Conservation in Dorn Creek

- Conservation practices implemented on over 90% of fields
- Over 60% of livestock facilities have adopted conservation practices to reduce phosphorus
- Nutrient management plans have been completed for 75% of cropland acres
- Average soil loss from cropland fields is reduced to more than half of the tolerable soil loss standard. The current soil loss is 1.8 versus tolerable loss of 4 tons/acre/year
- Average phosphorus (P) index from agriculture fields is half the state recommended standard. Current P index is 3 compared standard of 6 pounds/acre/year



Dorn Creek Legacy P Study Site





Phosphorus in Stream Sediments

Source Comparison







700 mg/kg

5,000 mg/kg

10,000 mg/kg

The Phosphorus concentrations in stream sediments were about seven times more concentrated than adjacent farm fields.

Phosphorus in the Stream



Within a 2.3 mile stretch of Dorn Creek there is an estimated 75,000 pounds of Phosphorus.

Phosphorus Release

Laboratory Testing



The stream sediments released Phosphorus in the water more than half of the state water quality criterion (0.075 mg/l).

Time of Water Quality Impact



The stream bottom sediments will continue to release Phosphorus into the water for at least the next 60 years.

2017 Budget

Phase 1: Remove 2.3 miles of P rich stream sediments in Dorn Creek





Phase 2: Prioritize and remove 30 miles of P rich stream sediments in the Yahara Watershed

Phase 3: Monitor improvements to water quality, wildlife/plant diversity, and fish spawning/habitat.

