

# Emergency Watershed Protection

## Protecting Mont du Lac

**Location:** Douglas County, Wisconsin, St. Louis River Watershed

**Size:** 876 feet Slope Stabilization

**Date of Storm:** June 19–20, 2012

**Completed:** October 2015

**Partners:** USDA-NRCS, Douglas County Land Conservation Department

### Summary

A storm on June 19–20, 2012 with significant rains severely eroded hillsides causing slope failure on multiple high steep slopes along St. Louis River in the Town of Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin.

Slides were estimated at nearly 900 feet. The slides were adjacent to an access road, a geothermal field, a newly constructed lodge and the upper ski lift terminal. The improvements were in jeopardy if the slope continued to fail.

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, a plan was developed to repair the slides by clearing, grubbing, excavation, placement of drains and overburden soils, and reshaping of the working face to a near vertical cut. Soldier walls were also used to reduce the slope angle and length.

NRCS paid \$1,200,000 towards the construction costs of the project. Douglas County sponsored the project and was responsible for \$424,000 towards the construction cost. NRCS also assisted with technical assistance dollars for the county to hire a consultant.

The Ski Hill and Douglas County were pleased with the results of the project.

