

61.2(2) Antidegradation policy. It is the policy of the state of Iowa that:

a. Tier 1 protection. Existing surface water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses will be maintained and protected.

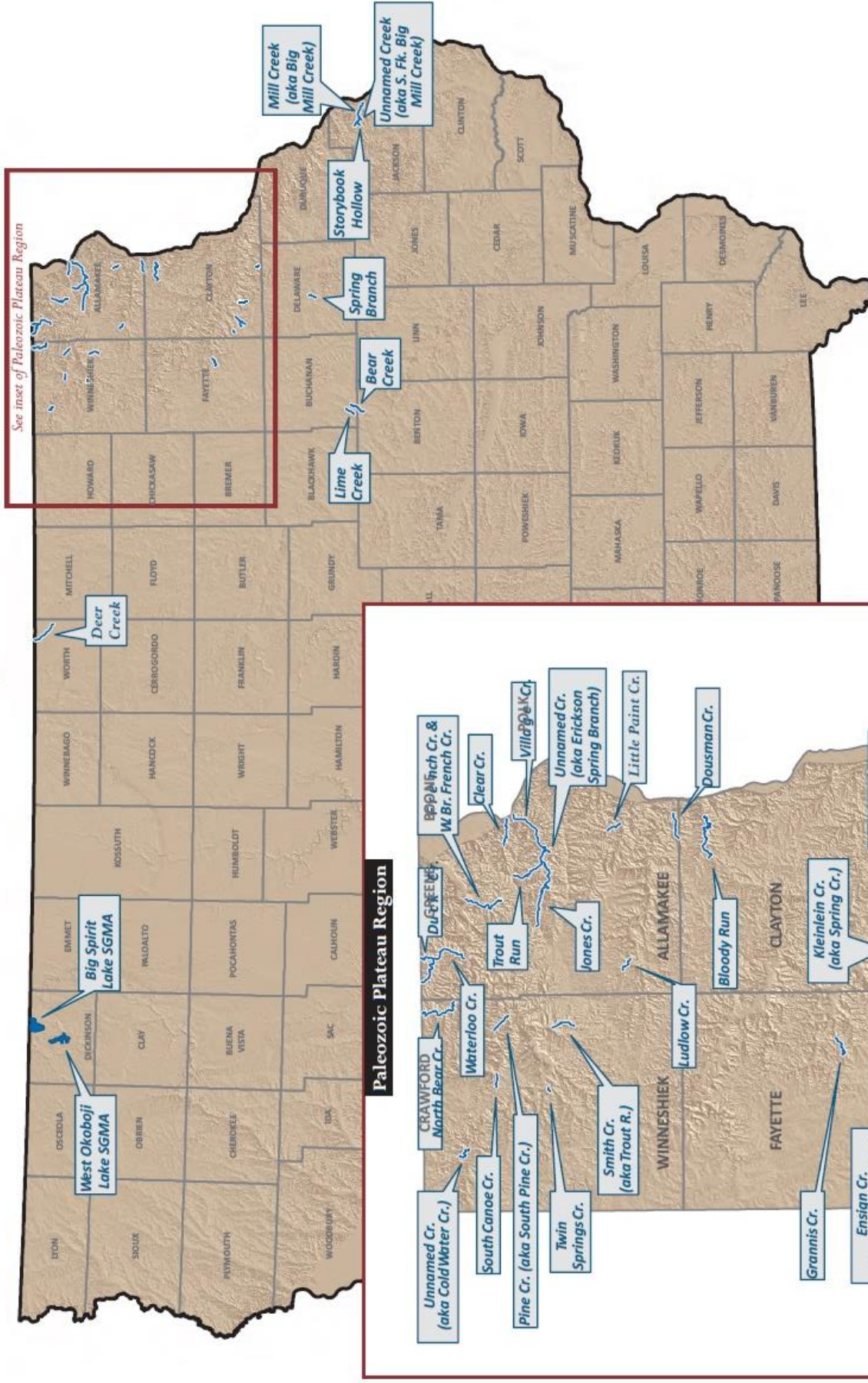
b. Tier 2 protection. Where the quality of the waters exceeds levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water, that quality shall be maintained and protected unless the department finds, after full satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. In allowing such degradation or lower water quality, the department shall ensure water quality adequate to protect existing uses fully. Further, the department shall ensure the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all new and existing point sources and all cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for nonpoint source control before allowing any lowering of water quality.

c. Tier 2½ protection—outstanding Iowa waters. Where high quality waters constitute an outstanding state resource, such as waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected.

d. Tier 3 protection—outstanding national resource waters. Where high quality waters constitute an outstanding national resource, such as waters of national and state parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected. Any proposed activity that would result in a permanent new or expanded source of pollutants in an outstanding national resource water is prohibited.

Iowa's Antidegradation Implementation Procedure (AIP) and supporting documents can be found at: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/environmental-protection/water-quality/water-quality-standards/antidegradation>.

Outstanding Iowa Waters



For more information regarding the Outstanding Iowa Waters, see Appendix B of Iowa's Antidegradation Implementation Procedure at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Antidegradation>