



FY2014 Clean Water Fund Soil Erosion Compliance Grant

Protecting Highly Erodible Lands with Conservation Planning

Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District

**Clean Water Fund Grant
Awarded** \$ 145,000

Grant Period (incl. extensions)
From: March 21, 2014
To: December 31, 2016-2017

Funds Returned to State
Type \$0

These grant funds fund a Conservation Planning Specialist with a goal of updating approximately 400 USDA Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Conservation Plans covering 40,000 acres over the course of the grant period. This position will assist producers with updating conservation plans that they are following to be in compliance with soil loss tolerance levels as part of the Farm Bill compliance and Fillmore County Soil Loss Ordinance. The planning process offers an opportunity to identify conservation needs and implement practices that reduce soil erosion on the agricultural land and benefit downstream water quality.

The focus will be on high priority areas within the Root River watershed. Previous efforts had been focused on the three MRBI watersheds (Watson, Upper South Fork Root River/Wisel Creek, and Rush-Pine) where work will continue to complete those watersheds. Other priority areas for this project include the MDA Field to Stream Partnership (FSP) watersheds and the Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) identified in the Root River Landscape Plan. Ongoing priorities include completion of conservation plans on CRP acres and for USDA sodbust requests which are putting more sensitive lands into production, most of which are HEL.



Expenditures by Budget Category

As of December 31, 2016

Administration/ Coordination	\$ 0.00
Technical and Engineering	\$ 106,191.03
Total Expenditures	\$ 106,191.03
Grant Balance 12/31/15	\$ 38,808.97
Total Match Amount	\$ 35,337.75

Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs:

2014: (July-December): The Conservation Planning Specialist updated 57 conservation plans for 27 different producers. These updated plans covered 4,785.3 acres of cropland. and will have potentially Through these updates producers have talked further with other conservation technicians in the office on waterway needs and repairs along with other conservation practice needs.

2015: Assisted 42 landowners with updating 71 plans and discussing conservation concerns; also assisted landowners with getting copies of plans to MDA for registering Estates & Trusts and new land purchases. Additional hours spent in the field working with another technician to survey and construct conservation practices as needed in fields of interested producers. Completed NRCS Conservation Planning Training Course during late summer and completed continuing education credits as needed. The 42 landowners provided 87 hours of their own time towards development of plans.

2016 Results: Assisted 2 landowners with updating 3 HEL conservation plans for 339.2 ac, 19 landowners assisted in getting soils maps and copies of conservation plans for MDA corporate farm reporting. Most work load was with assisting with CRP conservation planning, wrote 141 plans for 2,731.48 acres of which out of those numbers 121 plans for 2,307.11 acres where for HEL land being placed into CRP. Continued assistance to landowners with questions and review of HEL and CRP plans. Review and approved numerous seed tags for CRP plans installed. Assisted 14 landowners with crop rotation and conservation practice questions and assisted with surveys and construction of conservation practices in the field. Attended RUSLE2 and Toolkit Training.

Outcomes:

2014: Conservation planning saved 37.8 tons of soil and reduced phosphorus by 1687 lbs.

2015: Conservation planning saved 47.31 tons of soil and reduced phosphorus by 5620 lbs. Practices installed as a result of the plans saved 19.56 tons/year of soil and 1.94 pounds/year of phosphorus.

2016: Cumulative total of pollution reductions from all practices installed as a result of plans (2014-2016): 149.35 Tons/year soil saved; 14.72 lbs./year phosphorus; 16.58 Tons/year sediment (TSS) reduction

PROJECT CONTACT

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*Prepared by Fillmore SWCD
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