

# VERMILLION WATERSHED RC&D APPLICANT AREA



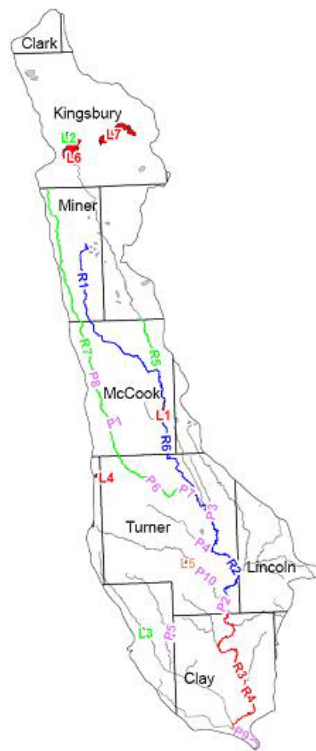
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## Vermillion River Watershed Restoration Project

The McCook Conservation District was awarded a Clean Water Grant of \$117,000 to begin to assist landowners in the Vermillion River Watershed to install conservation practices that reduce water pollution. During 2009 this project was extended through 2011, and the budget was amended to \$450,000. The Vermillion River Watershed Project will continue to assist landowners with livestock agricultural waste management, and with improving riparian areas through land use agreements, fencing, and alternative water developments.

At this time four animal waste facilities have been designed within the project area. Three are planned to go to construction in 2011 all in Turner County. The fourth design system lies in Hutchinson County waiting for the financial climate to improve for dairy operations. Additionally, three site/construction feasibility studies for three additional animal waste facilities in the Vermillion watershed are scheduled for 2011.



The Vermillion River Watershed has a surface area of about 1.43 million acres covering portions of 14 eastern South Dakota counties, including all six Vermillion River RC&D Applicant area counties. The basin is about 150 miles north to south, and varies in width from 12 miles in the north to 36 miles in the south.

**NEW** to the project for 2010/2011 is the Riparian Area Management (RAM) Program that will provide land use agreements to landowners to complement Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) CP-22 **Riparian Buffer** or CP-30 **Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer** practices where riparian areas are involved. A steering committee representing Clay, McCook, Miner, Turner & Yankton Counties ranked 18 RAM applications taken from Clay, McCook, Turner & Yankton Counties in FY- 2010, potentially affecting 205 acres to enhance or protect the Vermillion River.



RAM is meant to be an add on to CRP or RAM can be used as a stand alone project to exclude cattle from overgrazed areas parallel and immediately adjacent to an impaired stream.