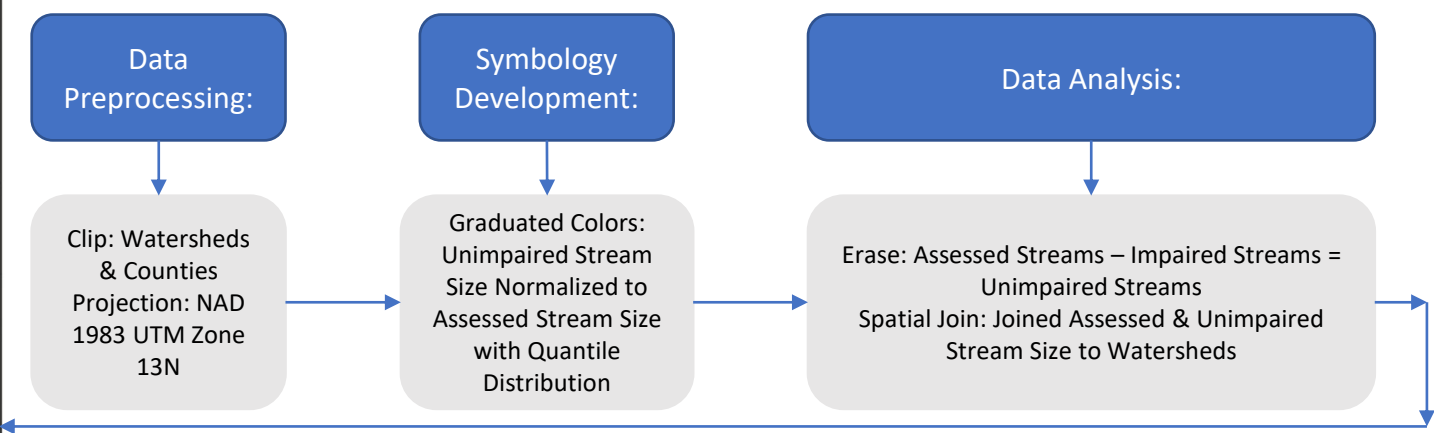


New Mexico Watershed Health by Stream Impairment – Andrew Richardet

- Introduction:
 - In dry, arid states in the American Southwest where surface water is limited, rivers are life. However, rivers are often impaired by contaminants in their drainage basin and ensuring rivers stay clean is crucial. This project seeks to assess the levels of stream health in New Mexico by comparing the size of unimpaired streams to total stream size in New Mexico. This can be used to address problems in watersheds or upstream contamination sources in the state or to locate healthy streams for different purposes.
- Results:
 - Overall, streams in New Mexico watersheds are around ~40% unimpaired except for the Upper Colorado Region at around 17% unimpaired and the Texas-Gulf Region which has no notable streams.
- Discussion/Conclusion:
 - The data indicates that of the documented watersheds in New Mexico, they are all near or below the national average of the EPA at 49%. This indicates that overall, New Mexico’s watersheds have more percentage impaired streams than the rest of the nation.

Methodology:



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