United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

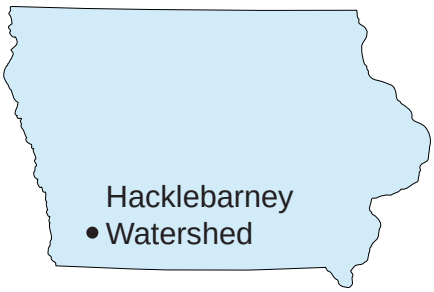
Watershed Operations

May 2009

Reinvesting in the Hacklebarney Watershed, Iowa

Introduction

When fully implemented, this watershed project will contribute to the economic growth of the area by providing more than $678,000 of annual benefits. The purpose of this watershed project is to protect the watershed from excessive erosion and resource depletion.



Hacklebarney Watershed covers 44,250 acres in eastern Montgomery County and western Adams County in southwest Iowa.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Montgomery and Adams Counties, 3rd and 5th Congressional Districts
- **Federal Funding:** $161,000

The Hacklebarney Watershed Project Plan calls for controlling excessive soil erosion on critically eroding cropland by implementing and installing conservation practices. In addition, forestry practices, such as tree planting and timber stand improvement will be implemented.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Adams County Board of Supervisors
- Montgomery County Board of Supervisors

Benefits

When the project is completed, benefits to the area will include reduction in soil erosion with construction of structures, wildlife habitat improvement, and reduction in nutrients and sediment deposits to improve water quality in the West Nodaway River.

A newly constructed grade stabilization structure, completed in 2007, in the Hacklebarney Watershed with trees in the background that provide habitat for wildlife.

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Economic Opportunities

The average annual cost of the Hacklebarney Watershed Project is an estimated $389,700. With an average annual benefit of $678,000, the benefit is $1.70 for every dollar spent.

Statewide Perspective

The Hacklebarney Watershed Project reduces sediment, nutrient, and phosphorus delivery to the West Nodaway River, impacting the City of Clarinda water supply. Viking Lake, a State park located in the south end of the watershed, is also protected as part of this plan.

For More Information

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Ephemeral gully erosion occurring after heavy rains drench a field in the Hacklebarney Watershed.

Construction was recently completed on this grade stabilization structure when this picture was taken in 2006.

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