# Erosion Control Projects in the Red Lake River Watershed

**Clean Water Funds:** 2011

| | |
|---|---|
| **Clean Water Grant** | $102,895 |
| **Leveraged Funds*** | $25,750 |
| **Total Project Budget** | $128,645 |

*** Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match**

**Targeted Water**:
County/Watershed Wide

**Project Sponsor**:
Red Lake County SWCD

**Partners:**
Red Lake Watershed District, Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Engineer, MN Department of Natural Resources-Hydrologist, Army Corps. of Engineer, and the landowner.

**Grant Period:**
January 2011 - December 2012

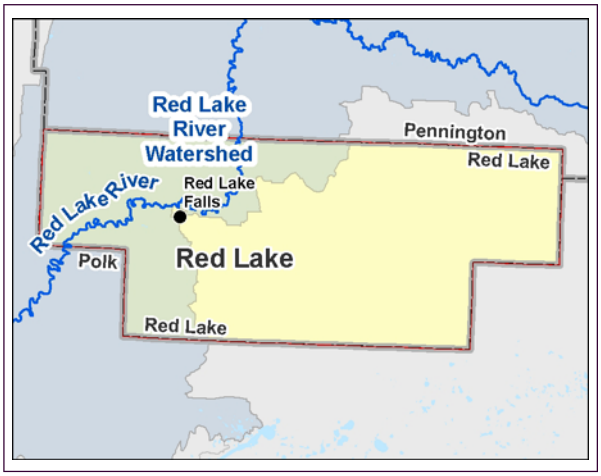
**Project Contact:**
Tanya Hanson
(218) 253-2593
tanya.hanson@mn.nacdnet.net
www.nwmnswcd.org

## Project Narrative

Gullies are a fixture of the landscape. Except for avoiding them during field work they can be ignored for years and the benefits to the landowner of fixing them never seem to outweigh the costs for doing so. It is only when viewed over time that the true impact becomes apparent. Red Lake County SWCD identified these two project locations as high priority due to the large amount of sediment these projects have contributed to the Red Lake River. Those impacts will continue as the erosion accelerates and they become deeper and wider over time. The high sediment loading is affecting water quality, aquatic life, downstream water supply sources, and recreational use of the Red Lake River.

Over time, the volume of soil that has been washed into the river is about 4,000 cubic yards. Imagine a football field piled with 2 feet of soil from sideline to sideline and endzone to endzone. Current estimates are that the annual load of sediment to the river is about 1,100 tons each year from these two locations. Stopping that sediment from reaching the river will protect spawning habitat for fish including Lake Sturgeon, reduce the costs of water filtration for downstream communities and help to solve the water quality impairments caused by turbidity in the Red River Basin.

Clean Water Funds will provide the needed financial assistance and technical expertise that allows the landowners to solve these problem areas and help protect the Red Lake River and benefit a variety of aquatic and economic resources.



# Erosion Control Projects in the Red Lake River Watershed


Accelerated Erosion site contributing to Hill River


Photo of drainage into Hill River


Accelerated runoff site contributing to a county ditch which drains into the Red Lake River