

**APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

Version 7/03

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application		2. DATE SUBMITTED March 7, 2006	Applicant Identifier
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	Pre-application	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction	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.) Other (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (See back of form for Application Types) O 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 Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative	
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:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?	
a. Federal	\$ 200,000 ⁰⁰	a. Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE:	
b. Applicant	\$ 10,000 ⁰⁰	b. No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372	
c. State	\$ ⁰⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	
d. Local	\$ 190,000 ⁰⁰	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?	
e. Other	\$ ⁰⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes" attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
f. Program Income	\$ 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.	
g. TOTAL	\$ 400,000 ⁰⁰	a. Authorized Representative	
Prefix Mr. First Name Tim Middle Name		Last Name Reich Suffix	
b. Title <i>Chairman Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership</i>		c. Telephone Number (give area code) 605.892.9366	
d. Signature of Authorized Representative <i>[Signature]</i>		e. Date Signed March 6, 2006	

1.0 PROJECT ABSTRACT

1.1 TITLE. Belle Fourche River Watershed Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative is the title of the project.

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

1.3 COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE PRIORITIES ADDRESSED. Freshwater aquatic habitat restoration, protection and enhancement of habitat for species with declining populations, creation of wildlife habitat corridors, noxious weed control, and native plant restoration are the priorities addressed.

1.4 SUMMARY OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED. Properly functioning riparian areas can significantly reduce nonpoint source pollution by intercepting surface runoff; by settling, filtering, and storing sediment and associated pollutants; and by stabilizing banks. This grant will allow the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership (BFRWP) to continue working with local individuals and communities to inventory, assess, and identify the opportunities that meet the objectives of the producers and have a positive impact on the impacted waters within the watershed. The planning phase will develop the detailed plans, cost estimates, and schedule and will identify funding sources for grazing management, use exclusion, grazing management plan, alternative water supply, and land and stream bank stabilization practices.

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

1.6 PROJECT PARTNERS. Project partners and contact persons include: Butte County Conservation District–Mr. Tim Reich, Belle Fourche Irrigation District (BFID)–Mr. Clint Pitts, Elk Creek Conservation District–Mr. Dale Lundgren, Lawrence County Conservation District–Mr. Karl Jensen, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR)–Mr. Gene Stuevan, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BoR)–Mr. Jim Weigel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)–Mr. Steve Fairburn, and U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)–Mr. Tom Quinn.

1.7 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS INVOLVED. In 2005, more than 20 individuals, as well as the BFID, were actively installing BMPs within the watershed. The total value of this effort exceeded \$1.2 million. The 10-year plan developed to guide the 10-year implementation project was initiated during 2004. Projected completion date of the plan is 2014.

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

1.9 TOTAL COST. The grant funds requested for the planning phase is \$200,000. The total cost of the 18-month planning grant is estimated to exceed \$400,000. The BFRWP anticipates a similar level of individual participation as during in the Year 2005.

1.10 TOTAL ANTICIPATED FUNDING NEED. The implementation funds needed to install practices identified during completion of 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 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 BFRWP completed a water quality assessment projects which lead to development of a TMDL for the Belle Fourche River. The project started during April 2001. The draft TMDL was completed during 2003. The TMDL covers two waterbodies: the Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek. Additional TMDLs are in the approval process for waterbodies located in the watershed. These include 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 completed during the last 2 years. Both segments were completed on schedule and within the \$1.5 million budget. The BFRWP has been approved for funding for a third 2-year project segment and expects to receive \$1,208,800 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with additional funds from other stakeholder groups totaling over \$5 million. Products produced during the first two project segments include the *Ten-Year Belle Fourche River Watershed Strategic Implementation Plan* and the *Five-Year Belle Fourche Irrigation District Water Conservation Plan* and the installation of BMPs to implement the plans. BMPs installed include grazing management-related practices such as exclusion, grazing management plan, alternative water supply practices, and land, stream bank stabilization practices, irrigation delivery practices, and irrigation application practices. Additional information on these activities can be retrieved from the project Web site <www.bellefourchewatershed.org>.

2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES. The goal of the project is to bring Belle Fourche River and Horse Creek in compliance with TSS standards by implementing the recommended BMPs by 2014 and implementing additional BMPs recommended by 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 focus of this planning effort is to improve grazing and rangelands as well as to improve the riparian corridor along the Belle Fourche River and its tributaries. The following NRCS practices will be used: grazing management practices, use exclusion (472); grazing management plan including pipeline (516); pond (378); trough or tank (514); well (642) or spring development (574); fence (382); channel vegetation (322); critical area planting (342); riparian forest buffer/herbaceous cover (391A/390); stream channel stabilization (584); and stream bank and shoreline protection (580). Improved grazing and improved riparian corridors will reduce the TSS load in the Belle Fourche River as well as reduce temperature and fecal coliform in Bear Butte and Whitewood Creeks.

Funding in place for the next 2 years of implementation is approximately \$4.8 million. About \$1.2 million is from EPA's 319 program, \$2 million is nonfederal from ten different sources (\$0.8 million is from producers), and \$1.5 million is from other federal sources such as USFWS, BoR, United States Geological Survey (USGS), and NRCS programs such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The BFRWP anticipates the programs planned with this grant will be funded by similar sources in the future. The South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks (SD GF&P) Compensation Plan for Whitewood Creek and the Belle Fourche and Cheyenne River

Watersheds in South Dakota has been identified as a new source of funding. The Partnership will work closely with SDGF&P to develop a proposal with a high likelihood of being funded. This project will reduce the TSS and fecal coliform levels and temperature by rehabilitating and improving riparian habitat.

Table 1. Conservation Priorities in the Plan

Conservation Priorities	Project Plan
Freshwater Aquatic Habitat Restoration	Beneficial uses impacted are warm and cold freshwater permanent fisheries. This beneficial use is impacted by TSS and temperature. BMPs installed in riparian areas will reduce these impacts.
Protection and Enhancement of Habitat for Species With Declining Populations	There is a Sage Grouse initiative within the watershed to enhance habitat. BMPs planned in riparian areas and use exclusion will support this initiative.
Creation of Wildlife Habitat Corridors	Creating riparian corridors is one of the activities proposed to reduce TSS and temperature impacts.
Noxious Weed Control	There is an active noxious weed program within the watershed to reduce salt cedar supported in part by the South Dakota Weed and Pest Control Commission. One of the activities when planning grazing management systems include assessing noxious weeds.
Native Plant Restoration	The planning riparian corridors and other restoration projects will include the use of native species.
Agricultural Air Quality	Carbon Sequestration. The partnership is in initial discussions with the investigators of the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) grant entitled <i>Marketing Carbon Sequestration Credits From Reduced Grazing and Conservation Practices on South Dakota Farmlands</i> . The objective of the project is to enhance the implementation of management activities that result in carbon sequestration through market-based mechanisms. Many of the BMPs proposed for TSS reduction and temperature improvements by this project will also result in carbon sequestration.

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

The 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 1. Land use in the watersheds is primarily livestock grazing with some cropland and a few urban areas. Wheat, alfalfa, native and tame grasses, and hay are the main crops. Some corn is grown the BFID. Some winter animal feeding areas are located in the watershed. Gold mining, while reduced in scope from the past, is conducted in the headwaters of the watershed. Some of the watershed land is used for silviculture. Approximately 15 percent of the watershed is federally owned. Eleven percent is U.S. Forest Service land, primarily the Black Hills National Forest, and four percent is Bureau of Land Management land.

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 more than 20 individual producers, and education and outreach effort has reached over 100 producers. The planning activities funded by this proposal and additional outreach by the Conservation Districts 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.

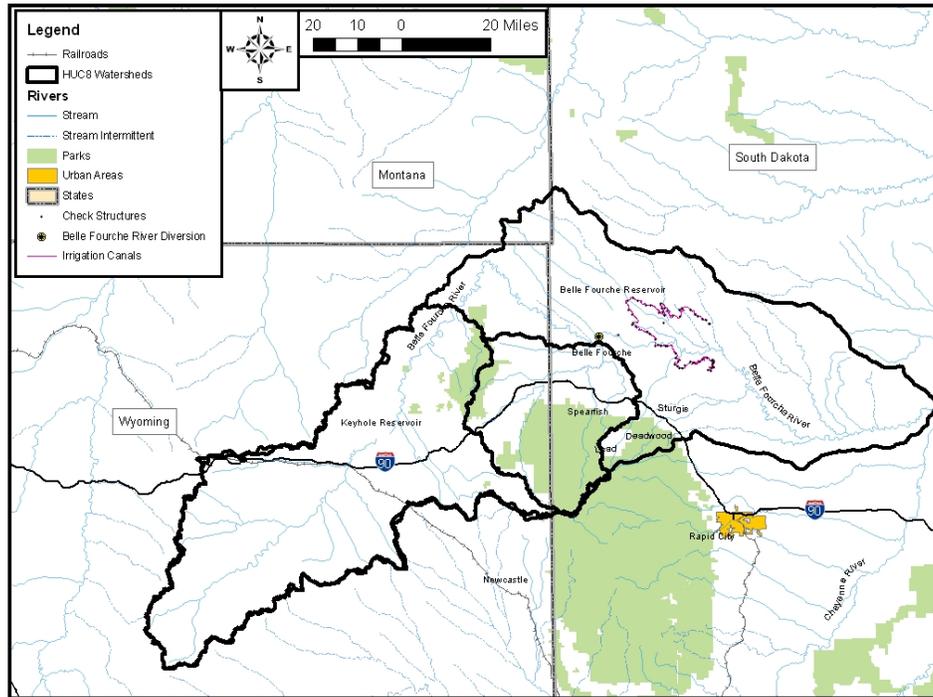


Figure 1. Location of the Belle Fourche River Watershed.

Most of the activities are planned and implemented by the local conservation districts. The following groups/agencies have participated and plan to continue to participating 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–local support, funding.

Lawrence County Conservation District–BFRWP voting member.

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts–new BFRWP participant; technical assistance through Section 319 grant funded 303(d) Watershed Planning and Assistance Project.

South Dakota Conservation Commission—local support and technical assistance.

South Dakota Department of Agriculture—technical assistance with Whitewood Creek Compensation Plan.

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR)—BFRWP participant, Geographic Information System (GIS) services for BFID, technical support and financial support.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (SD GF&P)—technical assistance with Whitewood Creek Compensation Plan.

South Dakota Grassland Coalition—technical assistance through Section 319 funded Grassland Management and Planning project.

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T)—active participant in BFRWP, technical support through Dr. Kenner and graduate students. SDSM&T performed the initial TMDL study.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)—local support.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BoR)—active participation in BFRWP, provides technical support through drawings and designs as requested by the BFID, provides financial support, sponsors South Dakota State University (SDSU) water conservation demonstrations and bridging the head gate initiative. The BoR is partially funding a lining project within the watershed.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—financial and technical assistance through Section 319 and 106 grants to SD DENR.

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

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

U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)—field work and lead agency for the river basin study to identify critical areas of nonpoint source pollution to the surface waters in the watershed.

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WY DEQ)—local support and financial support for flow measurements at the South Dakota-Wyoming state line.

City of Lead—working on a combined sewer separation project.

City of Nisland—working on a waste water lagoon project.

2.6 PROJECT MILESTONES AND TIMELINE. Figure 2 shows the project milestones and timeline.

RSI-996-06-005

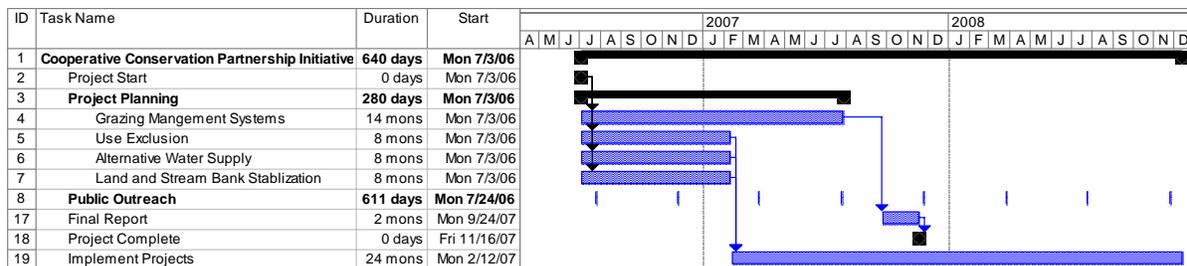


Figure 2. Project Milestones and Timeline.

2.7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT. The project will be managed by the BFRWP. The four voting Board of Directors include the Meade, Lawrence, and Elk Creek Conservation District, and the BFID. This board has six meetings per year. Administrative support is provided by the conservation districts. 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 the 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. Dr. Kenner has a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Florida and Dr. Hoyer has a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the SDSM&T. Mr. Rod Baumberger is an independent rangelands consultant. He served 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 ANITIPATED RESULTS AND BENEFITS. The project will result in detailed implementation plans and funding proposals to improve 9,000 acres of riparian area. TSS concentrations were estimated in the 10-year plan. Installation of BMPs is expected to reduce the TSS concentration by 10 mg/l. The total reduction required to reach the TMDL is approximately 110 mg/l. Water-quality monitoring will use a targeted approach. Water-quality data will be collected at sites used during the watershed assessment to formulate the TMDL. Flow impact on the macrowatershed will be 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 discharged to the waterways in the irrigation district should be detectable at the Belle Fourche River sites located near Sturgis and Elm Springs as well as at the Horse Creek site above Vale. The other recommended sites 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 Vail to provide baseline data to measure water-quality improvements as a result of the nonused water reduction projects BMPs implemented within the Horse Creek Watershed.

The 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. The BFRWP believes that many of the agricultural producers in the Belle Fourche River Watershed are nearing retirement which will result in the probable sale of many of these farms or ranches. Therefore, within the next 10 years, a significant increase in the number of limited resource and/or beginning farmers is expected. In addition, accelerated land valuations in this area have created pressure to divide farms into rural subdivisions and 40-acre or smaller hobby-type farms. With assistance from the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative Rapid Watershed Assessment (CCPI-RWA), a data layer showing census information such as per capita income, full-time and part-time operators, and trends in size of farms and ranches will be developed. This data will be used to prioritize implementation of BMPs in the watershed.

3.0 BUDGET INFORMATION

The BFRWP has a number of planned projects. Table 2 is presented to show how a portion of approximately \$1,500,000 is split between the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and the Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA) proposals. Both projects can be pursued separately. However, the synergistic effects of pursuing both projects simultaneously should be significant. The 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 (sum of lines 8-11)	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

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

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 (sum of lines 16-19)	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

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

4.0 DUNS NUMBERS

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

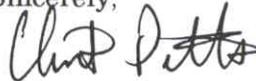
Dear Ms. Oertly:

The Belle Fourche Irrigation District (BFID) supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Cooperative Conservation Partnership 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.

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,



Clint Pitts
Manager, BFID

CP:llf

Enclosure

February 26, 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 Elk Creek Conservation District supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Cooperative Conservation Partnership 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.

The Elk Creek Conservation District is providing support to the project by investing in water quality monitoring and providing time, input, and expertise to the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership. 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,



Dale Lundgren
Chairman

DL:llf

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 Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, 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



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 Cooperative Conservation Partnership 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.

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



**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

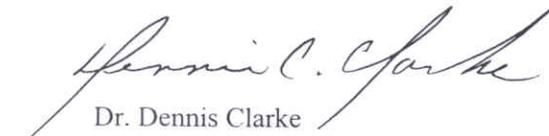
Dear Ms. Oertly:

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR) supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Cooperative Conservation Partnership 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 is administers the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 program in South Dakota. We plan to invest approximately \$1,208,000 of cash and in-kind match over the next 2 years. 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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
DK-700R

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 Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, Belle Fourche Unit, South Dakota

Dear Ms. Oertly:

The Bureau of Reclamation supports the objectives of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Cooperative Conservation Partnership 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.

Reclamation has awarded the Belle Fourche Irrigation District with a Water 2025 conservation challenge grant in the amount of \$125,000 for improvements to the Inlet Canal. Reclamation also has an ongoing efficiency incentive cooperative agreement with the District to cost-share implementation of water conservation measures. These efforts help to conserve water and to reduce excess return flows and seepage losses, thereby reducing sediment load discharged to the surrounding waterways from the Belle Fourche Irrigation District delivery system and project drains. This effort will improve water quality and associated benefits 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.

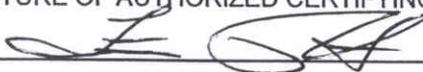
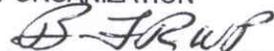
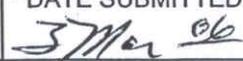
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Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

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 

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