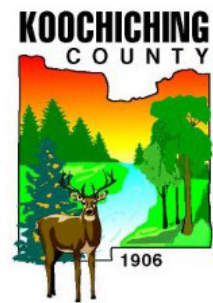




Rainy River-Rainy Lake Partnership



Rainy River-Rainy Lake One Watershed, One Plan

What is One Watershed, One Plan?

- Voluntary program and plan to guide watershed managers as they work to protect and restore the watershed's resources
- Aligns water planning along watershed boundaries
- Local priorities, locally driven
- Uses existing authorities and funding mechanisms (county, city, and SWCD Board)
- After adopted, implementation funding from the state is obtained through a non-competitive process instead of competitive
- Program website:
<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan>

For a Full Copy of the Plan, visit:
https://koochichingswcd.org/rrrl_1w1p/

Contact Your Local SWCD if You
Have Any Questions on the Plan:
Koochiching SWCD: 218-283-1180
koochswcd@gmail.com



Scan me!

Photo Credit: Jeff Kantor



The Rainy River-Rainy Lake Watershed

- The plan area spans 629,000 acres over two major watersheds: the Lower Rainy River Watershed and the Rainy River-Rainy Lake Watershed. The planning area is shaped like a butterfly!
- Most of the watershed is in Koochiching County, with <17% in St. Louis and Lake of the Woods Counties. The only cities in the watershed are Ranier and International Falls.
- The watershed is rich in natural resources, with pristine waters and majority (70%) of the land covered by peatlands and wetlands. It also includes a large portion of Minnesota's only National Park, Voyageurs National Park (VNP).
- Approximately 56% of the watershed is publicly owned, with 45,000 acres of land on the western side of the watershed is owned by Red Lake Band of Chippewa.

Plan Highlights

- Implementation of the Plan is voluntary; thus, outreach and incentives will be used to encourage voluntary implementation efforts.
- Plan approval comes with BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funding, which is the primary funding source used to implement plan actions
- The Plan is a collaboratively developed roadmap for preserving natural resources over the next 10 years. It includes prioritized issues facing the watershed and sets goals with targeted locations for specific actions.

Summary of Plan Goals and Example Actions

Water Quality Contaminants

Goal: Treat 1,500 acres with best management practices; Develop 1 stormwater plan and implement 4 projects

Example Actions: Agricultural practices; Stormwater retention basins

Wastewater Management

Goal and Example Action: Replace 50 failing septic systems

Erosion and Shoreland Management

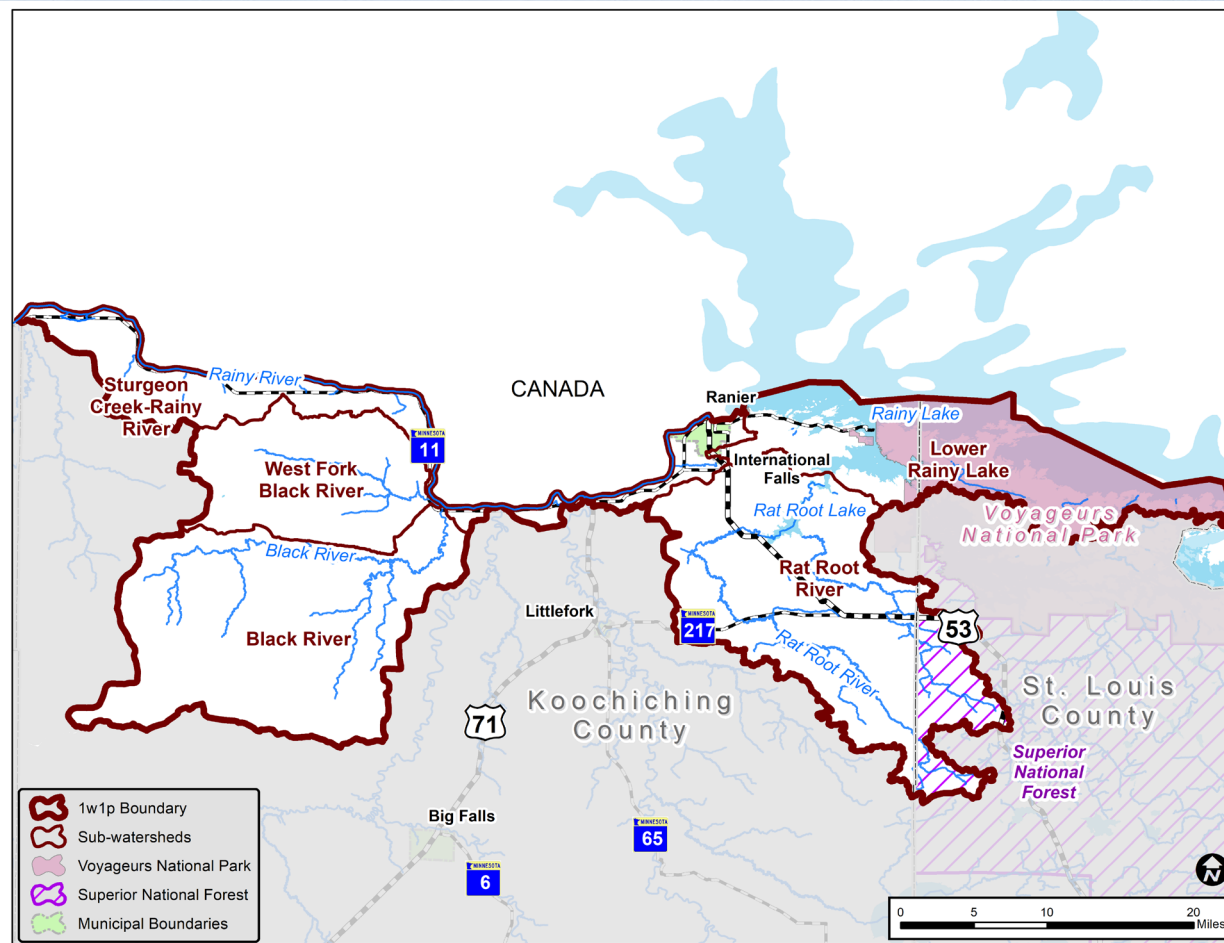
Goal: Restore/stabilize 5,280 feet of streams / ditches and shoreline

Example Actions: Shoreline native plantings; Education and outreach

Restore Hydrology

Goal: Conduct one peatland restoration/water storage feasibility study

Example Action: Study to determine water storage capability



Summary of Plan Goals and Example Actions

Connectivity Enhancement

Goal: Complete culvert inventory; Address 2 problematic culverts

Example Actions: Coordination with road authorities; Beaver management

Drinking Water Protection

Goal: Seal 50 unused wells

Example Action: Use cost-share and outreach to seal wells; Screen private wells for contamination

Forest Health

Goal: Complete 40 forest plans to manage 2,000 acres of private forest land

Example Action: Forest Stewardship Plans on private and small parcels; Invasive species management

Resource Prioritization

Water resources were placed into four categories to guide protection and implementation efforts.



Vigilance

Already in protected land, continue protecting (lakes or streams in public land)



Protect

Good quality waters but could benefit from increased protection (lakes of biological significance, wild rice lakes <75% protected)



Enhance

Waters that are nearly impaired, declining in water quality, experiencing algae blooms, or >25% disturbance (Rainy River downstream of International Falls, Rat Root River)



Restore

Address impaired waters (Black River and West Fork Black River)