Lower Otter Tail River Sediment Reduction Project Phase IV

Clean Water Funds: 2011

Clean Water Grant	$196,842
Leveraged Funds*	$157,000
Total Project Budget	$353,842

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

Targeted Water:
Otter Tail River

Project Sponsor:
Wilkin SWCD

Partners:
Wilkin County Landowners, Wilkin County Highway Department, Wilkin County Environmental, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Period:
January 2011—December 2012

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Project Narrative

This project consists of retrofitting drainage components in County Ditch 3 (CD3) and coincides with strategies outlined in the MPCA approved TMDL plan for the Lower Otter Tail River. CD3 discharges directly into the Otter Tail River which is an impaired water for the amount of sediment suspended in it (turbidity). The components associated with this retrofit consist of, water control structures, side inlet structures and buffer strips. When installed, these components will control runoff and slowly release water from the landscape into CD3. When runoff is controlled on the landscape it reduces sediment loading to the ditch and receiving waters by allowing displaced sediment to settle out on the landscape rather than into the ditch. Temporarily holding water on the landscape also reduces peak flows (how fast water moves) into the ditch and reduces flooding to downstream landowners.

Actual Outcomes

Sediment negatively affects water quality, wildlife habitat, water quantity management, and magnifies flooding and property damages. When installed, it is estimated that these practices will reduce sediment delivery by 350 tons/year.

Sedimentation and erosion into a county ditch

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The above erosion site after repair