

The Great Snake River Check-In



December 2025

Clean Water Starts at Home:

Helping Local Families Fix Failing Septic Systems

Many families in the Snake River Watershed cannot afford costly septic repairs. Through the Low-Income Septic Grant Program, Kanabec SWCD and the Watershed Partnership recently fully funded a septic replacement improving the health of our community and protecting water quality. Proper septic systems reduce phosphorus, nitrates, and harmful bacteria, supporting clean water and resilient communities across the Snake River Watershed. [Read the full article →](#)

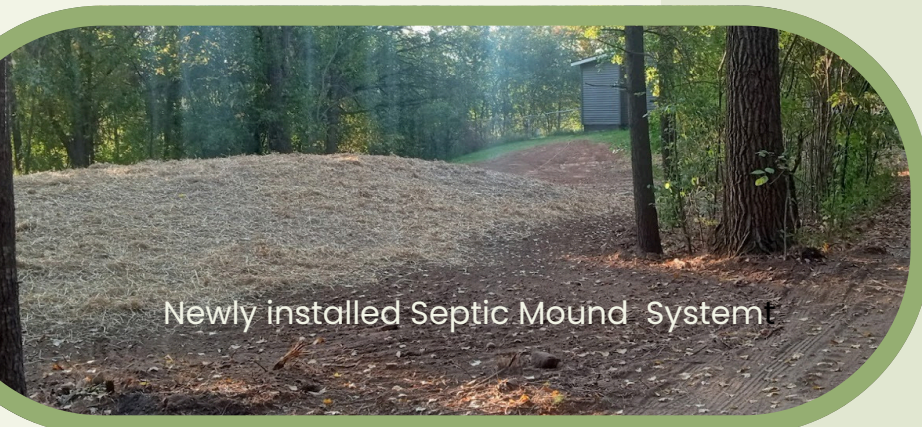


Staff Highlight: Heather Pine SWCD



Heather Donoho brings strong energy to soil health and agricultural conservation across the Snake River Watershed. Her work supports producers as they adopt practices like strip till and begin long term soil health journeys that improve water quality and strengthen natural resources. From site visits to hands on outreach events, Heather helps connect landowners with the tools they need to make meaningful change.

[Read the full interview →](#)



Newly installed Septic Mound System

Economic Ripple Effect

Investing in clean water and resilient landscapes doesn't just protect our natural resources—it strengthens our local economy. Based on 2021 IMPLAN data, our grant spending generates a **1.81x economic multiplier**, meaning every dollar we invest creates an additional 81 cents of economic activity in our region.

[Read the full article →](#)

1.81



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What's Happening in the Snake?

Winter weather preparations are underway for projects. A Manure Pit Closure in Kanabec County was able to get up and running once the Federal Government reopened and before the snow hit. Planning is in full swing with draft of the FY2026 WBIF Work plan expected in December. Final budget recommendations for FY24 funding re-allocation is under review. The new environmental services director for Pine County, Aaron Gustafson joined the Watershed Steering Committee Team.

WBIF Grant Updates:

FY 2024 WBIF funds: \$1,024,471 (Expires Dec 2026)

- 85% Encumbered/ Contracted
- Available : \$150,000 for projects

FY 2026 WBIF funds: \$ 1,030,147

- Work plan in development to request these funds for 2026-2028



Whats Coming up? How Can you Participate

MEETINGS

- **Dec 22:** Joint Powers Entity Board Meeting
- **Jan 4 :** Steering Committee Meeting

OPPORTUNITIES

- Does your organization have ideas for projects with a clean water aspect? We want to help!
 - Speakers
 - Informational materials
 - Cost Share and Funding opportunities

SHARE THIS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Interested in Keeping up with the Snake River Watershed:

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