

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2017 / ML 2016 Request for Funding



Date: June 15, 2015

Program or Project Title: RIM Wetlands: Phase 7

Funds Requested: \$25,000,000

Manager's Name: Dave Rickert

Title: Easement Specialist

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

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County Locations: Not Listed

Regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Southeast Forest
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Abstract:

RIM Wetlands will protect and restore 4545 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on 46 easements without a CREP. Our priority is to accomplish a CREP, combining RIM and CRP, but standalone RIM may also be used.

Design and scope of work:

RIM Wetlands Phase I will accelerate the restoration and protection of approximately 4,545 acres of previously drained wetlands and associated upland native prairie wildlife habitat complexes via approximately 46 permanent conservation easements without a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). We expect the total to include approximately 1,515 wetland acres and 3,030 acres of adjacent native prairie. The goal of the RIM Wetlands program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, while optimizing wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and many federal, state and local agencies and non-government organizations have been formulating a 100,000 acre CREP proposal focused on wildlife habitat and water quality. A final draft proposal has been completed and is being reviewed by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and state partners. In addition, an Environmental Assessment will be completed in the next few months.

Upon final agreement between the State of MN and the United States Dept. of Agriculture, MN conservation agencies and partners will embark on a seven year effort to implement a CREP to benefit wildlife habitat and provide water quality and hydrology benefits in 54 counties. This will be Minnesota's third CREP and the opportunity will be created to enroll 100,000 acres of permanently protected buffers, wetlands and floodplain easements using a combination of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program. Of the 100,000 acre total, 45,000 acres will be focused on wetlands and adjacent uplands directly associated with this RIM Wetlands proposal. The CREP will be a total of an estimated \$800 million of federal, state and local funding,

leveraging up to four federal dollars for every state/local dollar.

If the CREP does not come to fruition stand-alone RIM Wetland easements will be secured. Due to not having a signed CREP agreement at the time of this submittal, leverage has not been included in any of the budget figures and projected acreage outcomes represent a non-CREP stand-alone RIM option. If a CREP agreement is signed later in 2015, acreage totals and number of easements will increase by a maximum of approximately four times, and our request will shift to less easement money (since USDA will pay a majority of the payments to landowners through the CRP) and to more technical assistance, processing and stewardship money since it is estimated that the number of easements will increase dramatically. See attached CREP budget for further information.

These restored wetlands and native grassland complexes will provide critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife species in Minnesota. Wetlands and adjacent grasslands provide habitat for waterfowl, pheasants, deer and non-game species, including some that are threatened or endangered.

RIM Wetlands is a local-state-federal partnership delivered locally by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). In addition, this partnership is possible through collaboration among many local, state and federal partners including Pheasants Forever (PF), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) and the United States Department of Interior - Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

In addition, the Conservation Assistance Acceleration Project (CAAP; formerly the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership) is included as a major component in the RIM Wetlands program. Local staff (funded through the CAAP) will promote RIM easements, assist with easement processing and provide key essential technical assistance and project management services. The progression of our wetlands program to reflect our standard RIM process meshes well with the use of CAAP technicians. Ducks Unlimited (DU) consultants were used in the past and were valued for their experience with Federal WRP processing but now we will utilize local staff, especially through the CAAP to perform RIM tasks. However, we will continue to work with DU on this and other efforts.

The RIM Reserve & Soil Conservation Committee – a subcommittee of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources – provides oversight and guidance on behalf of the BWSR.

Meetings will be held each year to provide program oversight and guidance for upcoming sign-ups. We will conduct a RIM Wetlands statewide sign-up in 2016. All applications will be scored and ranked using the RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet. The worksheet determines which projects will provide the greatest wetland functions and values and optimizes wildlife habitat on the selected and enrolled acres. The highest scoring applications will be selected for funding with Outdoor Heritage Funds.

Crops:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

In certain circumstances food plots for wildlife are an allowable use on RIM easements and must be part of an approved Conservation Plan. Food plots on narrow buffers, steep slopes and wet areas are not allowed. RIM policy limits food plots to 10% of the total easement area or 5 acres whichever is smaller. There is no cost share for establishment of food plots and upon termination the landowners must reestablish the vegetation as prescribed in the Conservation Plan at their own expense. Food plots are a rarely selected option by landowners, to date only 2.2% of RIM easements have food plots.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **No**

How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:

Wetland and prairie landscapes have been lost at an alarming rate over the last 150 years. Prairies once comprised nearly 20 million acres in Minnesota. Less than 1% of this native prairie remains. Minnesota has lost an estimated 42% of its original 16 million acres of wetlands to drainage or fill activities. The loss of wetlands is most severe in the prairie regions of the state (approximately 90% loss).

Habitat loss in southeastern Minnesota is equally staggering, with over 100 resident plants and vertebrates listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern. Any threats to groundwater are amplified by the Karst geology of this area, and current land use also leads to sedimentation of trout streams.

Prairie wetlands are particularly important for migratory waterfowl. Although the North American pothole region contains only about 10% of the waterfowl nesting habitat on the continent, it produces 70% of all North American waterfowl. This extensive loss of Minnesota's prairie and wetland habitat has led to the decline of many wildlife and plant species. Of the nearly 1200 known wildlife

species in Minnesota, 292 species, or approximately one-fourth, are at risk because they are rare; their populations are declining due to loss of

What is the nature of urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

RIM has a long history of permanent protection, selecting the most impactful sites through a comprehensive scoring system. The CREP will ONLY have a five year window to secure federal leverage, CRP contracts continue to expire, and farming pressure leads to more fragmentation. Therefore the need for RIM is urgent.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

We use the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) developed GIS Wildlife Habitat Potential Model for environmental evaluation. The RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet evaluates each application on its potential to restore wetland/upland functions and values (optimize wildlife habitat benefits) and to provide other benefits including water quality.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

Metro / Urban:

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

Southeast Forest:

- Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund

The Conservation Assistance Acceleration Project (CAAP – formerly the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership) with BWSR, DNR, PF, NRCS and SWCDs as primary partners, provides funding to SWCDs to utilize technicians to promote the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and other conservation program opportunities to private landowners. The Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) via LCCMR recommendations provided \$1.0M in FY10-11, \$625,000 in FY12-13, \$3.0M in FY 14-15 and \$1.0M in FY 16-17. With CREP, we will need funding of approximately \$4.5 million per year from all sources to support this effort.

The progression of the RIM Wetlands program to reflect our standard RIM process meshes well with the use of CAAP technicians. Ducks Unlimited (DU) consultants were used in the past and were valued for their experience with Federal WRP processing but are no longer needed for this SWCD led RIM only effort. However, we will continue to work with DU on this and other efforts.

These other projects have an indirect relationship due to the use of RIM perpetual easements:

Beginning in 2009, the BWSR has received FY10-11, FY12-13 and FY14-15 funding for a total of \$31.9 million through the Clean Water Fund (from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment) to establish and restore permanent RIM Reserve Riparian easements for buffers to keep water on the land in order to decrease sediment, pollutant and nutrient transport, reduce hydrological impacts to surface waters and increase infiltration for groundwater recharge. These funds have been combined with LSOHC funding for buffers to increase the width and add wildlife habitat benefits to clean water buffers.

BWSR has also received funding in FY10-11, FY12-13 and FY14-15 totaling \$7.5 million from CWF for RIM Reserve easements in areas where the vulnerability of the drinking water supply management area is designated high or very high by the Minnesota Department of Health and in certain groundwater recharge areas in SE MN.

How does this proposal accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

RIM Reserve was established in statute in 1986 to restore and set aside marginal land principally for increasing fish and wildlife populations. Past funding via bonding varies, with BWSR receiving bond funds in 2008, 2011, and 2012 for RIM wetlands.

The RIM-WRP Partnership received total OHF appropriations from 2009 to 2014 of \$65.863 million. The 2012-2014 OHF appropriations were approved by LSOHC to transition to RIM Wetlands. All of these OHF appropriations are being used to permanently protect and restore previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands. RIM is not funded by General Fund revenue and is not part of BWSR's agency base budget. RIM is supported by funds the agency receives to accomplish specific project objectives.

The CREP will total \$800 million of federal, state and local funding, leveraging up to four federal dollars for every state/local dollar and permanently protecting 100,000 acres of which 45,000 acres are focused on wetlands and adjacent uplands directly associated with this proposal. This proposal will be a key component to the CREP and will provide critical RIM resources and essential technical assistance to reach the goals and leverage approximately \$640 million of Federal Farm Bill resources.

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2008, 2011, 2012	Bonding	Over \$13 million
2009-2012	Federal Wetlands Reserve Program	Approximately \$47 million

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring into perpetuity. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and stewardship costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship cover costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2016-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Compliance checks first 5 years; then every 3rd year	Corrective actions on any violations	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General's office
2016-Ongoing	Landowner Obligation	Maintain compliance with easement terms		

Activity Details:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Obtain applications from eligible landowners	June 30, 2017
Allocations to specific parcels	July 30, 2017
Easements recorded	June 30, 2019
Restorations completed and final report submitted	June 30, 2024

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

Outcomes:

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands. The RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet is used to prioritize sites to achieve maximum environmental benefits. This includes prioritizing which sites will best serve as wildlife corridors/complexes and provide the highest-quality migratory waterfowl and upland bird habitat. We expect healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as these complexes are restored, and when identified, making sure to include remnant prairie within the easement area. Areas with expiring CRP contracts are also secured, removing the threat of conversion. The increased water retention of restored wetlands will reduce flood potential and lessen the amount of aquatic habitat degradation.

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna. The RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet is used to prioritize sites to achieve maximum environmental benefits. This includes prioritizing which sites will best serve as wildlife corridors/complexes and provide the highest-quality migratory waterfowl and upland bird habitat. We expect healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as these complexes are restored, and when identified, making sure to include remnant prairie within the easement area. Areas with expiring CRP contracts are also secured, removing the threat of conversion. The increased water retention of restored wetlands will reduce flood potential and lessen the amount of aquatic habitat degradation.

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Stream to bluff habitat restoration and enhancement will keep water on the land to slow runoff and degradation of aquatic habitat. The RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet is used to prioritize sites to achieve maximum environmental benefits. This includes prioritizing which sites will best serve as wildlife corridors/complexes and provide the highest-quality migratory waterfowl and upland bird habitat. We expect healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as these complexes are restored, and when identified, making sure to include remnant prairie within the easement area. Areas with expiring CRP contracts are also secured, removing the threat of conversion. The increased water retention of restored wetlands will reduce flood potential and lessen the amount of aquatic habitat degradation.

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands. The RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet is used to prioritize sites to achieve maximum environmental benefits. This includes prioritizing which sites will best serve as wildlife corridors/complexes and provide the highest-quality migratory waterfowl and upland bird habitat. We expect healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as these complexes are restored, and when identified, making sure to include remnant prairie within the easement area. Areas with expiring CRP contracts are also secured, removing the threat of conversion. The increased water retention of restored wetlands will reduce flood potential and lessen the amount of aquatic habitat degradation.

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$25,000,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$692,000	\$0	-	\$692,000
Contracts	\$385,800	\$0	-	\$385,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$23,405,700	\$0	-	\$23,405,700
Easement Stewardship	\$299,000	\$0	-	\$299,000
Travel	\$43,700	\$0	-	\$43,700
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Direct Support Services	\$92,500	\$0	-	\$92,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$62,500	\$0	-	\$62,500
Supplies/Materials	\$18,800	\$0	-	\$18,800
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Total	\$25,000,000	\$0	-	\$25,000,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.25	5.00	\$125,000	\$0	-	\$125,000
Easement Processing	0.60	3.00	\$117,000	\$0	-	\$117,000
Engineering/ Eco Services	1.50	3.00	\$450,000	\$0	-	\$450,000
Total	2.35	11.00	\$692,000	\$0	-	\$692,000

Amount of Request: \$25,000,000

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	1,515	3,030	0	0	4,545
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,515	3,030	0	0	4,545

Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	0
Total	0

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$8,333,300	\$16,666,700	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$8,333,300	\$16,666,700	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	455	455	455	3,180	0	4,545
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	455	455	455	3,180	0	4,545

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$0	\$25,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$0	\$25,000,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$5,501	\$5,501	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$5,495	\$5,495	\$5,495	\$5,503	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

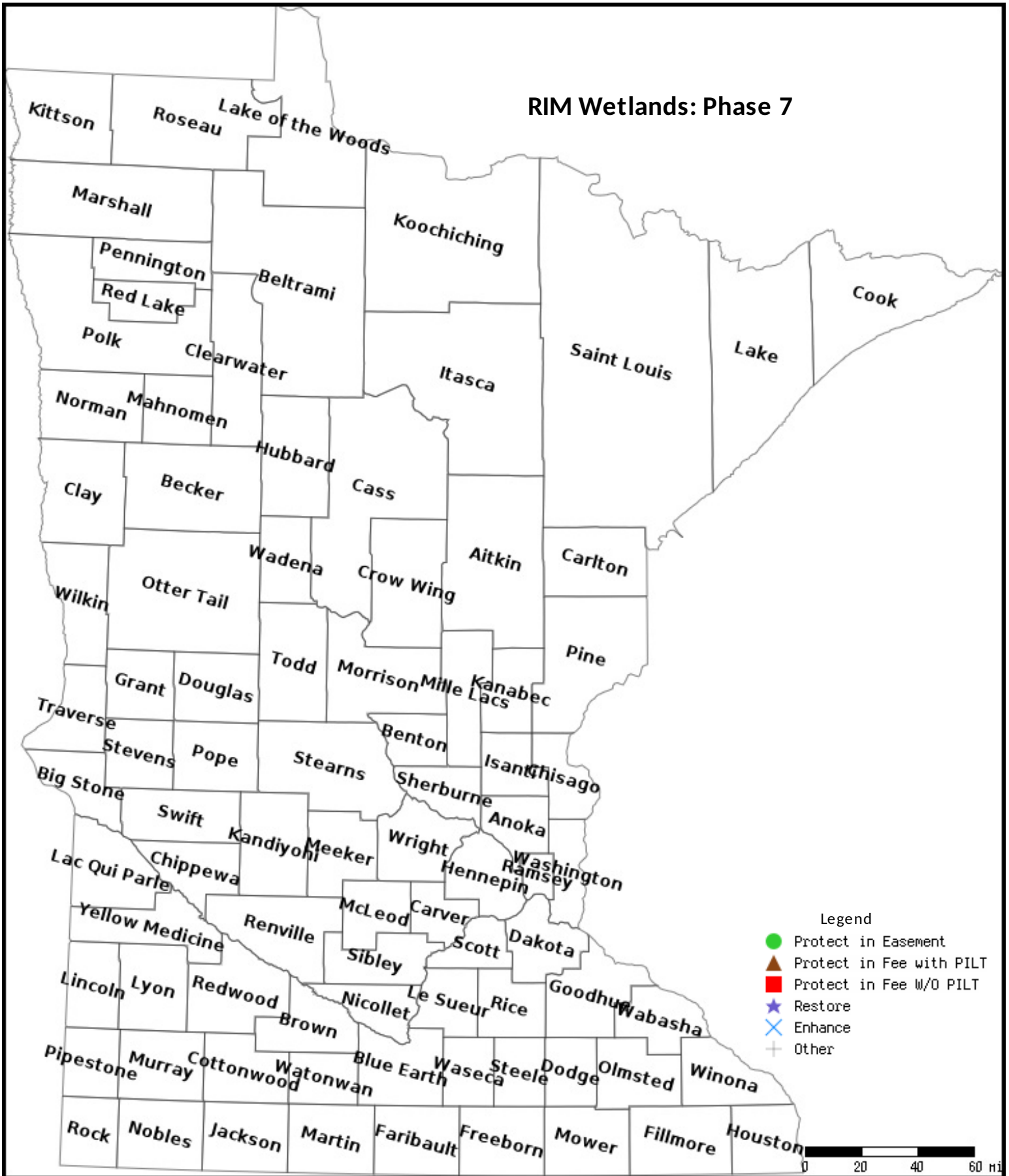
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

RIM Wetlands: Phase 7

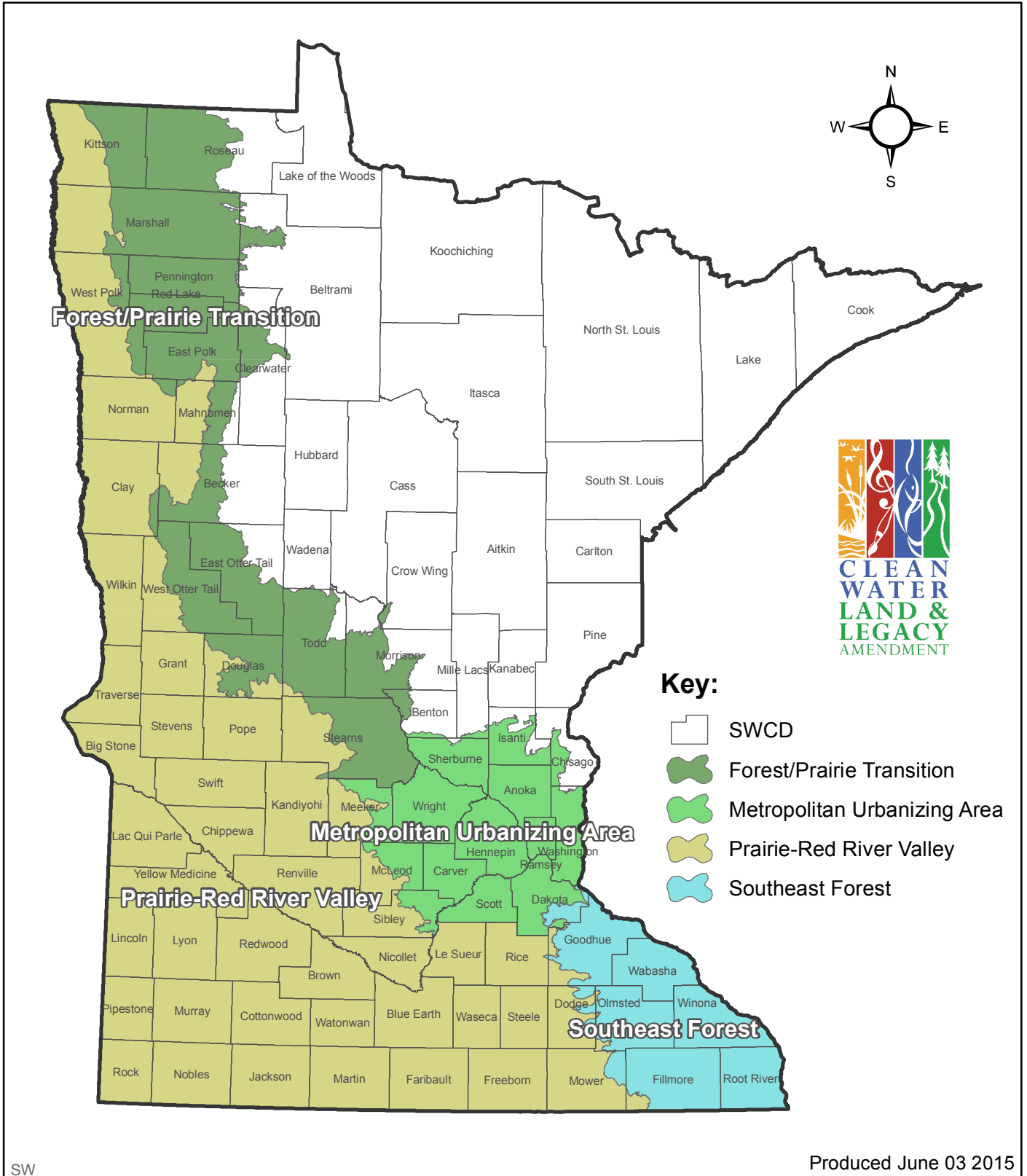


Data Generated From Parcel List



Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources RIM Wetlands

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Planning Areas



Supplemental Information- Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2017 / ML 2016

Program or Project Title: RIM Wetlands Phase I with a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Funds Requested: \$25,000,000

The budget spreadsheet below includes information related to a RIM and CRP combined effort tied to a 100,000 acre CREP. This \$25 million request shows the federal USDA leverage that allows acres to increase from 4,545 to 17,000 and easement numbers to increase from 46 to 170. This then causes a shift of OHF funds to additional non-easement costs due to USDA paying the majority of the payments to landowners for retirement (CRP) and restoration. According to the rules for CREP, USDA may pay up to 80% of the total cost of the CREP and the State must pay at least 20%. Shown below is the 80:20 scenario. Because we do not yet have a signed CREP agreement BWSR chose to not show the leveraged dollars or acres within the proposal. We offer this as an **example** of what leverage could be if the State is successful in negotiating a **maximum allowable CREP agreement**. Once a CREP agreement is formalized, budget and outcome information will be updated and provided to the LSOHC.

Supplemental Budget Spreadsheet Showing Potential CREP Leverage

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$2,184,615	\$		\$2,184,615
Contracts	\$1,511,000	\$0		\$1,511,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$19,799,385	\$114,220,030	USDA-FSA-CREP	\$134,019,415
Easement Stewardship	\$1,105,000	\$0		\$1,105,000
Travel	\$43,750	\$0		\$43,750
Professional Services	\$	\$0		\$
Direct Support Services	\$275,000	\$0		\$275,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$	\$0		\$
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$62,500	\$0		\$62,500
Supplies/Materials	\$18,750	\$0		\$18,750
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$25,000,000	\$114,220,030	-	\$139,220,030

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.25	5	\$125,000			\$125,000
Easement Processing	2.2	3	\$425,000			\$425,000
Engineering/Eco Services	5.5	3	\$1,634,615			\$1,634,615
Total		11	\$2,184,615			\$2,184,615

RIM WETLANDS PROGRAM SITE EVALUATION FORM

Landowner/Project Name:	County/SWCD Office:
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Application Total Score

A. RESTORATION BENEFITS (maximum score 50)

Score

Wetland Condition →	Effectively Drained	Partially Drained	Farmed Only	Size of Largest Basin (acres)	Total Grassland : Basin Ratio	
Restorable Depressional Wetlands (Basins)	No. of Basins	Check one <i>(if applicable)</i>	Check one <i>(if applicable)</i>	Check one <i>(if applicable)</i>	Check one <i>(if applicable)</i>	Check one <i>(if applicable)</i>
	1	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	< 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 0	< 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 0
	2	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	6-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 7	> 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2
	3	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	11-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 15	> 2:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3
	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	21-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 20	> 3:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4
	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	31-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 25	> 4:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 6
	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	> 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 30	> 5:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 8
	≥ 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		> 6:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 10

OR

Wetland Condition →	Effectively Drained	Partially Drained	Farmed Only
Restorable Non- Depressional Wetlands	Wetland Acres	Check one <i>(if applicable)</i>	Check one <i>(if applicable)</i>
	< 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	10 - 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	41 - 80	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
	81 - 120	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
≥ 121	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

B. ECOLOGICAL/HABITAT BENEFITS (maximum score 10)

Score

Easement Size (acres)	Acres of Permanent Habitat within 1.5 miles
<i>(Check one - if applicable)</i>	<i>(Check one - if applicable)</i>
≤ 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 0	≤ 200 <input type="checkbox"/> 0
41 - 80 <input type="checkbox"/> 3	200 - 500 <input type="checkbox"/> 3
81 - 120 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	501 - 1000 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
121 - 160 <input type="checkbox"/> 8	1001 - 3000 <input type="checkbox"/> 8
> 160 <input type="checkbox"/> 10	over 3000 <input type="checkbox"/> 10

RIM WETLANDS PROGRAM SITE EVALUATION FORM - *Continued*

C. ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE BENEFITS *(maximum score 20)*

Score

<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 20
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Determine score from Appendix 1 map and check appropriate score box

D. EASEMENT VALUE BENEFITS *(maximum score 10)*

Score

Additional points are being offered to landowners who agree to reduce the value of their easement payment. If points are taken, the final easement payment to the landowner will be adjusted accordingly. Please check one of the boxes to the right to indicate the landowners choice and choose the corresponding easement payment adjustment option when completing the Easement Payment Calculation Worksheet.

No Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
5 Percent Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
10 Percent Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
15 Percent Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
20 Percent Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
25 Percent Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> 10

E. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS *(maximum score 10)*

Score

(Check all that Apply)

1	The majority of area within the easement application is within a Prairie Plan Core or Corridor Area.	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2	Easement application is beneficial to, and within 1 mile of breeding/population of Federal or State listed Endangered or Threatened species as identified by DNR Natural Heritage Database (State Special Concern species shall not be considered). Federal species to be considered include Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species, including designated critical habitat (e.g. Topeka shiner).	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
3	The restoration resulting from the easement application is a local high priority resource project which is specifically identified in an existing comprehensive plan (site specific projects only, not general focus areas). Qualifying plans include state recognized local implementation plans, such as County Comprehensive Water Plan, Watershed District project plans, or groundwater protection plans.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
4	The easement application area buffers and/or the majority of runoff from it drains to and is within 1/2 mile of a DNR Protected Waters or designated aquatic management areas.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
5	The restoration project will result in addressing water quality concerns for conventional pollutants (examples: sediment, phosphorus, hydrology, bacteria, nitrogen) as identified in a TMDL report or implementation plan or a Watershed Restoration and Projection Strategy (WRAPS).	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
6	The majority of area within the easement application is within a defined Wellhead Protection Area	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
7	The predominant soils (more than 50%) within the easement application area are HEL or PHEL.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
8	The majority of the contributing watershed(s) to the easement application area is in agricultural use.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1

Note: *If points are taken for considerations 1 thru 6, additional documentation must be provided. Refer to Site Evaluation Form - Instruction documents for further information.*