

Wild Rice and Sulfate

Legislative-Citizen Commission on
Minnesota Resources

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Presentation Overview

- ❑ Background
- ❑ Concerns about the Wild Rice Sulfate Standard
- ❑ Wild Rice Sulfate Standard Study Protocol
- ❑ Study Components



Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Background

- ❑ Wild rice is an important cultural, economic and ecological resource
- ❑ Sulfate standard adopted in 1973 to protect wild rice
- ❑ Three key elements:
 - Where, What, When



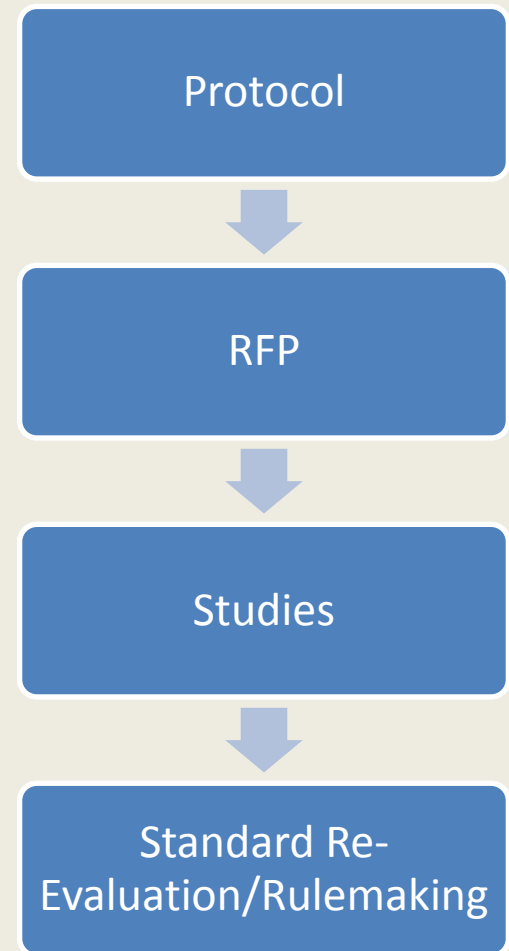
Concerns about Sulfate Standard

- ❑ Recent implementation questions
- ❑ Clarify “where”
 - Define “water used for production of wild rice”
 - Part of current standards update underway
 - Anticipated completion: summer 2012
- ❑ Review “what” and “when”
 - 10 mg/L numeric standard; period of sensitivity
 - Additional information needed



Study Protocol

- Get advice and agreement on study approach
- Process for protocol development:
 - Consult with EPA and Tribes
 - Input from stakeholders
 - Discuss with scientists/ researchers
 - Draft for review and comment
- Target for final protocol: June 30, 2011



Study Goals and Components

- ❑ Key research questions:
 - Mechanism(s) of sulfate toxicity
 - Effects over full life cycle of plant
 - How other key factors vary with or may be affected by sulfate/sulfide
 - Characteristics of healthy wild rice
- ❑ “Field” and “experimental” components
- ❑ Stakeholder group and continued EPA and Tribal consultation
- ❑ Governor’s recommended budget: \$1.5 million over two years





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