



## Driftless Area Watershed Restoration

### BACKGROUND

Unsustainable farming practices of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century resulted in once clear, cold streams in the Driftless Area filled with sediment, running warm. Soil conservation has resulted in marked improvement in water quality but many streams today still have steep, eroding banks and poor in-stream habitat.

### LOCATION

The Driftless Area is a geographically distinct area covering 24,000 square miles of southwest Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa, and northwest Illinois. There are over 1,200 spring fed streams.

### ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED

Current agricultural practices and changing land ownership continue to present new challenges to this sensitive landscape. Increased erosion from row cropping, nutrient inputs from large animal storage facilities, stormwater inputs from new development, and fragmentation of wildlife habitat present are still obstacles to Trout Unlimited's goal of restoring trout habitat.

### RESULTS

Five watersheds will be selected based on resource need and partner commitments. These projects will be a unique undertaking for Trout Unlimited by strategically linking upland conservation and stream corridor restoration.

### OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Besides habitat restoration another benefit of this project will be better monitoring. The four state agencies will collaborate on the development of consistent monitoring protocol for gauging success. This will allow for comparing results across the region.

### PARTNERS

Trout Unlimited  
Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin DNR  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
US Fish and Wildlife Service



### CONTACTS

#### Project Contact

Laura Hewitt  
Trout Unlimited  
222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 3  
Madison WI 53703  
Phone: 608-250-3534  
[lhewitt@tu.org](mailto:lhewitt@tu.org)

#### Federal Contact

Mike Prouty, Northeastern Area S&PF  
1992 Folwell Ave.  
St. Paul MN 55108  
Phone: 651-649-5276  
Fax: 651-649-5238  
Email: [mprouty@fs.fed.us](mailto:mprouty@fs.fed.us)

#### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Contact

Neal Feeken  
1 Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling MN 55111  
Phone: 612-713-5185  
Fax: 612-713-5285  
Email: [neal.feeken@nfwf.org](mailto:neal.feeken@nfwf.org)

### GRANT AMOUNT

\$ 140,000 NFWF  
\$ 280,000 Match

\$ 420,000 Total Project Cost

The Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have partnered to initiate the Upper Mississippi River Watershed Fund. The Foundation grants projects that benefit the forests of the Upper Mississippi while improving wildlife habitat and water quality.