Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2019 / ML 2018 Request for Funding

Date: May 31, 2017

Program or Project Title: RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase VIII

Funds Requested: $8,000,000

Manager's Name: Tabor Hoek
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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
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie

Abstract:

This Phase 8 continuation of the RIM Buffers Program will use the new MN CREP partnership to protect and restore riparian buffer areas, permanently protecting approximately 6,188 acres on approximately 368 easements. This Program will continue to utilize a science-based ranking and selection process and be implemented locally, working with SWCD, NRCS, and FSA staff in the 54 county CREP area. It is estimated that $1 of OHF will be leveraged with $1 of Clean Water Funds and approximately $4 of Federal funds through CREP.

Design and scope of work:

Approximately 6,188 acres of expanded habitat buffers on approximately 368 easements located within the 54-county CREP area will be established using this funding. The RIM Buffers uniquely leverages the Clean Water Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund to expand basic water quality buffers into high quality wildlife habitat. Outdoor Heritage Funds will double the size of Clean Water Fund (CWF) easements to provide additional wildlife benefits on areas that are not required by law or rule to have buffers, enhancing protection values from a water quality focus to a multi-benefit habitat-oriented corridor.

Due to the unique nature of the State's CWF/OHF match, each dollar of OHF is leveraged by 5:1, with five Federal and CWF dollars leveraged for each OHF dollar. OHF funded buffers, when linked to CWF buffers, will yield a total of 6,188 acres of buffers. Due to guidance from LSOHC, only the acres (3,094) and funding ($8,000,000) from OHF have been displayed in the Output Tables.

Minnesota continues to see a net loss of grasslands and CRP acres each year. This exodus is being driven by high land prices, increased pressure for alternative uses, and declining federal budgets for conservation programs. Minnesota's primary strategy to mitigate the loss of CRP is to target expiring contracts for enrollment into Continuous CRP practices (like buffers) and permanent easements.

RIM Buffer easements will be secured via Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) permanent easement acquisition, utilizing both a 15 year CRP contract and permanent RIM easement. This will be Minnesota's third CREP, and is able to offer a large-

scale impact due to the unique opportunity to utilize a substantial federal match.

RIM Buffers is a partnership delivered locally by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and at the State level by BWSR. In addition, the CREP partnership is possible through collaboration among many local, state and federal partners including the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Pheasants Forever (PF), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and over 70 supporting organizations and agencies.

BWSR staff will coordinate with federal partners on the overall CREP process and program oversight and will be responsible for easement acquisition. Local staff will promote CRP contracts and RIM easements, assist with easement processing and provide key essential technical assistance and project management services. Due to the reliance on local staff for implementation, the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership (FBAP) is included as a component in the RIM Buffers Program. There is increased local workload expected with CREP signup and implementation, as a significantly increased number of easements will be secured within the MN CREP area throughout the CREP timeframe.

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

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

Permanent habitat protection is vital to the future of waterfowl, grassland birds and other wildlife dependent on native and restored prairies. A strategy of the Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN is to increase enrollment of perennial grassland in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Through the extensive leverage of Clean Water Funds and federal funds, RIM Buffers will permanently protect and restore approximately 6,188 acres of native grasslands,advancing the end result of a healthy and plentiful supply of habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, especially for waterfowl and upland birds.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

- Protect expiring CRP lands

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 habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Southeast Forest:

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

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

The Prairie Section continues to experience a loss of CRP lands. Due to CRP acreage caps, landowners currently have limited options to retain the habitat they already have in place. MN CREP remains a viable option for expiring CRP lands, offering permanent protection of these existing habitat areas. Due to this cap, a CRP general signup was not held in 2017. Additionally, in the spring of 2017, all continuous CRP signups were halted due to the CRP cap (CREP is not affected) This unmet demand for CRP enrollment will allow this CREP initiative to draw from a pool of candidate sites, selecting the most outstanding sites that will provide the greatest habitat impact through permanent protection.

Protection and restoration of riparian buffers provides habitat for both game and nongame wildlife, which is a priority in the Southeast Forest Section. This Program targets and restores existing corridors and complexes, as well as those areas where complexes exist but the addition of a buffer provides a needed connection. This reflects the Forest/Prairie Transition Section legacy outcome of diverse and productive grasslands and wetlands that are connected by corridors, providing multiple benefits in the face of climate change and other major stressors. The focus on corridors in the Metro Section is no different, as sites are analyzed for their function as habitat linkages.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Through a combination of targeted outreach, eligibility screening, and a scoring and ranking process, each site is considered on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, as well as the site-specific features which highlight the benefits of selection for permanent protection.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to indicate a site's usefulness as a corridor or extension to an existing habitat complex. In addition, other examples of the science-based targeting used include: drainage to shallow lakes, buffering along lakeshore, planned vegetative diversity, and proximity to land open to public hunting.

As we implement CREP we will utilize similar science-based considerations that have been historically used by the RIM Buffers Program. The scoresheet used for RIM Buffer applications is included with this proposal.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

Buffers are commonly viewed as simply a water quality practice, but buffers have notable positive impacts on wildlife due their unique upland and riverine habitat interaction. This is especially true for expanded width buffers enrolled through this Program. Not only are upland grasslands protected or restored, detrimental impacts to stream-reliant biota is reduced. Many species of amphibians, such as southern MN's Northern Cricket Frog (endangered) rely on aquatic habitat during the breeding season and then spend most of their lives in upland habitat. In Southeastern MN, reptiles such as the Blanding's Turtle (endangered) rely on meandering streams, rivers, and adjacent lands.

The Sedge wren, a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) most commonly associated with grassland habitat, is encountered in buffer areas. Bird use is influenced by buffer width, with greater widths experiencing greater abundance and diversity of birds and grassland species. However, bird use is negatively associated by the amount of edge exposure. As an effort to limit this exposure through this Program's scoring and ranking process, sites which may serve as corridors or expand current complexes are most desirable.

Diverse vegetation, access to a water resource, and protection from pesticides are important to Minnesota's native pollinator species. BWSR's native vegetation guidelines and pollinator initiative have outlined the RIM Program's commitment to protecting native pollinators. Complexes and corridors targeted through RIM Buffers provide areas that are safe from pesticides and are natural passageways for pollinators. Targeted pollinator species include the Monarch Butterfly and solitary bee species including Leafcutter Bees, Mason Bees, and Yellow-faced Bees.

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 habitat. SGCN in the RIM Buffers area include the Five-lined Skink, Two-spotted Skipper, Northern Pintail, American Black Duck, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, and Western Grebe. In addition to the SGCN, the threatened or endangered species targeted in this proposal include the Dakota Skipper, Poweshiek Skipperling, and Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

DNR staff, in consultation with a variety of experts in NGOs and other agencies, have compiled a select group of indicator species and associated quantities to be used by any applicant to answer the question above.

Pheasant
By looking at the ratios of CRP acres in Minnesota to pheasant harvest, we can estimate that every three acres of grassland habitat has the potential to produce one harvested pheasant rooster.

Bobolink and Grasshopper Sparrow
The breeding territory size of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows is 1.7 and 2.1 acres respectively in high quality habitat in Wisconsin. If all of the habitat was occupied, 100 acres of habitat could potentially hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows respectively.

Monarch Butterfly
Research from the University of Minnesota has shown that it takes approximately 30 milkweed result in one monarch butterfly contributing to the overwintering Mexican population. Grasslands can have between 100-250 milkweed stems per acre. An acre of restored or enhanced grassland could potentially contribute 3 to 8 monarchs to the population.

Mallards
Both the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture and the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture (UMRGLRJV) – use the mallard as a focal species. The biological model used in the UMRGLRJV to estimate habitat needs to support mallard population growth uses a simple but accepted rate of 1 mallard pair per hectare (1 mallard pair per 2.47 acres) of wetland habitat (noting that upland habitat for nesting is also obviously needed).

Outcomes:

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced aspen parklands and riparian areas *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat availability within a certain region is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife within that region. This would have a positive impact on both game and nongame species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these complexes are restored.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat availability within a certain region is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife within that region. This would have a positive impact on both game and nongame species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these complexes are restored.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat availability within a certain region is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife within that region. This would have a positive impact on both game and nongame species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these complexes are restored.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat availability within a certain region is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife within that region. This would have a positive impact on both game and nongame species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these complexes are restored.*

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 monitoring and enforcement 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 enforcement 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 covers costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and enforcement.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2017-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspections first 5 years then every 3rd year.	Corrections of any violations	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General office
2017-Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms		

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

The CREP will only have a five year window to secure federal leverage, CRP contracts continue to expire (with nearly 600,000 acres expiring in the next five years), and farming pressure leads to more fragmentation.

Due to the CRP acreage cap, a general CRP signup was not held in 2017. Additionally, in the spring of 2017, all continuous CRP signups were halted due to the CRP cap (CREP is not affected). This unmet demand for CRP enrollment will allow this CREP initiative to draw from a pool of candidate sites, selecting the most outstanding sites that will provide the greatest habitat impact through permanent protection.

The MN CREP signup started on May 15, 2017.

How does this proposal include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:

The Governor and 5 State Agency leaders (BWSR, DNR, MDA, MPCA, and MDH) have supported a Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for over 3 years. On January 17, 2017, Governor Mark Dayton signed a $500 million Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture.

The expected CREP leverage will be approximately $4 of USDA funds for every $2 of State funding. Since the State's contribution is split 1:1 between the Clean Water Fund and Outdoor Heritage Fund, each $1 of OHF funds leverages a combination of approximately $5 of Clean Water Funds and federal USDA-FSA-CRP funds. This is a substantial increase in achievements that OHF will accomplish through this partnership. The combination of these unique opportunities produces a result of 6,188 acres instead of 1,290 acres of permanent protection.

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

This project brings two of the major components of the Legacy Amendment together by matching OHF with the Clean Water Fund for the RIM Buffer Program. Partners will leverage the Outdoor Heritage Funds with CREP funding sources to permanently protect buffers within landscapes that add value for grassland wildlife.

Beginning in 2009, the BWSR has received FY10-11, FY12-13, FY14-15, and FY16-17 funding for a total of $59.65 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 reduce runoff in order to decrease sediment, pollutant and nutrient transport, reduce hydrological impacts to surface waters and increase infiltration for groundwater recharge.

The Farm Bill Assistance Partnership (FBAP) with BWSR, DNR, PF, NRCS, MASWCD, 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 Environment 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.

As an indirect relationship, BWSR has also received funding in FY10-11, FY12-13, FY14-15, and FY16-17 totaling $11 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. These funds have not been matched with OHF funds but have, as secondary benefits, put 1700 acres of wildlife habitat on the ground.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2009-2015	Clean Water Fund	59,650,000
2008, 2011, 2012 and 2014	Bonding	17,640,206

Activity Details

Requirements:

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

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

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program - **Yes**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes (RIM Perpetual Easements)**

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Yes**

Are the funds confirmed - **Yes**

Documentation

What are the types of funds?
Cash Match - $33802090

Land Use:

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**

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

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, there could be a potential for new trails to be developed, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc). Unauthorized trails identified during the monitoring process are in violation of the easement.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 6,500 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and

maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, there could be a potential for new trails to be developed, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc). Unauthorized trails identified during the monitoring process are in violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 6,500 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms.

Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Obtain applications from eligible landowners	June 30, 2019
Allocations to specific parcels	July 30, 2019
Easements recorded	June 30, 2022
Restorations completed and final report submitted	June 30, 2027

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: $8,000,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$623,100	$623,100	Clean Water Fund, Clean Water Fund, Clean Water Fund	$1,246,200
Contracts	$828,400	$828,400	Clean Water Fund	$1,656,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$0	$0		$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$0	$0		$0
Easement Acquisition	$5,224,500	$39,026,500	Clean Water Fund, USDA-FSA-CRP	$44,251,000
Easement Stewardship	$1,196,000	$1,196,000	Clean Water Fund	$2,392,000
Travel	$14,000	$14,000	Clean Water Fund	$28,000
Professional Services	$0	$0		$0
Direct Support Services	$88,000	$88,000	Clean Water Fund	$176,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$0	$0		$0
Capital Equipment	$0	$0		$0
Other Equipment/Tools	$20,000	$20,000	Clean Water Fund	$40,000
Supplies/Materials	$6,000	$6,000	Clean Water Fund	$12,000
DNR IDP	$0	$0		$0
Total	$8,000,000	$41,802,000	-	$49,802,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.25	5.00	$68,800	$68,800	Clean Water Fund	$137,600
Easement Processing	4.72	3.00	$495,400	$495,400	Clean Water Fund	$990,800
Engineering/Eco Services	0.39	3.00	$58,900	$58,900	Clean Water Fund	$117,800
Total	5.36	11.00	$623,100	$623,100	-	$1,246,200

Amount of Request:	$8,000,000
Amount of Leverage:	$41,802,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request:	522.53%
DSS + Personnel:	$711,100
As a % of the total request:	8.89%
Easement Stewardship:	$1,196,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition:	22.89%

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done.

Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

No. The contract line amount will be used for payments to SWCD staff for easement implementation (includes Farm Bill Assistance Partnership). Estimated restoration costs are included in the easements acquisition line. We estimate that LSOHC Costs for restoration will amount to $648,400.

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - No

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:

The travel line does not include anything outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

On January 17, 2017, Governor Mark Dayton signed a $500 million Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture. The $500 million investment for the MN CREP consists of approximately $350 million from USDA.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally. Program management costs are the exception, due to program management & oversight remaining consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

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	0	3,094	0	0	3,094
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	3,094	0	0	3,094

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	$648,400	$0	$0	$648,400
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	$0	$7,351,600	$0	$0	$7,351,600
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total	$0	$8,000,000	$0	$0	$8,000,000

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	309	309	309	2,167	0	3,094
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	309	309	309	2,167	0	3,094

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	$64,800	$64,800	$64,800	$454,000	$0	$648,400
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	$735,200	$735,200	$735,200	$5,146,000	$0	$7,351,600
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total	$800,000	$800,000	$800,000	$5,600,000	$0	$8,000,000

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	$0	$2,376	$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	$2,379	$2,379	$2,379	$2,375	$0
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

58 miles

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

Parcel List

Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

Through a combination of eligibility screening and a scoring and ranking process, MN CREP evaluates each application on its potential to restore functions and values (optimize wildlife habitat benefits) and to provide other benefits including water quality. Each site is considered on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, as well as the site-specific features which highlight the benefits of selection for permanent protection.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to indicate a site's usefulness as a corridor or extension to an existing habitat complex.

As we implement CREP we will utilize similar science-based considerations that have been historically used by the RIM Buffers Program. The scoresheet used for CREP Buffer applications is included with this proposal.

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.

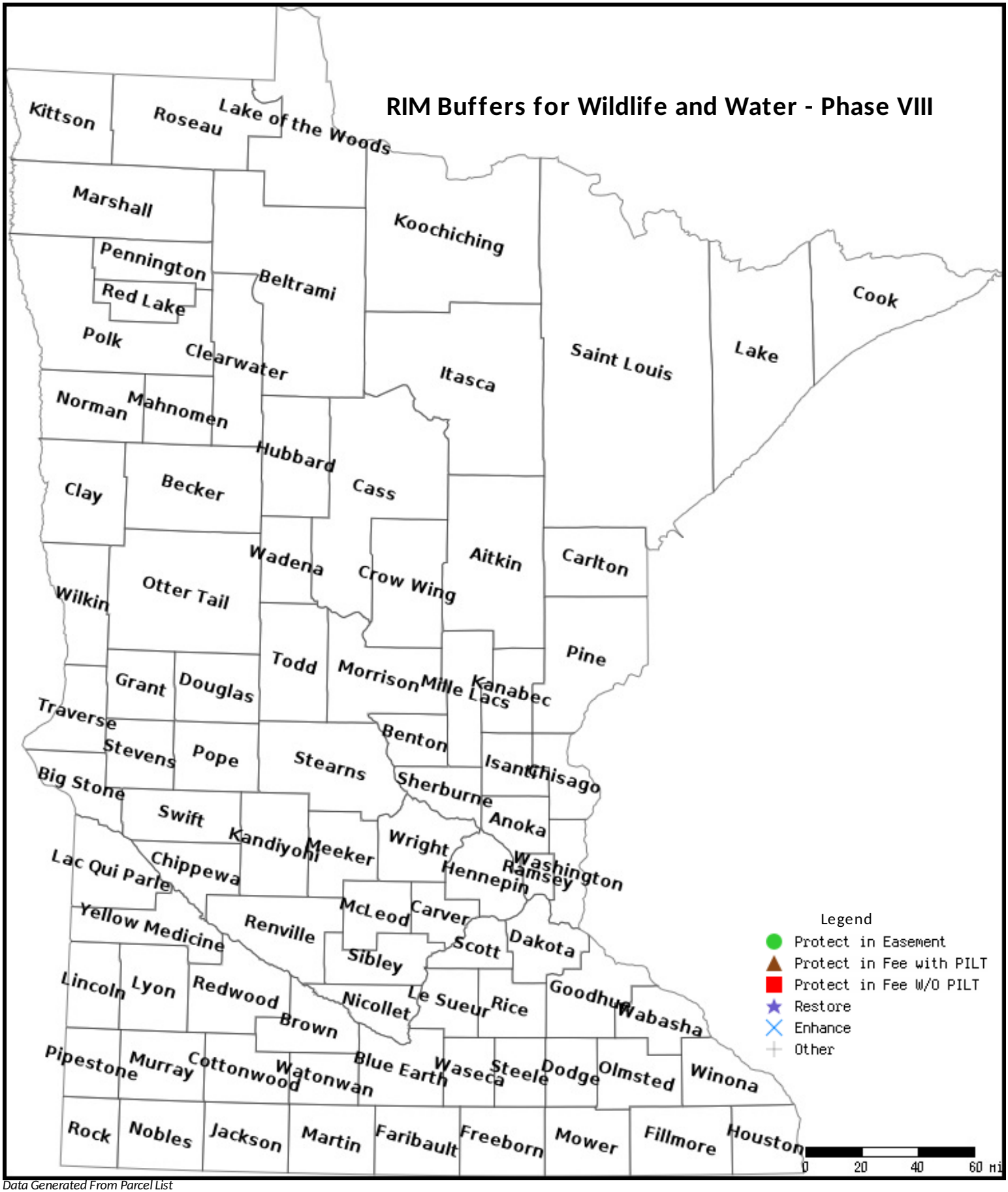
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List

RIM Buffers
Phase 8

Building Better Habitat Corridors

May 31, 2017

Phase 8 Request

- Permanent protection and restoration of 6,188 acres.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will leverage federal USDA CRP funds to increase wildlife habitat.
- $8 million of OHF leverages $41.8 million
  - $8 million CWF
  - $33.8 million USDA-FSA-CRP
- Permanently protects, restores, and manages resources while private ownership continues.
- Provides an opportunity to protect expiring CRP lands.

Funding History and Accomplishments

- **Phases I - IV** $10,059,000
  - Over 1,500 acres protected through OHF funding
  - 3,700 acres total protected acres of riparian habitat (all sources of funding)
- **Phase V-VII** $16,585,000
  - Using significant CWF and federal leverage in combination with OHF funding, an estimated 12,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands will be protected

- **Outcomes – Benefits to Minnesotans:**
  - Restores and permanently protects wildlife habitat that supports healthy populations
  - Improves hunting and fishing by building permanent wildlife complexes
  - Creates and sustains Minnesota jobs

Demand Exceeds Available Funding

- **$37 million** in unfunded easement applications remaining after the June 2014 signup (pre-Governor's Buffer Initiative).
- Demand for this program continues to exceed available funding by a 4:1 margin. The MN CREP signup started on May 15th, 2017 and the first batching period for Buffers will end on June 30th, 2017.
- Provides an opportunity to protect expiring CRP.

No buffer

Minimum required

OHF/CWF buffer

Progressing through the buffer continuum from no buffer to required buffer to an OHF/CWF buffer demonstrates the clear benefits to habitat as protection increases.

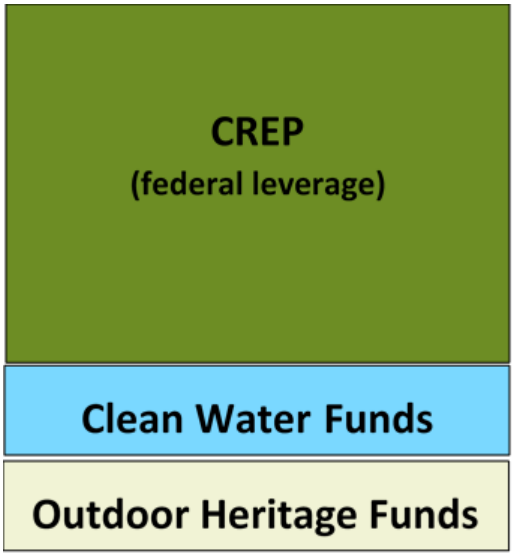
Leverage

- Minimum 1:1 leverage of OHF dollars with CWF dollars
- $8M LSOHC request leverages $41.8M of CWF and Federal USDA Funds (through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – CREP)
- Federal USDA funds pay most of the landowner payment.
- State contribution pays the majority of the technical assistance, stewardship and easement processing expenses.

Minnesota CRP Status	
Acres expiring over next 5 years	- 598,000
Expected acres retained based on recent average	+ 299,000
Minnesota CREP	+ 60,000
Projected net loss of acres*	- 239,000

* 2015 - 2019

Using Leverage to Maximize Benefits



Using OHF as a base, CWF and federal funds can be leveraged to increase the overall acres protected.

For more information, contact:

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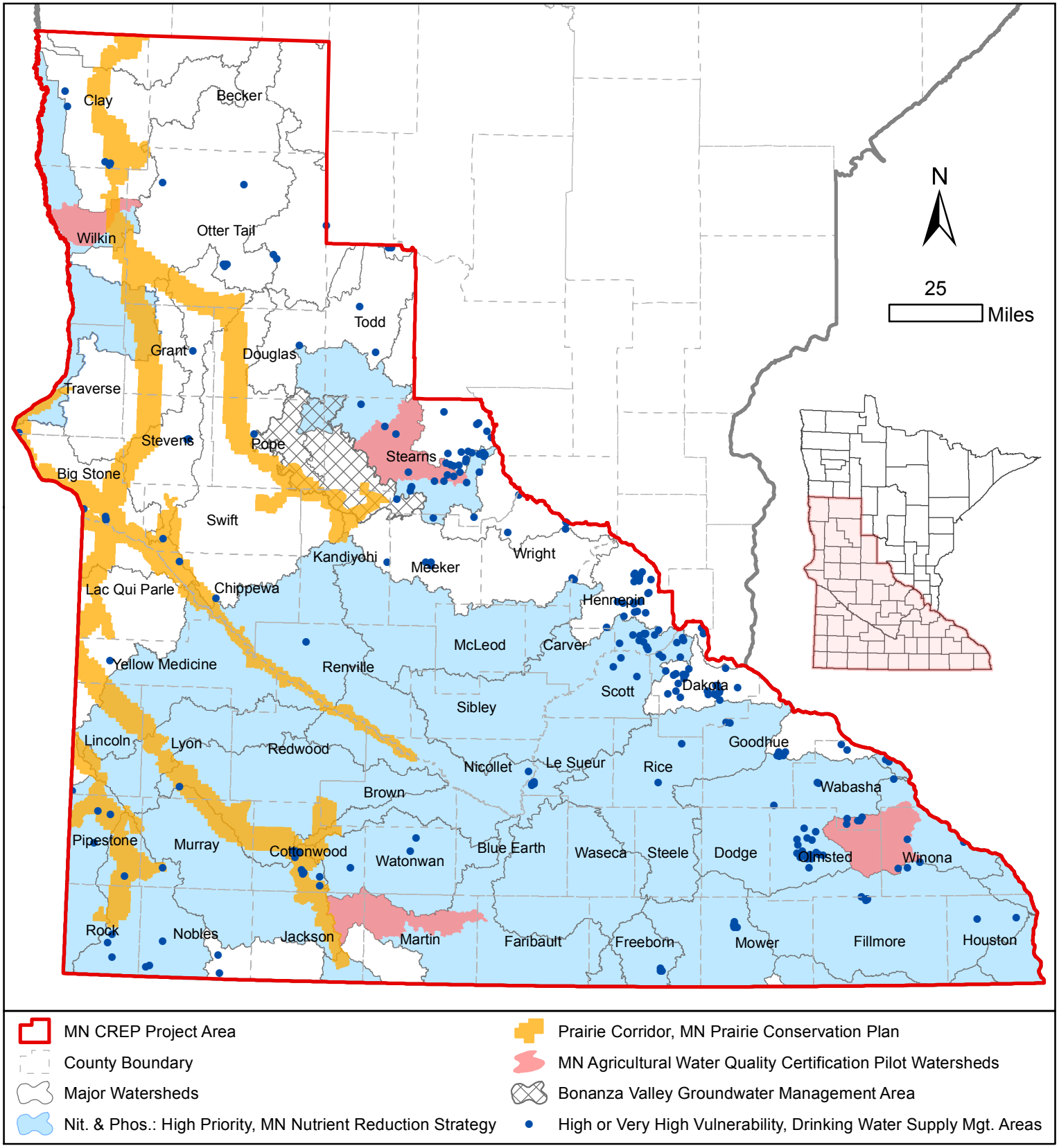
Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Project Area



MN CREP Project Area
County Boundary
Major Watersheds
Nit. & Phos.: High Priority, MN Nutrient Reduction Strategy
Prairie Corridor, MN Prairie Conservation Plan
MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Pilot Watersheds
Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management Area
High or Very High Vulnerability, Drinking Water Supply Mgt. Areas

USDA

MINNESOTA

RIM FILTER STRIP - CP21

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS SCORING SHEET

Landowner Name:	*County/SWCD Office:*

Choose only ONE answer per question below

CP21 Total Score

1. LOCATION — At least a portion of the CP21 offer is adjacent to a: ***(maximum score 20)*** **Score**

- ☐ **a. Public water included on the Buffer protection map — 20 pts**
- ☐ **b. Public drainage system included on the Buffer protection map — 7 pts**
- ☐ **c. Priority water identified in a State approved local water plan — 7 pts**
- ☐ **d. None of the above — 0 pts**

2. LINEAR CORRIDOR CONNECTIVITY ***(maximum score 15)*** **Score**

- ☐ **a. Permanently protected land (fee title or easement) or another Minnesota Water Quality and Habitat CREP eligible offer or approved contract is on both ends of the land to be devoted to CP21 — 15 pts**
- ☐ **b. Permanently protected land (fee title or easement) or another Minnesota Water Quality and Habitat CREP eligible offer or approved contract is only on one end of the land to be devoted to CP21 — 7 pts**
- ☐ **c. Permanently protected land (fee title or easement) or another Minnesota Water Quality and Habitat CREP eligible offer or approved contract on the same watercourse/water body is within one mile of either end of the land to be devoted to CP21 — 4 pts**
- ☐ **d. Permanently protected land (fee title or easement) or another Minnesota Water Quality and Habitat CREP eligible offer or approved contract on the same watercourse/water body is greater than one mile from either end of the land to be devoted to CP21 — 2 pts**

3. LENGTH — total length of the CP21 offer in linear feet as measured as close to the watercourse as possible, each side is counted and added together (if both sides of a watercourse are a part of the offer) ***(maximum score 30)*** **Score**

- ☐ **a. > 20,000 ft — 30 pts**
- ☐ **b. > 5,000 and ≤ 20,000 ft — 20 pts**
- ☐ **c. > 2,500 and ≤ 5,000 ft — 12 pts**
- ☐ **d. > 1,000 and ≤ 2,500 ft — 8 pts**
- ☐ **e. ≤ 1,000 ft — 4 pts**

RIM FILTER STRIP - CP21

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS SCORING SHEET

4. Sediment and Sediment Associated Materials Potential (derived from MN NRCS Filter Strip Standard 393, Table 1). Select the score that represents the specific filter strip situation of the CP21 offer as utilized when filter strip width was determined. ***(maximum score 17)***

Score ____

RUSLE2 Soil Loss tons/acre/yr	Upland Watershed Area to Filter Strip Area Ratio			
	60:1	40:1	20:1	10:1
≤ 2	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5
2.1–4	☐ 13	☐ 13	☐ 7	☐ 5
4.1–6	N/A	☐ 13	☐ 10	☐ 7
6.1–8	N/A	☐ 17	☐ 17	☐ 10

OR

Soluble Materials Potential (sediment and sediment associated materials potential already included in the chart below) (derived from MN NRCS Filter Strip Standard 393, Table 1). Select the score that represents the specific filter strip situation of the CP21 offer as utilized when filter strip width was determined. ***(maximum score 35)***

% Slope of Contributing Area	Upland Watershed Area to Filter Strip Area Ratio			
	60:1	40:1	20:1	10:1
1.1–3	☐ 22	☐ 20	☐ 17	☐ 14
3.1–5	☐ 29	☐ 25	☐ 22	☐ 20
5.1–12	☐ 35	☐ 30	☐ 29	☐ 24