



Drinking Water Supply Protection for Fergus Falls



Clean Water Funds: 2011

Clean Water Grant	\$65,684
Leveraged Funds*	\$1,789,050
Total Project Budget	\$1,854,734

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:

Otter Tail River, Pelican River

Project Sponsor:

West Otter Tail SWCD

Grant Period:

January 2011 - December 2012

Project Contact:

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Project Narrative

The Otter Tail River serves as the main drinking water supply for the city of Fergus Falls. The community recognizes it as a valuable resource which needs to be protected. The lower reach of the Otter Tail River is listed as being impaired for turbidity(muddiness). The listing fixed awareness and galvanized stakeholders to address sediment and phosphorus loading upstream.

Through this grant from the Clean Water Fund, the West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will inform and engage landowners on the availability and benefits of implementing best management practices (BMPs) such as wetland restorations, buffer strips, rain gardens and sediment basins along the Otter Tail and Pelican Rivers.

Through this active engagement the West Otter Tail SWCD projects outcomes of 1,394 acres of wetland restoration and buffers, 6 sediment basins, 3 shoreland restorations and stabilization projects, 1,400 acres of conservation tillage, 6 grassed waterways and 12 rain gardens resulting in a total reduction of sedimentation by 19,311 tons/yr and phosphorus loading by 19,311 lbs/yr.

