



Clean Water Fund Restoration Technical Assistance Grazing Management Initiative for the Root, Whitewater and Adjacent Watersheds

Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District

**Clean Water Fund Grant
Awarded** \$ 126,316

Grant Period (incl. extensions)
From: October 20, 2010
To: June 30, 2012

Funds Returned to State
Type \$0
Date Fund Returned: N/A

Budget by Category

**Administration/
Coordination**

**Project
Development**

**Technical and
Engineering**

\$ 126,316

Construction

**Total CWF
Budget**

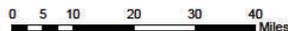
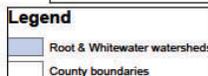
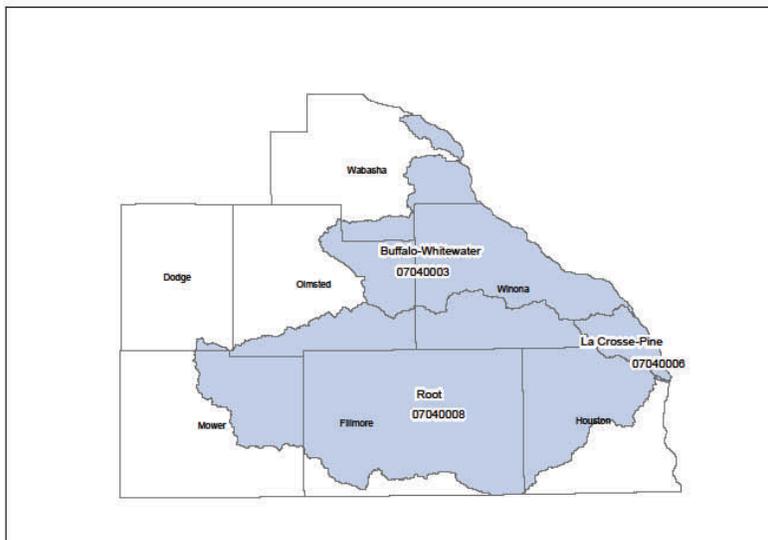
\$ 126,316

PROJECT CONTACT

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*Prepared by Fillmore SWCD
for BWSR Website Reporting Requirements*

Root, Whitewater and Adjacent Watersheds



The Regional TMDL Implementation Plan for Fecal Coliform Bacteria identifies the availability of grazing specialists as a key milestone in implementing managed grazing practices on critical areas where cattle have unlimited access to ephemeral or permanent streams or are pastured on steep slopes near streams. The Root River and Whitewater River are identified in the plan as priority watersheds due to high levels of bacteria.

Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs: The Grazing Specialist will provide technical assistance to producers in the Root River watershed, the Whitewater watershed, and those watersheds adjacent to both in Winona County, to develop 5-10 multi-phased grazing management plans per year that meet the NRCS standard 528 (Prescribed Grazing) and help cooperators locate funding to implement them, including MRBI funding. The Grazing Specialist will also follow up on existing plans that can be implemented utilizing funding from the federal EQIP program and MRBI, as well as follow up and troubleshooting on plans that are being implemented. Cover crops on corn silage and soybean acres will be promoted as a way to extend and enhance grazing. Cover crops can be used for grazing or forage. Education and outreach activities, such as writing newspaper and newsletter articles and conducting field days and workshops, will be conducted in cooperation with Extension, MN Dept. of Ag, NRCS, and other agencies.

The Grazing Specialist is currently working with about 36 producers to install fence and pipeline. Those 36 farms cover 3,215 acres and have \$798,047 in EQIP contracts. He also organizes and helps conduct workshops and field days like SE MN Graze Fest and U of M Cow-Calf Days.