



Agricultural Practices For South Central MN

Linda Meschke

Rural Advantage/ BERBI

Greater Blue Earth River Watershed

Watonwan River Watershed



Prepared by the Blue Earth River Basin Initiative
Linda Meschke, Coordinator
February 2001

BERBI Prioritization Policy


- **All Projects are located:**
 - Within 1000 feet of surface water; or
 - Within 1000 feet of an open tile intake; or
 - Within the floodplain; or
 - A local priority
- **Practice type priority:**
 - Ag Waste
 - Erosion Control
 - Streambank

BERBI Results:

- ~\$ 8,000,000
- 13 years
- **Estimated 9% Reduction in Pollution Load**
 - To the MN River from the Blue Earth River System

It is not enough!


- We do not have 40 years to achieve clean water.



**If we are serious about meeting our
water quality goals,**

**Then we need to take our
Implementation efforts to a higher
level.**

- Higher level BMP's
- Cropping System Change
 - Targeting



Martin County Water Plan 2006 - 2016

Traditional Agricultural BMP's

- Applied To All Lands in the County
 - $< 2\%$ Slope
 - 2 to 6% Slope, Within 200 feet of Surface Water
- BMP's Included:
 - Residue Management
 - Conservation Tillage
 - Nutrient Management
 - Vegetated Buffers



Precision Conservation

- Higher Level BMP's
- **Precision Conservation**
 - A term adopted to mean higher level BMP's that are strategically targeted to environmentally sensitive areas.

Precision Conservation Should Be Applied:

- To the following Landscape Characteristics:
 - Steeper Slopes
 - Droughty Soils
 - Areas of Concentrated Overland Flow
 - Close Proximity to Surface Waters
 - Size of Contributing Watershed Area
 - Seasonal and Intermittent Streams
 - Cropping System
 - Floodplain Areas
 - Within 30 feet of an Open Tile Intake
 - Poorly Drained Soils




2% to 6% [B] Slopes Within 200 feet of Surface Water

- Waterways for Concentrated Overland Flow
- Terraces
- Cover Crops
- Higher Levels of Residue Management
- Perennial Cropping Systems
- Sediment Control Basins
- Filter Strips of Perennial Vegetation
- Water Storage

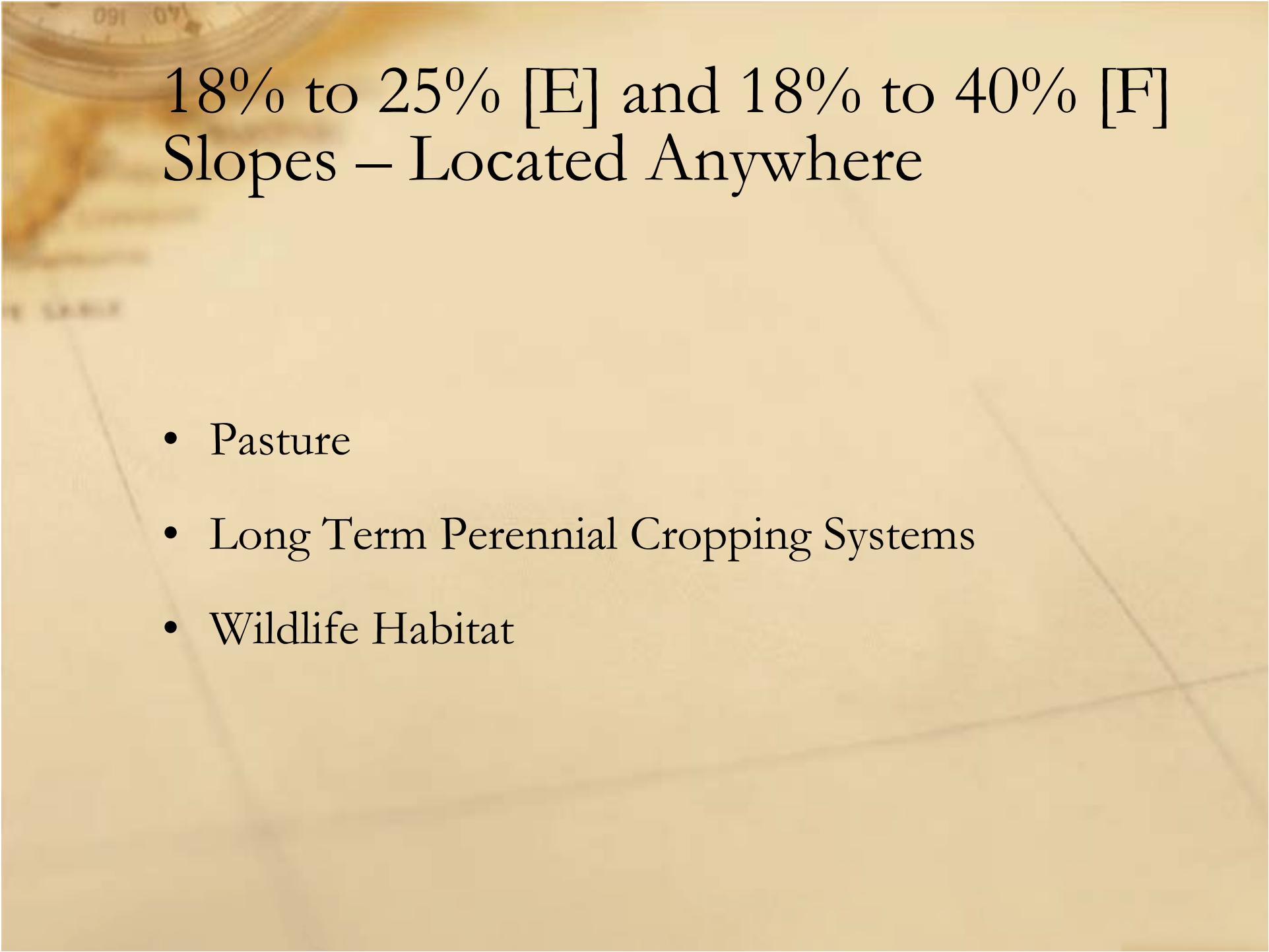
6% to 12% [C] Slopes Located Anywhere

- Waterways for Concentrated Overland Flow
- Terraces
- Cover Crops
- Higher Levels of Residue Management
- Perennial Cropping Systems
- Sediment Control Basins
- Filter Strips of Perennial Vegetation
- Adjacent to Surface Waters Establish Filter Strips of Appropriate Width for the Size of the Contributing Watershed Area



12% to 18% [D] Slopes Located Anywhere

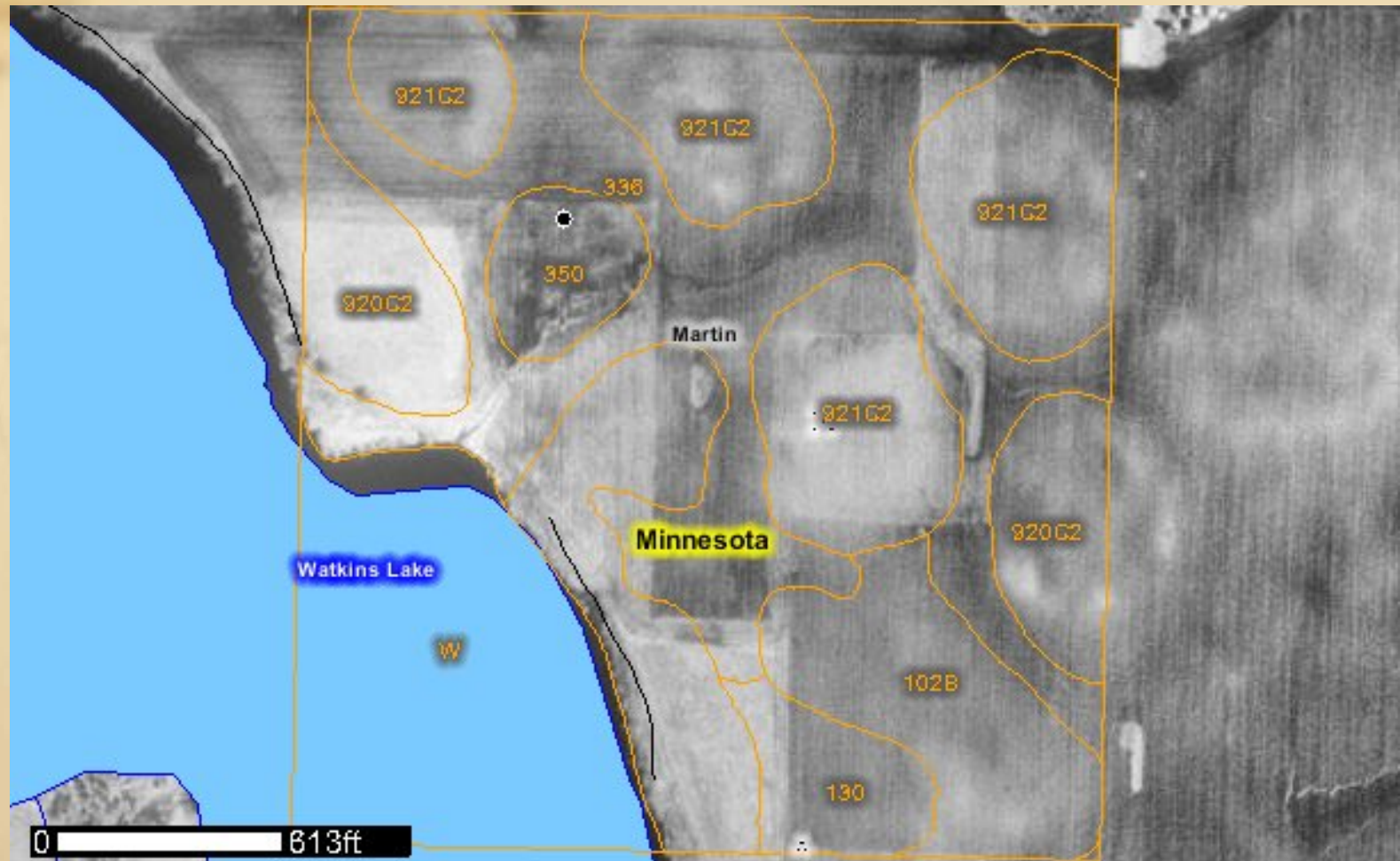
- No Till
- Perennial Cropping Systems
- Critical Area Plantings



18% to 25% [E] and 18% to 40% [F]
Slopes – Located Anywhere

- Pasture
- Long Term Perennial Cropping Systems
- Wildlife Habitat

Soil Survey Easily Shows Slope





Targeting Tools