

# National Water Quality Initiative

## Purpose

Through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to farmers and forest landowners interested in improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority watersheds with impaired streams. NRCS is helping producers implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. Qualified producers receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips and terraces. To help install these conservation practices, financial assistance to share in the cost of these conservation practices is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

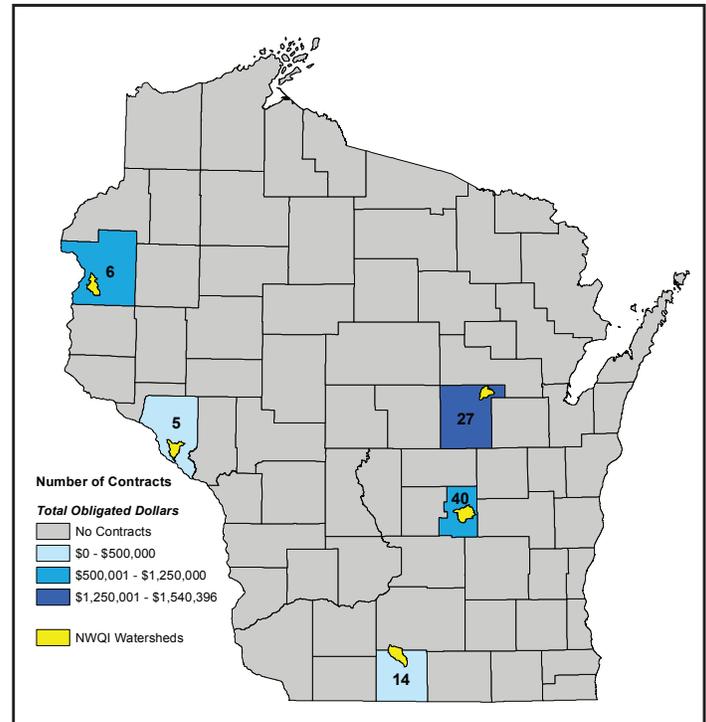
In Fiscal Year 2015, the following watersheds were the focus for the Initiative:

1. Big Green Lake Watershed in Green Lake County including two streams targeted in this county: Roy and Wuerchs Creeks
2. Horse Lake – Horse Creek in Polk County
3. Pigeon Lake – Pigeon River in Waupaca County

Contact your local NRCS Service Center for more information regarding this Initiative. Find your nearest Service Center at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

## Partnership Signup Results

Watershed (County)	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Contracts (No.)	Dollars (\$)	Contracts (No.)	Dollars (\$)	Contracts (No.)	Dollars (\$)	Contracts (No.)	Dollars (\$)
Big Green Lake (Green Lake)	12	352,377	8	358,800	12	218,328	8	155,430
Ward Cr.–Little Sugar River (Green)	14	327,027	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waumaundee Cr. (Buffalo)	5	98,180	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horse Lake–Horse Cr. (Polk)	—	—	3	157,464	2	606,854	1	3,429
Pigeon Lake–Pigeon R. (Waupaca)	—	—	21	916,349	6	568,107	0	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>777,584</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,432,613</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,393,289</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>158,859</b>



## Top Five Practices

1. Nutrient Management
2. Grade Stabilization Structure
3. Critical Area Planting
4. Grassed Waterway
5. Heavy Use Area Protection