Water resource problems are sedimentation of riffles and pools, organic loading from animal waste and occasional flooding. The stream receives pollutants from streambank erosion, cropland runoff and cattle pasturing. Primary land uses in the stream corridor are open pasture and woodland.

Warner Branch is a 3.0 mile tributary of Warner Creek. The stream is managed as a Class III brown trout fishery and was stocked in spring 1990 with 400 9-inch brown trout. The 1990 fish survey found 2 brown trout (11.5 inches) and 9 minnow and other forage species. Sand and gravel are the dominant stream substrate types.

Water resource problems include sedimentation of riffle and pool areas, organic loading and lack of suitable cover for trout. Potential pollution sources include cropland and barnyard runoff and cattle pasturing. Land use in the stream corridor includes cattle pasture, cultivated fields and barnyards.

Unnamed Creek 36-9 (Winchel Valley, township of Whitestown, Vernon Co.) is a high gradient 1.5 mile tributary of Warner Creek. Minnows and other forage species comprise the fish community. The stream substrate is primarily sand, with lesser amounts of silt and gravel.

Unnamed Creek 31-12 (Caucutt Valley, township of Forest, Vernon Co.) is a 1.5 mile tributary of Warner Creek. Minnows and other forage species comprise the fish community. The stream substrate is primarily sand, with lesser amounts of gravel, rubble and silt.

Unnamed Creek 6-2 (Valley Avenue Creek, township of Union, Vernon Co.) is a 1.0 mile tributary of Warner Creek. Minnows and other forage species comprise the fish community. The stream substrate is primarily sand, with lesser amounts of gravel, rubble and silt.

Unnamed Creek 4-12 (township of Union, Vernon Co.) is a 2.5 mile tributary of Warner Branch. Minnows and other forage species comprise the fish community. The stream substrate is primarily sand, with lesser amounts of gravel, silt and rubble.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Warner Creek subwatershed:

1. Improve fish habitat to increase trout reproduction in Warner Creek and increase carryover of adult trout in Warner Creek and Warner Branch.

2. Improve water resource conditions in the subwatershed streams by reducing sediment and organic loading.

Pollutants from Nonpoint Sources

Eroding Uplands (sediment and nutrients)

Upland erosion, chiefly from steep cropfields, accounts for about 43% (or of the sediment reaching streams in the Warner Creek subwatershed. Also, nearly 1,000 acres of woodlands are grazed, contributing a substantial amount of sediment.

Eroding and Trampled Streambanks (sediment and direct habitat impairment)

Streambank erosion accounts for 34% of the sediment being deposited into Warner Creek streams. This represents a substantial amount and creates a water quality problem that needs to be addressed. Trout habitat conditions are severely impaired as a result of direct loading of sediment in the stream.

Eroding Gullies (sediment and nutrients)

Gully erosion accounts for the remaining 23% of sediment reaching the streams in the Warner Creek subwatershed. Again, most of the gullies occur in small drainage areas of 5 acres or less, and are located at breaks in ridges or where landuse changes from open land to steep wooded hillsides.

Animal Lots (oxygen demand and nutrients)

Manure from animal lots and winter spread fields are the most probable source of oxygen demanding substances having an impact on water quality. During the inventory period, 24 animal lots were analyzed. It was determined that 876 lbs. of phosphorus runs off these lots and into Warner Creek and its tributaries.

Winter Spread Manure (oxygen demand and nutrients)

Winter spread manure on "critical", or unsuitable, acres poses a significant threat to water quality in the Warner Creek subwatershed. Spring runoff conditions across fields over 6% slope carry manure and nutrients to streams and channels. Presently, manure is being spread on approximately 218 "critical" acres.

Weister Creek Subwatershed (WE)

Subwatershed Description

The Weister Creek subwatershed drains 20.4 square miles of area. Weister Creek is 9 miles long and is currently classified as Class III trout water. The stream flows in a southeasterly direction and outlets in the Kickapoo River inside the Army Corps of Engineer land just southwest of the village of Rockton. Important tributaries to Weister Creek are Twenty-Four

Valley Creek and Clark Creek. The small hamlet of Dell lies in the heart of the subwatershed along County Highway P.