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Guidance for Strategy Teams on Setting Priorities

As the work of the Strategy Teams progresses, one of the key things requested is to develop a formula for setting priorities of activities to reach the goals for the overall protection and restoration effort. By formula, we do not mean a precise mathematical set of numbers, but rather a framework or rationale for evaluating problems and actions.

The Subcommittee to the Executive Committee would like to provide some additional guidance to the Strategy Teams for developing the formula and setting the priorities. The types of considerations that should be taken into account include both the nature of the problem being addressed and the action to be taken to address the problem. The types of things to consider include:

- Irreversibility and severity of the damage caused by the problem (ecological/economic)
- Scope of the problem in the GL Basin
- Urgency of the problem
- Threats to public health
- Implications for Tribal interests and perspectives
- Need for research and development
- Federal, State, Tribal, and Local support for dealing with the problem
- Confidence that the action proposed will solve the problem
- Benefits to accrue from the action
- Tools and technology available
- Current funding and programs available
- Preventability of future problems by action now
- Difficulty in implementing actions

There are certainly other factors that will come into play, but these are some that need to be considered.

In terms of setting priorities, it may turn out that the formula will help determine what needs to be done sooner, and what can wait until later. It does not necessarily mean that a problem or action is less important. What we hope to wind up with is a strategic action plan that lays out near, mid, and long term actions for the Great Lakes.