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**Contact: Diane Daulton, ABDI-LCD 682-7187**

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**Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron County Land & Water Conservation Department  
Awarded Grant to Address Soil Erosion and Sediment Control**

The Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron County Land & Water Conservation Department, in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission's Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, announces the award of a \$49,450 grant for the project entitled "A Watershed Management Strategy in the Marengo River Watershed". Through this project, the group will accomplish two things: (1) develop a process for Lake Superior Basin grassroots organizations to analyze the hydrologic condition of their watersheds, and (2) allows for the testing of the process in the Marengo River Watershed. This project will complete Phase I of II that the group expects to carry out in the Marengo Watershed. Phase II, currently in the planning stages, will take the information gathered in Phase I for the Marengo River Watershed, and from it, work with citizen groups to develop a plan to protect and improve water quality in the Marengo.

Sediment is the single largest pollutant, by volume, of the Great Lakes and their tributaries. Erosion and sedimentation cause a wide range of ecological and economic damages. Beyond the obvious loss of topsoil, sediment can smother fish habitat; carry pesticides; fertilizer and other land-based pollutants into our waters; and clog waterways used for recreational and commercial navigation, as well as mar the landscapes where erosion occurs. Financial burdens include the cost of removing sediment and associated pollutants from our drinking water and dredging to maintain our waterways and harbors.

This project is just one of many such efforts to reduce sediment pollution and improve our Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control is about making a difference – in water quality, land use, and agricultural productivity. Initiated in 1991 and authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, this federal/state partnership has supported well over 300 projects throughout the Great Lakes region. The Basin Program is coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sediment Task Force oversees the program and ensures that its goals and objectives are met. Task force members include representatives of the eight Great Lakes states, state and federal agencies, and other regional interests. In taking action to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation, the Great lakes Basin Program protects the water quality of the Great Lakes.

For more information on the project contact Diane Daulton at 715-682-7187 / e-mail [ddaulton@centurytel.net](mailto:ddaulton@centurytel.net) or Amy Eliot at 218-525-0490 / e-mail [bluesky@skypoint.com](mailto:bluesky@skypoint.com). For information about the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control contact Gary Overmier at 734-971-9135 or e-mail at [garyo@glc.org](mailto:garyo@glc.org).

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