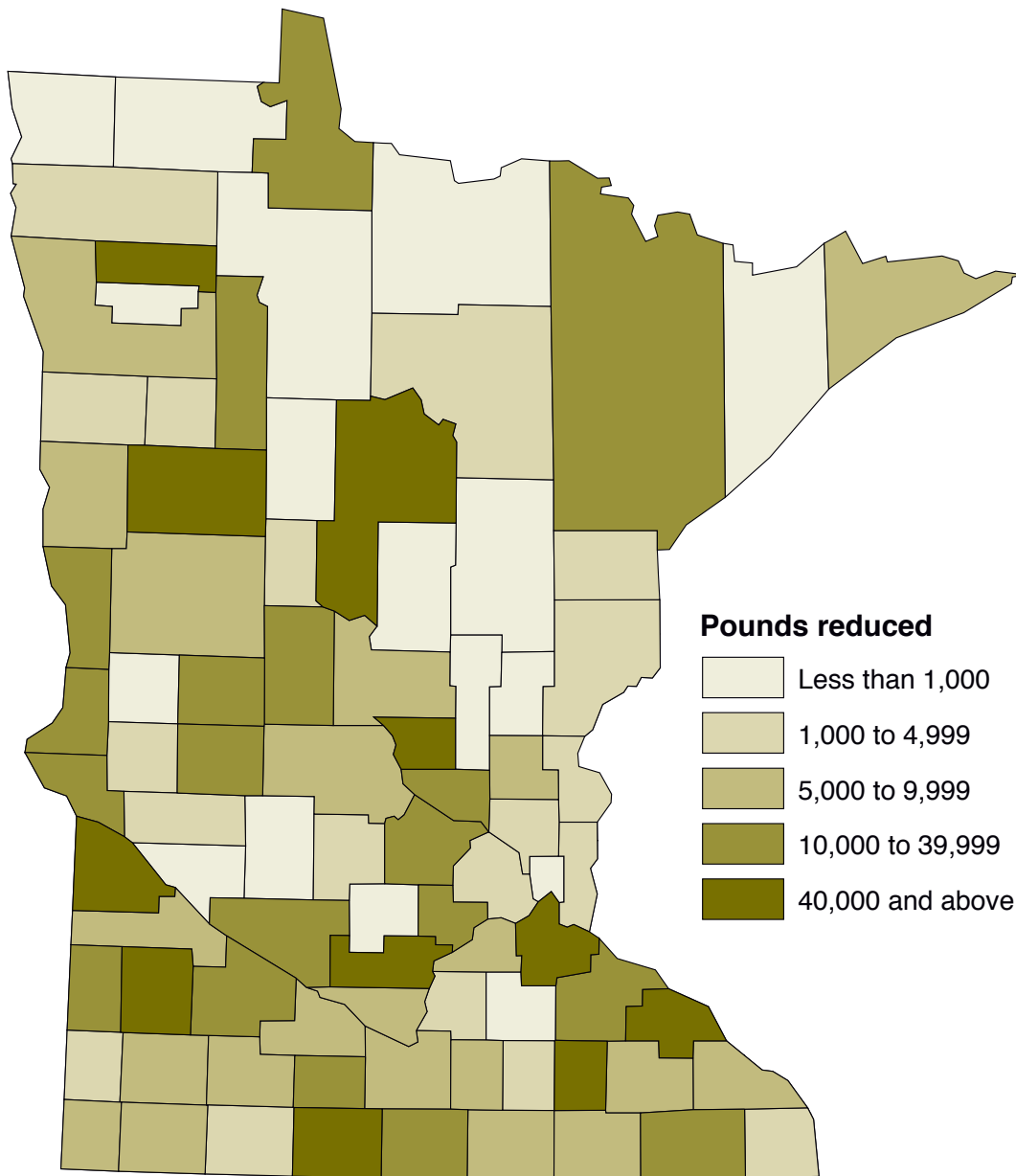


## Phosphorus Reduction, 1997–2005

Sediment is still the largest pollutant of surface waters, not only because of the silting problems it causes, but also because of the chemicals attached to the sediment that are carried into the water. One of these chemicals is phosphorus, a common element of fertilizer, which in water creates several problems, including algae bloom. This proliferation of algae and other aquatic vegetation eats oxygen from the water, suffocating fish, discouraging wildlife and making the lakes and waterways unsuitable for recreational use. Some of the practices used to control phosphorus involve controlling erosion along banks and inclines, especially along waterways. The phosphorus reduction figure is an estimation of the amount of phosphorus attached to sediment that would have made it to surface water if conservation practices had not been in place.



Data source: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
© 2006 Center for Rural Policy and Development