

**COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION
PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE
FISCAL YEAR 2009**

RSI/P-2557

Submitted to

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Building Room 203
200 Fourth Street SW
Huron, South Dakota 57350

Submitted by

Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership
1839 5th Avenue
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717

April 2009



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1.0 PARTNERSHIP HISTORY

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP'S HISTORY OF WORKING WITH PRODUCERS TO ADDRESS THE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

The Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership (BFRWP) is submitting this comprehensive soil- and water-quality best management practices (BMPs) implementation project proposal. The BFRWP was formed in response to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessment completed in the South Dakota portion of the Belle Fourche River. The organization is committed to the long-term health of the natural resources within the watersheds.

The BFRWP developed and implemented an assessment project to determine the TMDL for the Belle Fourche River. The project started in April 2001. The purpose of the assessment was to: (1) assess the current physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Belle Fourche River and its tributaries; (2) determine the sources of total suspended solids (TSS) in the Belle Fourche River Watershed; and (3) define management prescriptions for identified nonpoint source critical areas in the watershed. The draft TMDL was completed in 2003 and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2005. The TMDL report includes two waterbodies, the Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek. The TMDL approved by EPA addresses a cluster of TMDLs.

The Belle Fourche River is identified in the 1998 and 2002 *South Dakota 303(d) Waterbody Lists* and the 2004 and 2006 *Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment (IR)* as impaired because of elevated TSS concentrations. According to the 2006 IR, the Belle Fourche River from the Wyoming border to the Cheyenne River, South Dakota, failed to support its assigned uses because of high TSS concentrations. In the report, agricultural activities were listed as a likely source of occasional impairment. This report also states that a natural source of TSS may be the erosion of exposed shale beds that lie along the river and its tributaries. The 2008 IR shows all segments of the Belle Fourche River, with the exception of one, were delisted after water-quality standards for TSS were met.

Horse Creek was listed in the 1998 impaired waterbody list for total dissolved solids (TDS) that was later determined to be a listing error. The Horse Creek listing was corrected to conductivity during 2002. During this assessment, approximately 10 percent of the samples collected from Horse Creek exceeded the water-quality standard for TSS. The 2008 IR lists Horse Creek as nonsupporting for conductivity and delisted for TSS. The TMDL report for Horse Creek includes both TSS and conductivity.

Implementation of the BMPs recommended in the Belle Fourche River TMDL began in 2004. The first year of implementation included funding from local ranchers and farmers, BFRWP,

Lawrence County, Belle Fourche Irrigation District (BFID), Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WY DEQ), National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Two products of the project were the *Ten-Year Belle Fourche River Watershed Strategic Implementation Plan* (10-Year Plan) and the *Belle Fourche Irrigation District Water Conservation Plan* (5-Year Plan). These two plans outline the work that will be completed in the watershed during the next several years to meet the TMDLs. In the reports, the associated TSS and nonused water savings are presented for each BMP planned.

The BFRWP is about to enter its fourth funding segment of implementation. Tables 1-1 and 1-2 outline the amount of BMPs implemented as of October 2008 and the number planned to be installed from the 10-Year Plan. Segment I and Segment II were completed on schedule and within budget. Segment III is on schedule for completion in June 2009 and within budget.

Table 1-1. Best Management Practices Installed and Scheduled Above the Belle Fourche Reservoir

BMP	Amount Implemented October 08	Amount Scheduled From 10-Year Plan
Flow Automation Units (Gates)	2	2
Upgraded Water Card and Water Order System	Phase III	Three Phases
Portable Stage/Flow Measuring Devices	0	3
Real-Time Stage/Flow Measuring Devices	1	3
Alternative Keyhole Water Delivery Study	0	1
Alternative Keyhole Water Supply Method	0	1
Nonused Water Storage Pond	0	1
Inlet Canal Lining	5,960	10,560
Pipeline Projects Delivering Water to Fields	6,532	500
Irrigation Sprinkler Systems	4	2
Scheduling of Irrigation Water	1	1
Managed Riparian Grazing	13,033	14,750
Public Meetings	24	40
Project Tours	6	8

Table 1-2. Best Management Practices Installed and Scheduled Below the Belle Fourche Reservoir

BMP	Amount Implemented October 2008	Amount Scheduled From 10-Year Plan
Flow Automation Units (Gates)	25	40
Upgraded Water Card and Water Order System	Phase III	Three Phases
Portable Stage/Flow Measuring Devices	6	12
Real-Time Stage/Flow Measuring Devices	8	12
Line Open Canals and Laterals	2,640	16,000
Replace Open Canals and Laterals With Pipelines	5,488	25,000
Nonused Water Storage Pond	0	2
Pipeline Projects Delivering Water to Fields	27,407	8,500
Irrigation Sprinkler Systems	14	34
Scheduling of Irrigation Water	1	1
Managed Riparian Grazing	7,412	19,250
Public Meetings	24	40
Project Tours	6	8

The BMPs installed to date have resulted in an estimated 45 milligrams per liter (mg/l) above the reservoir and 83.6 mg/l below the reservoir for a total of 128 mg/l reduction in TSS. The goal of the 10-Year Plan was to reduce TSS by 357 mg/l, including 249 mg/l above and 108 mg/l below the reservoir. A reduction of 128 mg/l translates to 36 percent achievement of the goal since the project was initiated.

The BFRWP has distributed over \$773,000 to over 50 different producers to install rangeland and irrigation conservation practices within the watershed in 2007 and 2008. Table 1-3 describes the type and amount of conservation practice installed. These practices are merely the ones funded by EPA 319 funds through the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR) and do not include those installed by NRCS district offices through their programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). BFRWP staff has worked hand-in-hand with area office NRCS staff to locate eligible cooperators in need of financial and technical assistance.

Table 1-3. Conservation Practices Installed in the Belle Fourche River Watershed

Practice Installed	Amount
Pipeline (516)	237,000 (LF)
Watering Facility (614)	48 (No)
Water Well (642)	8 (No)
Pumping Plant (533)	9 (No)
Fence (382)	25,0000 (LF)
Streambank Stabilization (580)	8,000 (CY)
Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442)	1,700 (Ac)
Gravity Pipeline to Center Pivot (430EE)	34,000 (LF)

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED BY THE PROPOSAL, CONSERVATION PRIORITIES IN THE AREA, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED, AND THE EXPECTED LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION BY PRODUCERS

The geographic location covered in this proposal is the Lower Belle Fourche Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 10120202) and the Redwater Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 10120203) (Figure 1). The surface area of the South Dakota portion of the and Lower Belle Fourche River and Redwater Watersheds encompasses approximately 2,100,000 acres. The city of Spearfish (population 8,606) is the largest municipality located in the Belle Fourche River Watershed. Other small communities in the watershed include Belle Fourche (population 4,565), Sturgis (population 4,442), Lead (population 3,027), Deadwood (population 1,380), Newell (population 646), Nisland (population 204), and Fruitdale (population 62).

Land use in the watersheds is primarily livestock grazing with some cropland and a few urban and suburban areas. Wheat, alfalfa, native and tame grasses, and hay are the main crops. Within the BFID, some corn, wheat, and barley are grown. Some winter animal feeding areas are located in the watershed. Gold mining, while reduced in scope from the past, is conducted in some headwater areas of the watershed. Some of the watershed land is used for silviculture. Approximately 11 percent of the watersheds are U.S. Forest Service land, primarily the Black Hills National Forest, and 4 percent is Bureau of Land Management land.

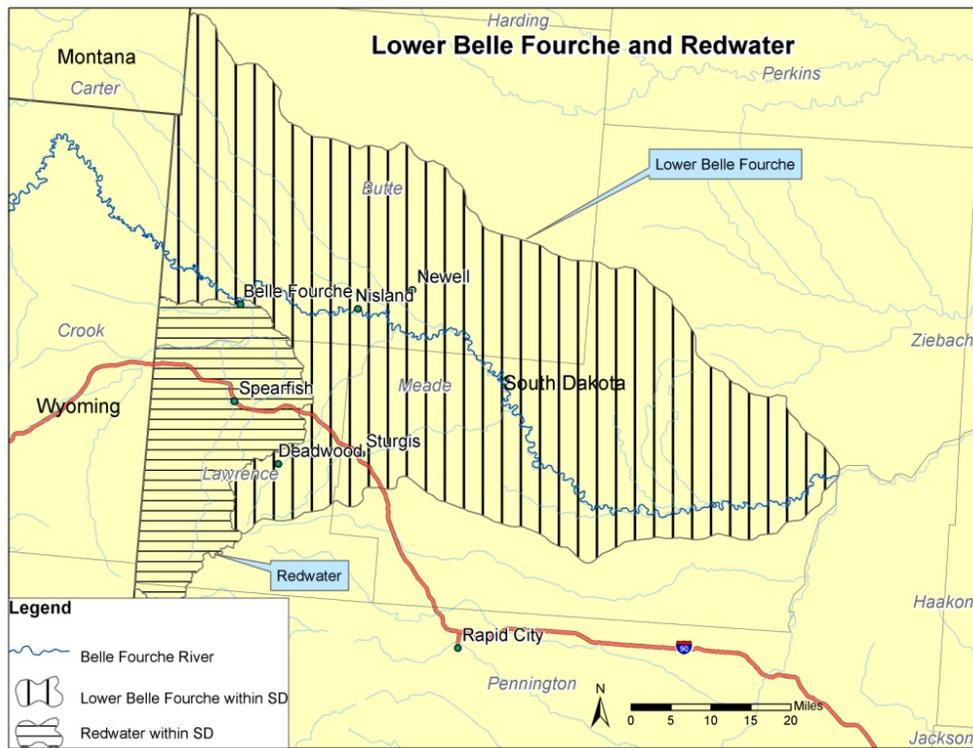


Figure 1-1. Lower Belle Fourche and Redwater Watersheds Within South Dakota.

Major soil associations found in the watershed include Winler-Lismas, Pierre-Kyle, Grummit-Shale, Epsie, Midway-Penrose, Cabbart-Absher, Butche-Colby, Arvada-Stetter, Lohmiller-Glenberg-Haverson, Caputa-Satanta, Delphill-Assinniboine, Nunn-Satanta-Zigweid, Blackpipe-Savo-Manvel, Blackpipe-Assinniboine-Savo, Canyon-Lakoa-Maitland, Tilford-Nevee, St. Onge-Keith, Lohmiller-Glenberg, Winler-Lismas-Swanboy, Kyle-Pierre-Hisle, Samsil-Lismas-Pierre, Nevee-Vale-Tilford, Butche-Satanta-Boneek, Nunn-Kyle-Pierre, Barnum-Swint-St. Onge, Grummit-Snomo-Rock, Paunsaugunt-Rock, Lakoa-Maitland, and Citadel-Vanocker-Grizzly.

The average annual precipitation in the watersheds ranges from 15 to 29 inches, of which 70 percent is usually received from April through September. Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms strike occasionally. These storms are local, of short duration, and occasionally produce heavy rainfall events. The average seasonal snowfall ranges from 155 inches in the higher elevations in the western part of the watershed to 23 inches per year in the eastern portion of the watershed. The average water allocation to the BFID is approximately 15 inches. The water added to the fields from irrigation nearly doubles the amount of water available for crop production.

The landscape in the watersheds is characterized by prairies with some mountains in the south and west. Land elevation ranges from about 2,500 feet above mean sea level (msl) to about 7,071 msl. The Black Hills are strongly sloping hills. There are somewhat less strongly sloping hills near the Cheyenne River.

Conservation priorities in the watersheds include improving impaired surface water quality because of elevated suspended solids. The conservation objectives of the BFRWP are to reduce TSS by implementing the recommended best management practices to meet criteria outlined in the TMDL. Funds requested from CCPI would positively affect the BFRWP's ability to reach the goals set up in their 10-Year Plan by decreasing TSS in the watershed resulting from erosion on rangelands.

Using estimates from the Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA) approximately 15 percent of the Lower Belle Fourche River Watershed and 15 percent of the Redwater Watershed would participate with progressive conservation treatment on rangelands in the next 5 years, assuming current funding remained the same. With funds from CCPI prioritizing the appropriate conservation practices, it is estimated that approximately 20 percent of the Lower Belle Fourche River Watershed and 25 percent of the Redwater Watershed would participate. This reflects an increase in participation of 5 percent and 10 percent in the Lower Belle Fourche River and Redwater Watersheds, respectively. This level of participation would include 251,412 acres being managed as progressive systems or resource management systems (RMS) in the watersheds.

During the development of the RWAs in the Lower Belle Fourche and Redwater Watersheds, 323 resource concern surveys (of approximately 875 sent within the area) were returned by landowners within the watersheds. Landowner surveys from both watersheds reported the highest priority resource concerns are control of noxious weeds, ground and surface water quality, the need for windbreaks and shelterbelts, and the need to control soil erosion. Several public outreach activities were conducted in the watersheds during the development of the RWAs to receive feedback and input from the community. Public outreach included information booths at county fairs and farms/home shows in the watersheds, as well as discussion at public meetings.

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP AND THE ROLE, RESPONSIBILITY AND CAPABILITY OF THE BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

The BFRWP is committed to the long-term health of the natural resources within the watersheds. The BFRWP has proven its capability to work with agriculture producers on a large-scale implementation project in the South Dakota portion of the watershed to improve surface water quality. Much of the BFRWP's success can be attributed to the good -standing

relationship it has with the agriculture community and its active members, including NRCS. CCPI implementation funds would allow the BFRWP to continue to foster this relationship and help implement projects that improve soil health and surface water quality. The BFRWP role in this project would be to promote CCPI through public outreach, monitor results, and produce progress and final reports.

1.4 A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT DURATION AND SCHEDULE THAT DETAILS WHEN THE POTENTIAL PARTNER ANTICIPATES FINISHING THE PROJECT AND SUBMITTING A FINAL REPORT

This project would begin when funds become available in 2009 and would continue through the fall of 2014 when a final report would be submitted by the BFRWP no later than October 31, 2014. Figure 1-2 shows the project timeline.

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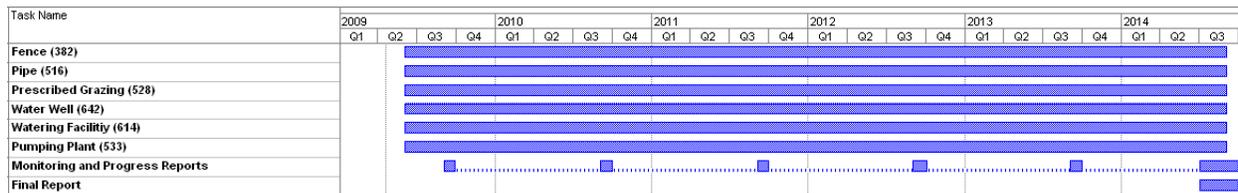


Figure 1-2. Project Timeline.

1.5 A DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCES THAT ARE REQUESTED FROM THE SECRETARY AND THE NONFEDERAL RESOURCES THAT WILL BE LEVERAGED BY THE FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION

Total funding being requested by this proposal is \$3,501,994 over a 5-year period, starting in 2009 and continuing into 2014. Approximately 1/5 of the funding would be utilized annually in the watershed. Funding is requested to address resource concerns on range/pasturelands. Funding will be prioritized for conservation practices that specifically treat: plant productivity, health, and vigor; forage quality and palatability; inadequate quantities and quality of feed and forage; and inadequate stock water. Projects will be matched by producer in-kind monies spent directly on the projects.

1.6 A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN FOR MONITORING, EVALUATING, AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS MADE TOWARD ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT

Currently, the BFRWP is managing an EPA 319 implementation project that began in 2004 in the watershed. The BFRWP is in the fifth year of implementation within its 10-Year Plan to reduce TSS in the Belle Fourche River. A requirement of this project is to track TSS reductions in the Belle Fourche River. Before this implementation project, BASINS and HSPF were used to model the Belle Fourche River Watershed when the TMDL was developed. To develop the TMDL and to determine the necessary load reductions, several BMPs were modeled in these programs to reduce TSS concentrations in the streams within the Belle Fourche River Watershed. The sources of TSS identified were range erosion, irrigation and on-farm waste, free cattle access to streams, riparian degradation, natural geologic processes, hydraulic alteration by irrigation, and reduced stream miles. The following activities were completed to determine the progress made to achieving the goals of the TMDL plan:

1. Monitor Present Progress Against Plan in Midyear and Annual Reports (Load Reductions Reported Annually).

Evaluation of project success in reaching the project objectives and goals will be accomplished by measuring:

- Scheduled versus actual milestone completion dates.
- Comparisons of flow rates and chemistry for irrigation water application, delivery, and riparian BMPs.
- Reduction in nonused water from the BFID discharged into streams.
- Development of a sustainable watershed implementation project measured in part by the participation and approval of additional grants money for BMP implementation.

Project monitoring is being reviewed by the BFRWP in quarterly meetings to report progress toward the goals and objectives.

2. Monitor Water-Quality Improvement.

Water-quality monitoring uses a targeted approach. Water-quality data are being collected at sites used during the watershed assessment to formulate the TMDL. Flow impact on the macrowatershed is being analyzed using the following USGS stations:

- USGS 06428500 (Belle Fourche River at South Dakota-Wyoming State Line)
- USGS 06436000 (Belle Fourche River Near Fruitdale, South Dakota)
- USGS 06437000 (Belle Fourche River Near Sturgis, South Dakota)
- USGS 06438000 (Belle Fourche River Near Elm Springs, South Dakota)

- USGS 06436760 (Horse Creek Above Vale, South Dakota)
- USGS 06433000 (Redwater River Above Belle Fourche, South Dakota).

The stations are long-term flow measurement sites operated, funded, and maintained by USGS. The practices installed to reduce the amount of nonused water discharging to the waterways within the irrigation district should be detectable at the Belle Fourche River sites near Sturgis and near Elm Springs as well as at the Horse Creek site above Vale. The other sites recommended will allow a water mass balance to be calculated, adding to the precision of the analysis. Turbidity, specific conductance, temperature, and pH will be measured on a continuous basis at Horse Creek above Vale to provide baseline data to measure water-quality improvements as a result of the nonused water reduction and range projects BMPs implemented within the Horse Creek Watershed. The SD DENR Surface Water Quality Program also has 21 monitoring stations within the watershed.

Statistical analysis is being used by project staff to estimate the changes in flow and water quality resulting from the implemented BMPs. An analysis of real-time discharge data at Horse Creek was collected by USGS from October 1980 to December 2006 for the final report to the EPA after Segment II was implemented. Implementation of BMPs in the BFID canals, replacing existing flood-irrigated fields with sprinklers, and enhanced range health are expected to reduce return flows impacting Horse Creek. Figure 1-3 shows a boxplot of USGS average daily discharge data for two time periods, pre-BMP (1980–May 2005) and post-BMP (June 2005–November 2006). The boxplot shows 95 percent of the data (the highest and lowest 2.5 percent of values are considered outliers). Median value of the average daily flow is marked with a plus sign, the boxes delineate the inner quartile range (the range bounded by the 1st and 3rd quartiles), and the whiskers mark the extents of 95 percent of the data. Traditional boxplot whiskers extend to 1.5 times the inner-quartile range. In this case, the lower whiskers would extend into negative values; hence, the use of whiskers to mark 95 percent of data.

Boxplots are effective and convenient tools for visualizing relationships between datasets that are too limited to analyze using other statistical methods. The boxplot in Figure 1-3 implies that flow reductions are occurring in Horse Creek. Values for medians and quartiles are less in post-BMP data than in pre-BMP data. Long-term data are expected to show reductions in flows in Horse Creek associated with irrigation return flows and consequential reductions in TSS/Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC) in Horse Creek and the Belle Fourche River.

Water-quality monitoring will continue throughout the life of the 319 implementation project funded by the EPA. This monitoring plan could be used to monitor the results of practices installed with CCPI funds within the watershed.

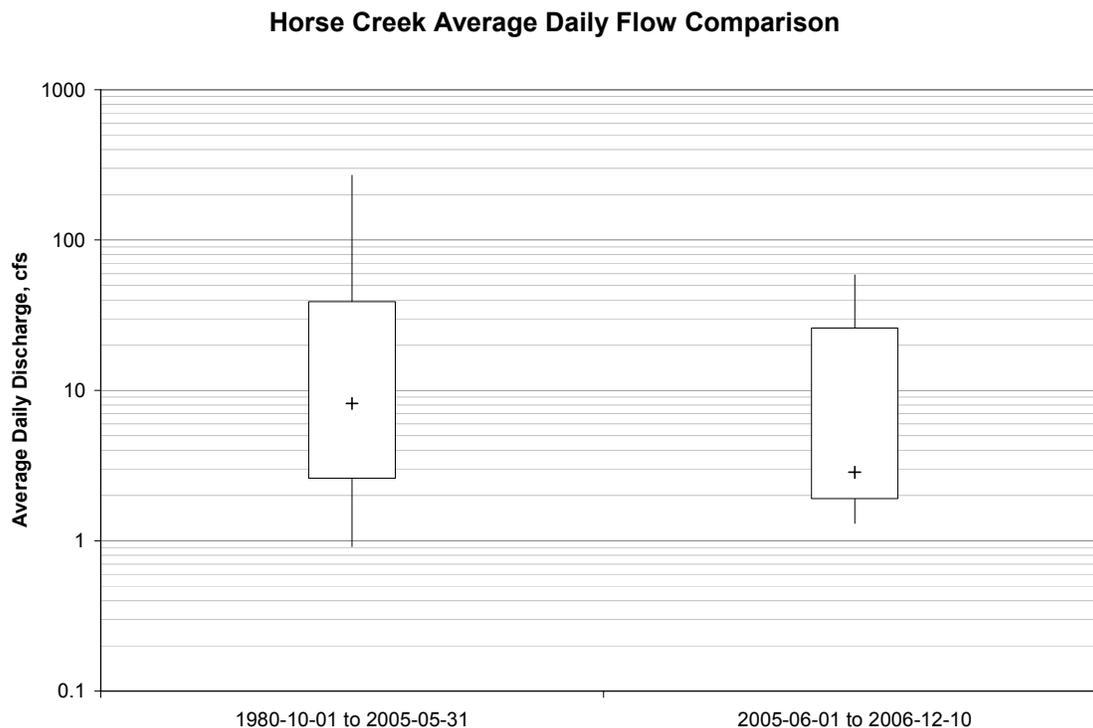


Figure 1-3. Boxplot Pre- and Post Best Management Practices Average Daily Discharge Data at Horse Creek Station After Segment II Implementation Project.

1.7 CRITERIA TO BE USED TO PRIORITIZE INDIVIDUAL PRODUCER APPLICATIONS TO ENSURE THAT APPLICATIONS MOST ALIGNED WITH THE PROPOSAL'S OBJECTIVES RECEIVE PRIORITY

CCPI funds will be used to address prioritized resource concerns on rangelands/pasturelands in the Lower Belle Fourche River and Redwater Watersheds in South Dakota. The RWA completed in the two watersheds were used as guidelines when prioritizing these resource concerns. These resource concerns include: plant productivity, health, and vigor; forage quality and palatability; inadequate quantities and quality of feed and forage; and inadequate stock water. Six conservation practices have been selected to best address these resource concerns that include fence (382), pipeline (516), prescribed grazing (528), pumping plant (533), water well (642), and watering facility (614). These six conservation practices have been selected increase participation by producer addressing prioritized resource concerns. Funds are not limited to these practices, but ranking consideration will be given to producers installing these six practices.

Currently, the BFRWP has EPA 319 funds to address resource concerns on irrigated cropland, including: sheet and rill soil erosion; irrigation induced soil erosion; inefficient water use on irrigated land; and plant productivity health and vigor. Although 65 percent of the watersheds are rangelands EPA funds are not available to address resource concerns on rangelands. Therefore the BFRWP would like to utilize any CCPI funds available to address resource concerns on rangeland/pasturelands in the watersheds.

1.8 AN ESTIMATE OF THE PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCERS, IN THE PROJECT AREA THAT ARE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT

Using RWA estimates approximately 15 percent of the Lower Belle Fourche River Watershed and 15 percent of the Redwater Watershed would participate with progressive conservation treatment on rangelands in the next 5 years, assuming current funding remained the same. With funds from CCPI prioritizing the appropriate conservation practices, it is estimated that approximately 20 percent of the Lower Belle Fourche River Watershed and 25 percent of the Redwater Watershed would participate at a progressive or RMS level of management on rangelands. This reflects an increase in participation of 5 percent and 10 percent in the Lower Belle Fourche River and Redwater Watersheds, respectively. This level of participation would include an additional 251,412 acres being managed as progressive systems or RMS in the watersheds over the next 5 years, according to RWA estimates.

1.9 A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE APPLIED ON THE LANDSCAPE WITHIN THE PROJECT TIMEFRAME

In order to best increase participation from producers who are addressing prioritized resource concerns six conservation practices have been chosen. These conservation practices include: fence (382), pipeline (516), prescribed grazing (528), pumping plant (533), water well (642), and watering facility (614). Each conservation practice would be utilized for the 5 years of funding requested. Funds are not limited to these practices, but ranking consideration will be given to producers installing these six practices.

1.10 AN ESTIMATE OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS AND ACRES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Total funding being requested by this proposal are \$3,501,994 over 5 years starting in 2009 and continuing into 2014. Approximately 1/5 of the funding would be utilized annually in the watershed. Funding is requested to address resource concerns on range/pasturelands. Funding will be prioritized for conservation practices that specifically treat: plant productivity, health, and vigor; forage quality and palatability; inadequate quantities and quality of feed and

forage; and inadequate stock water. Projects will be matched by producer in-kind monies that will be spent directly on the projects. Conservation practices would be applied on approximately 251,412 acres over the next 5 years in the watersheds.

1.11 DESCRIPTION OF ANY REQUESTED PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS, BY PROGRAM, WITH EXPLANATION OF WHY THE ADJUSTMENT IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT.

No program adjustments would be made to existing programs.

1.12 A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE PARTNER WILL PROVIDE FOR OUTREACH TO BEGINNING, LIMITED RESOURCE, AND SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The BFRWP conducts several public outreach activities throughout the year. Approximately six public meetings are held yearly to update the status of BFRWP projects for the producers, landowners, and stakeholders to educate and encourage them to become involved with BFRWP projects. These meetings also provide an avenue for input from the residents in the area. Notification of meetings is made to local agencies, mailings, and newspapers. In addition, a public Web page is maintained to provide the public with the latest available data as well as an overview of the project and status of work activities (*www.bellefourchewatershed.com*). Public awareness is further enhanced by annual tours of the watershed, along with informational booths at local county fairs demonstrating BFRWP accomplishments. If CCPI funds were available, the BFRWP would provide information to beginning, limited resource, and small and disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through these outreach activities.

1.13 DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE PROPOSAL'S OBJECTIVES FURTHER THE NATION'S EFFORTS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION, ENERGY CONSERVATION, MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, FACILITATING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, OR FOSTERING CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Healthy rangelands and healthy croplands improve overall soil health by reducing both wind and water erosion and increasing soil organic matter. Conservation practices installed with CCPI funds in the watershed would improve soil health. An increase in organic matter increases the soil's ability to sequester carbon and enhances its ability to hold water. Installing prioritized conservation practices in the watershed would be an effective and efficient avenue to mitigate the effects of climate change and foster carbon sequestration.



**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

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April 20, 2009

Tim Reich, President
Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership
1837 5th Avenue, South
Belle Fourche, SD 57717-2086

Dear Mr. Reich,

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) supports your Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) application to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the installation of rangeland Best Management Practices (BMP) and the conversion of gravity irrigation to sprinkler systems.

DENR has provided financial and technical assistance to the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership to assist in restoring the beneficial uses of the Belle Fourche River. This assistance has included the installation of BMP's to improve efficiencies of the irrigation systems to reduce runoff and sediment entering the river. Your project application will continue to address the reduction of sediment which is needed to restore the water quality of the river.

Please advise us if we can be of further support or assistance.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Pirner
Secretary

Cc: RESPEC