

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Version 7/03

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		2. DATE SUBMITTED March 7, 2006		Applicant Identifier																						
		3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE		State Application Identifier																						
		4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY		Federal Identifier																						
5. APPLICANT INFORMATION																										
Legal Name: Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership			Organizational Unit: Department:																							
Organizational DUNS: 46-0307933			Division:																							
Address: Street: 1837 5th Avenue South			Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code) Prefix: Mr. First Name: Tim																							
City: Belle Fourche			Middle Name																							
County: Butte County			Last Name Reich																							
State: SD		Zip Code 57717		Suffix:																						
Country: USA			Email: timreich@rushmore.com																							
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 46-0307933			Phone Number (give area code) 605.892.9366		Fax Number (give area code) 605.892.6189																					
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) (See back of form for description of letters.)			7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (See back of form for Application Types) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) Not For Profit Organization																							
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: TITLE (Name of Program): Cooperative Conservation Partnership			9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS																							
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): Meade, Lawrence, and Butte Counties, states of South Dakota and Wyoming			11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Belle Fourche River Watershed Rapid Watershed Assessment																							
13. PROPOSED PROJECT Start Date: July 2006 Ending Date: January 2008			14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: a. Applicant South Dakota b. Project South Dakota																							
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>a. Federal</td> <td>\$</td> <td>150,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Applicant</td> <td>\$</td> <td>10,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. State</td> <td>\$</td> <td>.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Local</td> <td>\$</td> <td>140,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. Other</td> <td>\$</td> <td>.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. Program Income</td> <td>\$</td> <td>.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. TOTAL</td> <td>\$</td> <td>300,000.00</td> </tr> </table>			a. Federal	\$	150,000.00	b. Applicant	\$	10,000.00	c. State	\$.00	d. Local	\$	140,000.00	e. Other	\$.00	f. Program Income	\$.00	g. TOTAL	\$	300,000.00	16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS? a. Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE: b. No. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372 <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW		
a. Federal	\$	150,000.00																								
b. Applicant	\$	10,000.00																								
c. State	\$.00																								
d. Local	\$	140,000.00																								
e. Other	\$.00																								
f. Program Income	\$.00																								
g. TOTAL	\$	300,000.00																								
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.			17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes" attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No																							
a. Authorized Representative																										
Prefix Mr.		First Name Tim		Middle Name																						
Last Name Reich		Suffix		c. Telephone Number (give area code) 605.892.9366																						
b. Title <i>Chris B. Flew</i>		e. Date Signed		March 6, 2006																						
d. Signature of Authorized Representative <i>[Signature]</i>																										

1.0 PROJECT ABSTRACT

1.1 TITLE. Belle Fourche River Watershed Rapid Watershed Assessment Initiative is the title of the project.

1.2 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE. The overall project goal is to bring Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek in compliance with total suspended solids (TSS) standards by implementing the recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs) by 2014 and implementing additional BMP recommendations from other in-progress Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) studies for waterbodies within the watershed as they become available. These waterbodies include Whitewood Creek and Bear Butte Creek listed for TSS, fecal coliform, and temperature.

1.3 WATERSHEDS. The project encompasses approximately 4 million acres and includes Hydraulic Units 10120201, 10120202, and 10120203. This planning effort will lead to the implementation of BMPs to improve water quality for nine stream segments listed by South Dakota as impaired. Many of the BMPs will also improve wildlife habitat.

1.4 SUMMARY OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED. The first step in the development of a Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA) is compiling the best available data to characterize the physical, biological, and sociological watershed resources. Publicly available data from observation networks, satellite-based sensors, global-scale modeling efforts, and digitized paper maps that provide a baseline of information for assessment of watersheds at the 8-digit hydrologic unit (HUC) level will be accessed. The spatial and temporal data will be imported into the ArcGIS Hydro data model where Geographic Information System (GIS) functionality will be used to develop the RWA watershed profile.

1.5 STATE CONSERVATIONIST. The State Conservationist cooperating on the project is Ms. Janet Oertly.

1.6 PROJECT PARTNERS. The project partners include the Butte County Conservation District, Belle Fourche Irrigation District (BFID), Elk Creek Conservation District, Crook County Conservation District, Lawrence County Conservation District, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BoR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The partners currently work together through the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership (BFRWP).

1.7 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS INVOLVED. In 2005, more than 20 individuals, as well as the BFID, were actively implementing BMPs within the watershed. The total value of this effort was greater than \$1.2 million. The 10-year plan estimates a completion date of 2014, and 2005 was the second year of the 10-year plan.

1.8 DURATION. The BFRWP anticipates an 18-month schedule for the planning grant (July 2006–January 2008) and the implementation will occur starting within the same 18-month period and continue for 1–3 years (July 2007–July 2010).

1.9 TOTAL COST. The grant funds request for this effort is \$150,000. BFRWP estimates the total cost of the 18-month planning to be greater than \$300,000 and BFRWP anticipates a similar level of individual participation as in the Year 2005.

1.10 TOTAL ANTICIPATED FUNDING NEED. The implementation funds needed to install practices/complete activities identified by this planning grant are estimated to be \$2 million.

1.11 PROJECT DIRECTOR. The project director is Tim Reich, President, Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership, c/o Butte Conservation District, 1837 5th Avenue South, Belle Fourche, SD, 57717, e-mail <*timreich@rushmore.com*>.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND. The BFRWP developed and implemented an assessment project to determine the TMDL for the Belle Fourche River. The project started during April 2001. The Belle Fourche River is identified in the 1998 and 2002 South Dakota 303(d) Waterbody Lists and the 2004 Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment as impaired due to elevated TSS concentrations. The draft TMDL was completed during 2003. The TMDL report includes two waterbodies: the Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek. Additional TMDL studies are in the approval process within the watershed, including Whitewood Creek and Bear Butte Creek listed for TSS, fecal coliform, and temperature.

Implementation of the BMPs recommended in the Belle Fourche River TMDL began during 2004. Two segments of the project have been implemented over the last 2 years for a total project value of \$1.5 million. Both segments were completed on schedule and within budget. The BFRWP has applied for funding for a third segment and expects approval in June 2006. Additional information on these activities can be retrieved from the project Web site www.bellefourchewatershed.org.

2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES. The overall project goal is to bring Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek in compliance with TSS standards by implementing the recommended BMPs by 2014 and implementing additional BMP recommendations from other in-progress studies for waterbodies within the watershed as they become available. These include Whitewood Creek and Bear Butte Creek listed for TSS, fecal coliform, and temperature. The project plan is consistent with the conservation priorities as outlined in Table 1.

2.3 PROJECT METHODS. The first step in the development of a RWA is compiling the best readily available data that provide a physical, biological, and sociological characterization

Table 1. Rapid Watershed Assessment Thematic Layers and Sources (Page 1 of 2)

Data Layer	Description	Source Name	Source/Link
Streams/ Waterbodies	Hydrography layers	National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)	http://nhd.usgs.gov/data.html
Hydrologic Points	Locations of Unites States Geological Survey (USGS) gages, dams\weirs, water quality stations, meteorological gages	NHD	http://nhd.usgs.gov/data.html
Drainage Areas	Different levels of drainage area delineations	NHD Elevation Derivatives for National Applications (EDNA)	http://nhd.usgs.gov/data.html http://edna.usgs.gov/
Surface Terrain	Layers that represent the surface terrain and derived metrics; e.g., slope, flow direction	National Elevation Dataset (NED) EDNA	http://seamless.usgs.gov/ http://edna.usgs.gov/
Physical Features	Layers representing physical features such as soils, land use, geology, Rosgen Map, land capability	National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) Statsgo – State Soil Database (1:250,000 scale) Ssurgo – County Soil Database NRCS Land Capability	http://seamless.usgs.gov/ http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/stat_data.html http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/ssur_data.html http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/
Remote Sensing & Orthophotos	Aerial photographs and satellite collections	TerraServer Orthophotos USGS Orthophotos and Remote sensing data	http://terraserver.microsoft.com/ http://seamless.usgs.gov/ and http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/
Climate	Climate maps for annual average precipitation and temperature	Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM)	http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/climate/docs/overview.html

Table 1. Rapid Watershed Assessment Thematic Layers and Sources (Page 2 of 2)

Data Layer	Description	Source Name	Source/Link
Census Data	U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000 data	Census 2000 TIGER/Line Data	http://www.esri.com/data/download/census2000_tigerline/
Carbon Dynamics	Carbon Dynamics	CENTURY model results for short-term soil organic carbon (SOC) changes	www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/century/nrel1.htm

of watershed resources. There is a wealth of publicly available data from observation networks, satellite-based sensors, global-scale modeling efforts, and digitized paper maps that provide an excellent baseline of information for assessment of watersheds at the 8-digit HUC level. This data will be integrated into a common geospatial-temporal framework, or a “digital watershed.” A digital watershed is a synthesis of hydrologic observation data, geospatial data, remote-sensing data, and weather and climate data into a connected database for a hydrologic region. The digital watershed is developed within a GIS.

The water resources data model selected for use in this project is the ArcGIS Hydro data model or ArcHydro. ArcHydro:

- was developed by the GIS in Water Resources Consortium
- is the geospatial-temporal framework that operates within ArcGIS and provides a systematic and efficient mechanism for storing the geospatial and temporal data required to construct a digital watershed
- is an object-oriented database design with over 20 spatial and nonspatial object classes ranging from watersheds to monitoring points with time-series records.

The data are contained in a single repository referred to as a geodatabase stored in Microsoft Access. Figure 1 presents a simplified schematic of the data model. Microsoft Access provides

additional functionality to customize reports and perform analysis via Microsoft Excel. Thus developing the RWA database within the ArcHydro data model would provide an extremely structured and efficient mechanism for performing the assessment. The ArcHydro data model is scalable and allows detail to be implemented at varying degrees to meet diverse watershed assessment objectives. These objectives can range from simply storing watershed-related data to being a front end for complex simulation models. The approach for the RWA is to initially populate the data model with the pertinent layers and time-series data to meet the RWA objectives; then, as area stakeholders require additional information during the detailed watershed planning effort, the model can be updated with additional information.

RSI-996-06-006

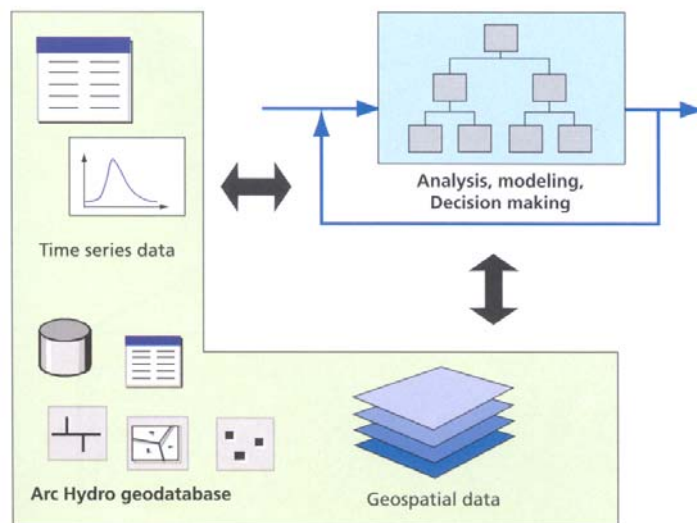


Figure 1. Schematic of Data Model.

The thematic layers will be acquired to develop the RWA watershed profile. The following is a list of various tasks that are expected to be performed. These tasks will result in a series of tables and maps to include in the RWA profile.

- Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) characterization to include an analysis of the irrigated lands and land capability classification; e.g., future land use. The LULC characterization may focus on subregions of the watershed; e.g., recharge zones, along the stream corridor.
- Physiographic characterization of the area using readily available topographic and geologic information along with tools within the GIS system.
- Summary statistics on anthropogenic activities occurring in the watershed; e.g., confined feeding operations, point source discharges, fertilizer application rates, BMP implementations.
- Analysis of the stream and waterbody network; e.g., total miles of streams, total miles of 303d/TMDL listed streams.
- GIS-based analysis of the erosion potential within the watershed based on the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE).
- Analyze the U.S. Bureau of the Census data to determine social and economic metrics.
- Incorporate results from the CENTURY biogeochemical model to provide site-specific estimates of short-term soil organic carbon (SOC) changes due to changes in management. Research will be conducted by Department of Atmospheric Sciences, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T).

The time-series data will be acquired to perform basic water quantity and quality interpolations and integrations both spatially and temporally; e.g., the average monthly stream flow or runoff above a United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream flow gage. These data will include flow and water-quality data readily available from the USGS, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SD DENR; irrigation and cropping practice information from the local

conservation districts; and climate data available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Climate Data Center (NCDC). Additional efforts will be made to perform more rigorous spatial statistics on these data within the GIS framework; e.g., correlating water-quality impairment to upslope land use. This type of analysis will assist in tying impairments/concerns to a likely source.

For the RWA, the approach will be to create a model of the geoprocessing work flow by stringing processes together within Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.'s (ESRI) Model Builder interface. The model can then be run with a single click and can be altered to use different input data or other parameter values and then reexecuted to produce alternate outcomes. The model is self documenting and allows additional documentation and metadata to be encapsulated into the model by the developer. This will create a set of reusable and documented tools that can be rerun for alternate scenarios, assumptions, or locations to develop alternate outcomes and/or assessments.

Since the data are housed within a single Microsoft Access database, further automation capabilities will be developed and documented through the use of queries, forms, and reports within the Access database to generate additional summaries for the RWA. The results of this effort, along with the data and GIS layers, will be posted on the BFRWP Web site.

2.4 SCOPE. The Belle Fourche River is a tributary to the Cheyenne River. Within the Belle Fourche River Watershed are nine stream segments on the South Dakota 2004 Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment list as impairment-related TMDL waters. These include Whitewood Creek (two listings), Strawberry Creek, Horse Creek, and Belle Fourche River (five segments).

The surface area watershed encompasses approximately 4,614,400 acres and includes Hydraulic Units 10120201, 10120202, and 10120203. The location of the Belle Fourche River Watershed is shown in Figure 2.

RSI-996-06-004

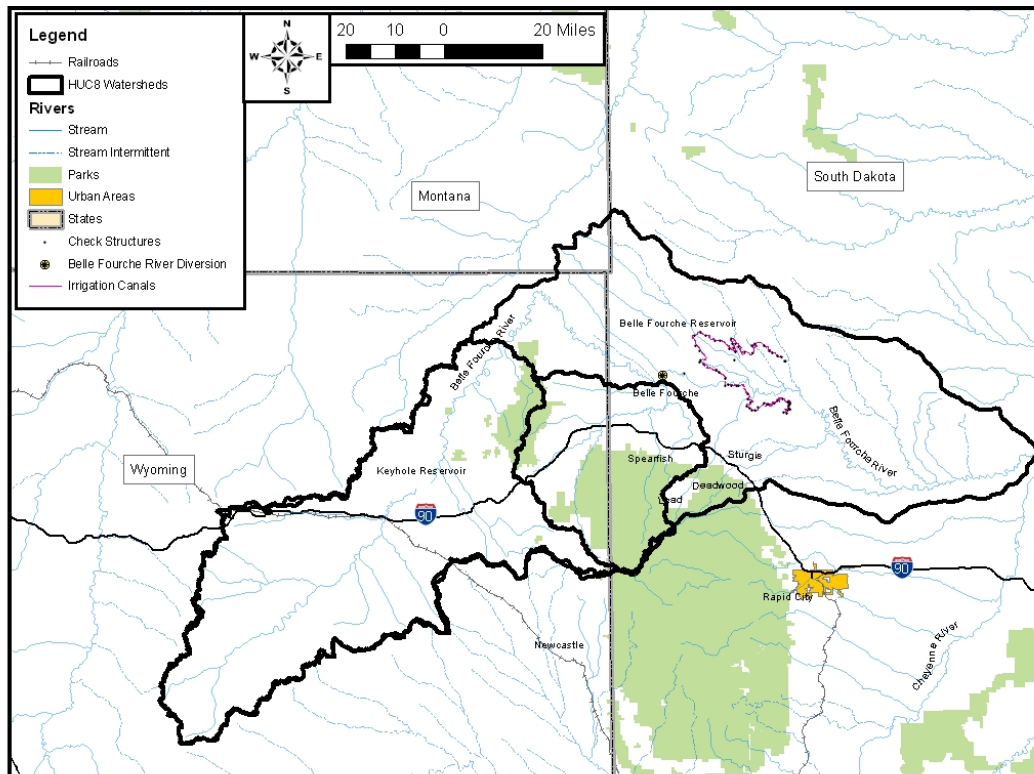


Figure 2. Location of the Belle Fourche River Watershed.

2.5 PROJECT PARTNERSHIP. The BFRWP has been working together for over 6 years. The Partnership has completed monitoring and evaluation work and has submitted a TMDL study for approval. Some of the BMPs recommended in the TMDL have been implemented. Implementation to date has involved over 20 individual producers, and the education and outreach effort has reached over 100 producers. The planning portion and additional outreach activities funded by this proposal will strengthen the ongoing efforts and support requests for additional implementation funding. Outreach activities include semiannual workshops, booths at fairs and shows, activities such as the hay day project, and a project Web site visit

www.bellefourchewatershed.org> for more detail. Most of these activities are planned and implemented by the local conservation districts. The following groups/agencies have been participating and will continue to participate in the Belle Fourche River Watershed implementation project:

Butte County Conservation District–BFRWP voting member.

Belle Fourche Irrigation District (BFID)–BFRWP voting member.

Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership (BFRWP)–local project sponsor.

Elk Creek Conservation District–BFRWP voting member.

Lawrence County Conservation District–BFRWP voting member.

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR)–participation in BFRWP.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (SD GF&P)–Whitewood Creek Compensation Plan.

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T)–participant in BFRWP.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BoR)–active participation in BFRWP.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)–provides 319 and 106 funding.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)–participant in BFRWP, the field work, technical and financial support.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)–participant in BFRWP, technical and financial support.

U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)–field work and river basin study.

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WY DEQ)–local support.

2.6 PROJECT MILESTONES AND TIMELINE. Figure 3 illustrates the project milestones and timeline.

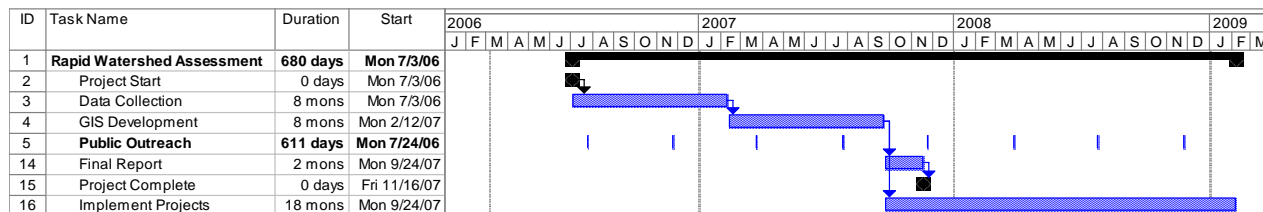


Figure 3. Project Milestones and Timeline.

2.7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT. The project will be managed by the BFRWP. The four voting Board of Directors include Meade County, Lawrence County, Elk Creek Conservation District, and the BFID. This group has six meetings per year. Administrative support is provided by the conservation districts such as accounts receivable and accounts payable. The President of the BFRWP is Mr. Tim Reich. Mr. Reich has served for a number of years as Second and First President of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Technical support for this project is provided by consultants and the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSM&T). Mr. Rod Baumberger, Dr. Scott Kenner, Dr. Dan Hoyer, and master-level students from SDSM&T are currently involved. Dr. Kenner and Dr. Hoyer have been providing the technical leadership for this project since 2000. Mr. Baumberger is an independent rangelands consultant. He is a past NRCS District Conservationist in Haakon and Meade Counties, Assistant State Conservationist for western South Dakota, and National Director for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI). He currently represents the Soil and Water Conservation Society on the national GLCI Board of Directors.

2.8 ANTICIPATED RESULTS AND BENEFITS. The project will result in detailed implementation plans and funding proposals to improve 9,000 acres of riparian area. TSS concentration reductions were estimated in the 10-year plan. Implementation should reduce the TSS concentration by 10 mg/l. The total reduction required is approximately 110 mg/l.

In addition, SD DENR Surface Water Quality Program has 21 monitoring stations within the watershed. Comparisons over time will be performed using applicable sites to measure the large-scale changes in water quality.

2.9 LIMITED RESOURCE. Within the BFRWP is consensus that many of the producers are about to retire and we will have a significant number of limited resource and beginning farmers.

There is pressure within the watershed to divide the farms in smaller parcels and develop into hobby-type farms. The RWA will develop a special layer showing the census data such as per capita income, full-time and part-time operators, and trends in size of farms and ranches. This data will be used to prioritize areas to focus our planning and implementation resources.

3.0 BUDGET INFORMATION

The BFRWP has a number of planned projects. Table 2 is presented to show how a portion of approximately \$2,800,000 is split between the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and the CCPI-Rapid Watershed Assessment (CCPI-RWA) proposals. Both projects can be pursued separately. However, the synergistic effects of pursuing both projects simultaneously should be significant. The CCPI-RWA project would help focus the CCPI effort on the individual producers that would result in the largest impacts for the resources applied.

Table 2. Natural Resource and Implementation Planning (Page 1 of 2)

	CCPI	MATCH
CCPI	200,000	
EPA (319)		135,000
Producer (In-Kind)		65,000
Total CCPI	200,000	200,000
CCPI-RWA	150,000	
Other Federal In-Kind Match		100,000
Conservation Commission/SD GFP		40,000
Producer (In-Kind)		10,000
Total CCPI-RWA	150,000	150,000
Other Implementation Funds 2006–2007		
	Federal	Other
EPA (319)	455,000	
USFWS	100,000	
Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program (FSA CRP)	195,000	
NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	104,000	

Table 2. Natural Resource and Implementation Planning (Page 2 of 2)

	Federal	Other
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	421,000	
Producer (In-Kind)		515,000
Whitewood Creek Compensation Fund		300,000
Conservation Commission		82,000
Total Other Implementation Fund	1,275,000	897,000

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No. 0348-0044

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1.		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES					
6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
b. Fringe Benefits					
c. Travel					
d. Equipment					
e. Supplies					
f. Contractual					
g. Construction					
h. Other					
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)					
j. Indirect Charges					
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
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Authorized for Local Reproduction

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8.	\$	\$	\$	\$
9.				
10.				
11.				
12. TOTAL <i>(sum of lines 8-11)</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
14. Non-Federal					
15. TOTAL <i>(sum of lines 13 and 14)</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)			
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16.	\$	\$	\$	\$
17.				
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL <i>(sum of lines 16-19)</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges:	22. Indirect Charges:
23. Remarks:	

4.0 DUNS NUMBER

The Duns number is 46-0307933.

5.0 CCR DATABASE REGISTRATION

The CCR database registration is in process. We anticipate the registration to be completed shortly.

6.0 LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The letters of support for this project are attached.

February 24, 2006

Ms. Janet Oertly
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Building Room 203
200 Fourth Street S.W.
Huron, SD 57350

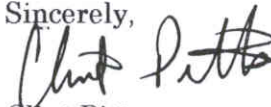
Dear Ms. Oertly:

The Belle Fourche Irrigation District (BFID) supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Rapid Watershed Assessment, sponsored by the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership. The long-term goal of the project is to bring the Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek into compliance for total suspended solids (TSS) within 10 years. The watershed is large, encompassing over 4.6 million acres. Future work will incorporate the soon-to-be-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for Whitewood Creek.

The BFID plans to invest approximately \$300,000 of cash and in-kind match over the next 2 years. The result of this effort is expected to reduce the amount of nonused irrigation water discharged to the surrounding waterways. The work includes installing flow automation units, further development and implementation of an upgraded water card system, lining open canals and laterals, replacing open canals and laterals with pipeline, and construction of a nonused water storage pond. This effort is expected to reduce TSS concentration thereby improving fish habitat.

We fully support efforts such as this watershed project to help conserve our water resources in South Dakota and to provide producers with viable economic, environmental, and socially accepted resource solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint Pitts", written over the printed name.

Clint Pitts
Manager, BFID

CP:llf

Enclosure

February 22, 2006

Ms. Janet Oertly
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Building Room 203
200 Fourth Street S.W.
Huron, SD 57350

Dear Ms. Oertly:

The Lawrence County Conservation District supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Rapid Watershed Assessment, sponsored by the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership (BFRWP). The long-term goal of the project is to bring the Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek into compliance for total suspended solids (TSS) within 10 years. The watershed is large, encompassing over 4.6 million acres. Future work will incorporate the soon-to-be-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for Whitewood Creek and Bear Butte Creek.

The Lawrence County Conservation District is providing support to the project by investing in water quality monitoring and providing time, input, and expertise to the BFRWP. I am the treasurer for the BFRWP. The result of this effort is expected to reduce the amount of nonused irrigation water discharged to the surrounding waterways as well as improve riparian vegetation.

We fully support efforts such as this watershed project to help conserve our water resources in South Dakota and to provide producers with viable economic, environmental, and socially accepted resource solutions.

Sincerely,


Karl F. Jensen

KJ:llf

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

PMB 2020
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
www.state.sd.us/denr

February 24, 2006

Ms. Janet Oertly
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Building Room 203
200 Fourth Street S.W.
Huron, SD 57350

Dear Ms. Oertly:

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR) supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Rapid Watershed Assessment Initiative, sponsored by the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership. The long-term goal of the project is to bring the Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek into compliance for total suspended solids (TSS) within 10 years. The watershed is large, encompassing over 4.6 million acres. Future work will incorporate the soon-to-be-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for Whitewood Creek and Bear Butte Creek.

SD DENR administers the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 program in South Dakota. To date, \$1,897,800 in § 319 grant funds have been awarded to the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership for the planning and installation of nonpoint source best management practices. The goal of this project is to reduce the amount of nonused irrigation water discharged to the surrounding waterways as well as improve riparian vegetation. This effort is expected to reduce TSS concentration thereby improving water quality to meet its designated beneficial use.

We fully support efforts such as this watershed project to help conserve our water resources in South Dakota and to provide producers with viable economic, environmental, and socially accepted resource solutions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dennis Clarke
Environmental Senior Scientist

DC:llf



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery
423 Hatchery Circle
Spearfish, SD 57783-2643
Phone: 605-642-7730

March 1, 2006

Ms. Janet Oertly
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Building Room 203
200 Fourth Street S.W.
Huron, SD 57350

Dear Ms. Oertly:

The U.S. Fish Wildlife Service (USFWS) supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Rapid Watershed Assessment, sponsored by the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership. The long-term goal of the project is to bring the Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek into compliance for total suspended solids (TSS) within 10 years. The watershed is large, encompassing over 4.6 million acres. Future work will incorporate the soon-to-be-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for Whitewood Creek.

The USFWS through its Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and/or its other partners will provide approximately \$100,000 in the watershed to improve upland, wetland and riparian habitat. This effort is expected to improve water quality in the Belle Fourche River by reducing total suspended solids (TSS).

We fully support efforts such as this watershed project to help conserve our water resources in South Dakota and to provide producers with viable economic, environmental, and socially accepted resource solutions.

Sincerely,

Steve Fairbairn
Private Lands Wildlife Biologist

SF:llf

Enclosure



IN REPLY REFER TO:

DK-700R

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Dakotas Area Office

Rapid City Field Office

515 9th St., Room 101

Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

MAR - 6 2006



Ms. Janet Oertly
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Building Room 203
200 Fourth Street S.W.
Huron, SD 57350

Subject: Belle Fourche River Watershed Assessment, Belle Fourche Unit, South Dakota

Dear Ms. Oertly:

The Bureau of Reclamation supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Rapid Watershed Assessment sponsored by the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership. The long-term goal of the project is to bring the Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek into compliance for total suspended solids (TSS) within 10 years. The watershed is large, encompassing over 4.6 million acres. Future work will incorporate the soon-to-be-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for Whitewood Creek and Bear Butte Creek.

Reclamation has a cooperative agreement with the Belle Fourche Irrigation District to cost-share water conservation improvements on the Belle Fourche Project. Reclamation's Conservation Field Services program has funded this agreement approximately \$80,000 annually. As a result of these efforts, irrigation water is conserved and the amount of return flow or waste irrigation water discharged to the surrounding waterways is reduced, which should help improve water quality and fish habitat by lowering the TSS concentrations.

We fully support efforts such as this watershed project to help conserve our water resources in South Dakota and to provide producers with viable economic, environmental, and socially accepted resource solutions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Nettleton

Rapid City Field Office Manager

cc: Mr. Clint Pitts
Manager
Belle Fourche Irrigation District
P.O. Box 225
Newell, SD 57760

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Approval No. 0348-0040

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

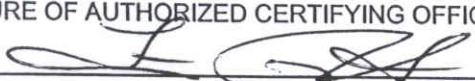


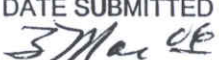
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Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

Tracking Number:

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis- Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327- 333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93- 205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

* SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	* TITLE 
* APPLICANT ORGANIZATION 	* DATE SUBMITTED 

Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97) Back