



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

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

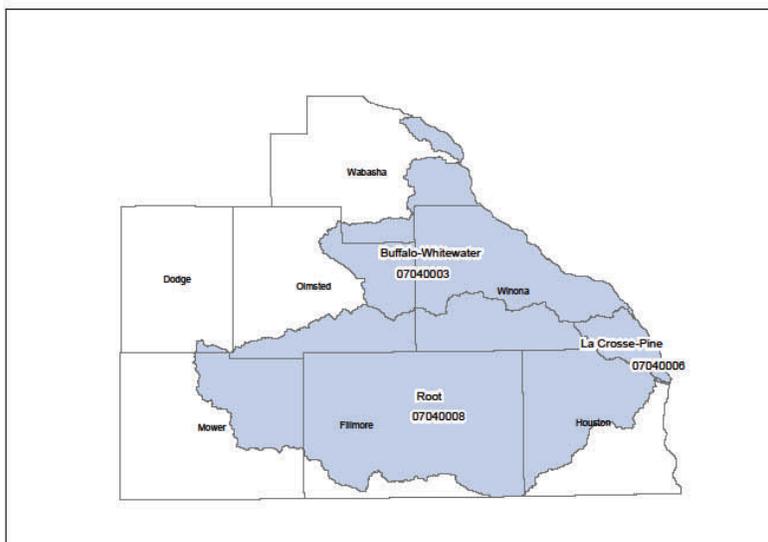
Budget by Category

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



Legend
 Root & Whitewater watersheds
 County boundaries

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles



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.