



AWWA – ACE16

June 20, 2016

“Urban & Rural Partners for Cedar River Nitrate Reduction”

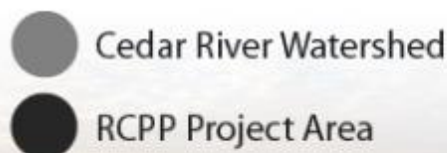


Steve Hershner, Utilities Director

Barb Wagner, Utilities Water Quality Specialist

Mike Kuntz, Utilities Environmental Manager

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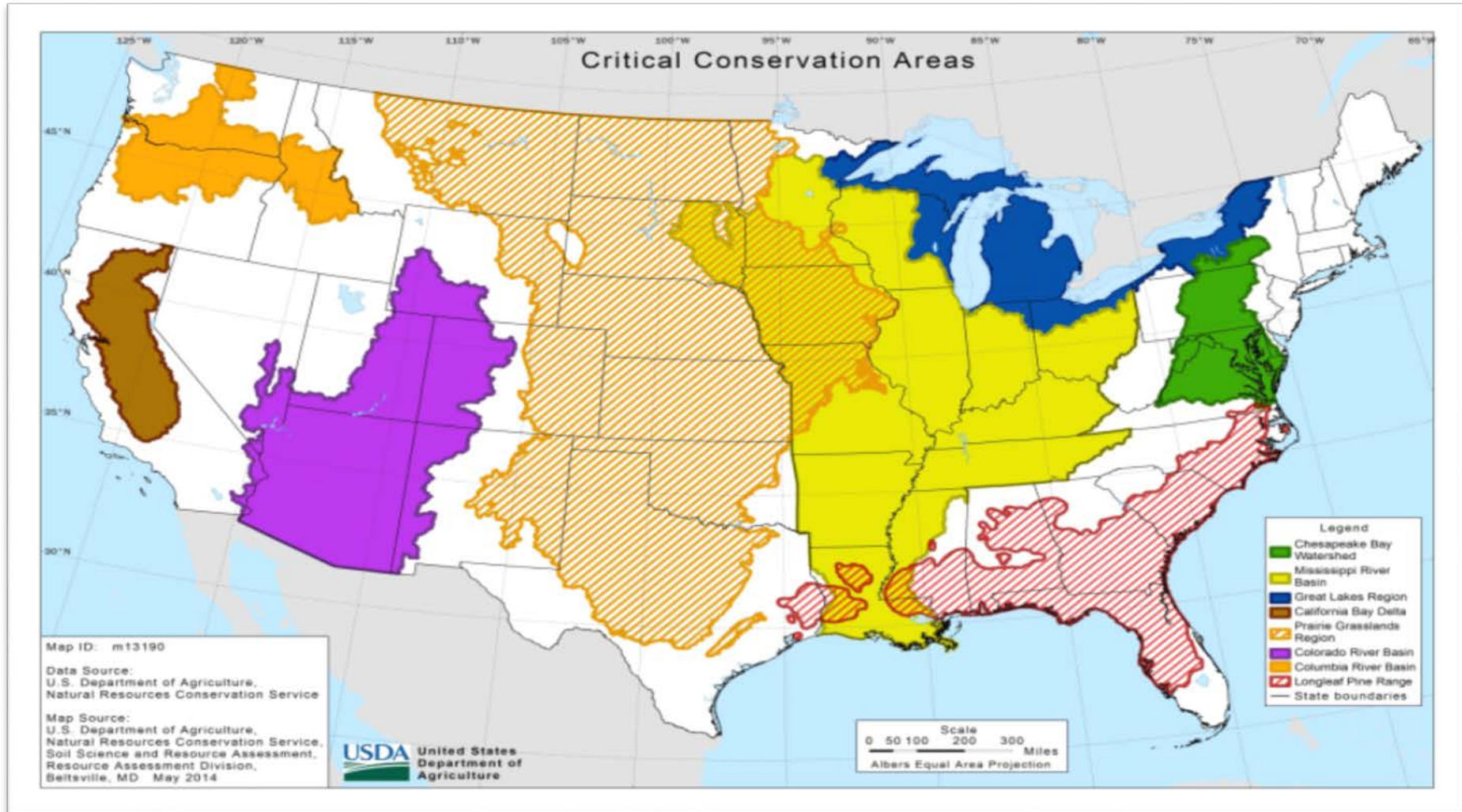
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NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

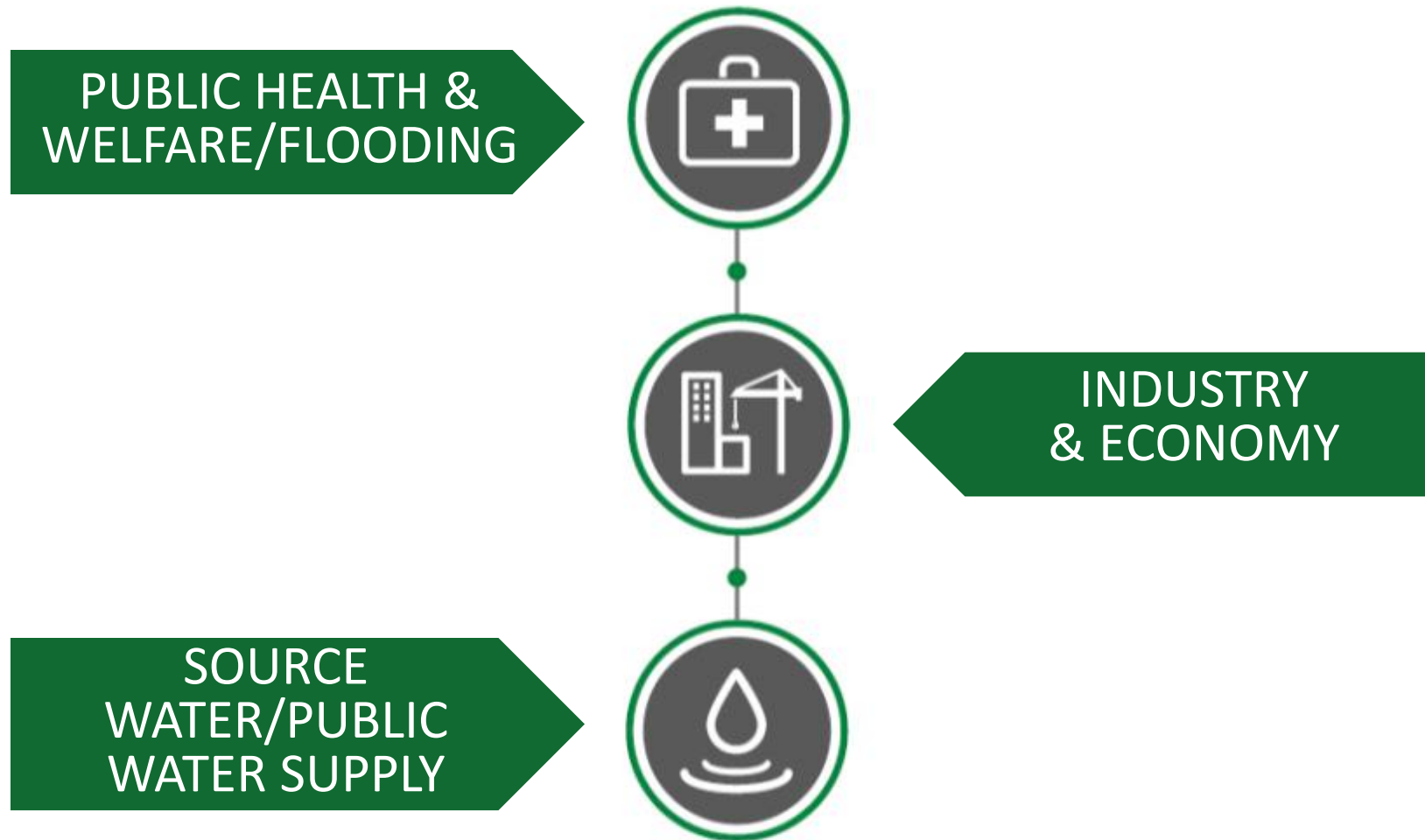
(Regional Conservation Partnership Program)





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WHY COLLABORATE WITH UPSTREAM PRODUCERS?





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WHY COLLABORATE? PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE



18,600+
People
Impacted

7,700+
Parcels
Flooded

310 City
Facilities
Flooded



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WHY COLLABORATE? INDUSTRIAL & ECONOMIC IMPACT



PEPSICO



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WHY COLLABORATE? (SOURCE WATER - PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY)

- Raw water highly influenced by river water quality
- Public notification at 10 mg/L
- Hach Nitratax

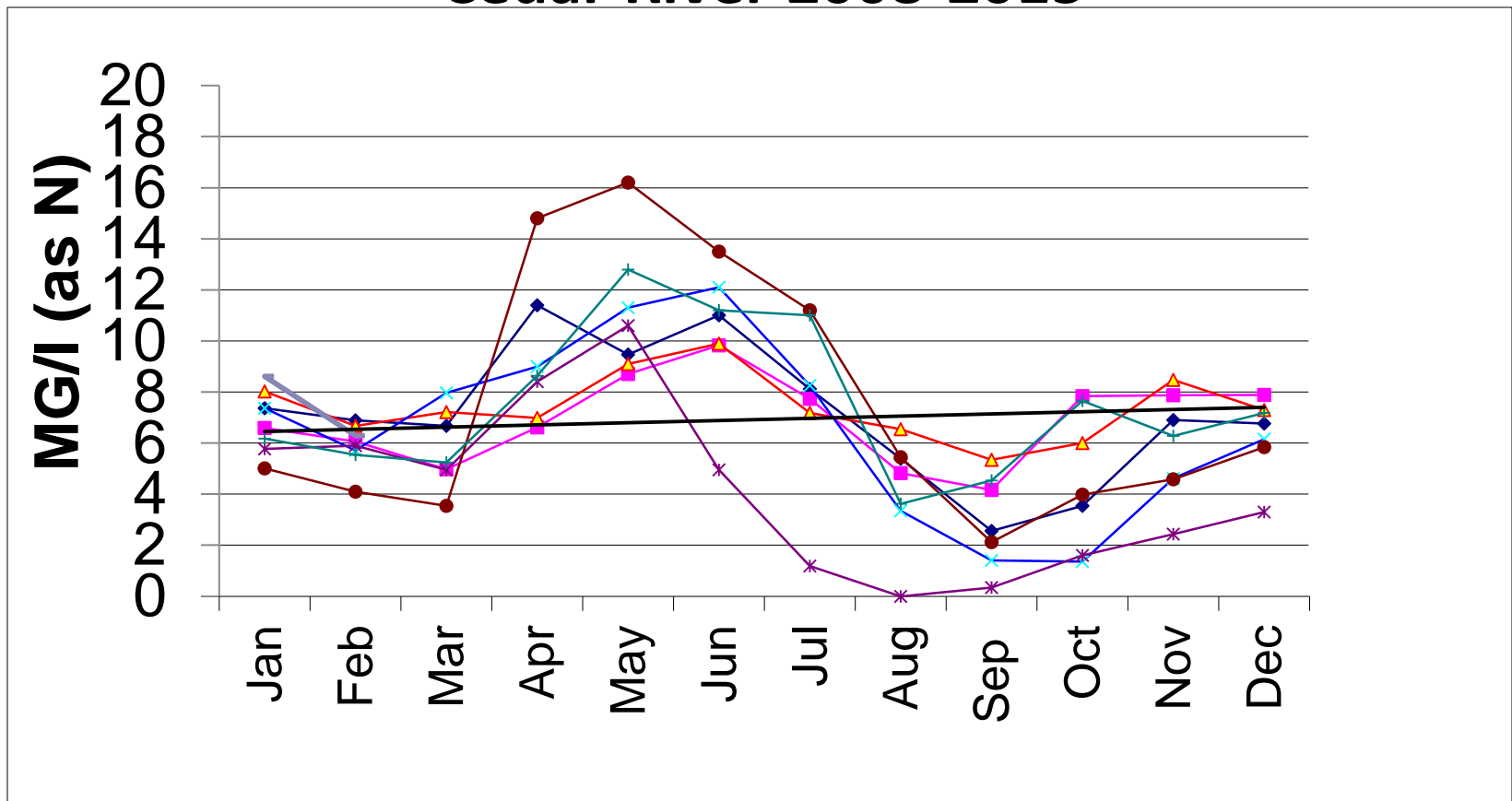




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WHY COLLABORATE?
(SOURCE WATER - PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY)

Monthly Maximum Nitrate Concentrations in the Cedar River 2008-2015





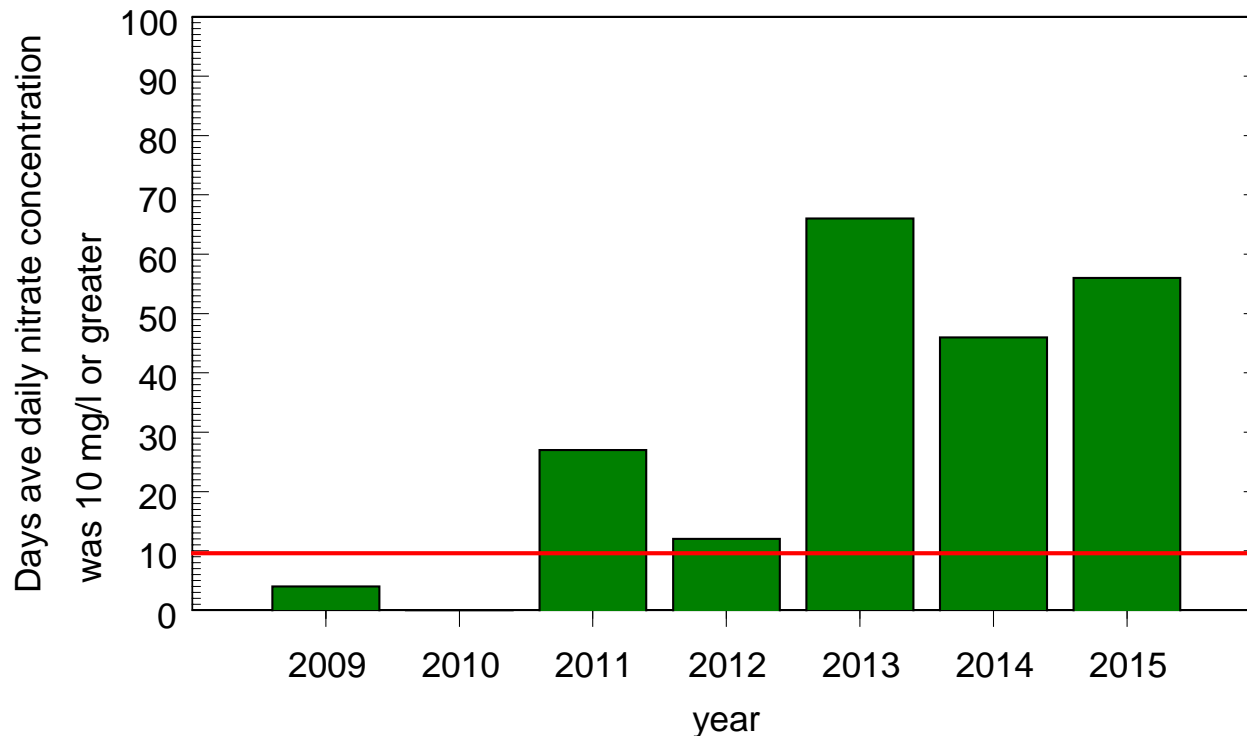
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WHY COLLABORATE?
(SOURCE WATER - PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY)

Nitrate concentrations in the Cedar River 2009-2015

Cedar River at Cedar Rapids, IA

(April through October)





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WHY PARTNERSHIP? UTILITY/COMMUNITY VALUE

Food Processing &
Biotech are key
100,000+ bu/day
soybeans
1,000,000 bu/day
corn
Processed or used
everyday

Water
Consumer
Safety and
Health

Industry
success

Vitally connected
to upstream
watershed:
Economic resource
Source Water
Flood impacts



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PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS MIDDLE CEDAR PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

NRCS through
RCPP
contributing
\$2.0M

Primarily
financial, some
technical
assistance



16 MCPP
partners
contributing
\$2.3M

Primarily
technical,
some
financial
assistance



\$4.3M
available over
the next five
years



Clock started
June 5, 2015



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PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS
MIDDLE CEDAR PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Middle Cedar Partnership Project (MCPP)

Collaborating for Soil & Water Quality





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OUR APPROACH
MIDDLE CEDAR PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Working Together

- Improve Soil Health
- Improve Water Quality
- Reduce Water Quantity

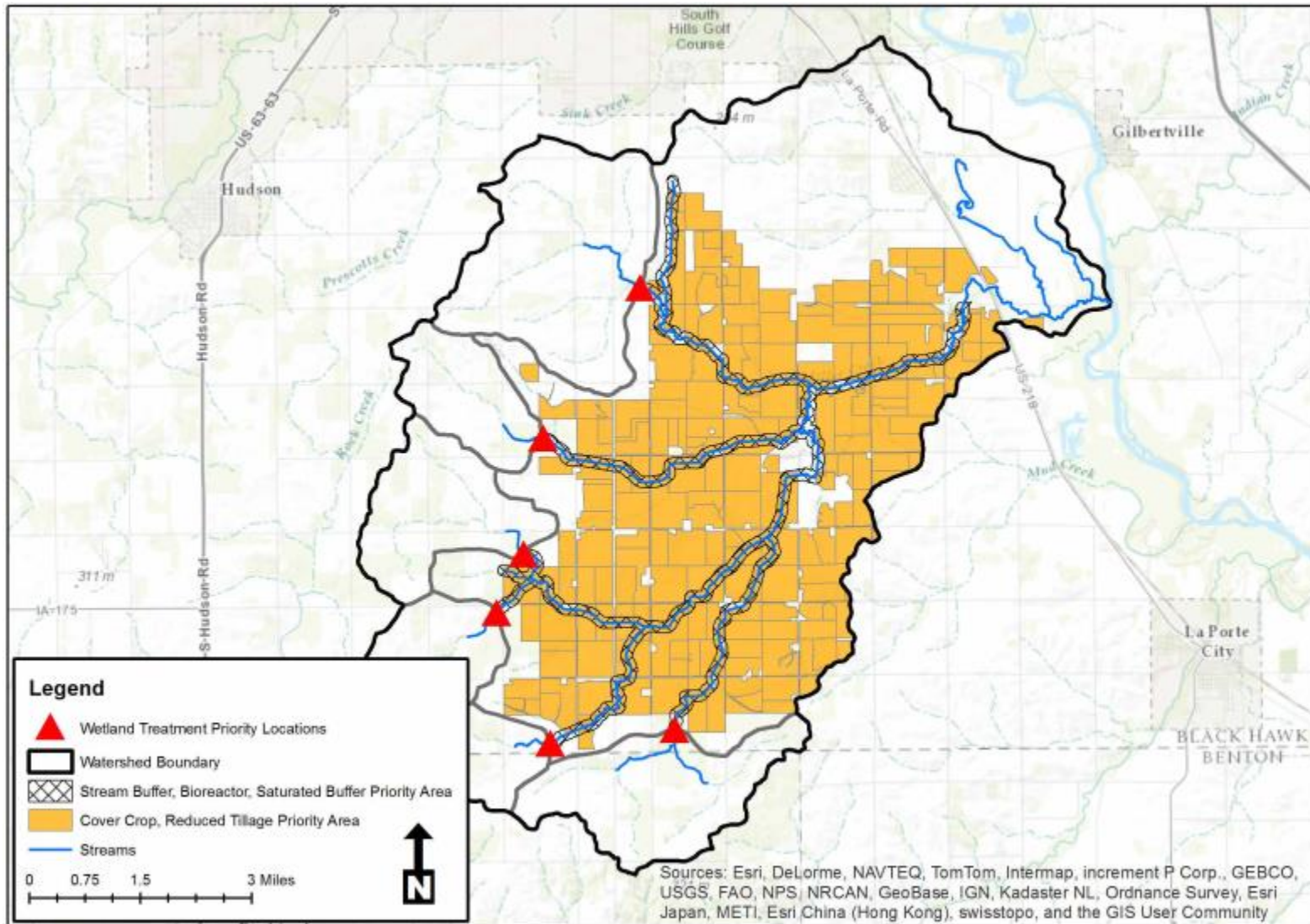
Expanding on a Good Thing

- Miller Creek Water Quality Initiative
- Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project



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PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS WATERSHED CONCEPT PLAN





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KEY OBJECTIVES FOR MCPP

Objective 1



Develop watershed plans to include monitoring and evaluation that will optimize placement of Best Management Practices (BMP)

Objective 2



Implement BMPs through financial and technical assistance to reduce nutrient loads and peak flow runoff to the Cedar River

Objective 3



Conduct outreach activities with landowners and producers in the five subwatersheds



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IMPLEMENT BMPs DENITRIFYING BIOREACTOR

- Constructed Sept. 2015
- Drainage area of 55 acres
- Monitored in ISA program





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IMPLEMENT BMPs DENITRIFYING BIOREACTOR





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IMPLEMENT BMPs COVER CROPS





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IMPLEMENT BMPs MILLER CREEK

Conservation Practice	2015 Signups
Cover Crops	2,703.07 acres
Strip-Till/No-Till	594.90 acres
Denitrifying Bioreactor	2 systems (1 installed)
Saturated Buffer	1 system installed
Prairie Strips	4.00 acres
Grass Waterway (CP-8A)	4.68 acres
Filter Strips (CP-21)	76.19 acres
Riparian Buffer (CP-22)	11.01 acres
Pheasant Recovery (CP-38)	120.32 acres
Pollinator Habitat (CP-42)	580.98 acres



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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FIELD DAYS

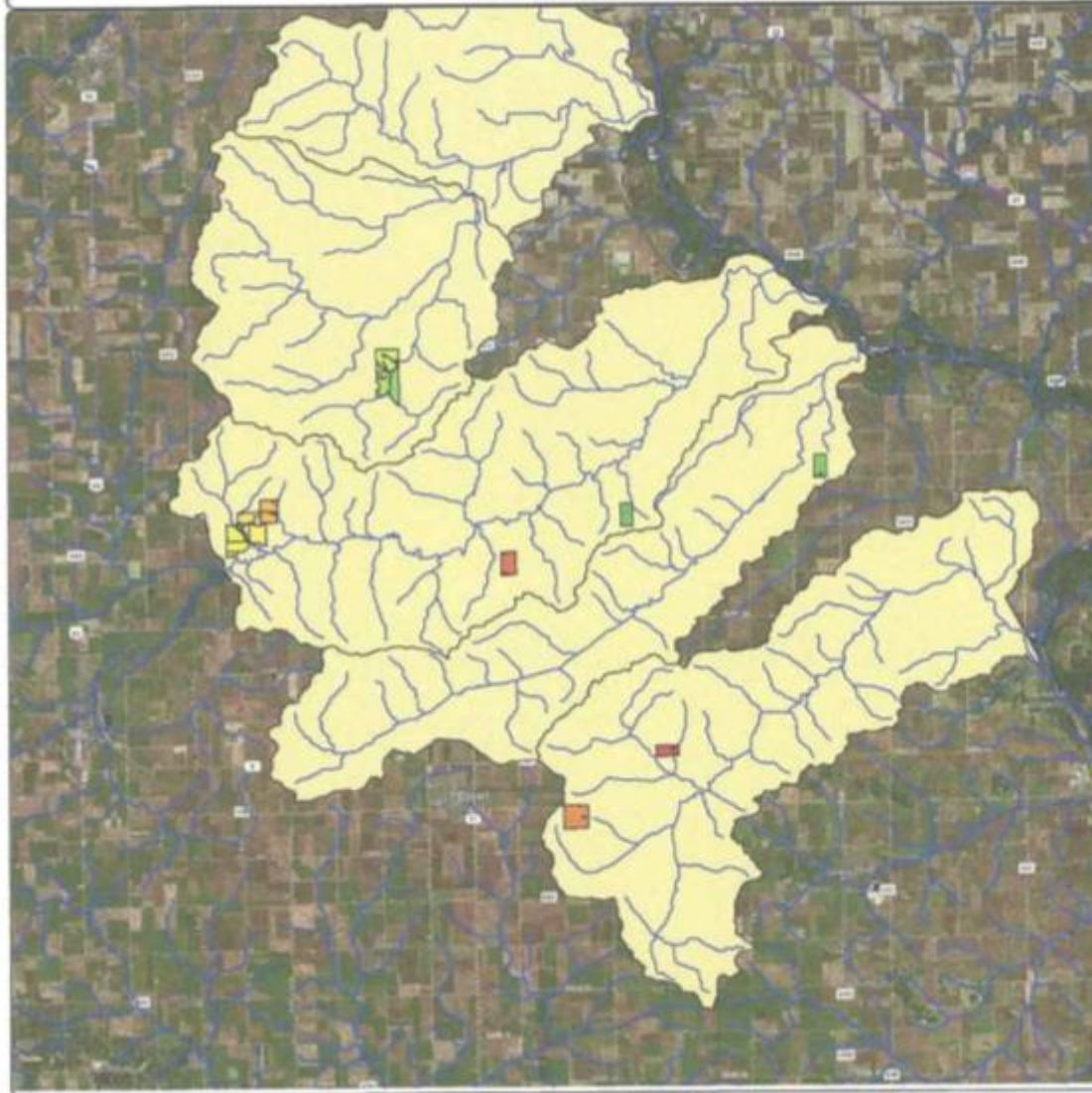




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MCPP 2016 ACTIVITIES

2016_Nutrient Management Plans and Nutrient Management - Enhanced (1253.5 ac total)



Grower : Multiple
Farm : Multiple
Field : Multiple
Year : 2016
Operation : Boundary
Crop / Product : NO Product
Op. Instance : Instance - 1

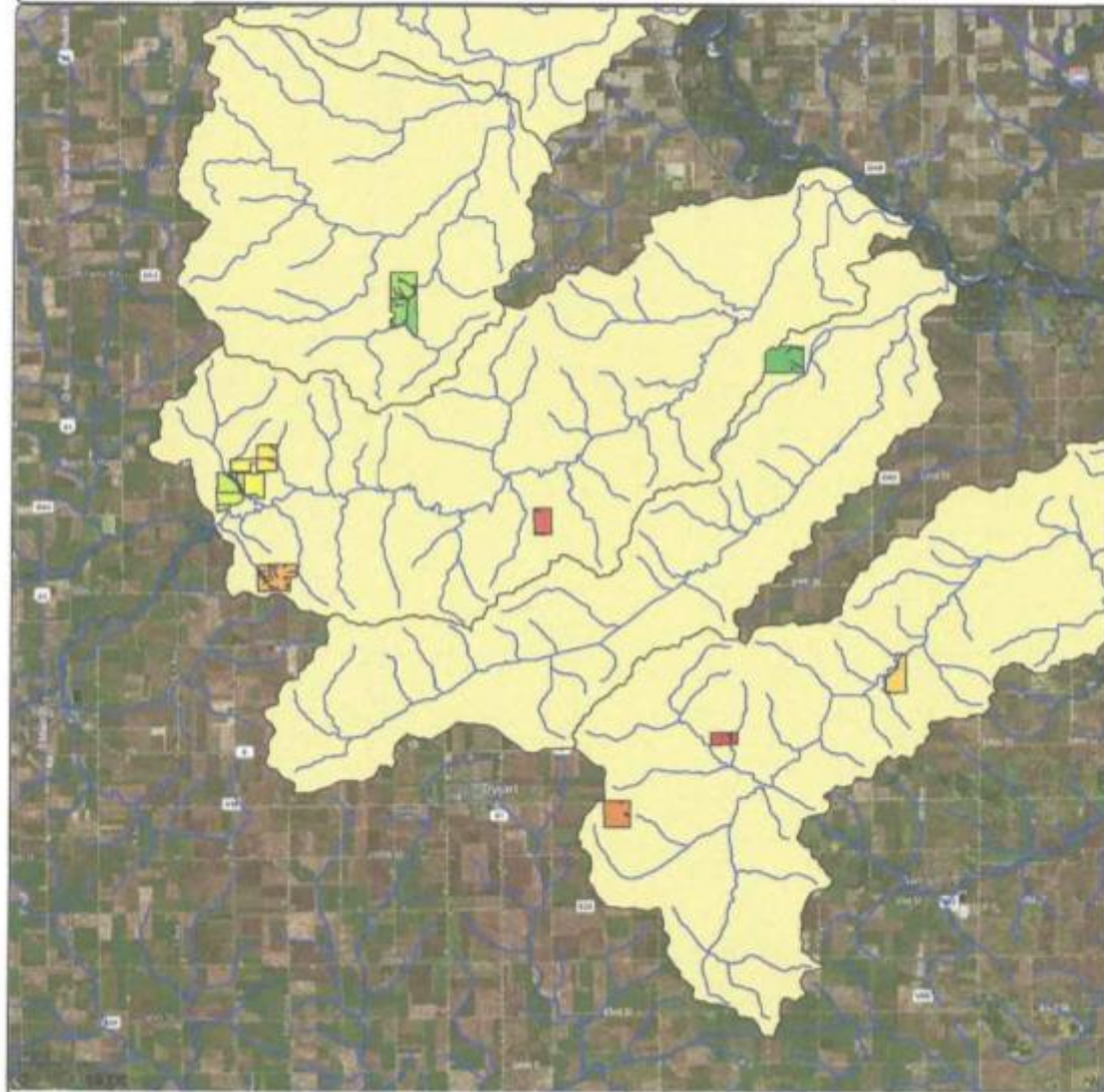
(80.5 ac)
(75.7 ac)
(78.9 ac)
(88.1 ac)
(139.5 ac)
(92.0 ac)
(92.7 ac)
(102.7 ac)
(60.1 ac)
(116.5 ac)
(156.4 ac)
(100.5 ac)
(69.9 ac)



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RECENT ACTIVITIES

2016_Cover Crops (1635 ac total)



Grower : Multiple
Farm : Multiple
Field : Multiple
Year : 2016
Operation : Boundary
Crop / Product : NO Product
Op. Instance : Instance - 1

(213.8 ac)
(78.9 ac)
(88.1 ac)
(139.5 ac)
(92.0 ac)
(92.7 ac)
(102.7 ac)
(60.1 ac)
(116.5 ac)
(122.7 ac)
(201.3 ac)
(156.4 ac)
(100.5 ac)
(69.9 ac)



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IS IT WORKING? EVALUATING RESULTS

The project will track adoption rates and the locations of best management practices to understand which practice type and installation location are best aligned with watershed plans and provide the maximum benefits to water quality, water quantity and soil health.



Downstream
Water Users

Conservation
Entities

Upstream
Producers

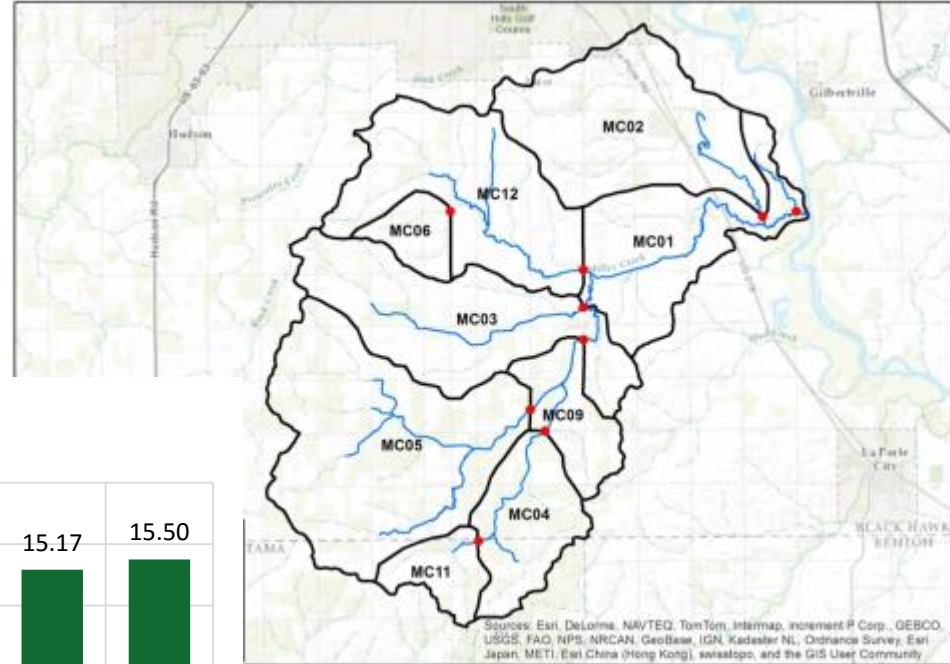
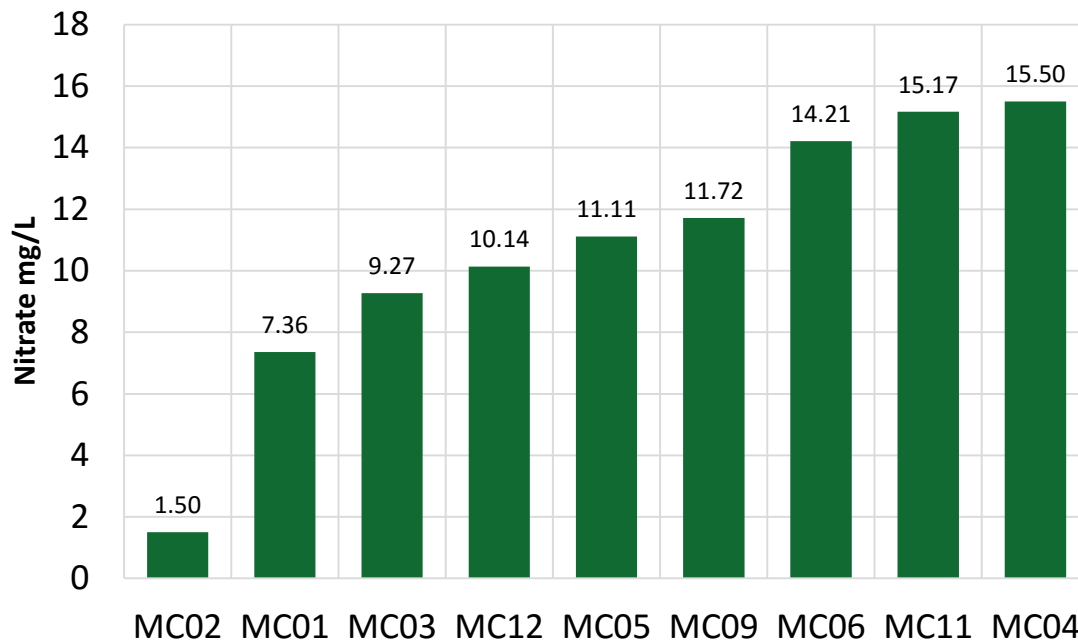




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EVALUATING RESULTS WATER QUALITY

Average Stream Nitrate 2014-2015





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WHAT DOES FUTURE SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- **Improved soil health**, leading to a better bottom-line for upstream producers
- **Increased adoption of tested practices** because it makes financial sense and it's the right thing to do
- Demonstrated **water quality improvements**
- **Expansion of similar MCPP promoted activities** within Cedar River watershed and other watersheds across Iowa
- City of Cedar Rapids nitrate removal system scale could be reduced





URBAN & RURAL PARTNERS FOR CEDAR RIVER NITRATE REDUCTION

MIDDLE CEDAR PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

QUESTIONS?



- Cedar River Watershed
- RCPP Project Area

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This material is based upon work supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number 68-6114-15-004. Any opinions, findings and other conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and so not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.