



# **JUDICIAL DITCH #19 WATERSHED PLAN NRCS RCPP WATERSHED PLAN**

FEASIBILITY REPORT AND PLAN OF WORK  
NRCS REVIEW POINT #1 SUBMITTAL

# JUDICAL DITCH #19 WATERSHED NRCS RCPP WATERSHED PLAN

## Feasibility Report And Plan of Work NRCS Review Point #1 Submittal

August 30, 2016

Prepared on Behalf of:  
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

By:  
Houston Engineering, Inc.

I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision, and that I am a duly Licensed Engineer under the laws of the State of Minnesota.



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## 1 REQUEST OF ASSISTANCE

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) made an application for assistance from the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) for Watershed Planning under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The RRRA authorized the MSTRWD to proceed with a Cooperative Agreement with NRCS to perform Watershed Planning in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. Watershed Planning funded through NRCS RCPP is required to follow Public Law 83-566 requirements.

## 2 PLANNING TEAM STRUCTURE

### Plan Lead: NRCS

#### State Conservationist:

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#### Red River Basin Coordinator (Primary Contact):

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### Sponsoring Local Organization: Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

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### Engineering Consultant: Houston Engineering, Inc.

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## 3 FEDERAL AND STATE COORDINATION

This project's Environmental Assessment (Federal, NRCS document) will be written to address the Federal environmental review as well as the Minnesota Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), in accordance with Chapter 6 – *Substitute Methods of Environmental Review*, in the Guide to Minnesota Environmental Review Rules (May 2010) produced by the Environmental Quality Board.

### 3.1 MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BACKGROUND DATA

#### EQB – Guide to Minnesota Environmental Review Rules

**4410.3900. Joint federal and state review.** *Federal and state review documents are often prepared jointly; however, in some cases it is more expeditious to complete one review and use the completed documents in a subsequent review under the other process. Board staff can help determine the best approach for the situation. Although the same factual information can often be used, each process has separate and independent legal requirements.*

## Minnesota Administrative Rule: 4410.3900 – Joint Federal and State Environmental Documents

**Subpart 1. Cooperative Processes** – Governmental units shall cooperate with federal agencies to the fullest extent possible to reduce duplication between Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116D, and the National Environmental Policy Act, United States Code 1976, title 42, sections 4321 to 4361.

**Subpart 2. Joint Responsibility** – Where a joint federal and state environmental document is prepared, the RGU and one or more federal agencies shall be jointly responsible for its preparation. Where federal laws have environmental document requirements in addition to but not in conflict with those in Minnesota Statutes, section [116D.04](#), governmental units shall cooperate in fulfilling these requirements as well as those of state laws so that one document can comply with all applicable laws.

**Subpart 3. Federal EIS as draft EIS.** – If a federal EIS will be or has been prepared for a project, the RGU shall utilize the draft or final federal EIS as the draft state EIS for the project if the federal EIS addresses the scoped issues and satisfies the standards set forth in part [4410.2300](#).

## 3.2 IDENTIFYING NEED FOR MANDATORY EIS

Based on Minnesota Rule Chapter 4410.4400, *Mandatory EIS Categories*, an EIS must be prepared for projects that meet or exceed the threshold of any of the subparts 2 through 25. Based on this planning process, it is anticipated that the requirement for a mandatory EIS will not be able to be fully determined until after a preferred alternative has been selected and/or a location is determined.

NRCS Review Point #4 which includes submitting alternatives and associated documentation is the first time in the planning process that the environmental consequences will be reviewed. At this time determination will be made whether the selected alternative will meet the threshold of requiring a mandatory EIS.

## 4 USACE/NRCS REVIEW POINT CORRELATION

In 1998, the Red River Mediation Agreement<sup>[9]</sup> was established to provide framework for a new cooperative system to plan and build projects within Minnesota that meet flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement goals. This process also allows orderly and efficient 404 review process concurrent with the project planning process. As part of this agreement, USACE developed a break-down of the steps required in obtaining a 404 permit approval called the Concurrence Point process.

The following correlates the US Army Corps of Engineers 404 Concurrence Point Process with the NRCS Review Points listed in the Cooperative Agreement:

- USACE Concurrence Point 1 – NRCS Review Point #2 (Project Purpose and Need)
- USACE Concurrence Point 2 – NRCS Review Point #4 (Array of Alternatives and Alternatives Carried Forward)
- USACE Concurrence Point 3 – NRCS Review Point #5 (Identification of the Selected Alternative)
- USACE Concurrence Point 4 – Post NRCS Watershed Plan Completion and Further Detailed Design of Preferred Alternative (Design Phase Impact Minimization)

## 5 ANTICIPATED STUDY OBJECTIVES

Both spring snowmelt and summer rainfalls have historically resulted in flooding problems throughout the agriculturally dominated landscape of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed. Water resource problems in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed include frequent flood damages to roads, culverts, agricultural fields, and artificial and natural waterways. Floodwaters from the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed also contribute to larger scale flooding and flood damages downstream of the Watershed outlet along the Tamarac River and the Red River of the North.

Prior to beginning this RCPP planning effort, the MSTRWD had established the Tamarac River Watershed Project Team according to the MN Mediation Agreement Guidelines to help the MSTRWD develop solutions to address flood damage reduction and natural resource concerns in the Tamarac River Watershed area. The Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed is a sub area of the Tamarac River Watershed Area. In addition, in 2011 the Ten Year Watershed Management Plan<sup>[10]</sup> was prepared. This plan also identified issues relating to flooding and resource management issues in the Tamarac River Sub watershed. Wherever possible the information developed from both of these efforts has been utilized in the preparation of this Feasibility Report.

The Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed was included in a PL 566 project completed in the 1970's. As part of this project an outlet structure for the East Park Wildlife Management Area (Nelson Slough) impoundment was constructed on the main branch of Judicial Ditch #19. This structure was completed in 1974. This is a dual purpose structure constructed for both floodwater retention (4,520 acre- feet) and wildlife habitat (3,330 acre-feet). The management of this site is by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and has been the subject of long standing discussions.

### 5.1 IDENTIFIED RESOURCE CONCERNS (PRIOR MSTRWD PLANNING EFFORT)

Both Surface Water Management issues and Natural Resources Issues have been identified within the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. Issues were identified in the MSTRWD 2011 Ten Year Watershed Management Plan<sup>[10]</sup> and by the prior planning effort of the Tamarac River Project Work Team. Flooding issues identified for the Tamarac Watershed Area that are applicable to the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed area include the following:

1. Flooding of agricultural lands both within the watershed and downstream.
2. Nelson Slough impoundment could be more effectively used for flood control.
3. Nelson Slough outlet structure may not meet current design standards.
4. There is a lack of channels in the area with sufficient channel capacity for agricultural drainage or to convey flood waters.
5. Channels on Public Lands are not being maintained.
6. Runoff and runoff timing is contributing to downstream flooding.
7. Runoff is being diverted from the Roseau River Watershed area into the MSTRWD.

Natural resource issues identified in the Tamarac Watershed Area that are applicable to the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed area include the following:

1. Altered hydrology contributing to unstable watercourse channels and degraded aquatic habitat.
2. Lack of aquatic and riparian habitat along Judicial Ditch #19.
3. Unstable channels particularly downstream of the Nelson Slough outlet structure.
4. Lack of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for surface and subsurface drainage systems.
5. Increased sediment loading into streams from ditches and upland sources.
6. Lost connectivity in aquatic and riparian habitat.
7. Increased sediment loading into watercourses and wetlands from upland/overland sources outside of riparian areas.
8. Reduced soil health which reduces productivity and increases erosion and runoff from agricultural lands.
9. Degradation and loss of terrestrial and wetland habitats.
10. Impaired watercourses for turbidity and some reaches of watercourses for low dissolved oxygen, low aquatic biodiversity, and excess nutrients.

From the issues identified the following conclusions have been derived;

*The Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed experiences frequent and recurring public and private infrastructure damages as a result of spring and summer flood events. The East Park Wildlife Management Area (Nelson Slough) impoundment is at risk for overtopping due to damage caused by prior high water events. Frequent flooding throughout this watershed also damages upland, aquatic, and in-stream and riparian habitats.*

*The need to reduce flood damages in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed has been established by the Tamarac River Project Team and the MSTRWD Board of Managers. Reducing flood damages in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed is documented in the MSTRWD Management Plan.*

*The need to reduce runoff contributions from the MSTRWD during larger scale flood events is also documented in the Red River Basin Commission's Long Term Flood Solutions and the Red River Watershed Management Board's Distributed Storage Plan.*

*There is a need to mitigate damages to natural resources in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed and the larger Tamarac River Watershed from frequent and severe peak flows.*

## 6 AGENCY AUTHORITY

RRRA Memorandum of Understanding No. 14-C-ND-669 and Cooperative Agreement 68-6322-16-514.

## 7 RESOURCE INFORMATION

### 7.1 PREVIOUS STUDIES

The Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed is located in northwest Minnesota in portions of Marshall and Roseau Counties. The Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed is a tributary to the Tamarac River which is included in the Lower Red River HUC (HUC09020311) which is located within the Red River Basin. [Figure 01](#) is a map showing the location of Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed within the MSTRWD.



The Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed study area is in the northeast most sub watershed within the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District. The drainage area of Judicial Ditch #19 starts approximately 8 miles east and 10 miles north of the city of Middle River, MN. The Main Branch of Judicial Ditch #19 generally flows west until it hits the Tamarac River as presented in [Figure 02](#). Likewise, the Tamarac River generally flows west until it enters the Red River of the North approximately 2 miles east and 5 miles south of city of Drayton, ND. The total study area of Judicial Ditch #19 is approximately 104 square miles.

Studies that have been conducted which contain the watershed area of Judicial Ditch #19 include:

Middle-Snake-Tamarac River Watershed District, Expanded Distributed Detention Study, 2014,  
Red River Basin Commission – Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Plan (2011),  
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District Plan Update, 2011,  
Amended Ten Year Watershed Management Plan, 2004  
Tamarac River Watershed Work Plan, Soil Conservation Service, 1965

The most notable of the Studies of the area is the Watershed Work Plan which was prepared by the Soil Conservation Service for the Tamarac River Watershed. This included the construction of the Nelson Slough Impoundment on the Main Branch of Judicial Ditch #19 and the construction of several Laterals and the Florian Dam on the Tamarac River for a recreational area downstream of the Judicial Ditch #19 watershed area.

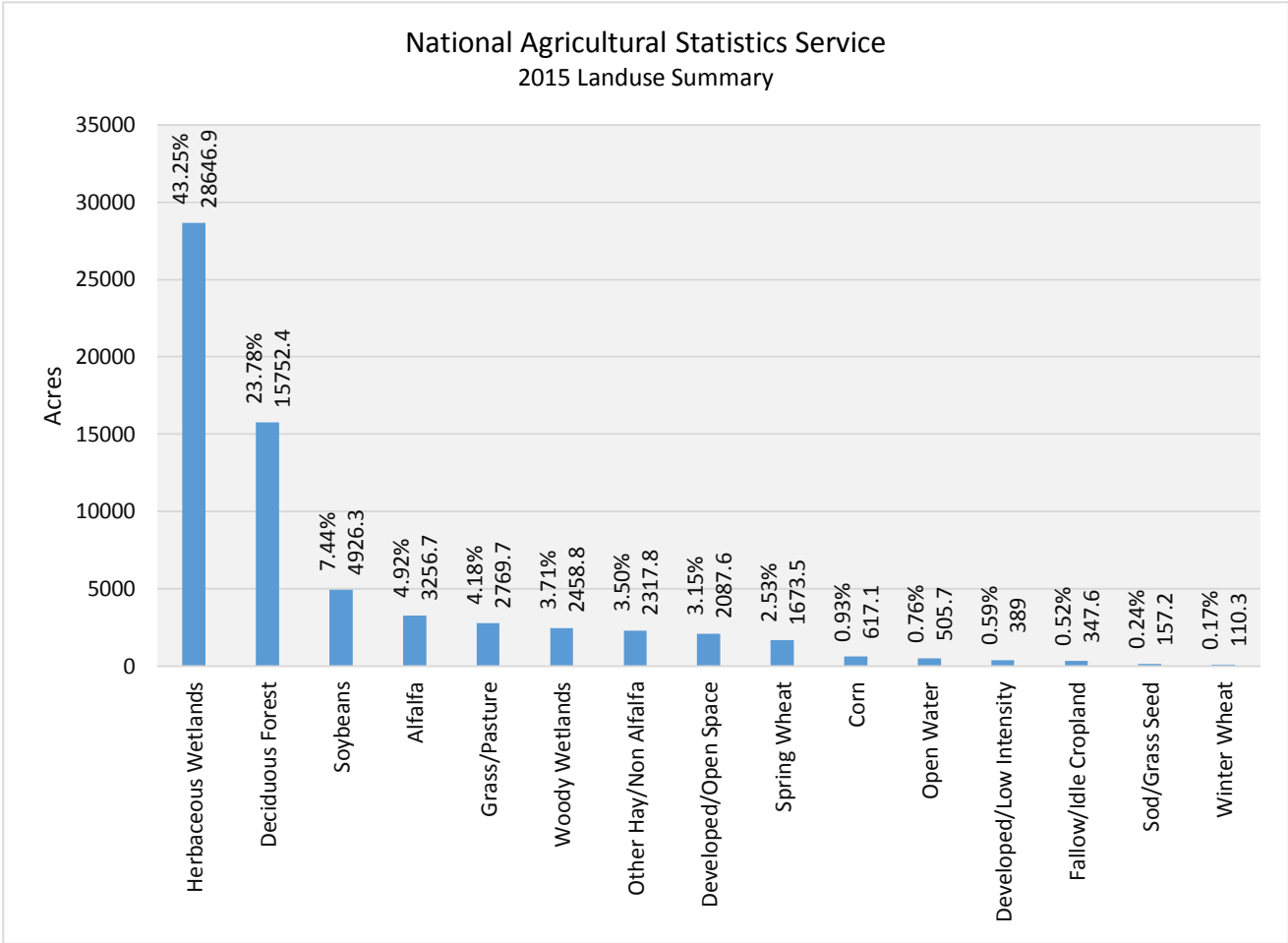
## 7.2 TOPOGRAPHY

LiDAR data collected in 2008 and 2009 is available for the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed<sup>[1]</sup>. This information indicates a maximum elevation of 1,254.3 feet (NAVD1988) in the eastern portion of the watershed, and a minimum elevation of 1,027.3 (NAVD1988) in the western portion of the watershed. LiDAR data also allows slopes to be easily analyzed with GIS processing techniques to determine landscape slopes within the watershed. In general the topography of the Judicial Ditch #19 watershed is generally sloping east to west with the steeper slopes to the west. The LiDAR topography data, and derived slope information, is presented in [Figure 03](#) and [Figure 04](#).

## 7.3 LAND USE

National Land Cover Data (NLCD)<sup>[2]</sup> developed in 2011 was acquired and reviewed to assess land use within the Judicial Ditch #19 watershed. The major land cover is a combination of agricultural production of cultivated crops (39.2% +/-), emergent herbaceous wetlands (23.4% +/-), and deciduous forest (18.9% +/-). NLCD 2011 data is presented in [Figure 05](#).

The 2015 National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Cropland Layer<sup>[3]</sup> was also reviewed to determine leading crops within the watershed. These crops are Soybeans (7.4% +/-), Alfalfa (4.9% +/-), and Grass Pasture (4.2% +/-). More information on 2015 land use, as defined by the 2015 NASS Cropland Layer, is presented in the chart below and in [Figure 06](#). Visual inspection suggests similarities between the west and east regions of the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. Land use information is further categorized below.



### 7.4 EXISTING STATE AND FEDERAL INTEREST LANDS

Various State and Federal Interest Lands are within the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) coverages were obtained through the National Conservation Easement Database. The locations and extent of state and federal interest lands are illustrated in [Figure 07](#).

### 7.5 USDA SSURGO SOILS DATA

Soils information provided by the USDA through the SSURGO Soils Database<sup>[4]</sup> was compiled and reviewed for the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. The SSURGO Soils Database allows for various characteristics to be extracted. The following variables were extracted from the database and are presented in Figures 08 – 11:

- Hydrologic Soils Group ([Figure 08](#))
- Crop Productivity Index ([Figure 09](#))
- Farmland Classification ([Figure 10](#))
- Normal Year Range Production ([Figure 11](#))

Crop Productivity Index (CPI) and Farmland Classification data suggests some quality agricultural productivity within the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. Approximately 35.2% of the Watershed has a CPI value greater than 60, indicating the watershed has some production potential. Farmland classification also indicates approximately 18.9% of the watershed is listed as “All Areas Prime Farmland” or “Farmland of statewide importance.” Farmland classification also indicates approximately 26.0% of the watershed is listed as “Prime farmland if drained.” The results indicate that approximately 44.9% of the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed could be used as “Prime Farmland” or “Farmland of statewide importance,” if adequate drainage is obtained.

## 7.6 RUNOFF POTENTIAL

Hydrologic Soils Group (HSG) from the USDA SSURGO Soils Database was also used, in combination with NLCD data to determine a NRCS Curve Number<sup>[5]</sup> distribution for 24-hour duration rainfall events across the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. This curve number grid assumes average Antecedent Moisture Conditions (AMC II). The mean Curve Number for the Watershed is 74, suggesting a high portion of rainfall within the watershed is converted to surface runoff. This curve number distribution is presented in [Figure 12](#).

## 7.7 WETLANDS

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)<sup>[6]</sup> data was extracted for the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. Approximately 18,122 acres, or 27.4% of the total watershed area is considered wetlands within the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed. This information is presented in [Figure 13](#). The USFWS NWI data provides a general index of wetlands within the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed, however more detailed field review may be needed to assess wetlands during Watershed Planning.

## 7.8 ENDANGERED SPECIES

Review of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Online System<sup>[7]</sup> “Information for Planning and Conservation Report” for the vicinity of the project area indicate the following potential species of concern.

- Canada Lynx - Threatened
- Gray Wolf – Threatened
- Northern Long-Eared Bat – Threatened

The following species of migratory birds may also potentially be affected:

- American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Dickcissel (*Spiza Americana*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) - – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) - – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelson*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Olive-sided Flycatcher - Bird of Conservation Concern
- Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) – Bird of Conservation Concern
- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

- Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)
- Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)
- Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

## 8 PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The MSTRWD plans to evaluate potential alternatives, costs, and effects through the watershed planning efforts and findings will be evaluated during the process.

### 8.1 POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

The locally identified resource concerns appear to most directly relate to high runoff volumes in the Watershed. Alternatives for reducing damages related to flooding are categorized and summarized in the four general categories. These categories were established and discussed in greater detail in a publication completed by the Red River Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee<sup>[8]</sup>.

- **Increase Temporary Flood Storage** – This method refers to structural measures that add flood storage at opportune locations within the Watershed. Examples of this include construction of on-channel and off-channel detention facilities and wetland restorations with the ability to effectively manage excess volumes.
- **Reduce Flood Volume** – In order to reduce flood volumes, the landscape can be altered to reduce the Curve Number, or the ability of the land to produce runoff. Examples of practices that could alter flood volumes include cropland conversion (CRP, WRP, etc...), tillage methods, and other Better Management Practices. This method is well suited for smaller watersheds with soil types that will allow for large variations in Curve Number values with differing land uses.
- **Increased Conveyance** – Construction of channels that can handle discharges from the watershed is another option, however this method often results in increased peaks at the outlet of the constructed floodway. If the downstream channels cannot handle increased flows, flood risk may be increased further downstream. This method is often used with other features that incorporate components that remove downstream impacts, such as upstream flood storage.
- **Protection/Avoidance** – Avoidance of activities that are impacted by flooding is another alternative, however this tends to be more applicable to water courses with a defined and predictable flood corridor. Avoidance can be difficult in watersheds where flood damages are influenced by breakout flows that can be more difficult to predict. Protection can be applicable when trying to protect a defined area, such as a small community or buildings.

Of these four general categories for flood damage reduction strategies, increased flow conveyance combined with increased temporary flood storage appears to be the most applicable methods. This will likely lead to analysis of relatively large on-channel and off-channel impoundments within the watershed. It will likely be more feasible and manageable for the local sponsor to impound runoff within number of storage sites (est. 2,000 – 7,000 acre feet). While smaller flood storage facilities, such as small dams and wetland restorations in the headwaters of the watershed, could provide some benefit, it may not be feasible or manageable for the local sponsor to implement and operate enough individual locations to create a significant benefit to the identified local resources of concern.

### 8.2 ESTIMATED COSTS

This preliminary investigation does not evaluate costs of alternatives. The Watershed Planning Effort will evaluate estimated costs of reasonable alternatives, and determine if they are feasible for the Judicial Ditch

#19 Watershed. There are several outside funding sources for increasing flood storage, such as the Red River Watershed Management Board, Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup, and other potential partners depending on any compatible uses that can be worked into each alternative.

### 8.3 POTENTIAL EFFECT

Alternatives in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed have not been identified and developed to sufficiently determine specific impacts to various resources. More detailed watershed planning will use an in place group of local stakeholders and establish an interdisciplinary team including the cooperating agencies. The group will work to establish a workable solution to the local resources of concern. Depending on the scope of impacts for identified alternatives, the following potential impacts will be reviewed by the team.

- Wetlands
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Recreation
- Flood Volume
- Flood Peak Flow
- Agriculture
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Resources
- Endangered Species
- State Owned Lands and Easements
- Federal Owned Lands and Easements
- Private Owned Lands and Easements

While this list provides a general list of concerns, the stakeholders, general public, and interdisciplinary team will be engaged initially to determine the scope of the Environmental Assessment. This task will allow for input from all interested parties within the study area.

## 9 SCOPE OF PLANNING EFFORT

Watershed Planning in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed will focus on reducing damages related to high flows and runoff volumes. The general public, watershed stakeholders, and the agencies with a vested interest in the watershed will be engaged to initially determine resources of concern within the study area. Outreach will continue throughout the planning effort to ensure that reasonable alternatives are developed. The following list of general tasks will be completed through this planning effort:

- Develop Purpose and Need for Action
  - Identify Problems and Opportunities
- Scope of Environmental Assessment
- Evaluate the Affected Environment
  - Inventory Resources
- Develop Alternatives
- Environmental Consequences
  - Evaluate the Effects of Alternatives
- Determine the Preferred Alternative
- Complete Watershed Plan-EA

A copy of the Plan of Work is available in [Appendix A](#). This plan of work provides more details on sub tasks that will be completed in each of the tasks outlined above.

## 10 AGENCIES IDENTIFIED

### 10.1 COOPERATING AGENCIES

Invitations were sent by the NRCS to state, federal, and tribal agencies that have a potential interest in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed planning efforts. The potential Cooperating Agencies invited include the following:

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Tribal Historical Officers (MN, ND, SD, MT, WY)
- Minnesota State Historical Preservation Office

Copies of the letters of invitation are included in [Appendix D](#).

### 10.2 STATE & LOCAL AGENCIES

Invitations were also sent to state and local agencies that have a potential interest in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed planning efforts. Letters were sent to the following:

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
- Marshall County Commissioners
- Roseau County Commissioners
- Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Roseau County Soil and Water Conservation District

If additional interests are identified through Scoping of the Environmental Assessment, those interests will be invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency. In addition to Cooperating Agencies, local interests will be represented during the planning effort. This will be accomplished through several public outreach meetings and consultation with the Watershed Stakeholders Committee previously established by the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District. This group consists of landowners residing in the vicinity of and within the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed.

## 11 FACILITATING AND OBSTRUCTING FACTORS

Various factors that will affect the outcome of the planning effort will be identified during planning. To date, these factors are largely unknown because alternatives have not been studied to sufficiently understand impacts.

## 12 PLANNING TIMELINE

Development of the Watershed Plan-EA in the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed is anticipated to be completed mid-September of 2019. [Appendix B](#) (Schedule of Work) provides an estimated project timeline for the planning effort.

## 13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Outreach for the Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Planning effort will include engaging the general public a minimum of three times. The previously referenced Watershed Stakeholders Committee and Cooperating Agencies will meet on a regular basis to provide comment and participate in watershed planning. A copy of the Public Participation Plan is available in [Appendix C](#).

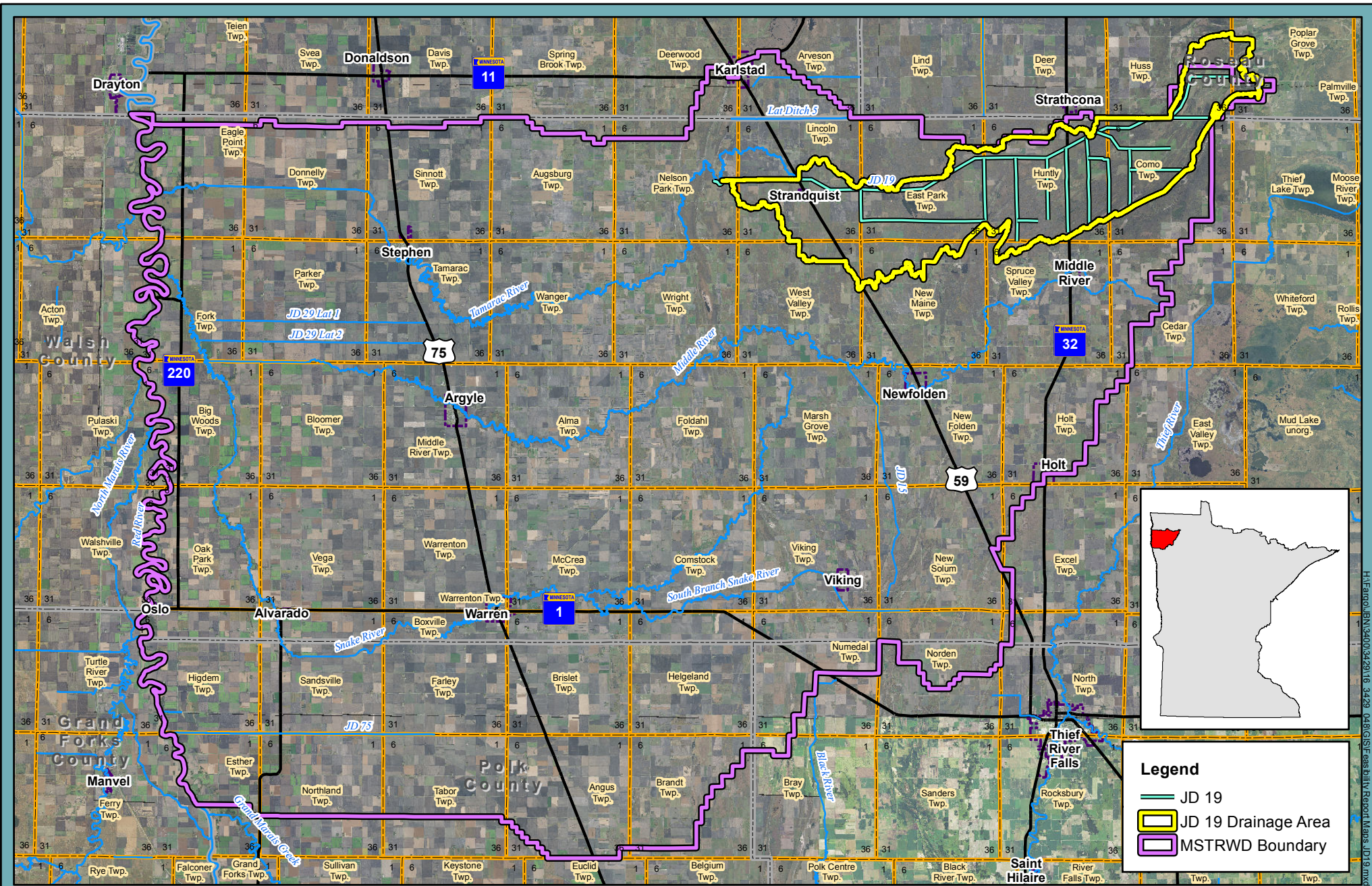
## 14 REFERENCES

- [1] Red River Basin Mapping Initiative, International Water Institute. Blocks A and B were collected and published in 2008. Blocks I and J were collected in 2009 and published in 2010. <http://www.iwinst.org/lidar/>
- [2] Homer, C.G., Dewitz, J.A., Yang, L., Jin, S., Danielson, P., Xian, G., Coulston, J., Herold, N.D., Wickham, J.D., and Megown, K., 2015, *Completion of the 2011 National Land Cover Database for the conterminous United States-Representing a decade of land cover change information*. Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, v. 81, no. 5, p. 345-354
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- [5] USDA NRCS Title 210, National Engineering Handbook (NEH), Part 650, Chapter 2, Section 650.2 *Estimating Runoff and Peak Discharge*.
- [6] U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. National Wetlands Inventory website. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands>
- [7] US Fish and Wildlife Service. Environmental Conservation Online System; Threatened and Endangered Species. <http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/>
- [8] Anderson, C., Kean, A., Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Framework; Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee, Technical Paper No. 11. May 2004. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Framework.
- [9] Red River Mediation Agreement, December 9, 1998. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. <http://rrwmb.org/FDRWG/FDRAGMT.pdf>
- [10] Final Ten Year Watershed Management Plan, May 2011. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District. <http://www.mstrwd.com/docs/MSTRWD%20Final%20Plan-May2011.pdf>



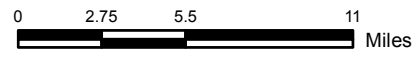


# FIGURES



F-01

**Figure 01: Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Location Map**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

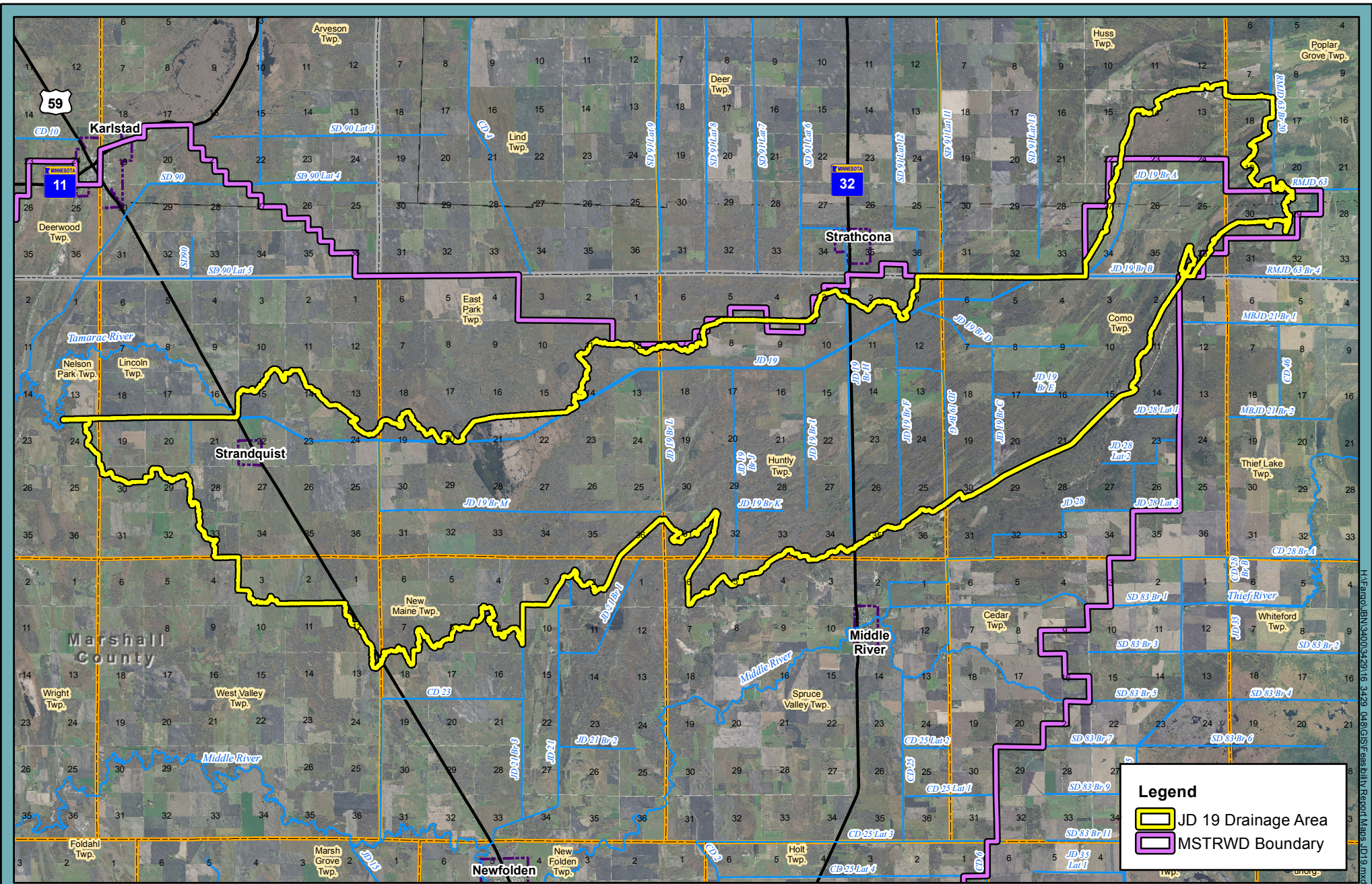


**Legend**

- JD 19
- JD 19 Drainage Area
- MSTRWD Boundary



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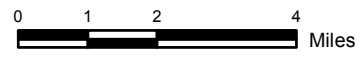


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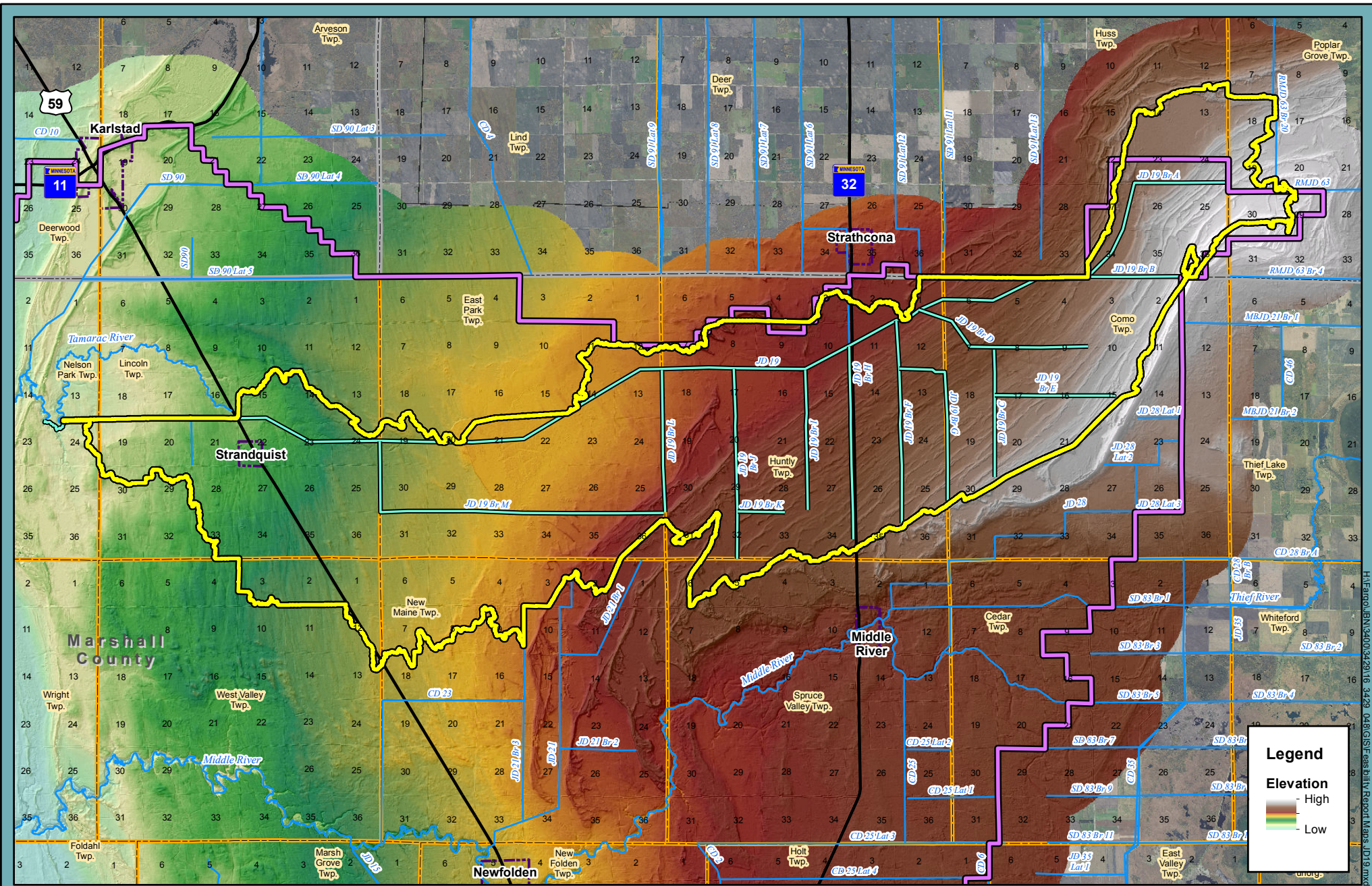
- JD 19 Drainage Area
- MSTRWD Boundary

F-02

**Figure 02: Watershed Boundary**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District



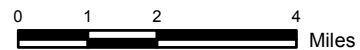
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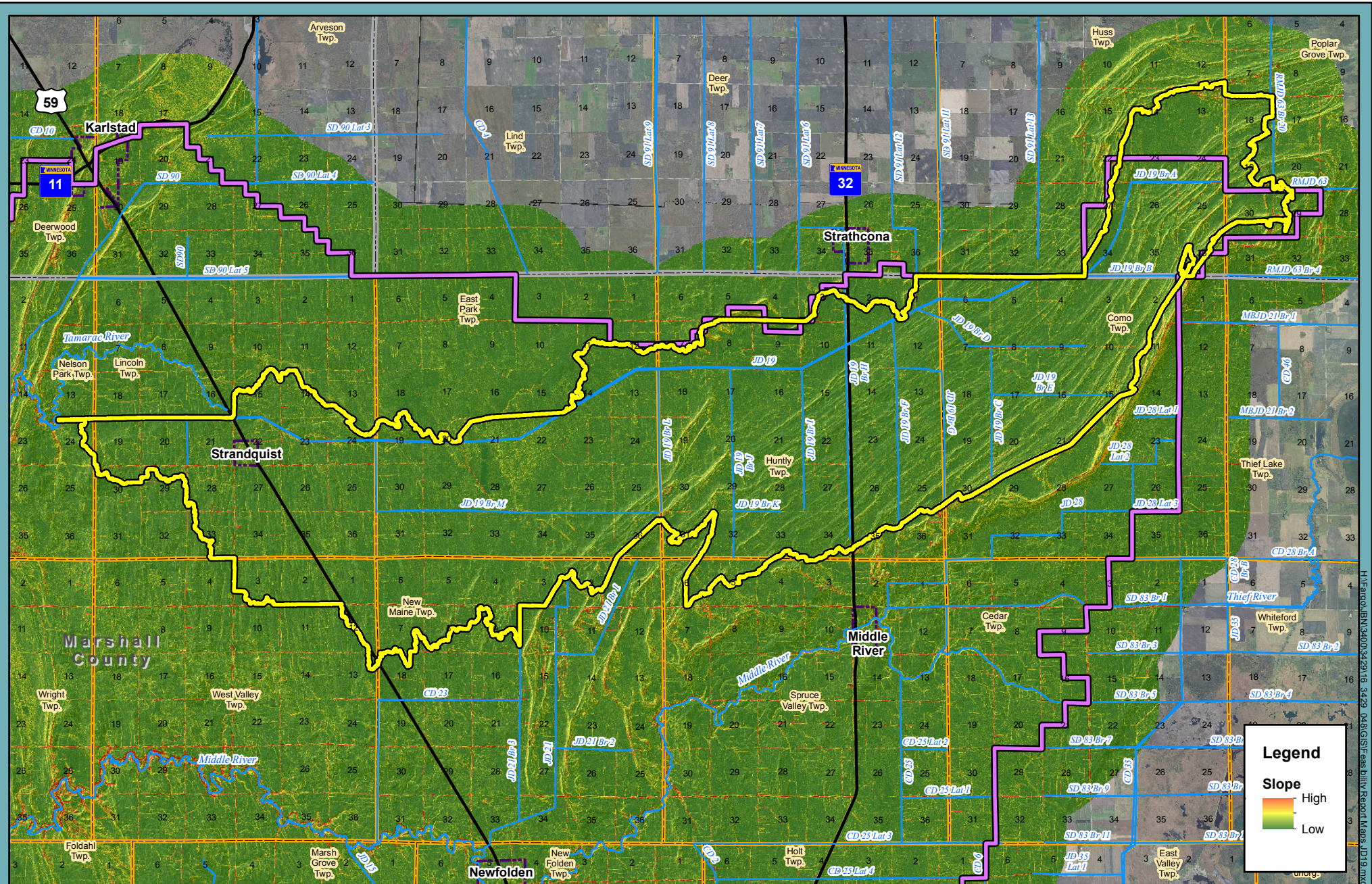
F-03

**Figure 03: LIDAR Map**

Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

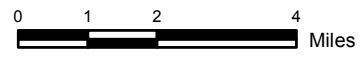


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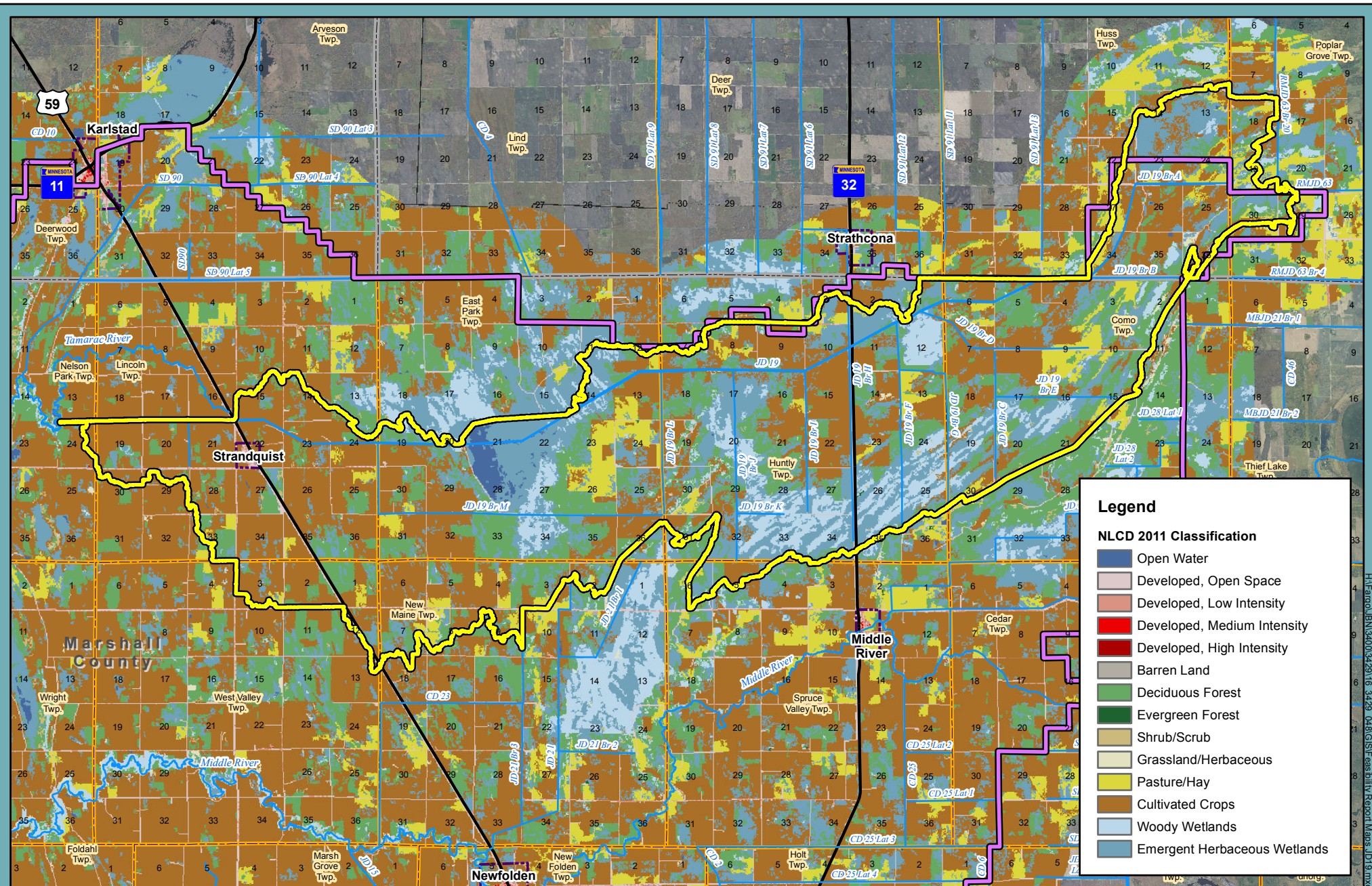


F-04

**Figure 04: LiDAR Derived Slope**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District



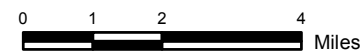
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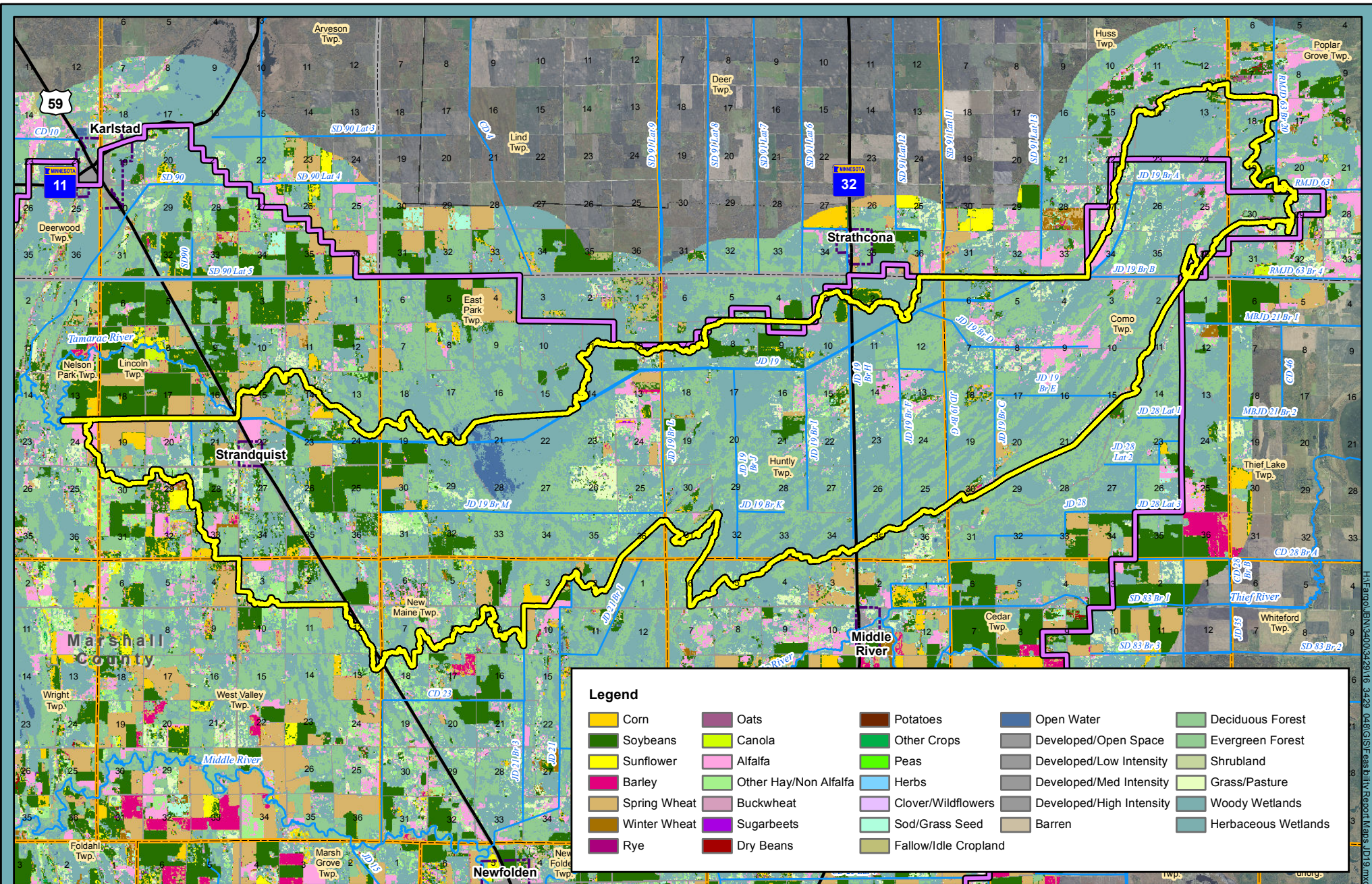


F-05

**Figure 05: National Land Cover Data 2011**

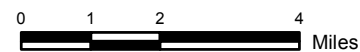
Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

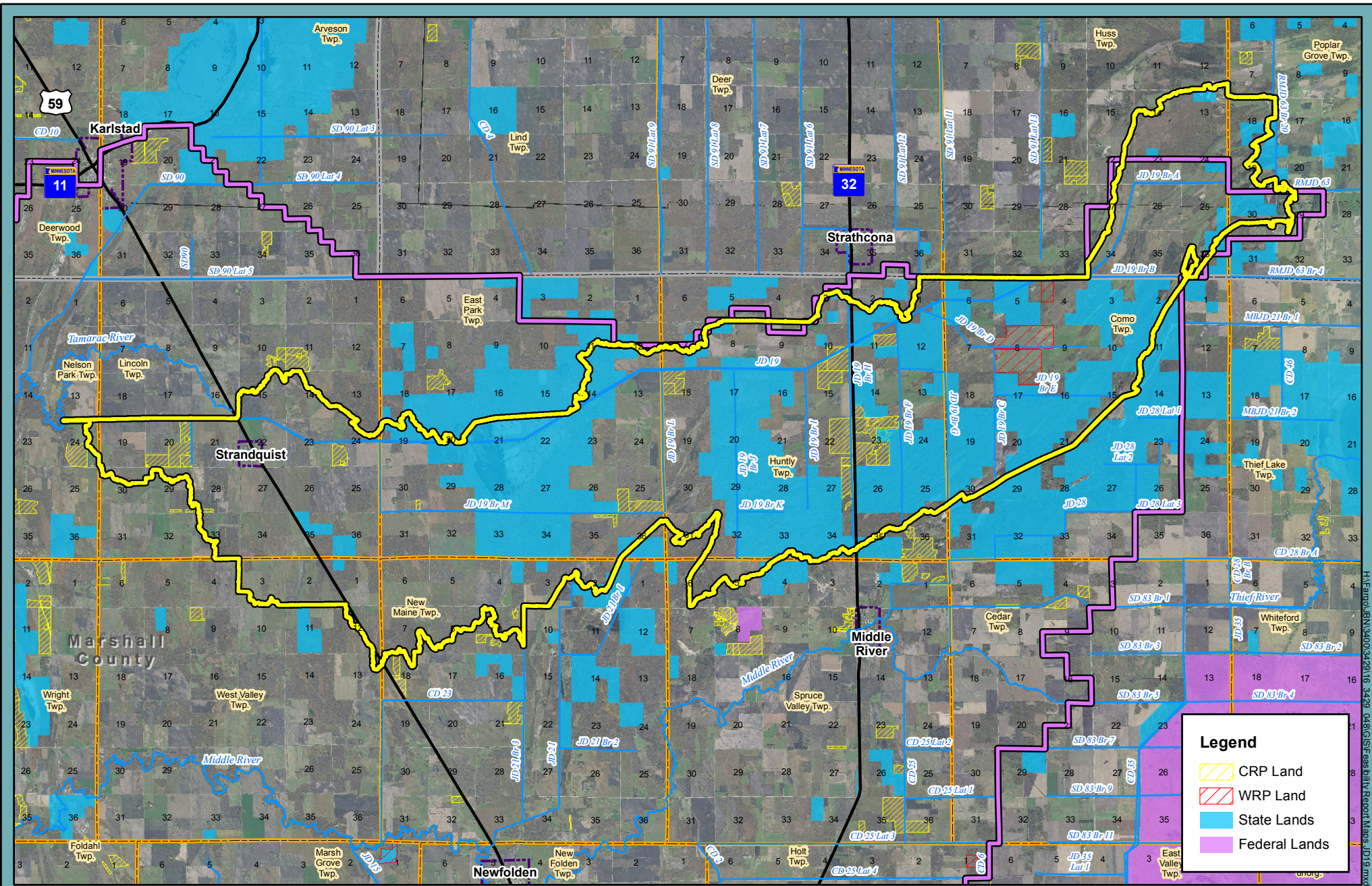




F-06

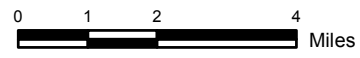
**Figure 06: National Agricultural Statistics Service Cropland Data (2015)**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District





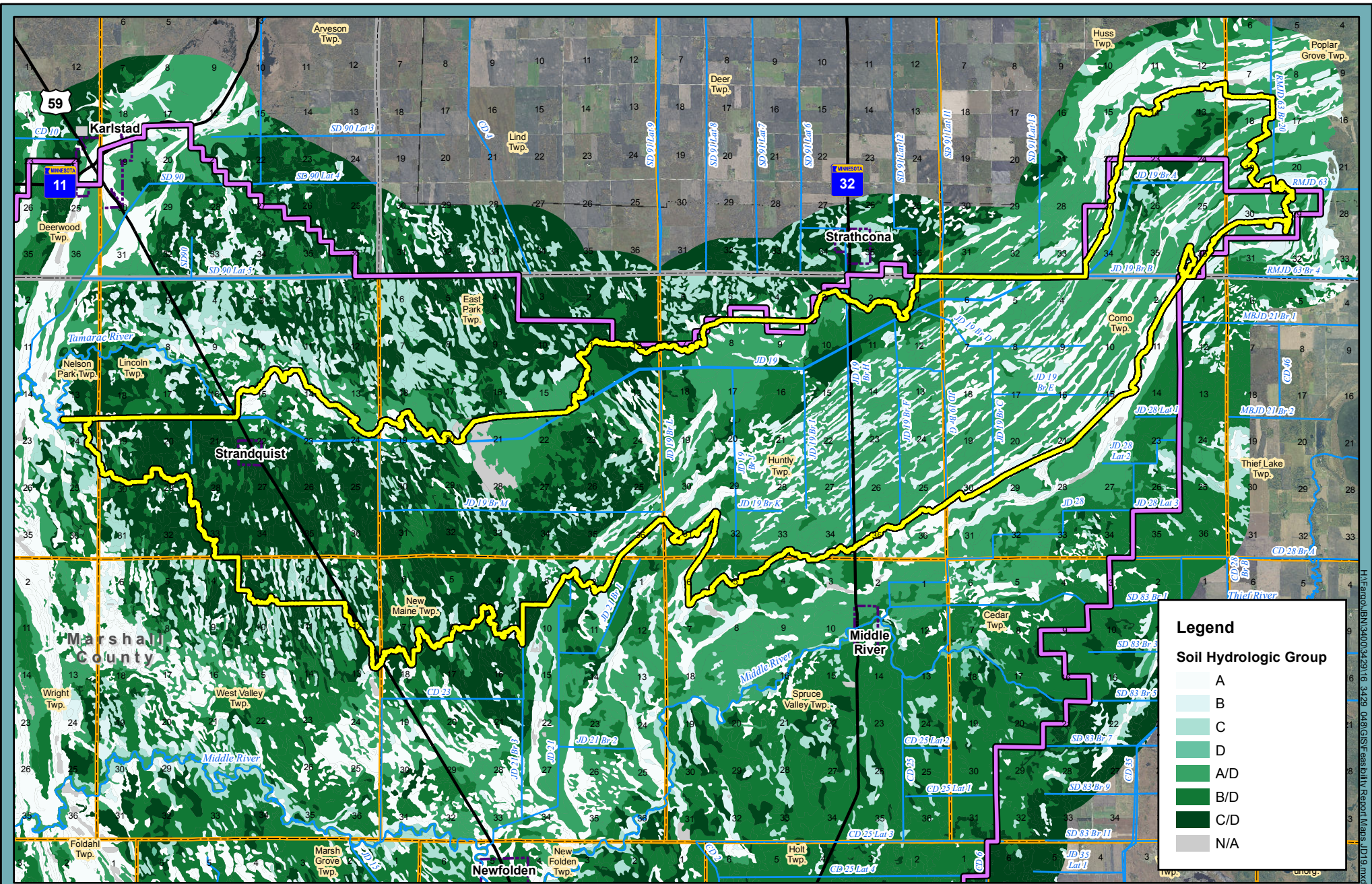
F-07

**Figure 07: USDA/NRCS Easements and State/Federal Lands**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District



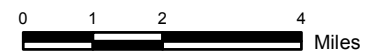
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F-08

**Figure 08: USDA SSURGO Hydrologic Soil Group**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

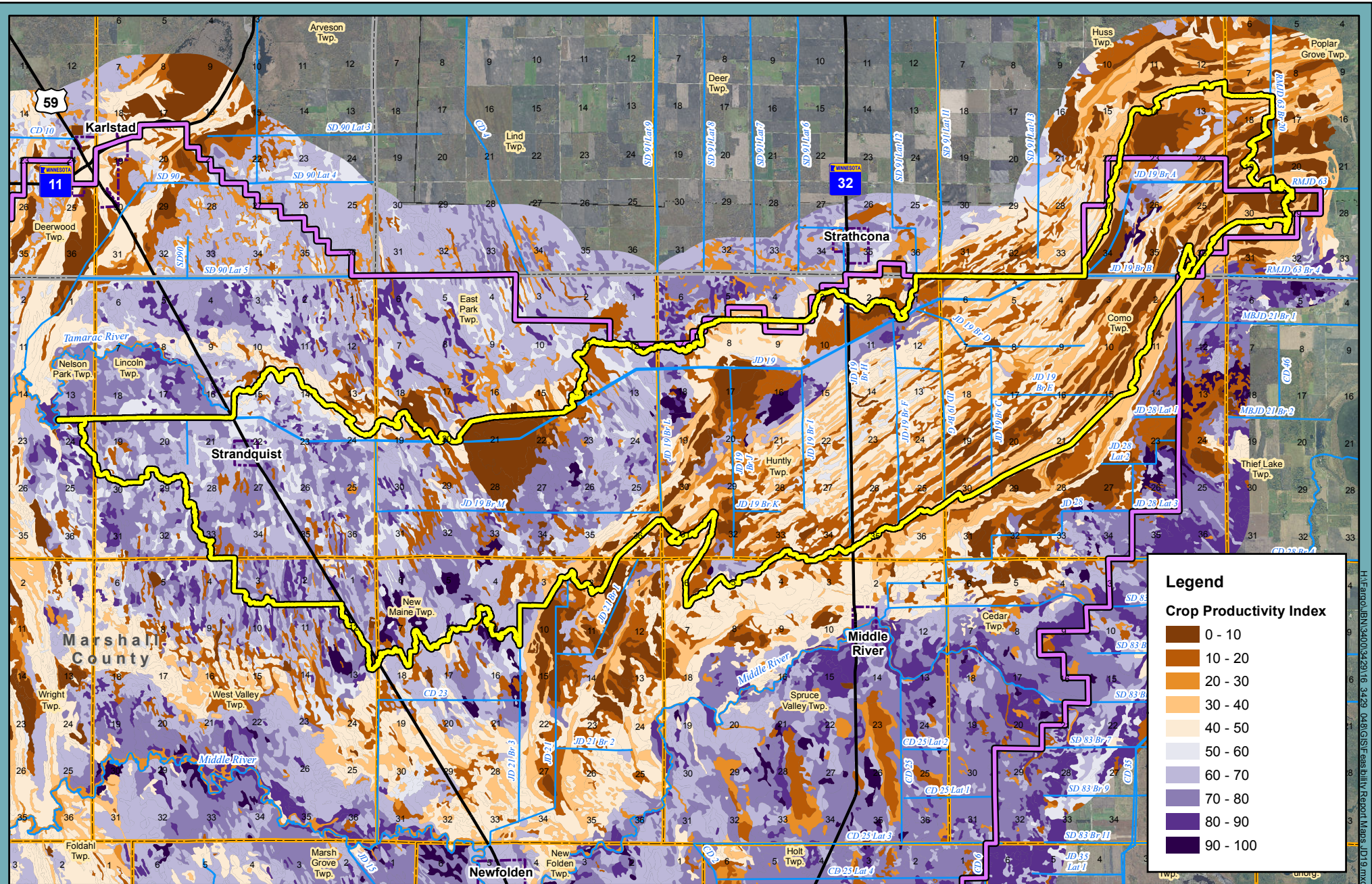


**Legend**

**Soil Hydrologic Group**

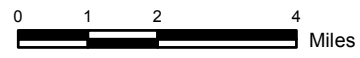
- A
- B
- C
- D
- A/D
- B/D
- C/D
- N/A

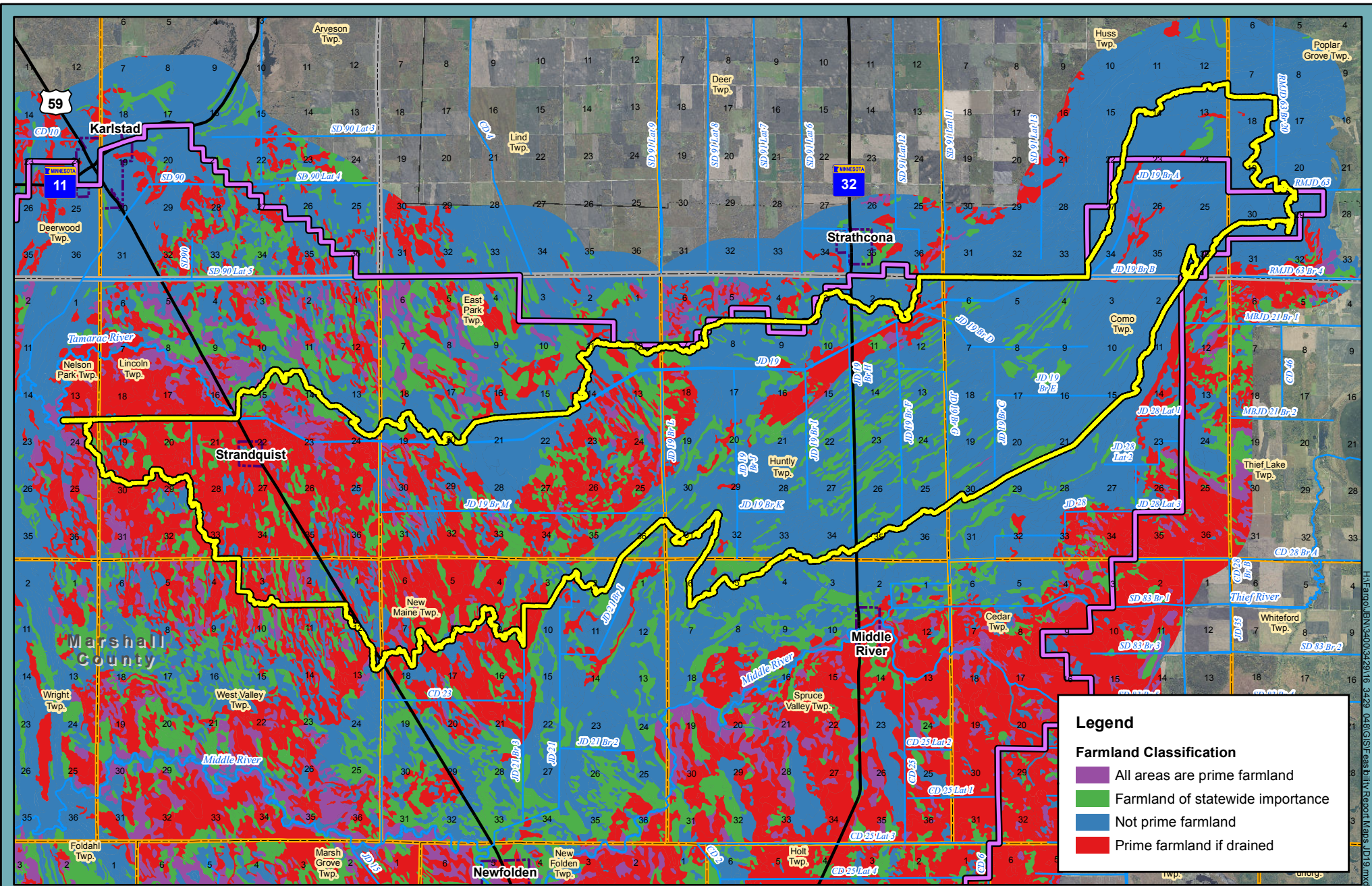




F-09

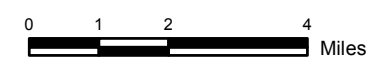
**Figure 09: USDA SSURGO Crop Productivity Index**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District



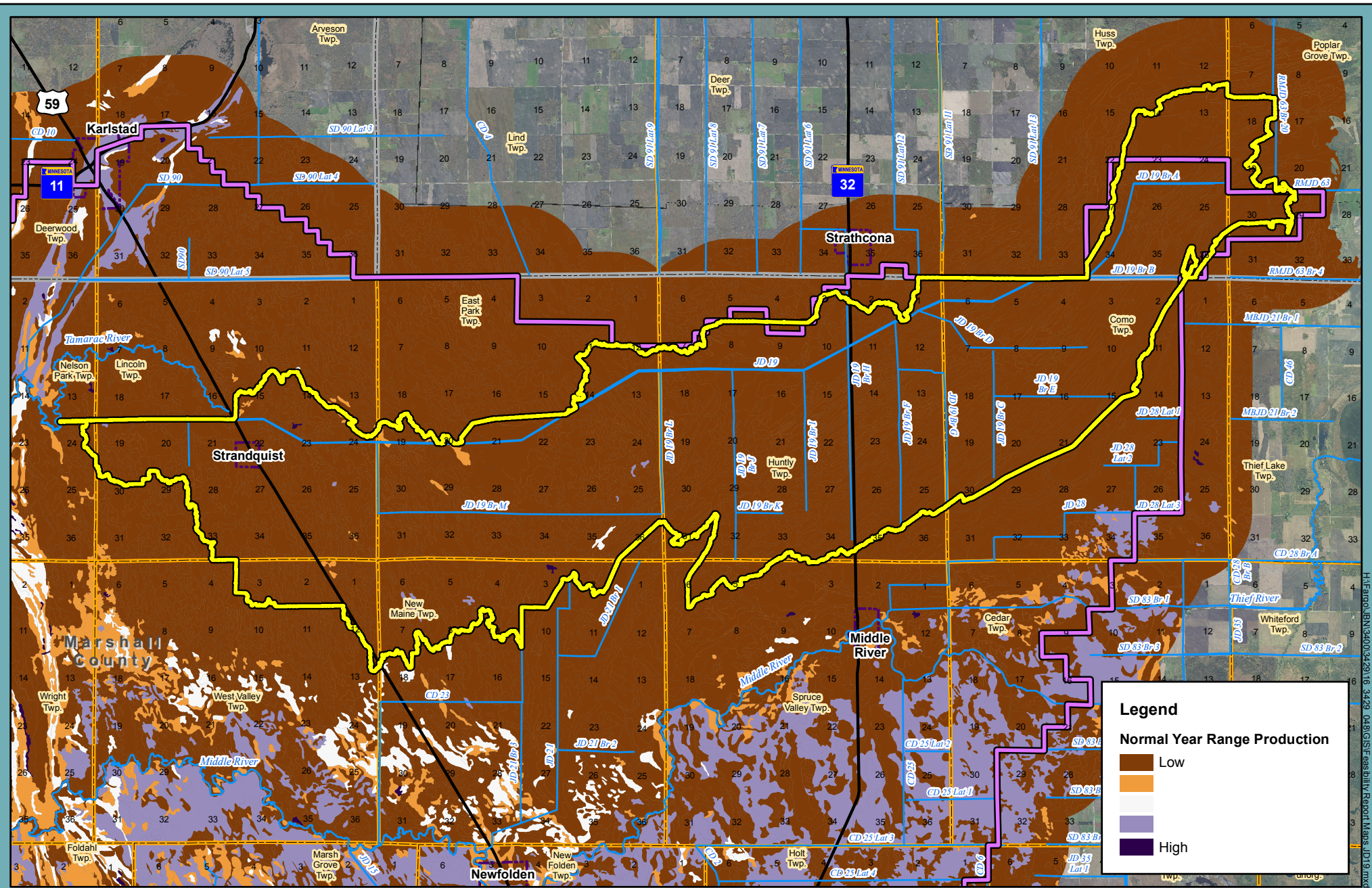


F-10

**Figure 10: USDA SSURGO Farmland Classification**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

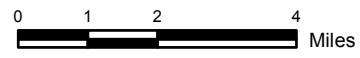


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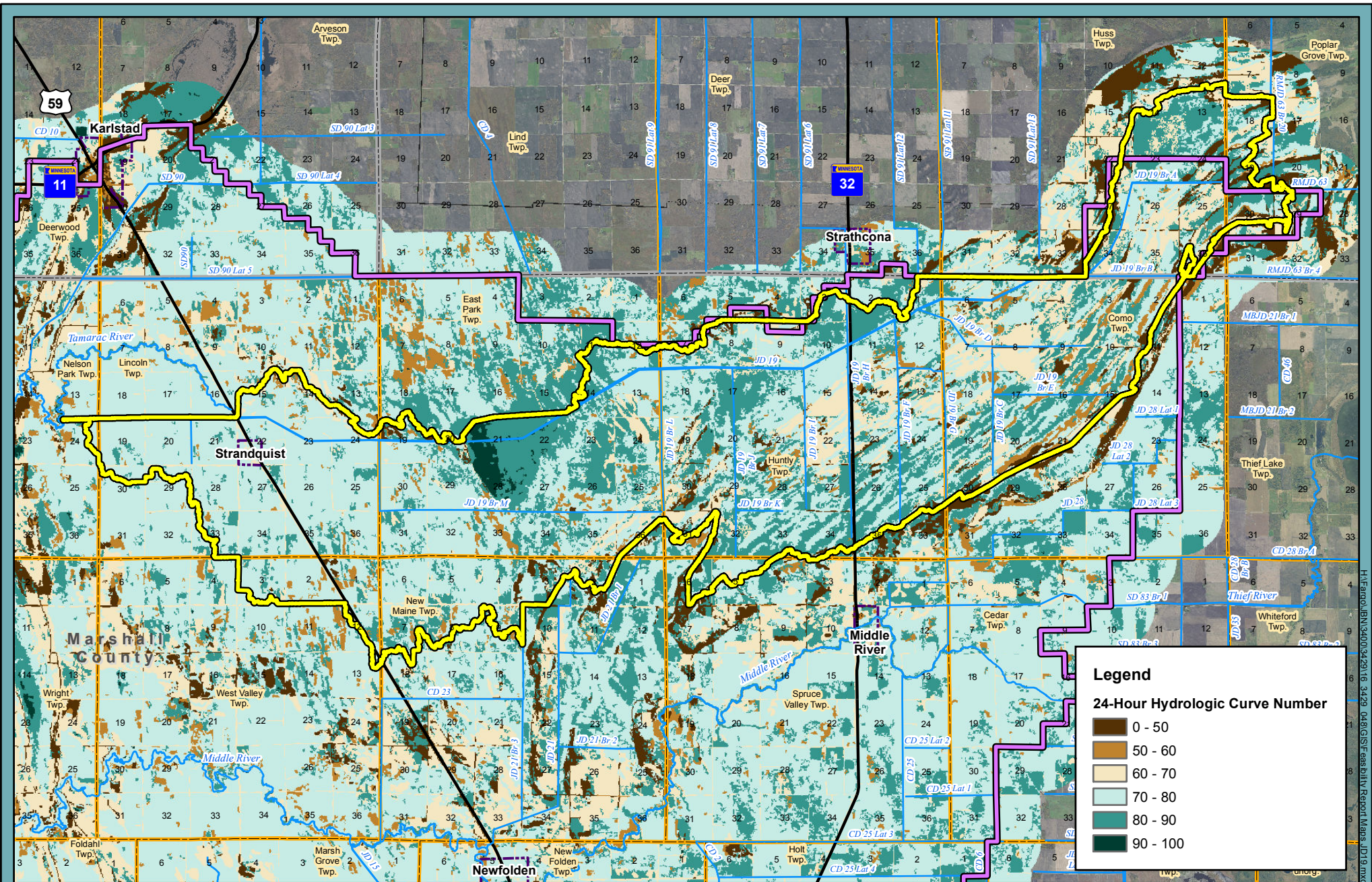


F-11

**Figure 11: USDA SSURGO Normal Year Range Production**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

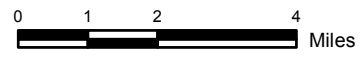


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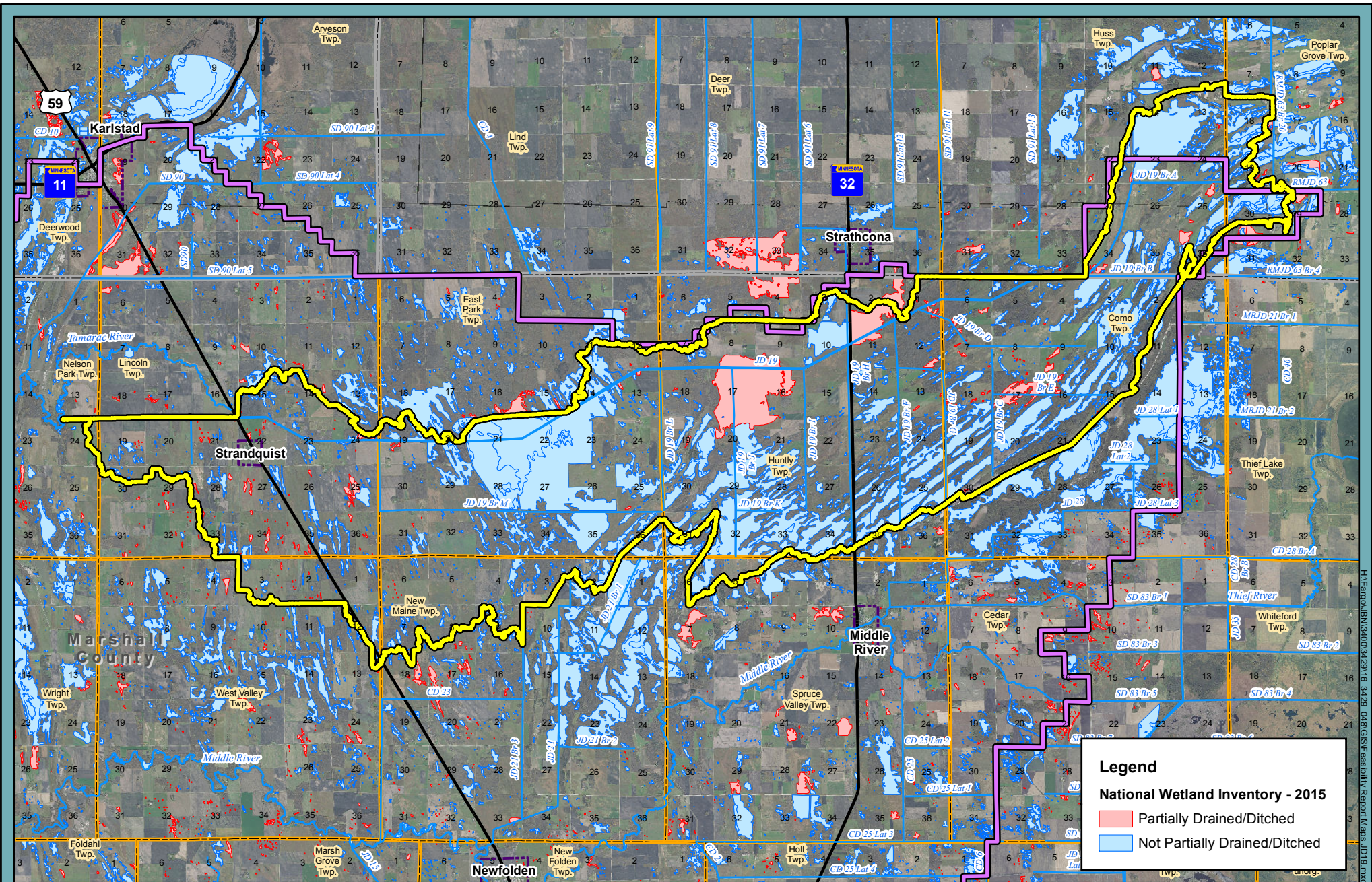


F-12

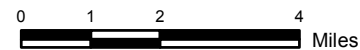
**Figure 12: NRCS 24-Hour Hydrologic Curve Number**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District



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**Figure 13: USFWS National Wetlands Inventory**  
 Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed  
 Feasibility Report and Plan of Work  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District





# APPENDIX A

## Plan of Work







					HOUSTON ENGINEERING, INC.											CULTURAL SUB		GEOTECHNICAL SUB		ECONOMICS SUB				
					Project Manager	Project Engineer	Professional Engineer	Graduate Engineer	Senior Environmental Scientist	Scientist	GIS Technician I	CAD Operator	Land Surveyor	Two-person crew (plus equipment)	Administrative Assistant	Preliminary Cultural Review	Detailed Cultural Review	Preliminary Geologic Review	Geologic Exploration	Project Manager	Project Economist	Analyst	Admin	
406	4C.	Compile Resource information for each indicator to identify baseline conditions (with NRCS approved analysis methodology)	736	6/1/2016	2/28/2017	8	32	58	224	16	6	80	0	8	80	0	0	0	0	0	8	128	80	8
410	4C.4.	Economic and Social Effects	224	6/1/2016	12/30/2016															8	128	80	8	
414	4D.	Determine Evaluation Period of the Project	32	3/3/2017	4/3/2017	0	0	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
416	4E.	Establish Desired Future Conditions (goals) for each Indicator	68	4/3/2017	5/29/2017	6	10	26	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
418	4F.	Analyze Compiled Resource Information against Desired Future Conditions to Determine Target Values	8	5/1/2017	5/29/2017	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>500 Development of Alternatives</b>			<b>2618</b>	<b>3/3/2017</b>	<b>11/15/2018</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>0</b>
501	5A.	Develop the No Action Alternative (Future Without Project)	650	3/3/2017	7/30/2017	14	44	102	134	32	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	160	0
505	5A.4.	Economic and Social Effects	300	3/20/2017	5/22/2017																140	160		
512	5B.	Develop Additional Alternatives	626	6/2/2017	3/15/2018	6	88	140	292	6	0	40	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	43	9	0
519	5B.7.	Preliminary Off-Site Geologic Investigation	1	9/15/2017	11/15/2017													1						
520	5B.8.	Identify Potential Cultural Resources Issues	1	9/15/2017	11/15/2017											1								
524	5B.12.	Preliminary Benefits Analysis	52	1/31/2018	3/15/2018																43	9		
526	5C.	Documentation of Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study	32	4/1/2018	5/1/2018	0	0	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
528	5D.	Describe Remaining Alternatives (Including No Action)	1310	4/1/2018	11/15/2018	42	88	168	648	24	0	76	124	8	130	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	
531.	5D.3.	Geologic Investigation	1	4/1/2018	6/1/2018														1					
532	5D.4.	Cultural Resources Review	1	4/1/2018	6/1/2018												1							



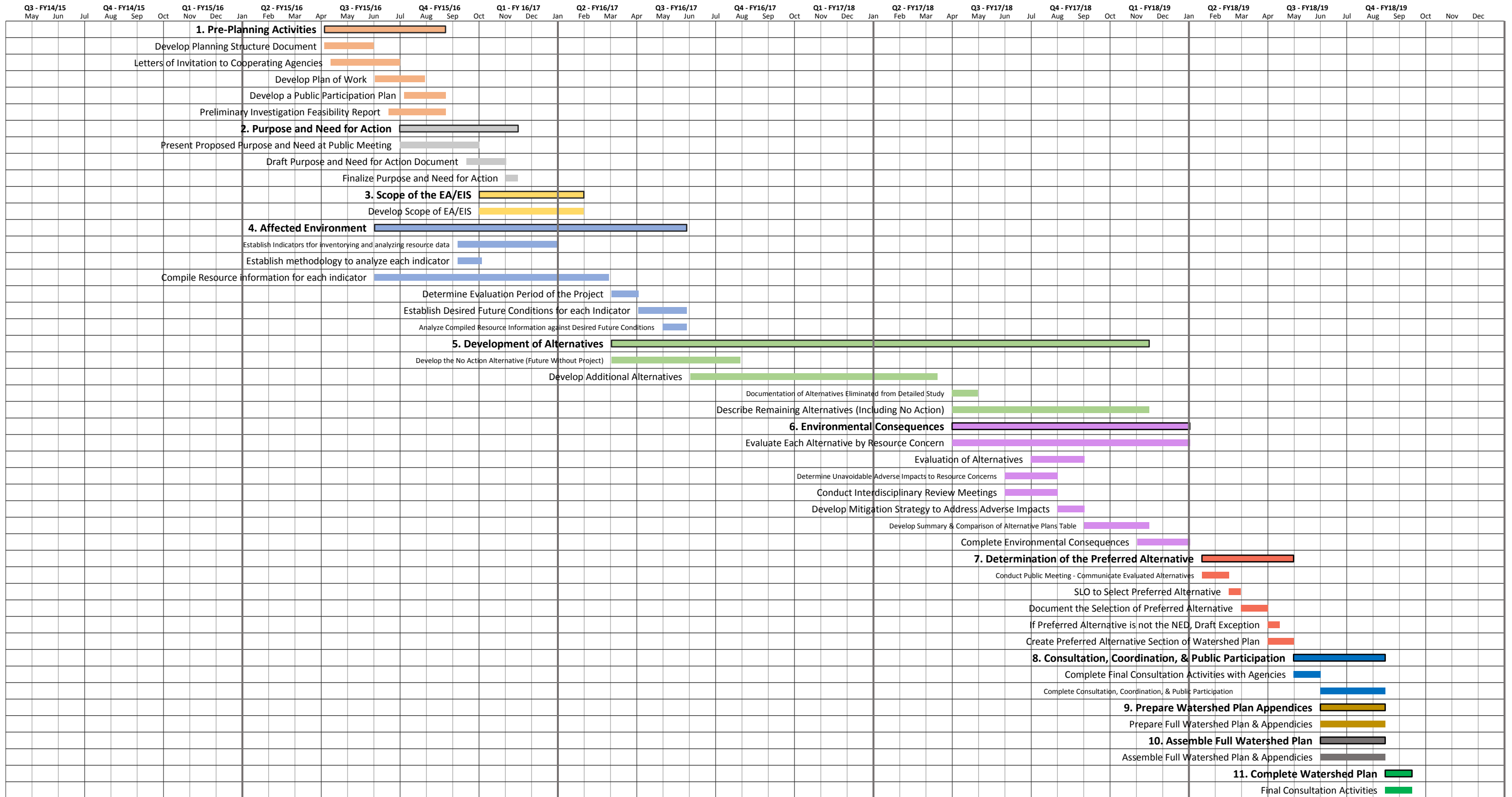




# APPENDIX B

## Schedule of Work

**MSTRWD - NRCS Watershed Plan - JD #19 Watershed Plan**  
Schedule of Work





# APPENDIX C

## Public Participation Plan

Activity	Estimated Date of Occurrence	Description of Activity	Notice Method	Activity Objectives
Assemble Interdisciplinary Planning Team	5/31/2016 to 6/30/2016	The interdisciplinary team developed based on requirements in the NWPM Section 501.3/NWPH Section 601.3. The interdisciplinary team will be made up of Federal, State, and Local agencies that have an expertise or authority over the proposed action.	Individual letters outlining NEPA requirements for Cooperating Agencies.	* Send out invitation to participate letters to: - Cooperating Agencies: USFWS, USACE - Project Team: THPO, SHPO, & Others on previous PT.
Conduct Public Meeting to Obtain Local Input	9/26/2016	An initial public meeting will be held based on the Public Participation Plan. This meeting will serve to inform the public within the watershed area of the study tasks and schedule. The initial Public Meeting will allow for public input to be gathered about the Need for the Proposed Action.	Three advertisements in the Watch, (Marshall & Roseau Co.), Sheaf (Marshall Co.), and Honker (Marshall Co.).	*Review/summarize previous planning efforts *Describe/Inform public about PL-566 Planning Process *Public to provide comments/submit forms
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting - Discuss NWPM Concerns from 501.24	9/30/2016 to 10/31/2016	The interdisciplinary team will convene to review the required concerns for NEPA. These concerns are highlighted in the NWPM 501.24. Information required to develop information required in NWPH Sections 606.18 and 606.19. This will be conducted concurrently with the Interdisciplinary Team Meeting to formally adopt the purpose and need.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	* Update Project Team on Planning Effort * Present Feasibility Report * Present Plan of Work Documents * Summarize Resource Concerns from Public Meeting (501.24) * Solicit written and oral comments from Cooperating Agencies and Project Team * Review and/or Revise and/or Adopt Purpose and Need Statement
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting - Field Review	9/30/2016 to 10/31/2016	The Interdisciplinary team will conduct a field review of the watershed to gain a better understanding of the watershed setting. This field review will be conducted over a one day period. This will be conducted concurrently when conditions permit. If applicable, this will coincide with peak spring runoff. Comments will be solicited from the Interdisciplinary Team to assist in developing scoping materials.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	Finalize scoping information to satisfy information requirements to complete NWPH 606.18 and 606.19.
Solicit comment and incorporate as it relates to the proposed action	10/31/2016 to 1/16/2017	The Draft Scope of Environmental Assessment will be made available to the interdisciplinary team for comments. Any comments received will be incorporated into the Scope of Environmental Assessment as necessary. Comment will be solicited after completion of the Field Review with available Interdisciplinary Team members.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	If requested by members of the Cooperating Agencies, a one day field review of the watershed will be provided by the HEI staff.
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting	3/3/2017 to 4/3/2017	Resource data will be presented to the Interdisciplinary Team. Resource data will be discussed to identify potential environmentally sensitive areas to aid in alternative development. Resource data will also be reviewed and discussed to identify resource opportunities to achieve goals in the Purpose and Need Statement.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	Incorporate comments from Cooperating Agencies on the Scope of the Environmental Assessment.
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting	3/3/2017 to 5/8/2017	The future without project condition will be presented to the Interdisciplinary Team. This meeting may run concurrently with the Interdisciplinary Team Meeting defined in the Inventory Resources list of tasks. This meeting will be conducted concurrently with the Inventory Resource Interdisciplinary team meeting.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	Provide Resource Inventory Data to Cooperating Agencies & Watershed Stakeholders for review. Discuss how resource data will relate to the proposed action. Document concerns from Cooperating Agencies.
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting	10/16/2017 to 11/15/2017	Strategy evaluation and initially selected alternatives will be reviewed with the Interdisciplinary Team. Any comments from the interdisciplinary team will be noted, and revisions made if necessary.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	Provide the Cooperating Agencies & Watershed Stakeholders with information about the anticipated future-without-project conditions. The information will be largely related to effects to resources of concern.
Public Outreach - Impacted Landowners Meetings (4 meetings)	11/15/2017 to 12/15/2017	Landowners impacted by alternatives will be engaged in small groups to discuss the preliminary alternatives. Concerns by the impacted landowners will be noted, and revisions that may appease concerns will be discussed. Revisions will include embankment alignments, frequency of use, and other considerations for the initially selected alternative. Multiple meetings are anticipated with impacted landowners to address concerns. (Assume 10 Meetings)	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	Discuss design considerations for potential alternatives with landowners within the project footprints. Document concerns of impacted landowners.
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting	4/1/2018 to 5/1/2018	Revisions to the alternatives based on coordination with impacted landowners will be discussed with the Interdisciplinary Team. The Interdisciplinary Team may eliminate any alternatives that may have insurmountable obstacles.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	Provide information about preliminary alternatives to Cooperating Agencies & Watershed Stakeholders. Information will include preliminary impacts to resource concerns. Document concerns of Cooperating Agencies & Watershed Stakeholders. Documentation will assist in determining reasonable alternatives to carry forward.
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting	6/1/2018 to 7/1/2018	The Interdisciplinary Team will meet to review each alternative & the NED alternative, adverse impacts, and benefits. Concerns voiced by each team member will be documented.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	Discuss impacts to resource concerns for alternatives. Present the NED alternative. Document Cooperating Agency & Watershed Stakeholder concerns. Solicit written responses from Cooperating Agencies related to the NED alternative and other alternatives studied in detail.
Conduct Public Meeting to Obtain Local Input	7/1/2018 to 8/1/2018	The NED Alternative will be presented to the general public. This discussion will review work completed since the initial public meeting, review of each alternative, unavoidable adverse impacts, and benefits provided. The general public will be engaged to solicit comments and concerns with the proposed alternatives.	Three advertisements in the Watch, (Marshall & Roseau Co.), Sheaf (Marshall Co.), and Honker (Marshall Co.).	Update the general public on the Watershed Planning effort. Present alternatives studied in detail. Present the NED alternative. Discuss resource impacts. Solicit comments from the general public. An opportunity will be given for oral comments and a form will be provided for written comments. Comments will be documented for use as rationale to select the locally preferred alternative.
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting	1/15/2019 to 2/1/2019	Review of the public engagement meeting and comments received will be presented and by the interdisciplinary team. Note - meeting may not be needed, unless locally preferred alternative is different than the NED Alternative.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	If public comment, Cooperating Agency comment, and Watershed Stakeholders Comment suggests that the locally preferred plan is not the NED plan, the Watershed Stakeholders and Cooperating Agencies will meet to discuss rationale for selecting an alternative plan. Rationale will be documented. Cooperating Agencies will be requested for written response.
Meeting with Project Sponsors	2/1/2019 to 2/15/2019	The NED Alternative and other feasible alternatives will be discussed with the Project Sponsor to determine the locally preferred alternative.	Meeting posted as required for governing board. Will be open to general public.	Project sponsors will discuss the NED alternative and other alternatives studied. Project sponsors will determine whether to pursue NED alternative, or differing alternative. Board action on alternative to proceed forward with.
Conduct Interdisciplinary Team Meeting	6/15/2019 to 7/1/2019	The Draft Watershed Plan-EA will be discussed with the Interdisciplinary Team. Comments on the Plan will be documented.	Individual invitation letters and e-mail notification, if applicable.	Review the draft Watershed Plan-EA with Cooperating Agencies and Watershed Stakeholders. Provide draft plan to Cooperating Agencies to review for comment.
Solicit and Address Agency Comments	7/15/2019 to 8/15/2019	After Watershed Plan-EA comments are addressed, the Draft Plan will be made available for review by impacted Agencies and Local Governing Bodies. Any comments received will be documented and addressed, if necessary.	Posted by NRCS for agency review.	After Cooperating Agency comments have been addressed, the Watershed Plan-EA will be posted for comment.



# APPENDIX D

## Letters Inviting Plan Participation

Cooperating Agencies – USACE/USFWS  
SHPO/THPO





United States Department of Agriculture

June 13, 2016

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Minnesota  
State Office

375 Jackson Street  
Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ph: 651-602-7900  
Fax 855-823-7656  
[www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov)

Regulatory Functions Branch  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
180 5<sup>th</sup> St. East, Suite 700  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

Dear Sir:

Subject: Formal Request to be a Cooperating Agency on the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers  
Watershed District Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Part 1501.6, NRCS is formally requesting that your agency become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment (EA).

This request is being made because your agency has been identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to this project. The EA is being prepared to fulfill NRCS NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our potential federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Public Law 83-566) for this project. As your agency may also have NEPA compliance responsibilities concerning this project or other future projects that may be evaluated in this EA, preparation of this EA should also assist in fulfilling environmental review requirements for your agency or other federal agencies and meet the NEPA intent of reducing duplication and delay between agencies.

If your agency is unable to participate as a Cooperating Agency, please return a written explanation why your agency can not participate. Please note that a response declining to be a Cooperating Agency is required to also be submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality per 40 CFR Part 1501.6(c). Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or formal MOU can be established.

Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with this project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator on my staff at [keith.weston@nd.usda.gov](mailto:keith.weston@nd.usda.gov) or via phone at 701-356-6641 or cell phone 701-318-8566.

Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

cc:

Danny Omdahl, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, 453 North McKinley Street Box 154, Warren, Minnesota 56762  
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND



United States Department of Agriculture

June 13, 2016

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Minnesota  
State Office

375 Jackson Street  
Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ph: 651-602-7900  
Fax 855-823-7656  
[www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov)

Regional Director  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

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Watershed District Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment

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Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

cc:

Danny Omdahl, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, 453 North McKinley Street Box 154, Warren, Minnesota 56762  
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND



June 29, 2016

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Minnesota  
State Office

375 Jackson Street  
Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ph: 651-602-7900  
Fax 855-823-7656  
www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Sarah J. Beimers  
Manager, Government Programs and Compliance  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Beimers:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTWD) made application for assistance from the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) for Watershed Planning under the RCPP, administered by NRCS. The RRRA authorized the MSTWD to proceed with a Cooperative Agreement with NRCS to perform Watershed Planning in the Judicial Ditch #14 and Judicial Ditch #19 watersheds. The MSTWD is committed to develop solutions to flooding, erosion, drainage issues and related natural resource concerns within these watersheds. This work includes developing an NRCS watershed plan and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. RCPP watershed plans are required to conform to Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Public Law 83-566).

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Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

cc:

Danny Omdahl, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, 453 North McKinley Street Box 154, Warren, Minnesota 56762

Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



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John Murray  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
The Blackfeet Nation  
850 Government Square  
Browning, MT 59417

Dear John Murray:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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CATHEE PULLMAN  
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Alvin Windy Boy, Sr.  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation  
9740 Upper Box Elder Road  
P.O. Box 230  
Box Elder, MT 59521

Dear Alvin Windy Boy, Sr.:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Ira L. Matt  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, MT 59855

Dear Ira L. Matt:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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State Conservationist

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Emerson Bull Chief  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
The Crow Tribe of Indians  
P.O. Box 159  
Crow Agency, MT 59002

Dear Emerson Bull Chief:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Michael J. Black Wolf  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Fort Belknap Indian Community  
656 Agency Main Street  
Harlem, MT 59526

Dear Michael J. Black Wolf:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Darrell Youpee  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes  
501 Medicine Bear Road  
P.O. Box 1027  
Poplar, MT 59255

Dear Darrell Youpee:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Teanna Limpy  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
P.O. Box 128  
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Teanna Limpy:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Wilfred Ferris  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation  
P.O. Box 538  
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Wilfred Ferris:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Darlene Conrad  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Northern Arapaho Tribe  
P.O. Box 396  
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Darlene Conrad:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Elgin Crows Breast  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation  
404 Frontage Road  
New Town, ND 58763

Dear Elgin Crows Breast:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc:

Danny Omdahl, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, 453 North McKinley Street Box 154, Warren, Minnesota 56762  
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



June 29, 2016

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Minnesota  
State Office

375 Jackson Street  
Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ph: 651-602-7900  
Fax 855-823-7656  
www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Dr. Erich Longie  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Spirit Lake Tribe of Fort Totten  
P.O. Box 76  
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Dear Dr. Erich Longie:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Sincerely,

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State Conservationist

Enclosure

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Danny Omdahl, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, 453 North McKinley Street Box 154, Warren, Minnesota 56762  
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



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Waste'Win Young  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box D  
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Dear Waste'Win Young:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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State Conservationist

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www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Bruce Nadean  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
P.O. Box 900  
Belcourt, ND 58316

Dear Bruce Nadean:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102





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Bill Latady  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians  
1500 Bois Forte Road  
Tower, MN 55790

Dear Bill Latady:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



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Marcu Ammesmaki  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
1720 Big Lake Road  
Cloquet, MN 55720

Dear Marcu Ammesmaki:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Mary Ann Gagnon  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
P.O. Box 428  
Grand Portage, MN 55605

Dear Mary Ann Gagnon:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Amy Burnette  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe  
190 Sailstar Drive NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Dear Amy Burnette:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Michael Bergervoet, M.S.  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Prairie Island Indian Community of Minnesota  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, MN 55089

Dear Michael Bergervoet, M.S.:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Grace Goldtooth-Campos  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Lower Sioux Indian Community  
39527 Reservation Highway 1  
Morton, MN 56270

Dear Grace Goldtooth-Campos:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Natalie Weyaus  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

Dear Natalie Weyaus:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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If you have any questions or comments, please contact Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator on my staff, at [keith.weston@nd.usda.gov](mailto:keith.weston@nd.usda.gov) or via phone at 701-356-6641 or cell phone 701-318-8566; or Danny Omdahl, MSTWD Administrator at [mstrwd@hotmail.com](mailto:mstrwd@hotmail.com) or by phone at (218) 745-4741.

Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc:

Danny Omdahl, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, 453 North McKinley Street Box 154, Warren, Minnesota 56762  
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



June 29, 2016

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Minnesota  
State Office

375 Jackson Street  
Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ph: 651-602-7900  
Fax 855-823-7656  
www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Sara Childers  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Upper Sioux Community  
P.O. Box 147  
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Dear Sara Childers:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

Enclosure

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Danny Omdahl, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, 453 North McKinley Street Box 154, Warren, Minnesota 56762  
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102





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Cayla Olson  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
White Earth Nation of Minnesota Chippewa  
P.O. Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591

Dear Cayla Olson:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

Enclosure

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



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Steven Vance  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 590  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Steven Vance:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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State Conservationist

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



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Darrell Zephier  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 50  
Fort Thompson, SD 57339

Dear Darrell Zephier:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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State Conservationist

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



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James B. Weston  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 285  
Flandreau, SD 57028

Dear James B. Weston:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Dennis Yellow Thunder  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 129  
Kyle, SD 57752

Dear Dennis Yellow Thunder:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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State Conservationist

Enclosure

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



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www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Russell Eagle Bear  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of Indians  
P.O. Box 809  
Rosebud, SD 57570

Dear Russell Eagle Bear:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



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Dianne Desrosiers  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
P.O. Box 907  
Sisseton, SD 57262

Dear Dianne Desrosiers:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Lana M. Gravatt, RPA  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Yankton Sioux Tribe  
800 Main Avenue SW  
P.O. Box 1153  
Wagner, SD 57380

Dear Lana M. Gravatt, RPA:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Enclosure

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102





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Kade M. Ferris, MS  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians  
P.O. Box 274  
Red Lake, MN 56671

Dear Kade M. Ferris, MS:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

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If you have any questions or comments, please contact Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator on my staff, at [keith.weston@nd.usda.gov](mailto:keith.weston@nd.usda.gov) or via phone at 701-356-6641 or cell phone 701-318-8566; or Danny Omdahl, MSTWD Administrator at [mstrwd@hotmail.com](mailto:mstrwd@hotmail.com) or by phone at (218) 745-4741.

Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc:

Danny Omdahl, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, 453 North McKinley Street Box 154, Warren, Minnesota 56762  
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102



June 29, 2016

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Minnesota  
State Office

375 Jackson Street  
Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ph: 651-602-7900  
Fax 855-823-7656  
[www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov)

Leonard Wabasha  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota  
2330 Sioux Trail N.W.  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Dear Leonard Wabasha:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Process on the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTWD) made application for assistance from the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) for Watershed Planning under the RCPP, administered by NRCS. The RRRA authorized the MSTWD to proceed with a Cooperative Agreement with NRCS to perform Watershed Planning in the Judicial Ditch #14 and Judicial Ditch #19 watersheds. The MSTWD is committed to develop solutions to flooding, erosion, drainage issues and related natural resource concerns within these watersheds. This work includes developing an NRCS watershed plan and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. RCPP watershed plans are required to conform to Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Public Law 83-566).

The NRCS and MSTWD invite your Tribe to participate in these planning efforts. The planning process will identify watershed natural resource concerns and problems, define a scope of action, evaluate resource issues and develop a range of alternatives to address the watershed needs, and ultimately identify a preferred alternative for the watershed. These watershed plans require communication with a Watershed Stakeholder's Committee and/or Project Team consisting of concerned citizens and local governing units. You will be invited to participate in these meetings and provide input into the planning process, especially as it relates to your historical and cultural interests within the watershed planning area (see enclosed map). I hope you or a representative from your office can attend and participate at these meetings.

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Sincerely,

CATHEE PULLMAN  
State Conservationist

Enclosure

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Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Ste B, Fargo, ND 58102