



2881 Trout Unlimited: Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild and Rare

Project Description:

Trout Unlimited (TU) will improve aquatic and riparian habitat and water quality through the restoration of cold-water streams in the Driftless area. This project emphasizes the improvement of aquatic habitat through stream habitat improvement and management and aquatic organism passage.

Total Project FA: \$4,460,062.27

Land Management FA: \$1,306,100.45

Rental FA: \$15,000

Easements FA: \$0

Bundles: No

AGI Waiver: No

CCA: N/A

Additional Project Criteria:

Applications for this fund pool must include 395 Stream Habitat Improvement and Management or 396 Aquatic Organism Passage or both 395 and 396.

If an application also includes 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection or 582 Open Channel, there must be 5 instances of 395 included in the application. If a lesser amount is included Trout Unlimited Staff must provide written concurrence of the lesser amount.

Project Area:

All or part of Adams, Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Lafayette, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Richland, Rock, Sauk, St. Croix, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties; see attached map.

Eligible Land:

At least 50% of the land applied for must be in the project area.

Eligible Land Uses:

- Crop
- Pasture
- Associated Ag Land
- Forest

Eligible Resource Concern Categories:

Soil (Concentrated Erosion)
Soil (Soil quality limitations)
Soil (Wind and water erosion)
Water (Field pesticide loss)
Water (Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss)
Water (Weather resilience)



Plants (Degraded plant condition)
Animals (Aquatic Habitat)
Animals (Terrestrial habitat)
Animals (Livestock production limitation)
Human (Long-term protection of land)

Eligible Land Management Practices:

All applications must include at least one core practice or must be completing a conservation system that supports a core practice that has already been implemented and documented in the CART assessment to be eligible for this project.

Code	Practice Name	Core
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	Core
396	Aquatic Organism Passage	Core
326	Clearing and Snagging	
327	Conservation Cover	
342	Critical Area Planting	
362	Diversion	
381	Silvopasture	
382	Fence	
386	Field Border	
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	
393	Filter Strip	
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	
412	Grassed Waterway	
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	
472	Access Control	
484	Mulching	
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	
500	Obstruction Removal	
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	
516	Livestock Pipeline	
528	Prescribed Grazing	
533	Pumping Plant	
560	Access Road	
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	
572	Spoil Disposal	
575	Trails and Walkways	
576	Livestock Shelter Structure	
578	Stream Crossing	
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	
582	Open Channel	
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	
587	Structure for Water Control	



606	Subsurface Drain
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
620	Underground Outlet
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin
642	Water Well
649	Structures for Wildlife
656	Constructed Wetland
657	Wetland Restoration
658	Wetland Creation

Application Processing:

All RCPP applications will be continuously accepted, signup cut-off dates will be publicly announced each year and applications will be managed through Conservation Desktop (CD). On the NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application (version October 2025), RCPP must be selected in question 2 and 2a should be populated with “2881 Trout Unlimited RCPP”.

Workload Prioritization:

This project has a Workload Prioritization Tool (WPT) in use. The WPT is located in the project specific folder on RCPP page of the Wisconsin Programs SharePoint and may be updated each fiscal year.

Ranking Criteria:

The ranking criteria. is located in the project specific folder on RCPP page of the Wisconsin Programs SharePoint and may be updated each fiscal year.

Partner Responsibilities

TU may provide technical assistance for planning, design, installation, and check-out. All designs completed by TU will be approved by NRCS staff with appropriate JAA prior to practice implementation.



RCPP Project Contacts:

NRCS Contacts:

Brandi Richter, RCPP Coordinator, brandi.richter@usda.gov

Partner Contacts:

Sara Strassman*, (608) 668-1632, sara.strassman@tu.org (entire Driftless)

Paul Krahn, (608) 606-0565, paul.krahn@tu.org (entire Driftless)

Peter Jonas, (608) 323-3615, peter.jonas@tu.org (Buffalo, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, Trempealeau Counties)

Shelley Gradwell-Brenneman, (608) 626-2568, shelley@valleystewardshipnetwork.org (Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon Counties)

Beth Summers, (608) 637-3615, beth@valleystewardshipnetwork.org (Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon Counties)

*Primary partner contact



Approved Project Scope:

Project Boundary: #2881 Driftless Area
Habitat for the Wild & Rare Phase 3
Lead Partner: Trout Unlimited

10/10/2023

