WANTED: Good Home for Baby Trout.

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2019 extern at Iowa DNR Decorah Trout Hatchery

Part I: Overview of Workplace

The Iowa DNR Decorah fish hatchery manages and stocks the streams of Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell and Winneshiek counties. The hatchery receives 3 inch trout from the State Hatchery in Manchester and raises these trout to catchable size for release (about 0.5 pounds).

Part II: Workplace Focus

- Using aerial photographs to find local bodies of water and sinkholes.
- Monitoring for water quality.
- Analyzing: temperatures, dissolved oxygen, clarity, and bottom type.
- Netting and shocking streams to identify species present.
- Recording and analyzing data.

Part III: Introduce the Problem

We have baby trout that need to be released. Where locally can they go?

- Ideally these trout would return near the release sight to spawn and reproduce.
- We need a location that the fish could survive in year-round and have the right type of bottom for reproduction.
- The city water treatment center is near the headwaters of a Yellow River Tributary.

Part IV: Background

- What bodies of water are close?
- What are 'quality water conditions' needed to support trout and how do we test for these?
- What fish and insects already exist in the water body that can be beneficial (or harmful) to our trout.
- Wich, if any, streams or lakes could support trout all year long?
- Recommendations for improving water quality and reduce human impacts on water quality.

Part V: Workplace Solution

- Remote sensors
- Sight surveys
- Shocking, netting, monitoring
- Stream bank & habitat improvement
- Bufferstrips on stream edges

Part VI: Educational Pathways

- 4 year degree: Biology
- Recommended: Iowa State University, Upper Iowa University