



St. Croix River Escarpment Gully Inventory and Outreach



Clean Water Funds: 2011

Clean Water Grant	\$31,579
Leveraged Funds*	\$8,000
Total Project Budget	\$39,579

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:
St. Croix River

Project Sponsor:
Chisago SWCD

Partners:
Chisago County,
Private Landowners

Grant Period:
January 2011 - December 2012

Project Contact:
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Project Narrative

This project will inventory active gully erosion sites along the St. Croix River escarpment from the entrance to Wild River State Park near Almelund, MN, and south to the Chisago County line. The resulting inventory will be utilized to contact landowners with actively eroding gully sites on their property and will begin the process of developing a plan to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to correct the problems.

This project is important for several reasons. First, identifying gully sites and implementing BMPs to stop active erosion will reduce phosphorus loading to the St. Croix River by hundreds of pounds per year. Water will be collected and infiltrated on-site, which will drastically reduce the amount of phosphorus and sediment entering the St. Croix River.

In addition, the St. Croix escarpment is home to many rare and native species. The continued erosion of this area causes degradation to the habitat of these species. By stabilizing the area, the rare and native plant and animal species will continue to thrive in their natural environment. The St. Croix River itself is also home to rare species, including native mussels. These organisms will benefit from the reduction in phosphorus and sediment reaching the St. Croix River.



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