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PRINCIPLES OF WATERSHED RESTORATION

The principles of watershed restoration are:

- a) Restoration must be consistent with watershed level assessment, analysis and evaluation; restoration includes protection of existing healthy conditions,
- b) Restoration should assure the preservation of existing healthy conditions by removing known threats and protecting from future threats.. Dams are a special and more complex case of threat and may be addressed independently within the context of watershed level solutions,
- c) Restoration must include eliminating continuing causes of watershed degradation,
- d) Restoration should be staged, moving outward and downward from core healthy or restored areas,
- e) Restoration projects should be prioritized within each watershed for effectiveness on the basis of maximum ecological benefit and then on the benefits to sustainable local community economic development and revitalization,
- f) Restoration and preservation decisions should be based on explicit reference points and benchmarks from an approved Watershed Restoration Strategic Plan,
- g) Restoration that alters environments should give high priority to project outcomes that use natural processes,
- h) Progress of restoration must be effectively monitored, using approved objectives and benchmarks, in order to evaluate ongoing restoration and preservation efforts,
- i) Restoration plans and/or projects must not sacrifice one ecosystem for another,
- j) Restoration must be accomplished consistent with existing applicable environmental laws.

PRINCIPLES OF WATERSHED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT