



Runoff Reduction Using Native Grasses



Clean Water Funds: 2010

Clean Water Grant	\$80,553
Leveraged Funds*	\$41,222
Total Project Budget	\$121,775

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:

Sand Creek watershed

Project Sponsor:

Scott Watershed Management Organization

Partners:

Scott Soil & Water Conservation District

Grant Period:

January 2010 - December 2011

Project Contact:

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Project Narrative

Sand Creek and some of its tributaries are impaired for fish IBI and turbidity. Studies by the Scott WMO and its partners, have linked turbidity to inorganic sediment which in turn has been linked to both field erosion and channel instability. Geomorphic studies by the Scott WMO found that channel stability is related to past hydrologic changes and increases in runoff to which channels are now responding. This project addresses turbidity and sediment by targeting select subwatersheds for the conversion of row crops to native grasses. This will eliminate field erosion and increase infiltration to moderate stream flows that have accelerated stream bank erosion.

This project promotes the establishment of natives grasses as an alternative to row crops to reduce runoff. The project will target a minimum of 75 acres. This practice is particularly popular in the rural residential areas of the county where land owners no longer farm themselves. In addition, a grass product can be harvested and sold to the KODA Electric biomass facility in Scott County. Habitat created will complement the natural area corridors approach included in the County's 2030 Comp Plan.

