



Otter Tail River

ONE WATERSHED
ONE PLAN

Plan Summary



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, including all the Counties, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Watershed Districts within the watershed border.
- Local priorities, locally driven.
- Uses existing authorities and funding mechanisms (County, SWCD, and Watershed District Boards)
- 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>

Highlights

- The watershed starts in the White Earth Nation and Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. Three main rivers, the Pelican, Toad, and Otter Tail, flow through many lakes and eventually join the Red River west of the planning area.
- Transitions from forests in the north to developed lakes and cultivated cropland in the middle, to prairie potholes and cropland in the southwest.
- The majority of land is in two counties: Becker and Otter Tail.
- There are two small lake-based watershed districts: Pelican River Watershed District and Cormorant Lakes Watershed District.
- Primary towns include: Detroit Lakes, Pelican Rapids, Fergus Falls, Perham.
- Implementation of the Otter Tail Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is voluntary, and outreach and incentives will be used to assist with voluntary implementation on private lands.
- This plan includes both restoration and protection priorities.

Surface Water

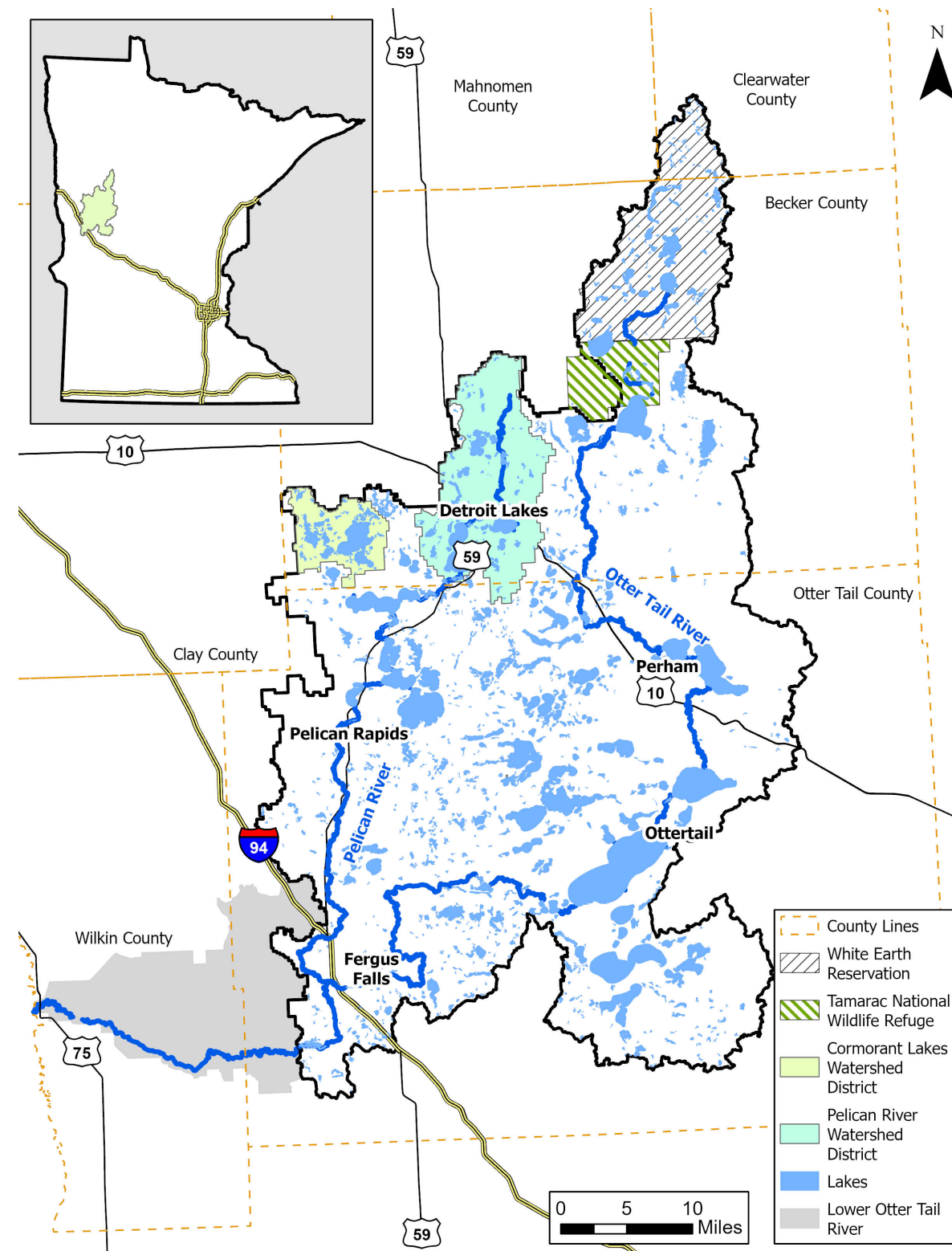
Protecting and restoring lakes and streams by reducing sediment, phosphorus, bacteria, and runoff.

How:

- Stormwater management.
- Streambank, lakeshore, and ditch stabilization.
- Agricultural practices.
- AIS prevention and management.

Outcomes:

- Lake and stream water quality protected and improved.
- Runoff from increasing future precipitation is minimized.



Groundwater

Protecting drinking water, minimizing nitrates, and increasing understanding of sustainable groundwater use.

How:

- Sealing unused wells.
- Nutrient management.
- Irrigation water management.
- Protecting drinking water supply management areas.

Outcomes:

- Safe and plentiful drinking water.
- Groundwater quantity is conserved.



Habitat

Protecting forests, prairies, aquatic habitat, and biologically significant species such as wild rice and cisco by protecting the land and riparian areas.

How:

- Forest Stewardship Plans.
- Sustainable Forest Incentive Act.
- Conservation easements.
- Acquisitions.

Outcomes:

- Forest, prairie, and migratory waterfowl habitat is protected.
- Sensitive and unique plant, animal, and fish species are protected.



Land Stewardship

Increasing soil health practices on cultivated land and pasture to improve agricultural productivity and minimize erosion impacts to lakes, streams, and ditches.

How:

- Cover crops.
- No till.
- Pasture management.
- Water and sediment control basins.

Outcomes:

- Soil health improved.
- Nutrients, sediment, and bacteria entering lakes and streams is reduced.



Vision Statement

The natural beauty and diversity of water and land in the Otter Tail Watershed is attractive to residents and tourists because of its recreational opportunities, farming, forests, and wildlife. We strive to sustain this diversity of riches for future generations to enjoy.

Otter Tail Watershed Partnership



CORMORANT LAKES
Watershed District



PELICAN RIVER
watershed district



For a full copy of the plan visit:
<https://www.eotswcd.org/one/OT1W1P/>
Further questions or comments,
contact your local SWCD, WD, or county:
Pelican River Watershed District: 218-846-0436
Cormorant Lakes Watershed District: 218-234-6865
Becker SWCD: 218-846-7360
Becker County: 218-846-7314
East Otter Tail SWCD: 218-346-9105
West Otter Tail SWCD: 218-998-5300
Otter Tail County: 218-998-8095

