



# Sand Hill River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan

## Plan Summary

### What is One Watershed One Plan?

- Voluntary program and plan to guide watershed managers as they work to protect and restore the watershed's resources.
- Aligns water planning along watershed boundaries, including all the Counties, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Watershed Districts within the watershed border.
- Local priorities, locally driven.
- Uses existing authorities and funding mechanisms (County, SWCD, and Watershed District Boards)
- After adopted, implementation funding from the state is obtained through a non-competitive process instead of competitive.
- Program website: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan>

## Surface Water

Water Quality • Runoff & Flooding



### How:

- Streambank and lakeshore stabilization.
- Septic system replacements.
- AIS prevention and management.
- Increase water storage.
- Flood protection.

### Outcomes:

- Lake and stream water quality protected and improved.
- Runoff from increasing future precipitation is minimized.
- Flood damage reduction.

## Agricultural Productivity

Drainage System Management  
Soil Health

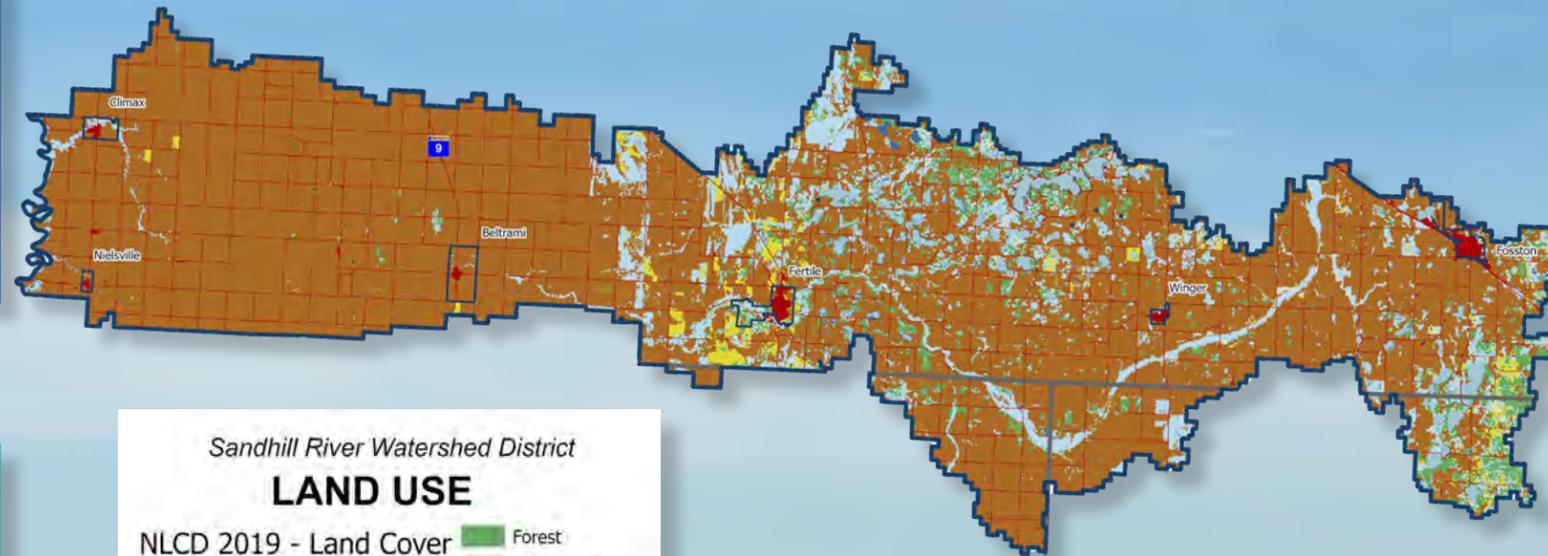


### How:

- Drainage system maintenance and improvement.
- Soil health practices (no till, cover crops).
- Water and sediment control basins.
- Grade stabilizations

### Outcomes:

- Soil health improved.
- Drainage is maintained.
- Nutrients, sediment, and bacteria entering lakes and streams is reduced.
- Flood damage reduction.



## Natural Resources

Aquatic Habitat • Terrestrial Habitat • Wetlands



### How:

- Wetland restoration.
- Prairie habitat protection.
- Land retirement programs (RIM, CRP, CREP).

### Outcomes:

- Forest, prairie, and migratory waterfowl habitat is protected.
- Sensitive and unique plant, animal, and fish species are protected.
- Riparian corridors are protected.

## Groundwater

Drinking Water Quality • Groundwater Quantity



### How:

- Sealing unused wells.
- Protecting drinking water supply management areas.
- Well testing clinics

### Outcomes:

- Safe and plentiful drinking water.
- Groundwater quantity is sustainable.

## Watershed Highlights

- The watershed starts in Sand Hill Lake, just south of Fosston, MN, and drains to the Red River
- The majority of land is in Polk County, with small portions in Mahnommen and Norman Counties, and the White Earth Reservation.
- The Sand Hill River Watershed District covers the full planning area.
- Primary towns include Fosston, Winger, Fertile, Beltrami, and Climax.
- The majority of the land use in the watershed is in agriculture (78%) with small areas of wetlands, prairie, and forest.

## Plan Highlights

- Implementation of the Sand Hill One Watershed One Plan is voluntary, and outreach and incentives will be used to assist with voluntary implementation on private lands.
- This plan includes both restoration and protection priorities.
- This plan incorporates modeling tools (PTMApp) to help identify agricultural practices on the land to reduce erosion. Practices are targeted where they can reduce the most sediment.
- Land practices have stacked benefits such as sediment reduction, water storage, flood damage reduction, water quality improvement, and habitat enhancement.

# Vision Statement

*Created from a small sinuous channel pouring over sand hills, the Sand Hill River Watershed provides farming and recreational opportunities that preserve and promote economic sustainability while maintaining natural resources for future generations.*

## Sand Hill Implementation Team



West Polk Soil and  
Water Conservation  
District  
Crookston MN



Cooperating for  
Conservation  
**Norman County**  
soil & water  
conservation district



**MAHNOMEN COUNTY**  
M I N N E S O T A



For a full copy of the plan visit:

<http://www.sandhillwatershed.org/1W1P.html>

Further questions or comments, contact your local  
SWCD, Watershed District, or County.

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