

Declining, At-Risk Species: A Recovery Project

Project Manager Qualifications

Rich Perrine, project manager, has over 25 years of natural resource management experience. He worked for the U. S. Forest Service out of the Gunflint Ranger District in northeast Minnesota in the mid 70's and has worked for Soil and Water Conservation Districts for most of the last 22 years out of the Martin, Watonwan, and Carver offices. He has been back in the Martin SWCD office for the last 12 years, after serving as a DNR CREP Technician for Cottonwood, Watonwan and Martin SWCDs.

He has been a gardener his entire life, winning a state fair trip with his 4-H grand champion weed collection exhibited at the Martin County Fair. He has assisted with and sponsored numerous Master Gardener Workshops and Community Tree workshops.

He has written and assisted with many successful natural resource implementation grants, Re-leaf Minnesota and DNR Partners grants. He has administered several of these and has been a partner for implementing many of them. He has received and effectively administered a private stewardship grant through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a Metropolitan Council water quality implementation grant project.

While working with Martin SWCD, he has written over one hundred conservation plans for the "Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats Tallgrass Prairie / Oak Savanna" practice. He provides technical assistance for wetland restoration projects and has supervised the installation of over 50 wetland restoration projects over the last two years, providing recommendations for local ecotype native plant materials for the wetland basins, riparian areas and upland habitats.

He is up to date on current methods by participating in recent trainings. He just attended native prairie seedling identification and native prairie propagation workshops at the Iowa Ecotype project headquarters at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. He attended a hands-on Lake Habitat Protection and Lakeshore Restoration workshop, sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of American Fisheries Society which was taught by experienced MN Pollution Control Agency, MN Department of Natural Resources staff and others.

Martin SWCD, the local sponsoring agency, has a long history of efficiently implementing natural resource projects, getting conservation applied to the land. With a \$400,000 annual budget and six employees, the SWCD continues to innovate and maximize the impact of conservation efforts. The SWCD served as the fiscal agent for the Blue Earth River Basin Initiative (BERBI) for several years. Besides the millions of conservation practice dollars applied through BERBI, The District has implemented nearly a million dollars worth of projects through the Lily-Center Creek Clean Water Partnership and has nearly a million working dollars in the Ag BMP revolving loan program.

Martin SWCD provided the initial contacts, technical assistance and paperwork processing which applied millions of dollars of conservation to the land through the Minnesota River CREP and CREP II.