

Fulton County Soil and Water Conservation District
15381 North State Hwy 100
Lewistown, Illinois

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The LaMoine River Watershed Ecosystem Partnership implemented a gully study to determine sediment loadings, locations and where load reductions need to occur, in hopes of securing an EPA grant. It clearly demonstrates the impact that gullies are having on health of the area's natural resources. Data was analyzed to determine priority subwatersheds based on the project goal areas.

The Fulton County SWCD staff collected field data by walking miles of field perimeters and marking GPS waypoints where gully erosion was taking place. Bank height, lateral recession rates and soil texture were also noted. Bank length was calculated using GIS by measuring the distance between each point representing areas of similar bank characteristics. When all data was collected and prioritized, landowners were contacted to determine an interest in cost-share funding.

Total Number of Gullies	Total Net Erosion (tons/yr)	Total N Load (lbs/yr)	Total P Load (lbs/yr)	Average Length (feet)	Average Width (feet)	Average Depth (feet)
571	20,993	83,972	25,192	147.5	6.4	2.36

Subwatershed	%HEL	Average Slope (%)	Gully Density (#/acre)	Soil	Landcover
Fulton County	49.03	7.02	0.03	15% loess	54% Row Crop

It is obvious from the above table that the study area in Fulton County has a high rate of gully erosion given the HEL percentage and average land slope. The rolling, steep topography in Fulton County lends itself to the formation of gullies.

