United States Department of Agriculture

FY20 National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Departee Creek Watershed

Overview

The Departee Creek National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Project is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers for addressing water quality concerns in this watershed located in portions of Independence, Jackson, and White counties. The project area covers 124,263 acres.

Resource Concerns Addressed by the Project

Field Sediment, Nutrients, and Pathogen Loss
- Nutrients Transported to Surface Water
- Sediment Transported to Surface Water

Terrestrial Habitat
- Habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates

Project Goals

- Treat 50% of priority field acres for lifespan of project defined through GIS analysis. Annual reviews conducted with partners to evaluate progress will be scheduled.
- Increase water quality benefits through reducing sediment/nutrient loading by 25% in the project area.
- A documented savings of water for basic irrigation water management and associated supporting practices will be 10–25%.

Conservation Practice Funding

Funding will be available to eligible landowners through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS will provide financial assistance for a systems approach using approved conservation practices for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. Land and producer eligibility, adjusted gross income, and all other program criteria for participation must be met to participate in this initiative. Agricultural lands are eligible for enrollment in the initiative.

Approved Conservation Practices

Core Practices

313: Waste Storage Facility
316: Animal Mortality Facility
317: Composting Facility
327: Conservation Cover
328: Conservation Crop Rotation
329: Residue & Tillage Management, No-Till
340: Cover Crop
342: Critical Area Planting
345: Residue & Tillage Management, Reduced Till
386: Field Border
390: Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391: Riparian Forest Buffer
393: Filter Strip
410: Grade Stabilization Structure
436: Irrigation Reservoir
449: Irrigation Water Management
528: Prescribed Grazing
561: Heavy Use Area Protection
590: Nutrient Management
601: Vegetative Barrier
612: Tree/Shrub Establishment

Supporting Practices

314: Brush Management
315: Herbaceous Weed Control
338: Prescribed Burning
367: Roofs and Covers
378: Pond
381: Silvopasture Establishment
382: Fence
394: Firebreak
430: Irrigation Pipeline
441: Irrigation System, Microirrigation
442: Sprinkler System
443: Irrigation System, Surface & Subsurface
464: Irrigation Land Leveling
484: Mulching
490: Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
512: Forage and Biomass Planting
516: Livestock Pipeline
533: Pumping Plant
558: Roof Runoff Structure
578: Stream Crossing
587: Structure for Water Control
595: Integrated Pest Management
607: Surface Drain, Field Ditch
608: Surface Drain, Main or Lateral
614: Watering Facility
642: Water Well
657: Wetland Restoration
658: Wetland Creation
659: Wetland Enhancement
666: Forest Stand Improvement
644: Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

ARKANSAS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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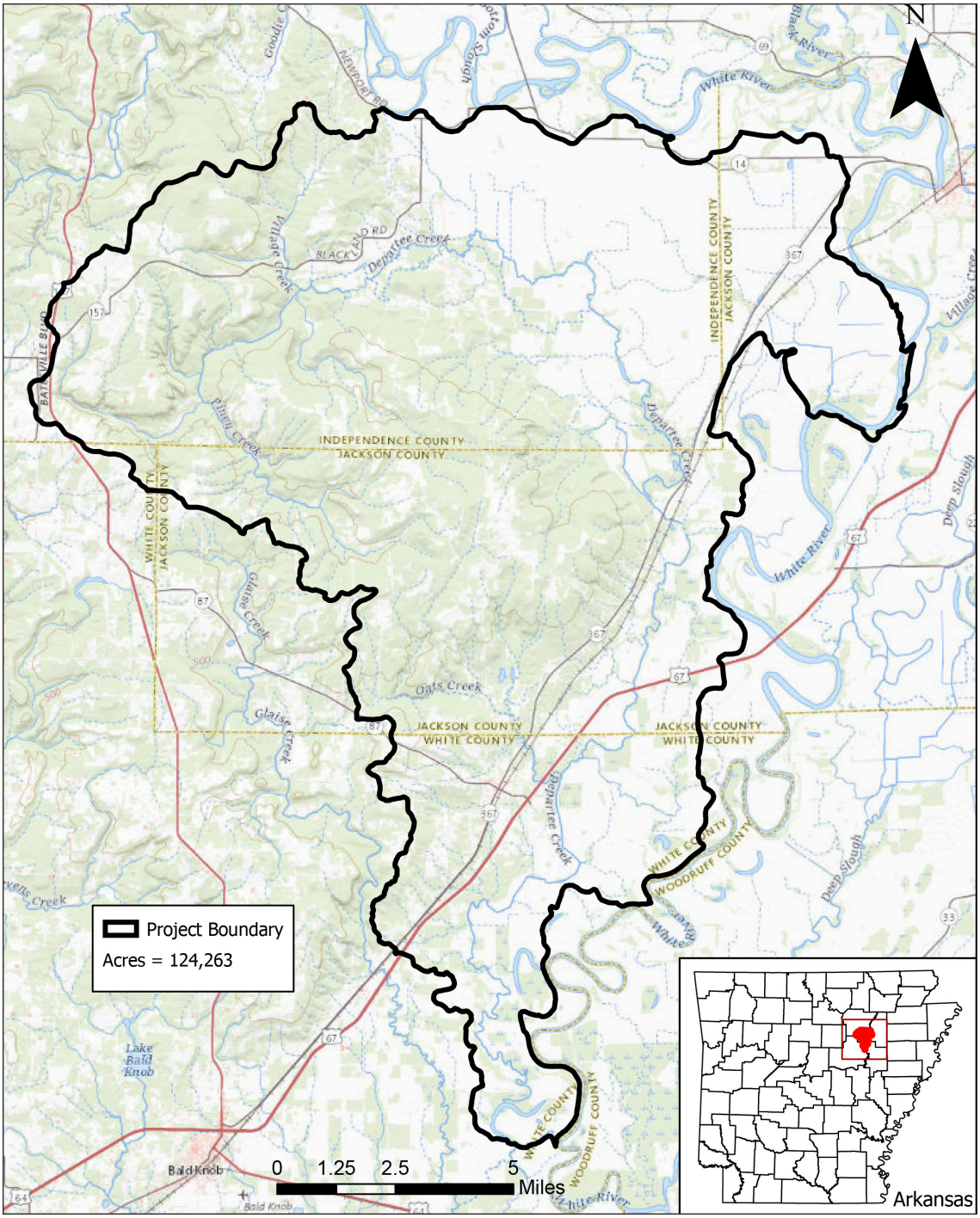
Departee Creek Watershed NWQI Project Area



How to Apply for NWQI

NRCS and associated conservation partners will deliver this program collaboratively. Applications may be obtained and filed with NRCS at:

Independence County
Batesville Field Service Center
490 E College St.
Room 226A
Batesville, AR 72501
(870) 793-4164 ext 3

Jackson County
Newport Field Service Center
2113 Malcolm Ave.
Newport, AR 72112
(870) 523-8986 ext 3

White County
Searcy Field Service Center
801 Airport Loop
Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 268-5866 ext 3

For More Information

Questions about this program can be directed to State Water Quality Specialist Roger Cousins at roger.cousins@usda.gov or your local USDA NRCS field service center.

Conservation practices will address improving habitat for fish, wildlife, and water quality within the watershed.

Pastureland within the Departee Creek watershed.