

SECTION 319 NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

WATERSHED FINAL REPORT

**EAST DAKOTA RIPARIAN AREA RESTORATION  
AND PROTECTION PROJECT**

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July 2014

This project was completed in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8.

Grant #9998185-11

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**PROJECT TITLE:** East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project

**PROJECT START DATE:** 15 July, 2011

**PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:** 31 July, 2014

### FUNDING:

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Original Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Expended</u></b>
U.S. EPA Section 319 Grant	\$238,320.00	\$18,410.90
EDWDD	<u>\$160,820.00</u>	<u>\$16,553.52</u>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b><u>\$399,140.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$34,964.42</u></b>

The project goal was to restore and protect the beneficial uses of impaired water bodies within the Minnesota, Big Sioux, and Vermillion River basins in eastern South Dakota by promoting and implementing riparian conservation easements to reduce sediment loading and prevent bacterial contamination. Attaining the goal would reduce the total suspended solids and/or bacteria levels and support TMDLs developed for impaired river segments.

One 13.7 acre conservation easement in Hamlin County was completed through the project. It was estimated through the STEPL Model to have reduced 97 lbs./year of Nitrogen, 25 lbs./year of Phosphorus, and 32 tons/year of Sediment.

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## INTRODUCTION

The East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project was a 2-year TMDL implementation strategy designed to restore and/or maintain water quality in the Minnesota, Big Sioux and Vermillion River basins within the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) in eastern South Dakota. Through the application of best management practices (BMPs) targeting sediment erosion and animal waste management, specifically riparian conservation easements and public education, this project sought to protect and restore the water quality of area water resources. The project attempted to address needs identified in several watershed assessments conducted on water bodies throughout EDWDD. In some instances total maximum daily load (TMDL) reports have been developed. In other cases TMDLs remain in development or have not begun. This proposal was a continuation of efforts to establish riparian conservation easements as part of the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project (Segment 1), which was completed in September 2010. This project was expected to be the first of several successive implementation projects using riparian conservation easements to achieve the ultimate Project goal. Impairments to the beneficial uses of the water bodies within the East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Projects are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Beneficial Use Impairments**

Impaired Water Body	Impaired beneficial use	Cause
Beaver Creek	LCR	FCB
Big Sioux River**	IR, LCR, WWFL	FCB & EC, TSS, DO
Flandreau Creek	LCR	FCB
Hidewood Creek	LCR	FCB
North Deer Creek	LCR	DO
Peg Munky Run	LCR	FCB
Pipestone Creek	IR, LCR	FCB & EC
Six Mile Creek	LCR	FCB
Split Rock Creek	IR, LCR	FCB
Spring Creek	LCR	FCB
Stray Horse Creek	LCR	FCB
East Fork of Vermillion River	LCR	FCB
South Fork Whetstone River	WWFL, LCR	DO
Willow Creek	LCR	FCB

\* - 2010 South Dakota Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment.

\*\* - A composite of several impaired segments.

DO	dissolved oxygen (deficit)	EC	E. coli bacteria (excess)
FCB	fecal coliform bacteria (excess)	IR	immersion recreation
LRC	limited contact recreation	TSS	total suspended solids (excess)
WWFL	warm-water fish life		

In addition to the stream segments specifically noted in Table 1, additional sub-watersheds were found to be contributing impairments to downstream water bodies. In some instances, correction

of problems in areas not technically impaired (due to a lack of a defined beneficial use or uses) may be necessary to meet TMDLs. A list of river and stream segments in the project area which have TMDLs that have been finalized or in development are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2. River segments and streams with total maximum daily load (TMDL) \***

Impaired Water Body	Impairment(s)	Status
Beaver Creek	FCB, TSS	Approved
Big Sioux River - Ortley to Kampeska	DO, EC	Not initiated
Big Sioux River - Kampeska to Willow Ck	FCB	Not initiated
Big Sioux River - Willow Ck to Stray Horse Ck	FCB	Approved
Big Sioux River - Brookings to I-29 development	TSS	In
Big Sioux River - I-29 to Dell Rapids	TSS	Approved
Big Sioux River - Dell Rapids to below Baltic	FCB	Approved
Big Sioux River - Dell Rapids to below Baltic development	EC, TSS	In
Big Sioux River - Below Baltic to Skunk Ck development	EC, FCB, TSS	In
Big Sioux River - Skunk Ck to diversion return development	EC, FCB, TSS	In
Big Sioux River - Diversion return to SF WWTF development	EC, FCB, TSS	In
Big Sioux River - SF WWTF to above Brandon development	EC, FCB, TSS	In
Flandreau Creek	FCB	Approved
Hidewood Creek	FCB	Approved
Jack Moore Creek	FCB	Approved
North Deer Creek	FCB	Approved
Peg Munky Run	FCB	Not initiated
Pipestone Creek	FCB	Approved
Pipestone Creek	EC	Not initiated
Six Mile Creek	FCB	Not initiated
Skunk Creek	FCB	Approved
Split Rock Creek	FCB, TSS	Approved
Spring Creek	FCB	Approved
Stray Horse Creek	FCB	Approved
South Fork of Whetstone River development	DO	In
East Fork of Vermillion River development	EC, FCB	In
West Fork of Vermillion River	EC	Not initiated
Willow Creek	FCB	Approved

\* - SD DENR website (<http://denr.sd.gov/dfta/wp/tmdlpage.aspx>)

DO	dissolved oxygen	EC	E. coli bacteria
FCB	fecal coliform bacteria	TSS	total suspended solids

As noted above, a wide range of waterbodies, covering a substantial geographic area are impaired within the Minnesota River, Big Sioux River and Vermillion River watersheds. The impairments impact the use of the rivers and tributary streams for boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational uses. Further, while the impairments have not yet affected use of the river as a domestic water supply, the current water quality problems may eventually result in an impairment in that regard. As the City of Sioux Falls currently extracts about 65% of its drinking water from the Big Sioux River, correcting these problems will have an impact well beyond the current recreational and aesthetic problems.

Numerous watershed assessment studies in the area have identified several sources for both total suspended solids (TSS) and fecal coliform bacteria that constitute the primary impairments in the area. Excessive total suspended solids, i.e. fine sediment suspended in the waters of the river and its tributaries, are found primarily in the Big Sioux River. Segments not technically exceeding the applicable standard still have levels that contribute to impairments downstream. TSS levels in most tributaries are mostly below impairment standards, suggesting that current land-use practices within these areas need not be altered to reduce sediment loading. The exception is found in southern Minnehaha County, where natural conditions may also be a factor contributing to a TSS problems. Consequently, project activities aimed at sediment reduction will focus on the immediate river corridor and the lower Skunk Creek, Pipestone/Split Rock Creek and Beaver Creek sub-basins. Restoration of riparian buffer zones, in both rural and urban settings, was identified as principle BMPs in all watershed assessments.

Impairments as the result of excess fecal coliform bacteria were encountered throughout the project area, with the highest levels detected in the southern end of the Big Sioux River watershed. The primary source of bacteria is believed to be from domestic livestock, with human and wildlife sources contributing a small portion of the total load encountered. Fecal coliform bacteria levels were analyzed at a variety of river/stream flow conditions in an effort to determine the timing of major loadings. As expected, the most significant loadings were measured during high flow events which were coincident with either major storms or spring snow melt. The bacteria encountered during that time frame were presumed to have been carried into the receiving waters by runoff, most likely from animal feeding operations with limited ability to contain animal wastes and therefore impacted by precipitation. Addressing these particular impairments is beyond the scope of this project, and is being addressed by other efforts.

Elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria were also encountered during periods of low flow, often many weeks after a runoff event. Under these conditions, feedlots would not be expected to contribute, and the source is likely to be animals grazing in, or in close proximity to, the rivers and or tributary streams. To address the bacteria impairments, restricting livestock access to the water bodies through the establishment of riparian buffering is planned.

East Dakota Water Development District started as the sponsor of this Project. Later, it was decided that Northern Prairies Land Trust would be a good fit as the sponsor of the project. Northern Parries Land Trust had been setting up easements in past 319 projects, and was the entity that would oversee the land for the life of any easements. The Project sponsorship transfer was completed May 29, 2012.

## DESCRIPTION AND LAND USE OF PROJECT AREA:

The East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project encompassed the watersheds of the Big Sioux, Minnesota and Vermillion Rivers within EDWDD. EDWDD encompasses all of Brookings, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Minnehaha and Moody Counties, and the eastern half of Miner County.

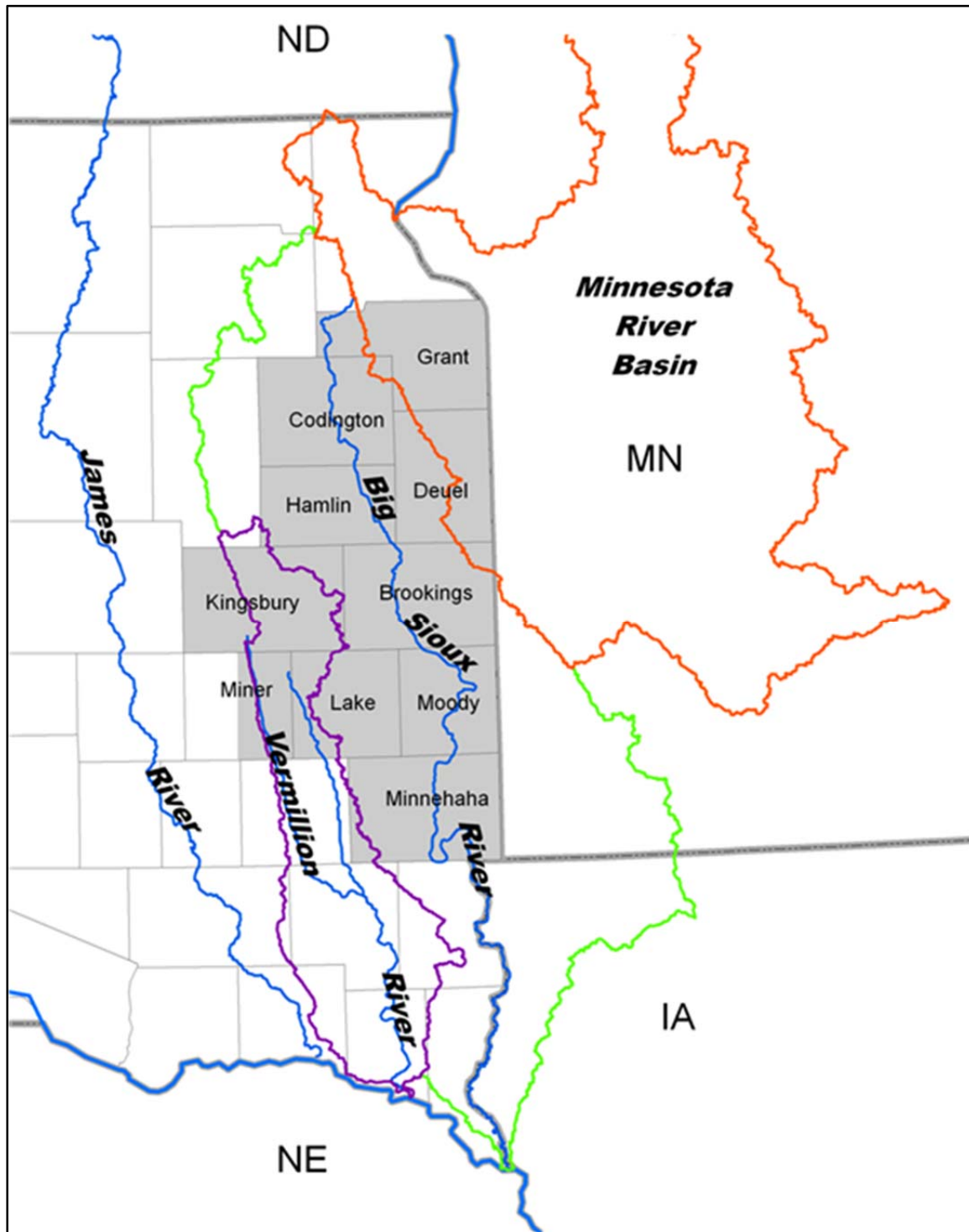


Figure 1. East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project Area.



The surface area of the Central Big Sioux River (BSR) watershed is approximately 1,282,560 acres (519,033 hectares) in size. The BSR and major tributaries are permanent water courses within the project area. There are also numerous intermittent tributaries which carry water only during spring snow melt or rainfall events. The BSR ultimately drains to the Missouri River at Sioux City, Iowa. The river also receives storm sewer discharges or otherwise enhanced runoff from several communities along its course, including the cities of Brookings, Flandreau and Sioux Falls. Sections of the stream have been impacted by channelization (straightening and/or artificial stabilization) and there are numerous road crossings of the river and tributaries.

Many segments of the river do not fully support the designated uses, particularly with regard to limited contact or immersion recreation. The 1998 South Dakota 303(d) Waterbody List, and subsequent versions in 2002 and 2004, identified this portion of the BSR watershed as impaired and a priority for development of TMDL reports. 11 water quality impairments were known at the start of the study, 6 for total suspended solids (TSS) and five for fecal coliform bacteria. With the completion of the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Assessment Project, 13 additional impairments were identified (10 additional segments for fecal coliform bacteria, two for TSS, and one for low dissolved oxygen). A total of 24 separate TMDL reports have been prepared as a result of the assessment project, and they form the basis for the proposed Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project.

## **PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, TASKS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objective 1:** Reduction of sediment and bacterial loadings to impaired river and stream segments within the Project area by restoration of riparian buffer zones.

Task 1: Riparian area restoration in urban and rural settings. Critical reaches of the riparian corridors along the Minnesota, Big Sioux, and Vermillion River watersheds have been lost to municipal, industrial and agricultural development. In many cases, the riparian areas have been completely eliminated. This task will provide BMPs to restore and preserve critical riparian areas through the acquisition of easements in urban and rural areas.

Products:

Permanent or long-term (30-year) easements to be acquired on 170 acres of rural riparian areas along the Minnesota, Big Sioux, and Vermillion Rivers and their tributaries that were identified as priorities in the watershed study.

<b>Milestones:</b>	<b><u>Planned</u></b>	<b><u>Completed</u></b>
Easement (acres)	170	13.7

**Accomplishment:** One perpetual easement covering 13.7 acres was established along the Big Sioux River in Hamlin County. This easement was done in combination with CRP. Some of the areas overlap with the easement and some areas are covered only by the easement. This combination allowed the producer to put the maximum amount of property under an agreement. Figures 2 and 3 displays the area put into the easement along with the CRP areas and pictures of this area.

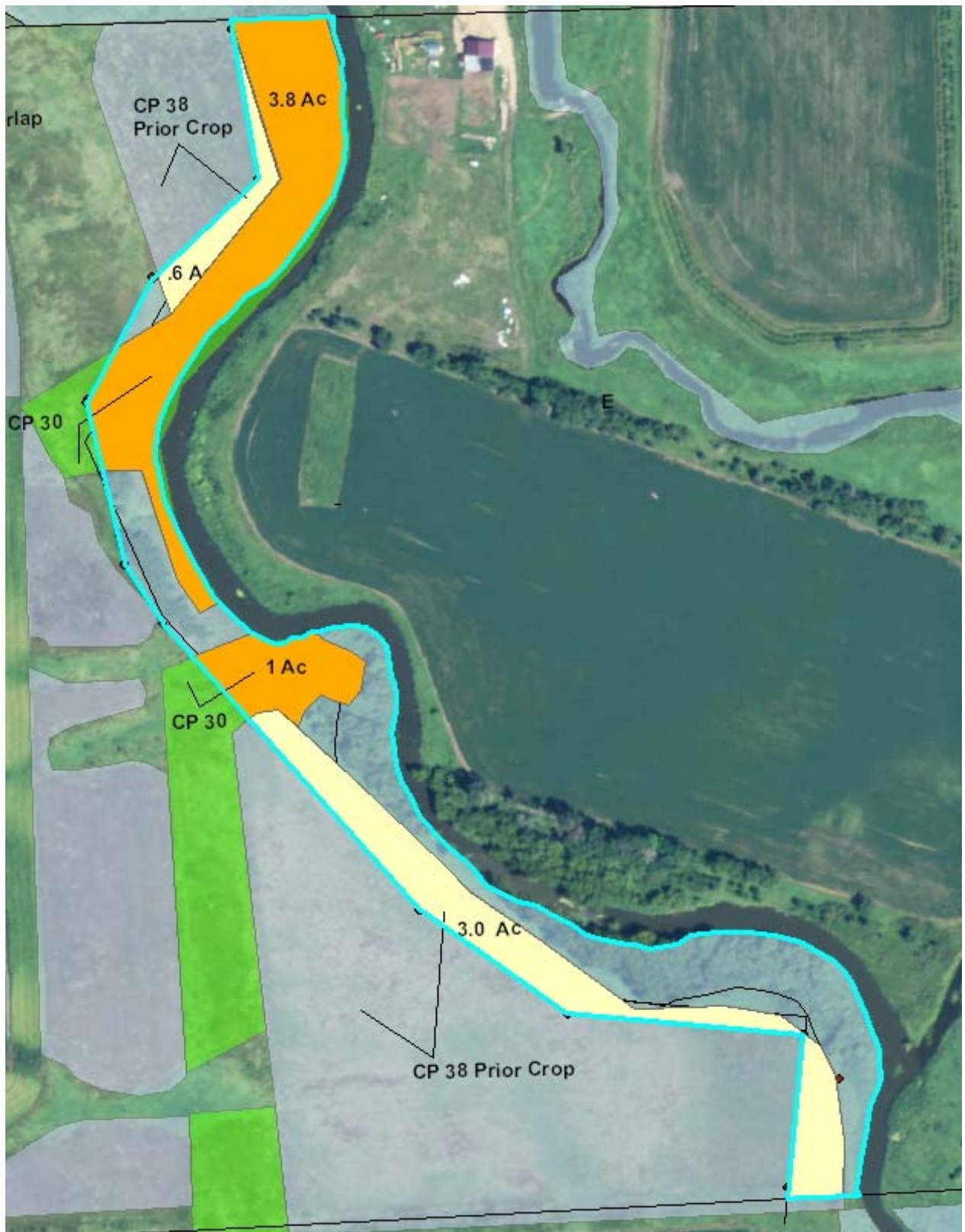


Figure 2. Combined CRP and Perpetual Easement Areas.



Figure 3. Easement Area Photos.

The application and payment rates for easements were revised at the beginning of the project, but based off of the Central Big Sioux Segment 1 easement program. The Big Sioux River Conservation Easement Program Application for Conservation Easement and the adjusted payment rates used for the project can be found in Appendix A.

Numerous contacts were made to implement the goals of the project, but due to high commodity and land prices many land owners were not interested in easements. Some land owners expressed interest in the program, but either their property was not along an impaired or threatened stream segment, or decided not to commit to an easement.

**Objective 2:** Increase public awareness of water quality issues in general, and project activities and results in particular, throughout the project area.

Task 2: Public information and education. Through the services of a professional media consultant, working in concert with the project coordination team, develop and distribute informational materials and news releases on the project.

#### Products

Periodic news releases to major media outlets in project area.  
Field tours of project activities.  
Informational meetings and workshops.  
Public service announcements for distribution on radio, television and the internet.

Milestone: Keep public informed.

**Accomplishment:** Several contacts were made to landowner in the project area to inform them about the project, and how it could work with other programs. Contacts were also made with Conservation Districts so they could inform people of the project while they are working with them on other practices. A presentation was given at the 2013 DENR 319 Coordinators' Workshop in Bismarck, ND, to inform other 319 Projects of what this Project goals were, and how to setup Conservation Easements. Some of the Coordinators that were in attendance at this workshop were in this Project's area.

A web site was maintained by Northern Prairies Land Trust to educate visitors about conservation easements and the project. The link to their website is:  
<http://www.northernprairies.org/>

#### **Objective 3: Reporting**

Task 3: GRTS. Write annual reports to fulfill GRTS reporting requirements to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Accomplishment:** All required GRTS reports were completed for the Project.

**Task 4: Final Report.** Write final report, summarizing the results of the project, and the impact of the BMPs on the water quality within the Project area. Summarize any post-assessment study re-calculations of sediment and fecal coliform loads to the impaired waters and prepare subsequent proposals for continuing implementation of the TMDLs within the Project watersheds.

**Accomplishment:** This report fulfills the reporting requirements of the final report.

## Summary of Project Goals and Objectives

**Table 3: Planned Versus Completed Project Milestones.**

Objectives/Tasks/Products	Milestones	
	Planned	Completed
<b>Objective 1. Riparian Area Protection</b>		
<b>Task 1: Permanent Conservation Easements</b>		
Easements (acres)	210	13.7
<b>Objective 2. Information &amp; Education /Public Participation</b>		
<b>Task 2. Public Outreach</b>		
Informational Meetings and Workshops	1	1
News Releases	2	1
Tour	1	0
Webpage Maintenance	1	1
<b>Objective 3: Reporting</b>		
<b>Task 3&amp;4: GRTS &amp; Final Reports</b>		
Annual Reports	2	2
Final Report	1	1

## MONITORING RESULTS

STEPL was used to evaluate the reduction of TSS and other nutrients from implementation of the easement. These load reductions can be found in Table 4 below. Location of the easement site can be seen in Figure 4 of this report.

**Table 4: Estimated Load Reductions.**

Central Big Sioux River Segment	N (Pounds)/ year	P (Pounds)/ year	Sediment (Tons)/year
Big Sioux 3-Willow Creek to Stray Horse Creek	97	25	32

# Project Riparian Easement Location

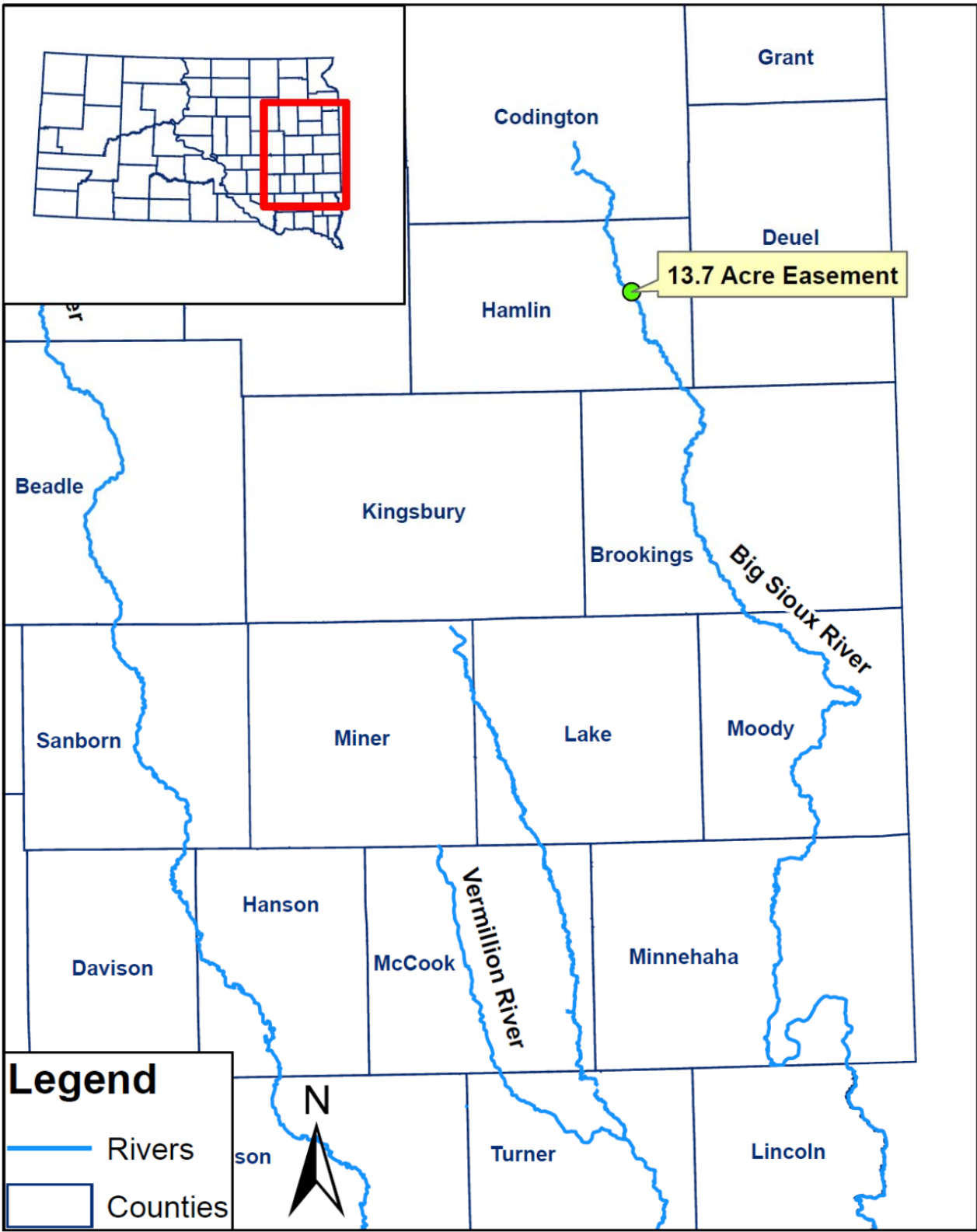


Figure 4: Project BMP Map.

## **COORDINATION EFFORTS**

The East Dakota Water Development District was the lead sponsor of the East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project until it was transferred to Northern Prairies Land Trust. The East Dakota Water Development District and other 319 projects in the area provided input and direction for the project. Federal, state, local agencies and organizations contributed funds, technical services, and cash to accomplish goals of the project (Table 6). The agencies and their roles are summarized below.

### **South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SDDENR) administered the U.S. EPA Section 319 grant and provided oversight of all project activities. Project administration included review of reports and approval of payment requests. Training workshops and meetings were sponsored by the SDDENR to keep the watershed coordinator current with implementation activities and funding procedures. A project officer was appointed to the project to assist in managing funds, setting up and maintaining the Tracker system and reviewing all implementation activities and reporting.

### **United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided technical assistance for the planning, design, and installation of conservation practices. Programs utilized included the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

### **United States Environmental Protection Agency**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provided the Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant which was the primary funding source of the project. EPA officials from the Region 8 office in Denver, Colorado participated in one on-site tour and review of the project.

### **Other 319 Projects**

Other 319 projects were informed of how to use this project. This led to additional contacts that other projects made on behalf of the East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project. Other projects included: Central Big Sioux River Implementation Project, Lake Poinsett Watershed Project, Upper Big Sioux Implementation Project, and Vermillion River Implementation Project.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The public was notified of opportunities to learn about and participate in the project through meetings and other public events.

## **ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT THAT DID NOT WORK WELL**

The project faced high land and commodity prices while trying to sell easements to landowner along the area impaired rivers. Many pieces of land that had not been farmed for years in the area were getting broke up for cropping. This resulted in only one sale of an easement. The project did not reach its goal of installing 210 acres.

## PROJECT BUDGET

**Table 5: East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project Original Budget.**

Activity	Total	319 Grant Share	EDWDD Share
Objective 1/Task 1 - Riparian Area Protection			
Riparian Conservation Easements	\$380,000	\$225,000	\$155,000
Objective 2/Task 2 - Information & Education			
Public outreach & education	\$ 12,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Project Staffing & Administration			
EDWDD Staff	\$ 5,640	\$ 2,820	\$ 2,820
Travel	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 0
Supplies & Materials	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$399,140</b>	<b>\$238,320</b>	<b>\$160,820</b>
<i>Percentage of total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>40</i>

**Table 6: East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project Actual Budget.**

Activity	Total	319 Grant	EDWDD
Objective 1/Task 1 - Riparian Area Protection			
Riparian Conservation Easements	\$ 25,066.50	\$ 15,039.90	\$ 10,026.60
Objective 2/Task 2 - Information & Education			
Public outreach & education	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Project Staffing & Administration			
NPLT Staff	\$ 8,925.00	\$ 2,877.00	\$ 6,048.00
Travel	\$ 791.72	\$ 494.00	\$ 791.72
Supplies & Materials	\$ 181.20	\$ 0.00	\$ 181.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 34,964.42</b>	<b>\$ 18,410.90</b>	<b>\$ 16,553.52</b>
<i>Percentage of total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>47</i>

## FUTURE ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

This project will not be continued due to a lack of interest by landowners in installing easements. Other projects in the area have been successful at selling other riparian area management programs. It is recommended that 319 projects look into those programs (including the Seasonal Riparian Area Management (SRAM) program started by the Central Big Sioux River Implementation Project) for landowners that are interested in removing cattle from riparian areas.



# **Appendix A**

## **Big Sioux River Conservation Easement Program Application for Conservation Easement**

Welcome to the Big Sioux River Conservation Easement Program. We look forward to working with you. Conservation easements under this program are designed to preserve and protect the water quality of the Big Sioux River or one of its tributaries.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this application is to gather information which is necessary to determine the appropriate terms of the proposed conservation easement, including a purchase price. Northern Prairies Land Trust (“Northern Prairies”) may need to contact other sources of information to fully process your Application, as outlined below under Terms of Application.

### **Property Owner(s) Information**

Owner(s) #1 Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Percent of Ownership \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) # 2 Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Percent of Ownership \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) # 3 Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Percent of Ownership \_\_\_\_\_

### **Property Owners’ Legal Representative (if applicable)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### **Property Information**

Legal Description \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
City, County, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Recorded in Deed Book #, and Page # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
Plat or Property ID # or Tax Map # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Lien Information (this information is necessary to process your Application)**

Mortgage Company \_\_\_\_\_

Loan Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code and Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Lien Holders (Please list all)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account #- \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code and Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code and Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Background:** This property is, at some point, adjacent to one or both banks of the Big Sioux River, or a tributary. Payments to the property owner(s) will be made only after a conservation easement has been granted to Northern Prairies under this program. The easement will be filed in the county in which the property is located. Recording an easement under this program will place restrictions on the use of this property, and these restrictions may impact future owners of the property.

**Terms of Application:** The property owner(s) agree/acknowledge that:

1. Northern Prairies will need access to the property for the purpose of completing a site evaluation. Access to the potential easement area may include crossing land that is not part of the anticipated easement, but is still necessary for the site evaluation.
2. Northern Prairies will need to contact the Director of Equalization of your county to obtain your real-estate tax assessment for the property to be placed in the easement.
3. A future purchase price for the conservation easement will be based percentages of the “adjusted assessed land value” or “AALV” of the property. The AALV is calculated through multiplying the current assessed value of the land for real-estate taxation purposes, by a specific county multiplier.
4. The boundaries of the conservation easement will be established after the site evaluation. An aerial map or photograph of the property will be made available to the property owner(s) prior to their decision of finalizing an easement. Generally, the boundaries of the easement will be an agreed-upon distance from the bank(s) of the Big Sioux River, or a tributary.

5. The conservation easement will be either a perpetual or a thirty-year easement.
6. An easement under this program must survive any transfer of title to the property. Consequently, the easement must have priority over any other property interests, such as mortgages and lien holders. As a result, the property owner(s) grants Northern Prairies permission to contact any business or person with a legal interest in the property subject to the easement, and obtain records regarding any such interest.
7. If the property to be covered by the conservation easement is, or will be, under any other conservation or land-use program, property owners grant Northern Prairies permission to contact a representative of that program to discuss the Big Sioux River Conservation Easement Program, and obtain any records associated with the program.
8. Property owners are encouraged to consult with whatever counsel they deem appropriate prior to signing this application.
9. This application does not bind property owners, Northern Prairies, or any other entity to finalize the proposed conservation easement at this time. A specific conservation easement will be negotiated after this application is approved.

Signature of Property Owner # 1 Date	Date	Signature of Property Owner # 2
Signature of Property Owner # 3	Date	

## **General Description of the Proposed Conservation Easement**

This section of the application contains a general description of some of the proposed terms of the conservation easement. The descriptions and terms of this section are not binding at this time, but are intended to inform property owners of the future possibilities.

**Easement Restrictions:** The primary focus of the conservation easement will be to restrict certain land uses that may have an adverse impact upon the water quality of the Big Sioux River, or a tributary. In some cases, it will be necessary for a fence will be placed at the boundary of the easement to restrict these uses.

**Other Organizations:** There may be other organizations or entities involved in planning or financing the proposed conservation easement, and related activities. However, these organizations or entities will not be parties or signatories to the final conservation easement document.

**Long-Term Monitoring:** Northern Prairies will be committed to monitoring and enforcing the terms of the conservation easement for the life of the easement. Consequently, the easement will grant Northern Prairies the right to access both the property subject to the easement and other portions of the property, as may be necessary for monitoring.

**Payment Schedule for Conservation Easements:** Final payments are based on both the length of the easement and whether there are any US Department of Agriculture programs, as shown by the following table:

Duration	Time left on USDA contract (if applicable)	Percentage of AALV
30 year	0	80
30 year	< 5 years	75
30 year	6-10 years	70
30 year	> 10 years	65
perpetual	0	95
perpetual	< 5 years	90
perpetual	6-10 years	85
perpetual	> 10 years	80

**Return Mailing:** When this Application is completed, please return it to:

Northern Prairies Land Trust  
 401 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, #200B  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103-7015.

**Questions:** Please call Northern Prairies Land Trust at (605) 339-3184, or East Dakota Water Development District at (605) 688-6741.

**Thank you** for your interest in the Big Sioux River Conservation Easement Program.

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Wetlands Reserve  
Program (WRP) Geographic Area Rate Caps  
(GARC)**

	<b>Cropland</b>	<b>Noncropland</b>
Clay, Lincoln, Turner, Union	\$3,936	\$1,856
Bon Homme, Hutchinson, Yankton	\$2,559	\$1,599
Charles Mix, Douglas	\$2,066	\$1,134
Minnehaha, Moody	\$4,516	\$2,158
Brookings, Lake, McCook	\$3,084	\$1,428
Sanborn, Davison, Hanson, Kingsbury, Miner	\$2,579	\$1,442
Codington, Deuel, Hamlin	\$2,816	\$1,269
Grant, Roberts	\$2,313	\$1,021
Clark, Day, Marshall	\$2,040	\$974
Brown, Spink	\$2,218	\$1,068
Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson	\$1,434	\$710
Campbell, Potter, Walworth	\$1,810	\$813
Aurora, Beadle, Jerauld	\$1,766	\$1,079
Buffalo, Brule, Hand, Hyde	\$2,225	\$1,034
Hughes, Sully	\$2,135	\$948
Bennett, Gregory, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Todd, Tripp	\$1,234	\$547
Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Pennington, Shannon, Stanley	\$576	\$405
Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach	\$470	\$326