

# NRCS NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service  
375 Jackson Street • Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101-1854 • (651) 602-7900  
Web: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov>

---

## **Contact:**

[Julie MacSwain](#) State Public Affairs Specialist, (651) 602-7859  
See Driftless Area map attached and below

## **Special Driftless Area Conservation Initiative Funding Available**

ST. PAUL, MN, July 23, 2012- The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced Minnesota will receive \$450,000 this year to address conservation needs in the Driftless Area through a special Conservation Initiative. The focus will be to reduce soil erosion and improve fish and wildlife habitat on the working lands, woodlands, prairies, and cold water streams in the Driftless Area. The following Minnesota Counties have land in the eligible Driftless area: Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha and Winona County.

“The Driftless Area is such a unique landscape, having been by-passed by the glaciers of the last Ice Age,” says Don Baloun, NRCS State Conservationist for Minnesota. “However, our steep topography leaves it especially vulnerable to soil erosion. This special initiative is a great opportunity to focus on erosion and habitat concerns this part of the state.”

## **Apply by August 3**

Farm and woodland owners in the Driftless Area may apply for financial assistance for conservation practices to address resource issues. Many conservation practices are available depending on the land use and resource concern. For example, on

- On working farmlands: Prescribed Grazing, Grassed Waterway, Field Border
- On forestland: Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Management Plan, Tree/Shrub Establishment

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

- On Prairie/Savanna: Conservation Cover, Prescribed Burning, Brush Management
- For Cold Water Streams: Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Stream Habitat Improvement and Management, Fence

Interested landowners are encouraged to contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center. Applications received by **August 3, 2012**, will be considered for this year's funds.

For more information, visit [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov) or contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center serving your county.

#

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Driftless Area Initiative Boundary



## Legend

- Driftless Area Initiative Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

