Clean Water
State Revolving Fund

NONPOINT SOURCE IMPROVEMENTS – SKUNK CREEK

STATE PROGRAM: South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: City of Sioux Falls

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: Over $3.3M

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Big Sioux River serves as a drinking water source for the residents of Sioux Falls and is listed as an impaired water body. The City of Sioux Falls, utilizing South Dakota CWSRF's incentive loan rates for nonpoint source (NPS) projects, funded various NPS projects in the Big Sioux River watershed. Over $3.3 million in CWSRF loans were made using incentive interest rates for NPS best management practices for Skunk Creek, a former impaired tributary of the Big Sioux River. Using these funds, the community worked to restore the Creek and applied a Seasonal Riparian Area Management (SRAM) practice to support landowners within the 100-year floodplain of the Creek. Landowners found this SRAM practice an attractive option for using land on the river corridor because protected the land from livestock grazing during the recreation season. This program paid livestock producers to defer grazing or maintain a minimum vegetation stand in the river corridor during the growing season.

Over 1,200 acres of riparian area along Skunk Creek have been entered into this SRAM practice to date, which has led to a decrease in total suspended solids in the Creek and, in turn, allowed the Creek to be removed from the State's impaired list.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/documents/2020_pisces_compendium.pdf.