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We work on all Natural Resources

Soil



Air



Water



Energy



Animals



Plants



- **The NRCS offers a diverse array of programs that provide practical conservation on privately owned land.**

- **Maybe the most important thing NRCS has to offer is our planning assistance.....ideas and advice.**



Conservation Technical Assistance

- **Work one-on-one with farmers/ranchers on site to develop a conservation plan based on their farm goals**
- **Conservation goals are highly individual**
- **Planning assistance is free**
- **Does not require participation in financial assistance programs**



All Voluntary Assistance!

- ***Our planning assistance is voluntary and really is the first step***
- ***This leads to voluntary access to our array of financial assistance programs.***

How Voluntary Conservation can help producers avoid regulation?

- * National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)**
 - * Threatened and Endangered Species**
 - * Soil Health**

South Dakota Water Quality Initiative 12 Digit Hydrologic Units (HU) for Colton, Buffalo, Jensen and Willow Creeks

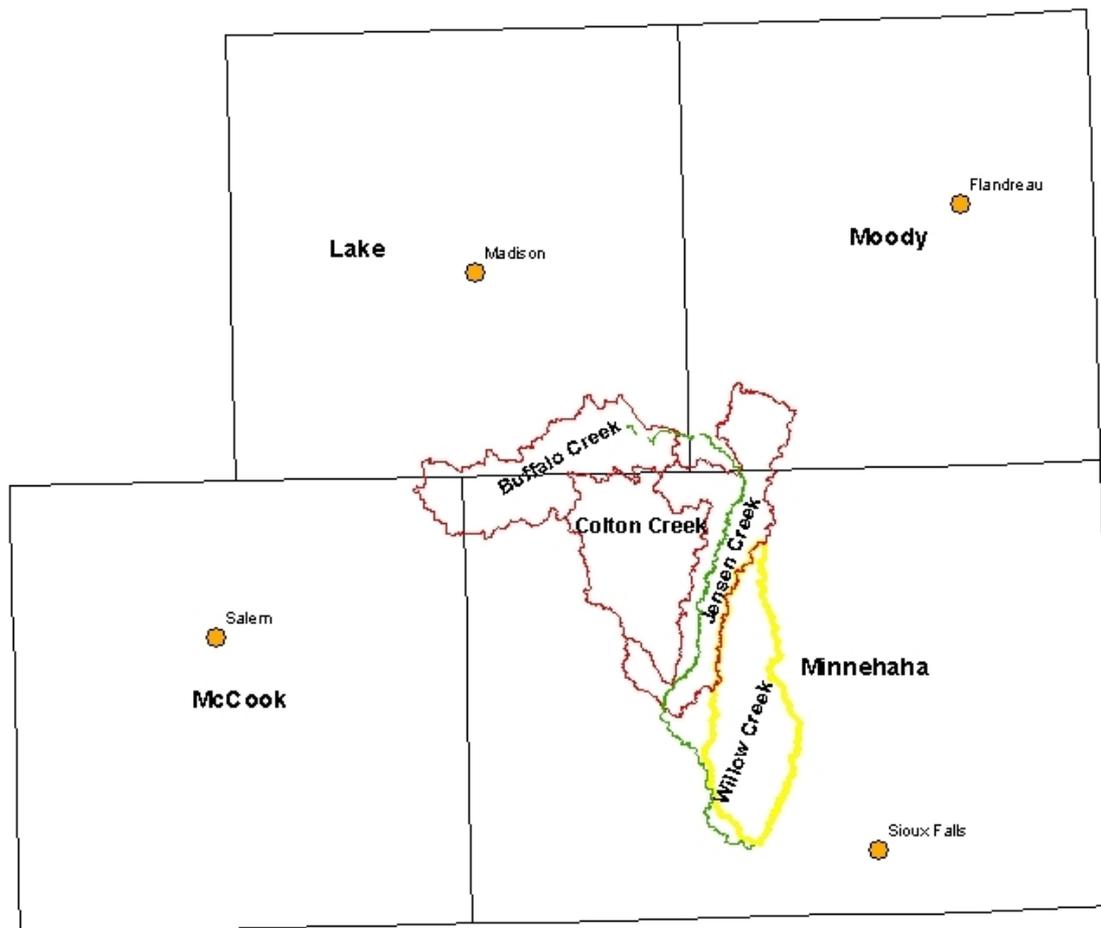


Legend

- 12 Digit HU Watershed for Water Quality Initiative (Buffalo, Colton, and Jensen Creeks)
- 12 Digit HU Request to Include in Project (Willow Creek)



South Dakota Water Quality Initiative 12 Digit Hydrologic Units (HU) for Colton, Buffalo, Jensen and Willow Creeks



Legend

-  12 Digit HU Watershed for Water Quality Initiative (Buffalo, Colton, and Jensen Creeks)
-  12 Digit HU Request to Include in Project (Willow Creek)
-  Field Offices
-  Streams



Our Goals?

- *Provide voluntary planning and financial assistance*
- *Get more conservation on the land*
- *Address the impairments of sediment and bacteria*
- ***REMOVE SKUNK CREEK FROM SOUTH DAKOTA'S 303d list***





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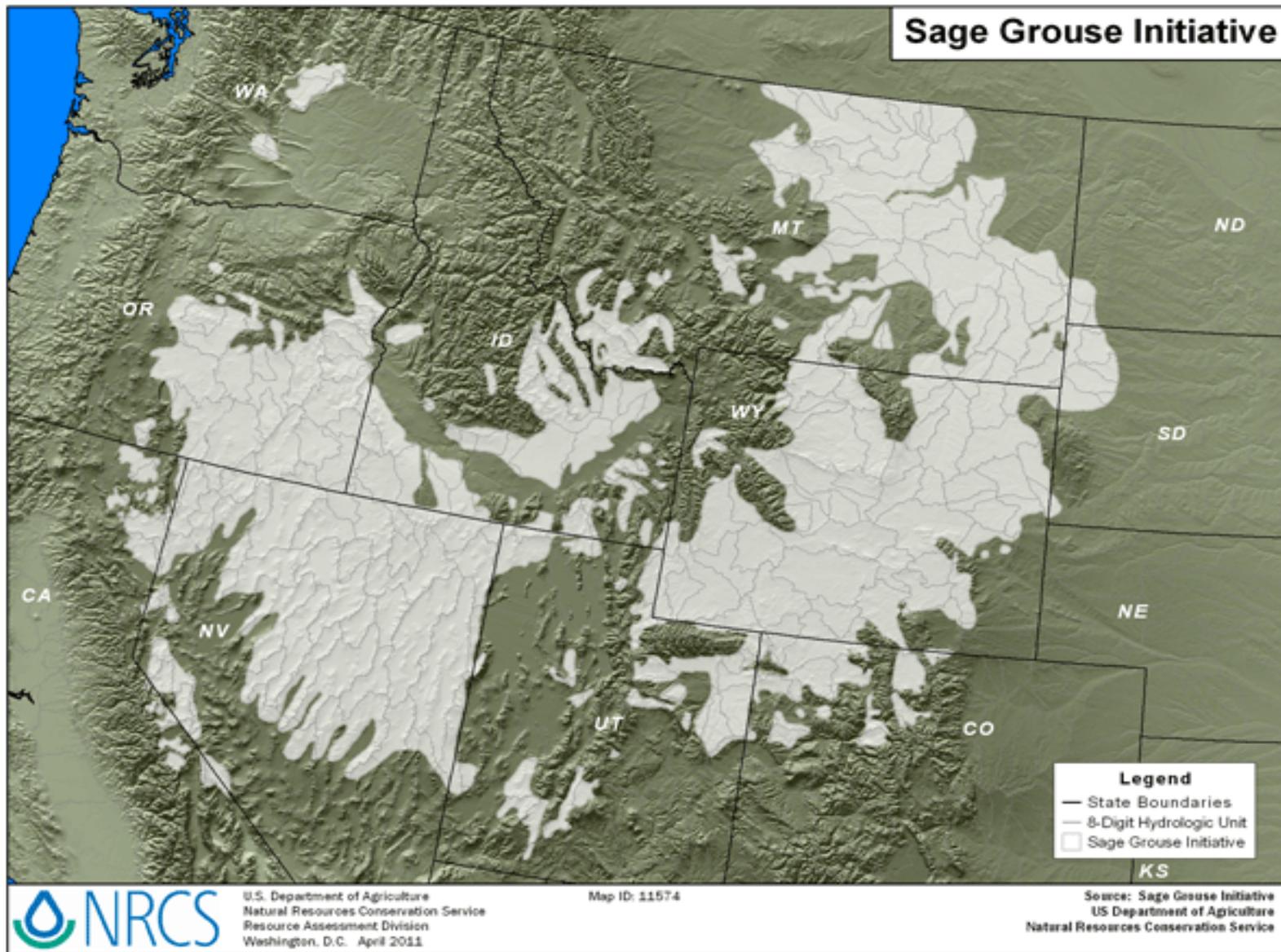




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healthy soil is key...

to feeding **9 billion**



by **2050**

Healthy soils feed the plants that feed us.

did you know?

If world population growth continues at its current rate, we will need to produce as much food in the next 40 years as we have in the past 500.

Because soil is the factory of most of that food, keeping soil healthy and functioning properly is central to feeding the more than 9 billion people who will be showing up for dinner by the year 2050.

What does this mean on a landscape scale?

- ***Mississippi River Basin***
- ***Lower James River Watershed***

A landscape example...

By **increasing the water absorption** of all of the cropland in the Mississippi River Basin by just **one-half inch** (through improved soil quality), that water retention would be the equivalent of...





A landscape example...

The amount of water that flows over Niagara Falls in 83 days.



Lower James River Watershed Example:

- **52% of the land in the watershed is cropland**
- **Approximately 30% of those acres are farmed with No-till planting methods**
- **If we could use No-till planting methods on just 25% of the cropland that are now tilled prior to planting....**
- **We could infiltrate an additional .2 inches from a 2.5 inch rainfall event on the new no-till planted acres.**
- **SO WHAT!**
 - **That amount of water is 1.1 billion gallons**
 - **In tanker trucks on I-90, they would stretch from Sioux Falls to Rapid City over 4 times**
 - **That amount of water would flood 3,440 acres a foot deep if it ran off.**

**“Take care of the land and it
will take care of you.”**

**Hugh Hammond Bennett – known as
the “Father of soil conservation,” and
the first Chief of the NRCS.**



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