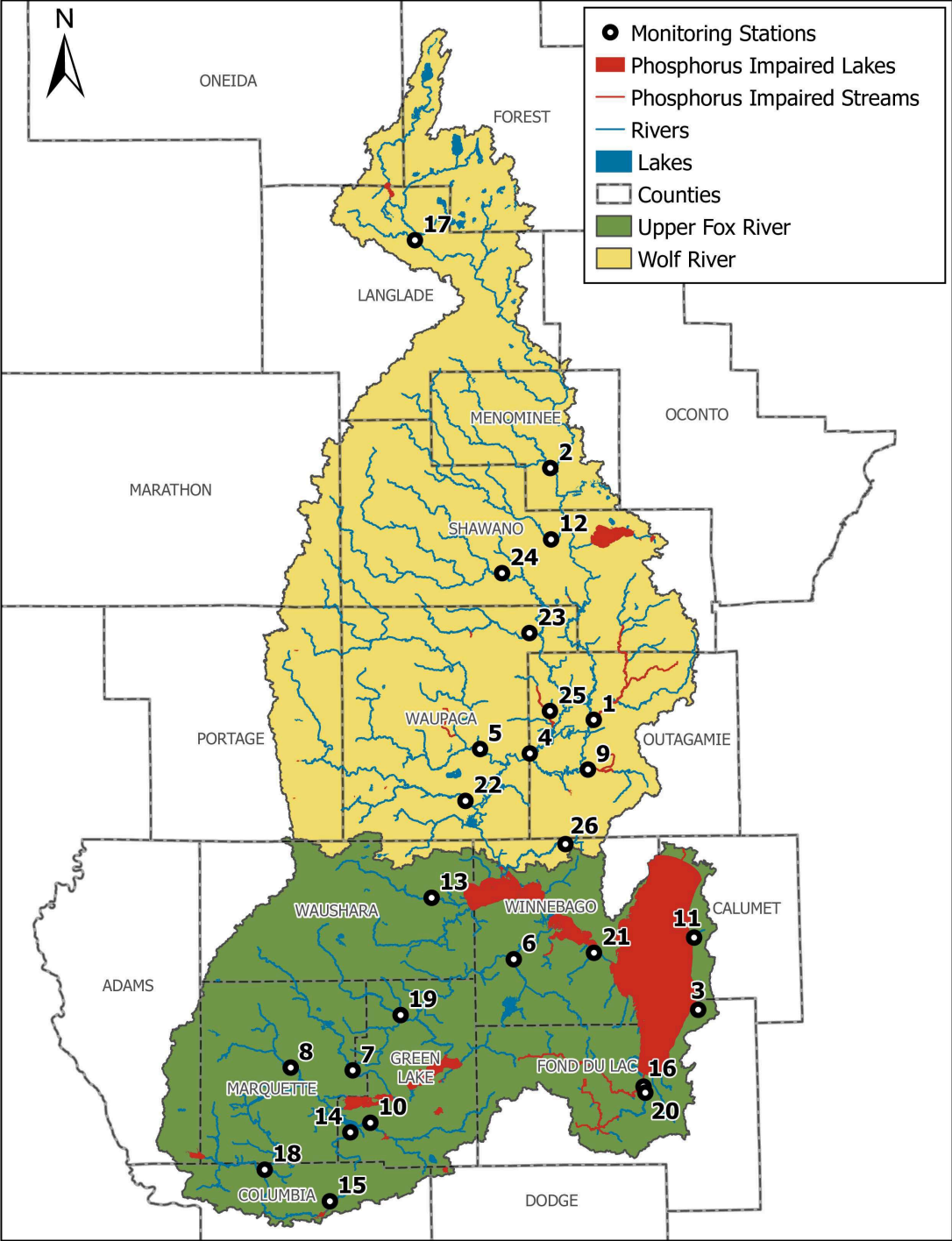
Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant growth, however when excess amounts are introduced to a system, harmful algal blooms can occur. Total phosphorus is a key indicator of water quality.

Project Goals

- 1) Increase public awareness and involvement in water quality issues by engaging the public in citizen science.
- 2) The collection of reliable surface water quality data to assess long-term water quality trends/successes.
- 3) Evaluate nutrient and sediment concentrations in the tributaries discharging to the Upper Fox River, Wolf River, and Lake Winnebago.
- 4) Monitor the health of the watershed overtime.
- 5) Provide a basis for evaluation of the long-term effectiveness of implementation of the Upper Fox and Wolf Basins TMDL; are there water quality improvements in watersheds with the implementation of best management practices?
- 6) Share water quality data broadly among stakeholders to collectively assess water quality.

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Median Total Phosphorus by Monitoring Site



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TP Median Concentrations (mg/L) by Monitoring Site

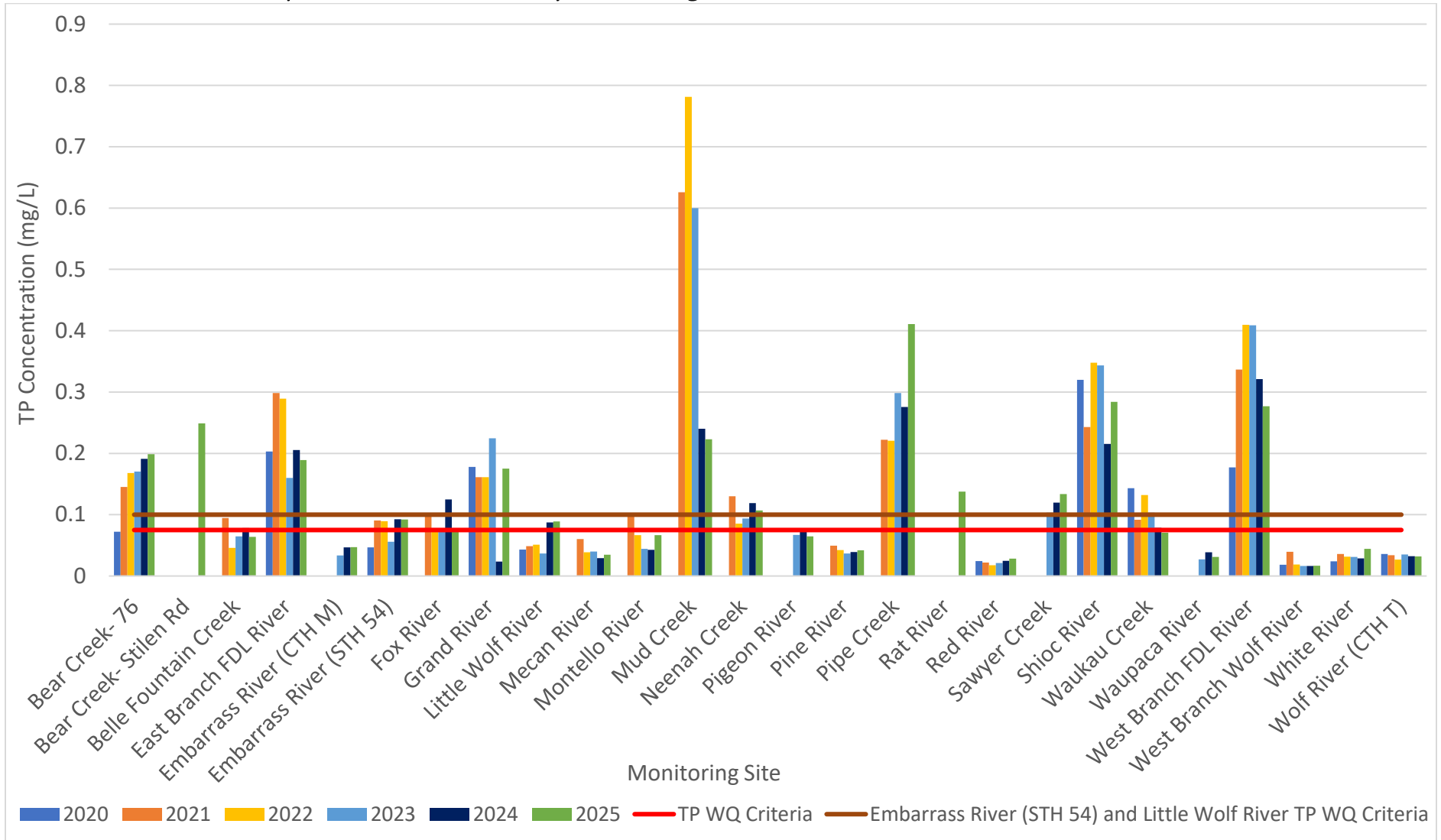
Map #	Monitoring Site	2020-2025	2025
1	Shioc River at STH 187	0.302	0.284
2	West Branch Wolf River at West Branch Rd	0.018	0.017
3	Pipe Creek- 30 ft above STH 151 Bridge	0.276	0.411
4	Embarrass River at New London STH 54	0.090	0.092
5	Little Wolf River at Royalton STH 54	0.050	0.089
6	Waukau Creek at CTH E USGS Site ID 04073970	0.097	0.071
7	Mecan River at CTH C	0.039	0.035
8	Montello River at 11 th St Bridge USGS Site ID 04072845	0.067	0.067
9	Bear Creek at STH 76	0.169	0.199
10	Grand River at CTH H Near Kingston, WI	0.168	0.175
11	Mud Creek at Mud Creek Rd	0.600	0.223
12	Red River at Maple Ave	0.023	0.028
13	Pine River at STH 49	0.042	0.042
14	Belle Fountain Creek at CTH B	0.065	0.064
15	Fox River at STH 33	0.075	0.072
16	West Branch Fond du Lac River at Forest Ave	0.329	0.277
17	Wolf River at CTH T	0.033	0.032
18	Neenah Creek at CTH CM	0.107	0.107
19	White River at White River Rd Landing	0.031	0.044
20	East Branch Fond du Lac River at 12 th St	0.204	0.189
21	Sawyer Creek at N Westfield St	0.120	0.134
22	Waupaca River at River Rd Weyauwega	0.031	0.031
23	Pigeon River at Klemp Rd	0.067	0.065
24	Embarrass River at CTH M	0.047	0.047
25	Bear Creek at Stilen Rd	N/A	0.249
26	Rat River at CTH M	N/A	0.138

The median is calculated for rivers and streams in accordance with Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (WisCALM) protocol

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Annual Median Total Phosphorus Concentration by Monitoring Site

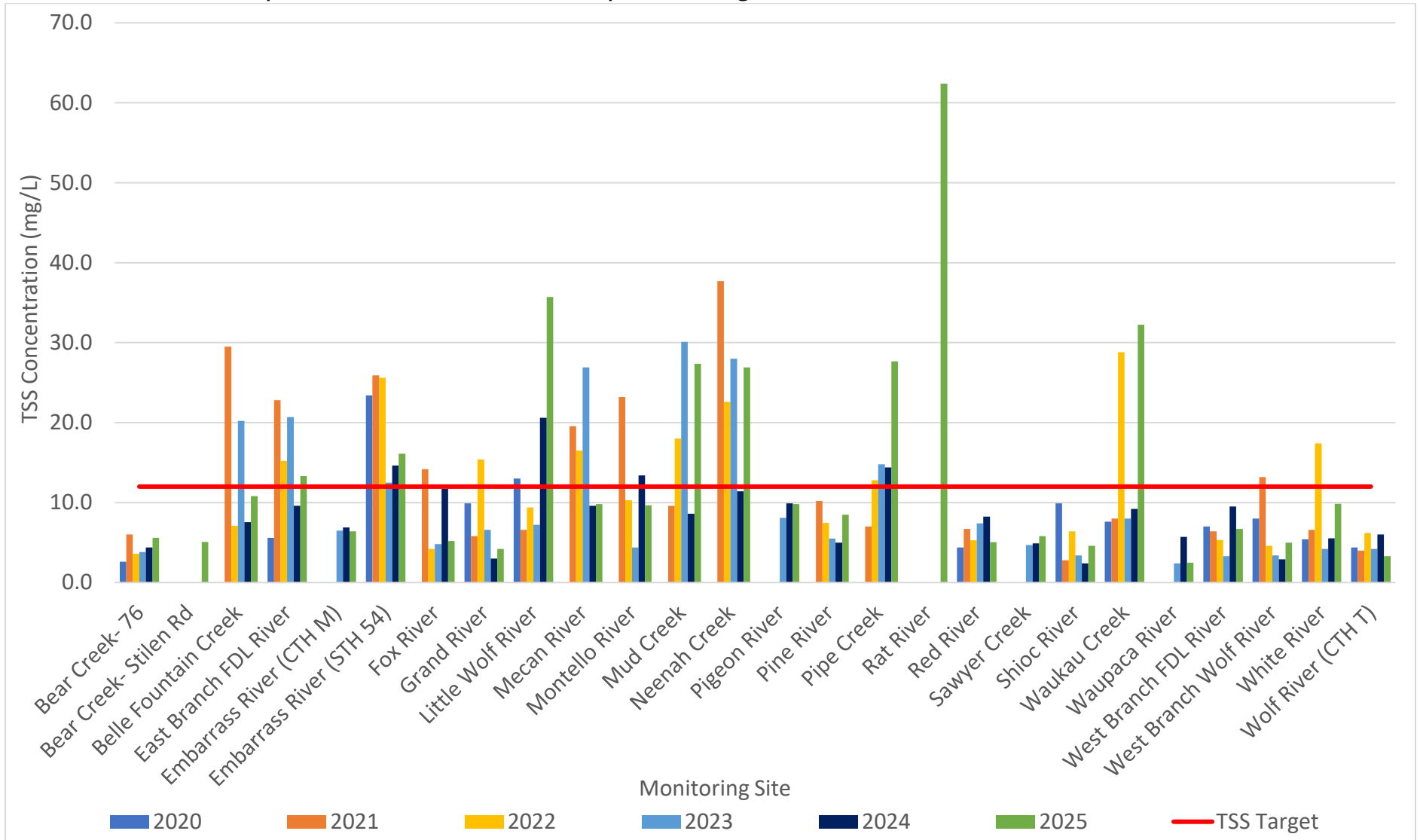


TP Water Quality Criteria (WQC) is 0.075mg/L for all sites except Embarrass River (STH 54) and Little Wolf River, which is 0.100 mg/L.

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Annual Median Total Suspended Solids Concentration by Monitoring Site

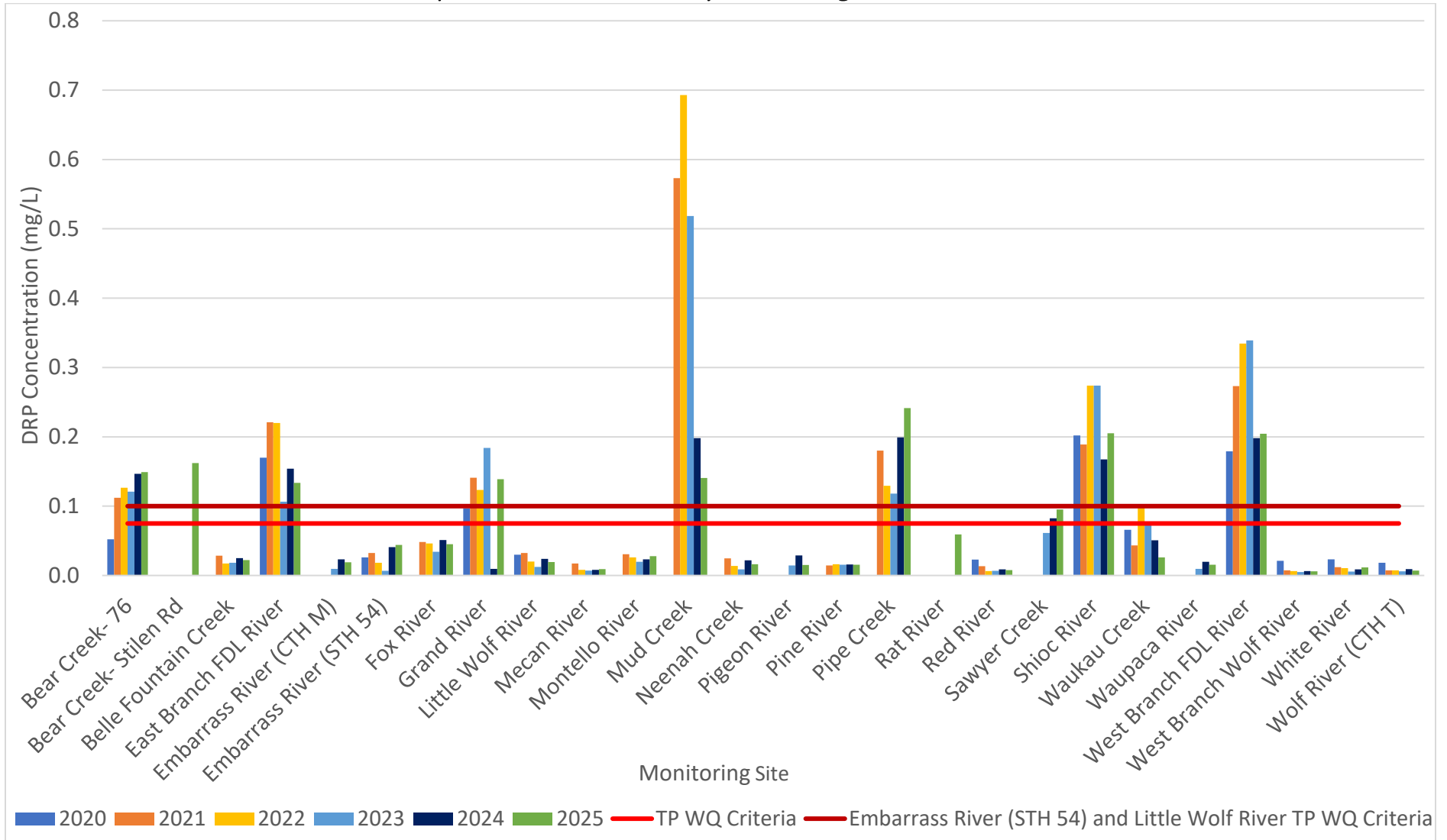


TSS Target is defined in the UFWB TMDL as 12mg/L.

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Annual Median Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus Concentration by Monitoring Site



TP Water Quality Criteria (WQC) is 0.075mg/L for all sites except Embarrass River (STH 54) and Little Wolf River, which is 0.100 mg/L.

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Annual Median Total Nitrogen Concentration by Monitoring Site

