



# Channel Management in the LeSueur River



## Clean Water Funds: 2010

Clean Water Grant	\$246,750
Leveraged Funds*	\$61,688
Total Project Budget	\$308,438

\* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

**Targeted Water:**  
LeSueur River

**Project Sponsor:**  
Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Partners:**  
Blue Earth County, Mankato Township, MN DNR, South Central Technical Service Area

**Grant Period:**  
January 2010 - December 2011

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## Project Narrative

The LeSueur River has been identified as one of the leading contributors of sediment to the Minnesota River. A majority of this sediment has been determined to come from the banks, bluffs and ravines located along the river. This project focuses on a one mile reach of the LeSueur River where stream channel migration and mass wasting are significantly eroding four bluffs. Two township roads and many houses are in danger of falling into the river. Instead of stabilizing the bluffs with rock, the stream channel will be improved to efficiently transport sediment, and natural materials will be used to establish a floodplain bench to protect the toe of the bluffs and provide additional fisheries habitat.

Traditional stone armoring would cost \$433,000 to fix just one of the bluffs. This method will fix four bluffs and cost \$246,750. The lower cost along with its natural use of materials makes this an attractive alternative. This project will save 4,811 tons of soil per year from entering into the river once completed.

Construction of this project was scheduled to coincide with lower river flows in fall 2010. However, heavy September rains caused massive flooding, and the project area was declared a FEMA Flood Disaster. Before the river flows could return back to a workable level, heavy snowfall and ice conditions set in, causing the project start date to be pushed back until 2011.



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Bluff 2: Estimated erosion rate of 1,183 tons/year



Bluff 3: Estimated erosion rate of 294 tons/year



Bluff 4: Estimated erosion rate of 2,429 tons/year