



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: March 25, 2011
To: December 31, 2012
Extended to June 30, 2014

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

Budget by Category

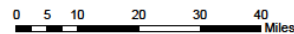
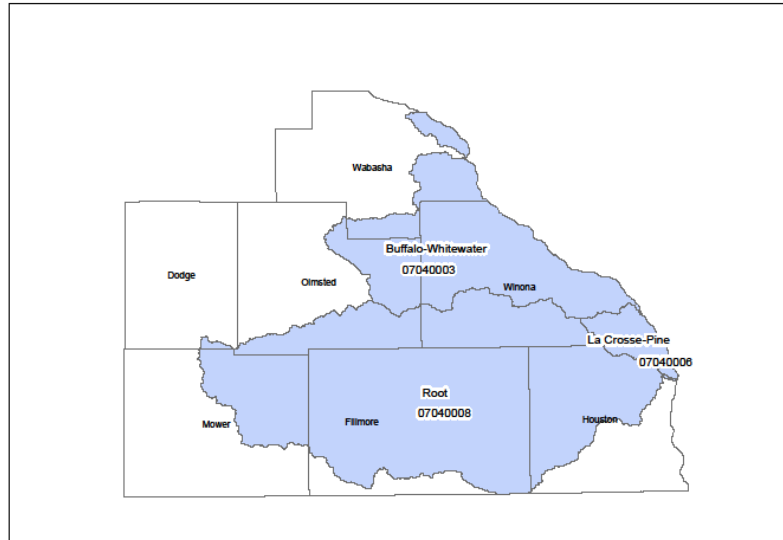
Administration/ Coordination	
Project Development	
Technical and Engineering	\$ 126,316
Construction	
Total CWF Budget	\$ 126,316

PROJECT CONTACT

Donna Rasmussen, Administrator
507-765-3878, ext 3
donna.rasmussen@fillmoreswcd.org

*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 39 producers with developing managed grazing plans, installing fence and pipeline, and troubleshooting existing grazing systems. Those producers have plans that cover 3,236 acres and have received or are receiving over \$855,000 in EQIP contracts plus over \$53,000 in state funding.



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Cattle watering tank installed using EQIP and state funds.

Outputs and Outcomes

Outcomes:

As of December 30, 2011, no funds have been expended from this grant in order to use up existing grant funds for this position. These existing funds were not utilized as quickly as anticipated due to a 3-month staff vacancy and reduced insurance costs over the past two years, which were unknown at the time the grant applications were submitted. Utilization of these funds is expected to begin in 2012. A grant extension may be requested from BWSR to extend the use of these funds beyond the existing grant period.

January—December 2012: Worked on 11 new grazing plans for EQIP, two of which were funded through MRBI. Conducted site visits on 18-22 farms, some several times to get information for doing plans, GPSing fence or pipeline installations, checking seedings and other practices, and troubleshooting problems. Completed status reviews for EQIP and assisted with 76 status reviews of 76 old EQIP contracts for the NRCS State Office. Worked on NRCS standards for fencing, seeding and pipeline practices for 2013. Began publishing the monthly Grazing Gazette with funding from GLCA grant and local sponsors; mailed to over 700 grazers. Planned and assisted with summer and fall field days with NRCS and U of M Extension and Vet School staff. Completed grant proposals for pasture renovations and rotational grazing research. Participated in 7 teleconferences with GLCA and NRCS Grazing Specialists. Gave 3 presentations to U of M Vet School students about grazing operations. Attended and provided information at Tour de Forage, U of M Cow/Calf Days, Tri-State Conservation Grazing Workshop, SWCD grazing field day, NRCS grazing training sessions (5/13&5/14), Winona/Fillmore Local Work Group Meeting, Grazing Training in Rochester, Soils webinar in Rochester, Rush Pine Grazing and Soils Workshop, Midwest Forage Day, Pland ID Training, Field Day at Dairy Farm, and Ti-State Grazing Workshop in North Dakota. Assisted with helping producers with Emergency CRP Haying and Grazing Program. Assisted with collecting soil water samples from the lysimeter network established to better understand nitrate transport in karst under various land uses. Also helped collected samples for basal stalk and soil nitrate testing. Promoted cover crops with NRCS and SWCD staff. Assisted with Napa Insurance claims for pastures due to the drought. Attended trainings for Toolkit and Watershed Tool. Attended meetings for the Root River and Watson Creek watersheds. Continued work with CPS on seeding winter rye into standing beans.