

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:**       **Agenda Item #7**

**DATE:**        November 14, 2014

**SUBJECT:**     Approval of Amendments to:  
ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4a RIM-WRP Partnership Program, Phase IV  
ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4a RIM-WRP Partnership Program, Ph. V

**PRESENTER:**  Bill Penning, BWSR  
                  Tim Koehler, BWSR

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**Background:**

The Board of Water and Soil Resources is requesting amendments to two appropriations: ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4a RIM-WRP Partnership Program, Ph. IV and ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4a RIM-WRP Partnership Program, Ph. V. Due to changes in the federal farm bill passed in 2013, primarily the elimination of the Wetlands Reserve Program, appropriation rider language was adjusted last session (ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4a) to recognize that the cooperating federal program as any USDA wetland habitat effort.

**(a) Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Partnership - Phase VI**

\$9,710,000 in the second year is to the Board of Soil and Water Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore wetlands and associated upland habitat in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and Ducks Unlimited, including \$645,000 for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to provide technical and bioengineering assistance. Up to \$190,000 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report. The appropriations in Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), and Laws 2013, chapter 137, article 1, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), may be used for the purposes of this appropriation.

Additionally, the budgets' federal leverage, outputs, and completion dates are requested to be amended.

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Federal Leverage</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
ML 2012, sub. 4a	Decrease of \$18,663,400 from \$24,620,000 to \$5,956,600	Decrease of 5,544 acres acquired from 9,385 to 3,841	Changed from 2015 to 2019
ML 2013, sub. 4a	Decrease of \$21,389,000 from \$21,424,000 to \$35,000	Decrease of 4,375 acres acquired from 6,875 to 2,500	Changed from 2016 to 2021

**Procedure:** BWSR staff will testify before the Council and stand for questions.



September 23, 2014

John Jaschke  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Director Jaschke:

Subject: Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve - Wetlands Reserve Program (RIM-WRP) Partnership

This letter is to review and confirm conversations we've had over recent months regarding the RIM-WRP partnership and changes enacted in the 2014 Farm Bill that affect that way in which we've implemented the partnership to date and the direction for the future.

#### **Repeal of WRP and Funding Level Reductions**

The 2014 Farm Bill repeals three NRCS easement programs – Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and consolidates them into the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). ACEP has two components, the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) component that combines the functions and purposes of FRPP and GRP, and the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) component that continues the functions and purposes of WRP.

While we anticipate that WRE will operate similar to WRP, rules for the new program have not yet been written. What we do know is that available funding is dramatically reduced from what was available in the past. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, the 3 repealed easement programs (FRPP, GRP, WRP) were allocated an average of \$800 million annually. The total amount authorized for ACEP under the 2014 Farm Bill averages only \$405 million annually. For fiscal year 2014, \$366 million is the total amount available after budgetary sequester. The reduced funding level means the program will be significantly more competitive. During the 2014 sign-up, NRCS received 1,450 total applications for more than \$546 million in funding to restore and protect more than 345,000 acres through ACEP easements. Therefore, the extraordinary funding levels Minnesota was able to leverage in the past will not be available going forward.

#### **Completing RIM-WRP Projects in the Pipeline**

NRCS is committed to completing easements currently in the RIM-WRP pipeline. As we've discussed, progress has been hampered by inadequate federal staffing due to federal budget challenges; however, I believe we now have the staff in place to make more expedient progress on clearing the existing pipeline of projects. Progress also was slowed by changes in the way NRCS must approach off-easement engineering, an issue for which we now have a solution in place.

#### **Future of Federal-State Partnerships**

The success of the RIM-WRP partnership should be celebrated. Since inception, the partnership has restored and permanently protected approximately 35,000 of wetlands and associated uplands in Minnesota. Unfortunately, as noted above, the 2014 Farm Bill does not offer the same "Golden Age" of WRP that existed under the previous Farm Bill. Therefore, a new approach is necessary.

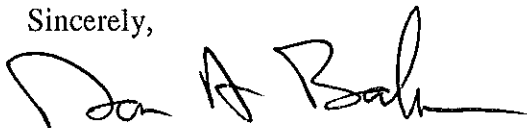
The WRE of the future will focus on fewer but larger wetland complexes, especially those that don't have outstanding title issues. It is my hope that many of these WRE projects also will meet conservation goals of Minnesota's RIM program, and we can selectively utilize the strengths of our partnership.

The 2014 Farm Bill also offers new partnership opportunities. In particular, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. Conservation program contracts and easement agreements are implemented through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) or the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP). I am aware and fully supportive of BWSR's efforts to lead a proposal focused on grassland easements.

I am also highly supportive of the State's pursuit of a 100,000 acre Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) proposal to achieve long-term restoration of the most environmentally sensitive lands (e.g., riparian buffers and wetlands) to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in targeted areas of Minnesota with both the greatest need and opportunity.

In summary, I urge you to continue to focus on and accelerate accomplishments of the State's RIM program. It is a highly successful program - whether alone or in partnership - and is a major component of past and future conservation work in Minnesota. I also urge you to ensure RIM remains a nimble tool that can take advantage of opportunities to leverage federal programs as they arise. Your ability to do this in the past allowed Minnesota to achieve accelerated conservation through the RIM-WRP Partnership during the period in which that opportunity was the best way to achieve those goals. Your ability to identify and manage future opportunities certainly will be of great benefit to Minnesota. I look forward to working with you on those opportunities.

Sincerely,



DON A. BALOUN  
State Conservationist

cc:

Juan Hernandez, Acting Central Regional Conservationist, Washington DC  
Jason Weller, Chief, NRCS, Washington, DC

## Board Resolution # 14- 66

### Transitioning the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Program to the RIM Wetlands Program (RIM-Wetlands)

**WHEREAS** the Minnesota State Legislature appropriates Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from Capital Investment, Outdoor Heritage Fund and Clean Water Fund sources to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

**WHEREAS** during the past 28 years the RIM program has been one of the state's most successful and influential programs for protecting and restoring wetlands and associated uplands throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS** the most recent and successful example of a RIM wetlands focused effort is the RIM-WRP Program Partnership, which since 2008 has utilized Outdoor Heritage Fund and Capital Investment appropriations to focus on permanently restoring and protecting approximately 35,000 acres of wetlands and their associated uplands; and

**WHEREAS** with the passage of the new Federal Farm Bill in 2014, the WRP is now known as the Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE) program, and that program is still being formalized; and

**WHEREAS** changes within the new Farm Bill affect the manner in which RIM can be paired with federal programs and provides the opportunity for a RIM Wetlands program, which will be structured with the capability of capturing a diversity of partnership and financial resources as well as RIM-only easements; and

**WHEREAS** the state's conservation goals continue to emphasize the importance of permanently protecting and restoring previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, while optimizing wildlife habitat, protecting water quality, restoring hydrology, providing water storage and providing other environmental benefits on private lands; and

**WHEREAS** over the last 25 years, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been the largest and most significant private lands conservation program in Minnesota's history. An entire generation of Minnesotans have benefitted from improved water quality and enhanced wildlife habitat; and

**WHEREAS** in the five year period - 2014 to 2018, the aforementioned benefits are now in jeopardy as nearly 705,000 acres of Minnesota's conservation lands enrolled in the USDA CRP will expire; and

**WHEREAS** the RIM Wetlands Program is possible through the collaboration of many local, state, and federal partners including Ducks Unlimited, (DU), the Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA), Pheasants Forever (PF), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and

**WHEREAS** the RIM Wetlands program is administered by the BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), with SWCDs being reimbursed for services using the most current RIM Reserve services rate; and

**WHEREAS** the Board by separate resolution has established the process for determining RIM standard easement payment rates; and

**WHEREAS** previously approved RIM-WRP BWSR Board resolutions are supplemental to this resolution and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

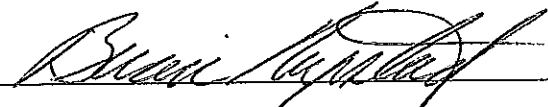
**WHEREAS** the Board of Water and Soil Resources RIM Reserve & Soil Conservation Committee (RRSCC) met and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated RIM funds to continue to implement RIM Wetlands efforts; and
2. Target expiring CRP contracts with critical wetland restoration practices for enrollment into the RIM-Wetlands Program; and
3. Develop the RIM-Wetlands Program eligibility and sign-up procedures; and
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications for funding using funding appropriated for the RIM Wetlands Program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 24th day of September, 2014.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

By: 

Brian Napstad, Chair

# With Farm Bill '14, changes coming for RIM Reserve

## New program, too, could alter ag landscape

By Tim Spielman  
Associate Editor

St. Paul — For years now, Minnesota's Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve program, coupled with the federal Wetlands Reserve Program, has been a model of state-federal cooperation in the realm of private-lands conservation — combining two funding sources to purchase permanent easements on environmentally sensitive land near water across the state.

To date, there are about 260,000 acres protected via approximately 6,000 RIM Reserve easement contracts in Minnesota. The program is administered by the state Board of Water and Soil Resources.

But the course is about to change dramatically, due largely to changes in a 5-year federal farm bill passed earlier this year that cuts federal wetlands fund-

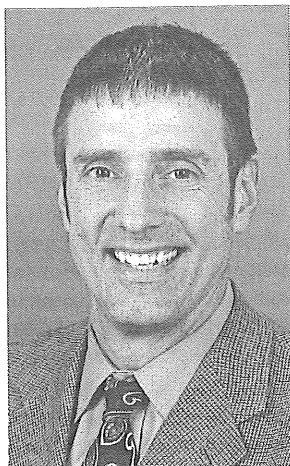
ing.

"Nationally, it's down about half," said John Jaschke, BWSR's executive director.

That has the agency considering other options — federally and otherwise — to keep RIM Reserve rolling as it has in the past.

Federal wetland easement dollars, Jaschke said, "will be one of the options instead of being the primary option" to match state RIM Reserve dollars.

WRP is now defunct, having been rolled into a broader program — the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program — in the latest farm bill. The ACEP also includes the former Grasslands Reserve Program and Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. The new pro-



John Jaschke

\$410 million provided annually by the 2008 farm bill.

Thanks to Minnesota's ability to provide funds to match federal dollars, the state shined during the 2008 farm bill period.

"Minnesota was able to take advantage of the golden era of the (federal) wetland program," Jaschke said.

Besides less wetlands funding now available, Jaschke said other things will affect the state's access to those dollars. For one thing, allocation to states will follow a new formula, and some program criteria will change; both likely will limit the state's ability to secure funding, he said.

Much of what's new in the latest version of the farm bill in general — and the ACEP program in particular — is yet to be fully vetted by both state and federal officials. In fact, rules regarding the program won't be finalized until November, according to Don Baloun, state conservationist in Minnesota for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

gram consists of two elements: the wetland reserve easement component and an agricultural land easement component.

According to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, about two-thirds of ACEP funding will go toward wetland easements. That said, the funding level of about \$223 million nationwide is a fraction of the

Baloun said the new program signifies a "huge shift" in the current farm bill's approach to conservation. Besides wetland easements, the new ACEP program will focus on such things as returning croplands to grazed and hayed grasslands, as well as creating a "path to keep a farm a farm" in some cases, he said — a means also, perhaps, to introduce young people to farming who might otherwise not be able to afford to join the farming ranks.

Minnesota's not the only state that will have to make do with fewer federal wetland dollars.

Baloun said on average, WRP since 2008 has provided about 120,000 to 130,000 acres of wetland easements annually. That acreage likely could dip to around 50,000.

He called the RIM Reserve-WRP partnership in Minnesota "huge," but given changes to the farm bill, the state won't have access to millions of dollars formerly provided via WRP.

Jaschke hopes some of those losses can be recouped elsewhere in federal programs. Even the grassland easement program holds some promise for the state, he said.

While haying and grazing would be allowed on land converted from, say, corn or beans to grass, a state entity must hold the easement, he said, which "the state is well-equipped to do."

While acknowledging it might be a transitional period in long-term private land easements in the state, he said the "core" of such easements is "well established" and will continue to exist.

Jaschke also said the state may have to fly solo where once it had a co-pilot in the form of the federal government.

"In some cases, we just may have to work individually," he said.

Most of RIM Reserve's funding has come from state taxpayers via bonding. Local soil and water conservation districts implement the program.

As far as the ACEP program, the USDA recently reported about "1,450 applications requesting more than \$546 million in funding to restore and protect more than 345,000 acres through easements."

"Of those applications, about 380 of the top easement projects were selected to protect and restore 32,000 acres of prime farmland, 45,000 acres of grasslands, and 52,000 acres of wetlands."

About \$4.2 million is being invested in Minnesota this year, the USDA says.

Some of that might be used for ag land restoration projects that Baloun said make sense in the state. After a multi-year rise in the prices of commodities like beans and corn, prices have decreased. As that's happened, it's become more desirable — and affordable — for beef producers to increase their stock. Therefore, Baloun said, the NRCS is working with landowners to take out of production and return to grassland "areas that are more marginal — that should've stayed in grassland."

Such a shift could benefit some types of ground-nesting birds and wildlife, Baloun adds.

That might mean for the federal agency a host of new state and local partners, he said.

The NRCS will provide funds to "eligible partners" for purchasing ag easements. For wetland easements, the dollars go directly to private landowners for mostly permanent or 30-year easements, or "term" easements that are for the maximum duration allowed under applicable state laws.

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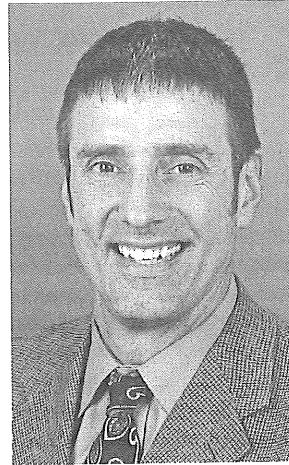
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# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2012 Accomplishment Plan



Date: October 24, 2014

Program or Project Title: ~~RIM-WRP Partnership Program, Phase 4~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership Phase IV

Funds Recommended: \$ 13,810,000

Manager's Name: ~~Kevin Lines~~ Tim Koehler

Organization: BWSR

Address: 520 Lafayette Road North

City: St. Paul, 55155

Office Number: ~~651-297-1894~~ 651-296-6745

Email: ~~kevin.lines@state.mn.us~~ tim.koehler@state.mn.us

Legislative Citation: ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(a)

**Appropriation Language:** \$13,810,000 in the second year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore wetlands and associated upland habitat in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program. A list of land acquisitions must be provided as part of the final report. The accomplishment plan must include an easement stewardship plan. Up to \$180,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund and a description of annual monitoring and enforcement activities.

**Explanation of Amendment Change:** Changes to the new federal Farm Bill have eliminated the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and therefore the RIM-WRP Partnership program must transition to the RIM Wetlands Partnership program. This transition has been recognized in appropriation language, by BWSR Board resolution, and by concurrence from the USDA-NRCS MN State Conservationist. Elimination of WRP also changes federal leverage that is available, which alters planned acres. Budget and Output Table changes have been made along with narrative changes through this proposed amendment.

County Locations: Not Listed

Regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban
- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie
- Wetlands

### Abstract:

The ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership Phase IV will protect and restore ~~9,385~~ approximately 3,841 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on ~~75,38~~ conservation easements. It will leverage ~~\$22~~ approximately \$6 million in federal ~~WRP~~ Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) funds.

### Design and scope of work:

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) ~~Reserve-Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)~~ Wetlands Partnership Phase IV will accelerate the



restoration and protection of approximately ~~9,385~~ 3,841 acres of previously drained wetlands and associated upland native grassland wildlife habitat complexes via permanent conservation easements. The goal of the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, while optimizing wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled in the partnership. ~~The RIM-WRP partnership enables Minnesota to leverage \$1.60~~ A portion of federal WRP funding for every state dollar available through RIM Reserve. An appropriation the appropriation, approximately \$5.3 million of the \$13.81 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) will leverage \$22 approximately \$6 million in WRP funds to Minnesota. Minnesota (\$1.10 of WRP for every \$1 of RIM). The remaining OHF funds will be used to acquire stand-alone RIM easements. If any of the 23 pending RIM-WRP easements cancel the OHF funds that are freed up will be used to fund stand-alone RIM Wetlands easements.

We expect to enroll approximately ~~75~~ 38 permanent conservation easements totaling ~~9,385~~ approximately 3,841 acres of wetland grassland wildlife habitat complexes. This will enable the ~~RIM-WRP partnership~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership to restore approximately ~~375~~ 150 previously drained wetland basins totaling ~~3,097~~ 1,268 wetland acres, and adjacent native grassland prairies on approximately ~~6,288~~ 2,573 acres. 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, some that are threatened or endangered.

#### Design and Scope of Work

Minnesota's original wetland and prairie landscapes have been lost at an alarming rate over the last century and a half of European settlement. Minnesota's prairies once comprised nearly 20 million acres, extending from the borders of Iowa and Wisconsin in the southeast to North Dakota and Manitoba in the northwest. Less than 1% of this native prairie remains. Minnesota has lost an estimated 42 percent 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% of prairie wetlands have disappeared and in the southwestern part of the state losses are as high as 99%.

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 (including a significant portion of Minnesota), 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 originally abundant in the state. Of the nearly 1,200 known wildlife species in Minnesota, 292 species, or approximately one-fourth, are at risk because they are rare; their populations are declining or they face serious risks of decline due to loss of habitat.

The ~~RIM-WRP Partnership, Partnership portion of the premier private lands wetland restoration program in the nation, RIM Wetlands Partnership Phase IV,~~ is a local-state-federal partnership delivered locally by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the 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 Ducks Unlimited (DU), the Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA), Pheasants Forever (PF), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) and the United States Department of Interior - Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

The RIM-WRP Partnership portion of the RIM Wetlands Partnership uses the NRCS State Technical Committee's established subcommittee for WRP to provide statewide guidance for WRP in Minnesota. In addition, the RIM Reserve ~~Management Planning & Soil Conservation~~ Committee - a subcommittee of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources - provides oversight and guidance on behalf of the BWSR.

The RIM-WRP Partnership portion of this project holds one to two joint meetings per year to provide program oversight and guidance and to establish payment rates for upcoming sign-ups. Specifically, the RIM-WRP Partnership portion of this project has had the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET), located in Fergus Falls, develop a GIS Wildlife Habitat Potential Model for use with the WRP and RIM Reserve programs' environmental evaluation. In addition, the RIM-WRP Partnership portion of this project has developed the Minnesota Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet (attached) which is used to evaluate each easement application on its potential to restore wetland functions and values along with optimum wildlife habitat benefits. The stand-alone RIM portion of this project will also utilize the HAPET derived data and other criteria to evaluate future applications to ensure maximum wildlife benefits are achieved.

We will conduct a RIM-WRP partnership statewide sign-up in late summer of 2012, or select from previously submitted high-scoring applications which were not funded. All applications will be scored and ranked using the Minnesota 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.

A stand-alone RIM Wetlands sign-up has been tentatively planned for early in calendar year 2015. Demand for RIM easements focused on wetlands and adjacent uplands remains high with local SWCD offices reporting a high level of interest that will quickly utilize 100% of the remaining funding in this appropriation.

#### Planning

Several recent statewide Minnesota planning efforts have called attention to the dramatic loss of wetlands and native prairie grasslands over the last century and a half. Minnesota has lost over 99% of its original native prairie and over 90% of its prairie wetlands. The following is a list of strategic plans considered in development of ~~RIM-WRP leveraging proposal~~ the RIM Wetlands Partnership that will permanently restore and protect wetland and native grassland complexes in strategically targeted areas of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan ~~calls~~ calls for protecting priority land (habitat recommendation #1) and this proposal is working to protect and restore priority grassland and wetland habitats important to waterfowl, grassland and wetland birds as well as the myriad species that call grasslands and wetlands home. This proposal will also implement the following habitat recommendations within the plan:

Protect priority land habitats – the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership contains priority grassland and wetland habitats important to waterfowl, grassland and wetland birds as well as the myriad species that call grasslands and wetlands home.  
Protect critical shore lands of rivers and lakes – there are ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands easements being acquired that will protect shoreline of shallow lakes contained within this proposal.  
Restore and protect shallow lakes – there are ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands easements being acquired that will include protection of shallow lakes contained within this proposal.  
Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds – the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership protects and restores wetlands and grasslands. A majority of the lands acquired will be prior-converted for agricultural purposes.  
Keep water on the landscape – by protecting and restoring wetlands and grasslands, the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership will return water to the landscape (permanent wetland restoration) and help keep water on the landscape (permanent native vegetation restoration).

Minnesota DNR ~~Long-range~~ Long-Range Duck Recovery Plan ~~has~~ has priority goals for long-term protection and restoration for wetland and grassland habitat for duck production. The ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership will contribute ~~9,385~~ approximately 3,841 acres to the 2,000,000 acre goal set under the plan. Specifically, it will permanently protect and/or restore ~~3,097~~ 1,268 acres of wetlands towards the 600,000 acre wetland goal and permanently protect and/or restore ~~6,288~~ 2,573 acres of native grasslands towards the 1,400,000 acre grassland goal.

Minnesota DNR Long-Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in Minnesota ~~has~~ has priority goals to protect and restore nesting and winter habitat for pheasants. The ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership contributes approximately ~~4,700~~ 1,900 acres to the plan goal of restoring 1,560,000 acres of habitat within the pheasant range of Minnesota.

The ~~RIM-WRP partnership~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership contributes to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan by contributing ~~9,385~~ 3,841 acres of breeding habitat (wetlands and grasslands) to the 11.8 million acre goal to restore continental waterfowl populations. Most of the work will occur within the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, which is recognized as a national priority for wetland and grassland habitat and breeding waterfowl and grassland bird species.

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare – An Action Plan for Minnesota's Wildlife is Minnesota's comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy. It identifies the species-habitat relationships that show wetlands and grasslands are two of the habitats used by the most species in greatest conservation need. These are the habitats that have experienced some of the greatest loss and degradation in Minnesota.

## 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 Buffers have food plots.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - No

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- 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
- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare

### Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this proposal:

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Are able to leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

### Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

#### 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
- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

#### Metro / Urban:

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

#### Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes
- Convert agricultural land to wetland/upland to protect, enhance, or restore existing habitat complexes, such as WMAs
- Protect, restore, and enhance shallow lakes
- Protect expiring CRP lands
- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

### Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund

The ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership integrates with many other ~~LSOHC~~ LSOHC requests and previously funded projects such as Buffers for Wildlife which is funded 50% with Clean Water Funds. In addition, the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership with BWSR, DNR, PF and ~~SWCD's~~ SWCDs pays for ~~SWCD's~~ SWCDs to have 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) provided \$1.0M via an LCCMR recommendation in FY10-11, and ~~is recommending~~ \$625,000 in FY12-13.

Since early 2000 the ENRTF has provided, through the Habitat Conservation Partnership, funding for Ducks Unlimited for ~~contractors~~ contractors to work on the Wetlands Reserve Program in the approved corridor target areas. These ~~DU contract~~ DU contract positions are presently funded through June 30, 2012. ~~It is uncertain at this time if there will be funding made available from the ENRTF after this~~

~~period.~~

Because of the acceleration of the RIM-WRP Partnership efforts in Minnesota and the need to retain these highly skilled ~~DU-~~  
~~contractors, DU contractors,~~ we are proposing funding from the OHF beginning in FY13. There are seven ~~DU-contractor DU contractor~~  
positions presently employed to specifically market WRP and essential technical assistance to ensure the continued success of WRP  
and RIM-WRP Partnership in Minnesota.

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

The RIM Reserve program was established in state statute in 1986 to restore and set aside marginal land principally for increasing fish and wildlife populations. Past funding via bonding varies, ranging from \$0 in most "off-year" bonding bills to a one-time maximum of \$52 million for the Minnesota River CREP in 2001. BWSR received \$25 million in bond funds in 2008, \$10 million in 2010 for a special flood disaster in Southern Minnesota, and \$20 million in the 2011 Special Session.

The RIM-WRP Partnership received Outdoor Heritage Funds in 2009 (\$9.058 million), 2010 (\$6.895 million), and 2011 (\$13.0 million). All of these OHF appropriations are being used to protect and restore previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands through permanent conservation easements. The RIM Reserve program is not funded by general revenue and is not part of BWSR's agency base budget. All aspects of the program are funded by project funds the agency requests and receives to accomplish program objectives.

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

Once a RIM-WRP easement is acquired, NRCS is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring during the life of the 30-year WRP ~~easement, easement~~ and if it is a stand-alone RIM easement BWSR is solely responsible for these activities. The State of Minnesota assumes sole responsibility via its perpetual RIM Reserve easement once the 30-year WRP easement has expired. 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 NRCS and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

### Activity Details:

Will the eased land be open for public use - ~~Not Listed~~ No

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - ~~Not Listed~~ Yes

### Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Conduct sign-up, ranking and selection of easements - 200+ easement applications received, reviewed, ranked, and approved for funding	Spring/Summer 2012
Acquire RIM-WRP Easements - 23 permanent conservation easements recorded	2012-2015
Wetlands/native grasslands restored - 3,841 acres are permanently protected and restored	2013-2019
Conduct sign-up, ranking and selection of RIM stand-alone easement applications	2015
Acquire RIM stand-alone Easements - 15 permanent conservation easements recorded	9/30/2015
Acquire Easements - 75 permanent conservation easements recorded	2012-2015
Wetlands/native grasslands restored - 9,385 acres are permanently protected and restored	2013-2015

Date of Final Report Submission: 9/30/2019

### Federal Funding:

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

Are the funds confirmed - Yes

What are the types of funds?

Cash Match - \$ 5956600

### Outcomes:

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators
- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need
- The ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership will accelerate the protection and restoration of approximately ~~9,385~~ 3,841 acres of previously drained wetlands and associated upland native grassland wildlife habitat complexes via permanent conservation easements. The goal of the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, while optimizing wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled in partnership.

**Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need
- The ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership enables Minnesota to leverage ~~\$1.6~~ \$1.10 of Federal WRP funding for every state \$1 available through RIM Reserve. ~~An~~ A portion of the appropriation of \$13.81 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) will leverage ~~\$22~~ \$6 million in WRP Funds to Minnesota's wetland restoration efforts on private lands. In total, this is a ~~\$36~~ \$20 million project through which we expect to enroll approximately ~~75~~ 38 permanent conservation easements totaling ~~9,385 acres~~ into 60 wetland and native grassland wildlife habitat complexes. 3,841 acres. This will enable the ~~RIM-WRP partnership~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership Program to restore approximately ~~375~~ 150 previously drained wetland basins totaling ~~3,097~~ 1,268 wetland acres, and adjacent native grassland complexes on approximately ~~6,288~~ 2,573 acres.

**Programs in prairie region:**

- Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected
- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands
- Water is kept on the land
- Past history indicates that approximately 80% of this protection and restoration of 60 wetland native grassland wildlife habitat complexes will occur in the LSOHC Prairie Landscape Section; 15% or 12 wetland native grassland complexes in the LSOHC Forest-Prairie Landscape Section; 5% or three wetland native grassland complexes in the Metro-Urbanizing L-SOHC Section.

# Budget Spreadsheet

*Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan*

**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount**

Not Listed

**Total Amount of Request: \$ 13810000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	<del>\$1,420,000</del> 836,500	\$0		<del>\$1,420,000</del> 836,500
Contracts	<del>\$641,000</del> 303,000	<del>\$420,000</del> 541,600	WRP	<del>\$1,061,000</del> 844,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	<del>\$11,324,000</del> 12,210,800	<del>\$24,200,000</del> 5,415,000	WRP	<del>\$35,524,000</del> 17,625,800
Easement Stewardship	\$180,000	\$0		\$180,000
Travel	<del>\$144,500</del> 72,000	\$0		<del>\$144,500</del> 72,000
Professional Services	<del>\$0</del> 157,500	\$0		<del>\$0</del> 157,500
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	<del>\$36,800</del> 18,400	\$0		<del>\$36,800</del> 18,400
Supplies/Materials	<del>\$63,700</del> 31,800	\$0		<del>\$63,700</del> 31,800
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$13,810,000	<del>\$24,620,000</del> 5,956,600		<del>\$38,430,000</del> 19,766,600

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Engineering & Eco Services	<del>4.00</del> 2.00	3.00	<del>\$898,000</del> 600,000	\$0		<del>\$898,000</del> 600,000
Project Manager	0.50	3.00	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000
Easement/Database/GIS	<del>2.00</del> 0.50	3.00	<del>\$360,000</del> 97,500	\$0		<del>\$360,000</del> 97,500
Program Mgmt	<del>0.25</del> 0.13	3.00	<del>\$62,000</del> 39,000	\$0		<del>\$62,000</del> 39,000
Total	<del>6.75</del> 3.13	12.00	<del>\$1,420,000</del> 836,500	\$0		<del>\$1,420,000</del> 836,500

# 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	3,097,126	6,288,253	0	0	9,385,384
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,097,126	6,288,253	0	0	9,385,384

**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	\$5,040,700,457,300	\$8,769,300,925,700	\$0	\$0	\$13,810,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$5,040,700,457,300	\$8,769,300,925,700	\$0	\$0	\$13,810,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N 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	469,191	1,408,766	0	7,508,284	0	9,385,384
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	469,191	1,408,766	0	7,508,284	0	9,385,384

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N 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	\$690,500,1381,000	\$2,071,500,966,700	\$0	\$11,048,000,11,462,300	\$0	\$13,810,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$690,500,1381,000	\$2,071,500,966,700	\$0	\$11,048,000,11,462,300	\$0	\$13,810,000

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

0

## Parcel List

*For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final 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.

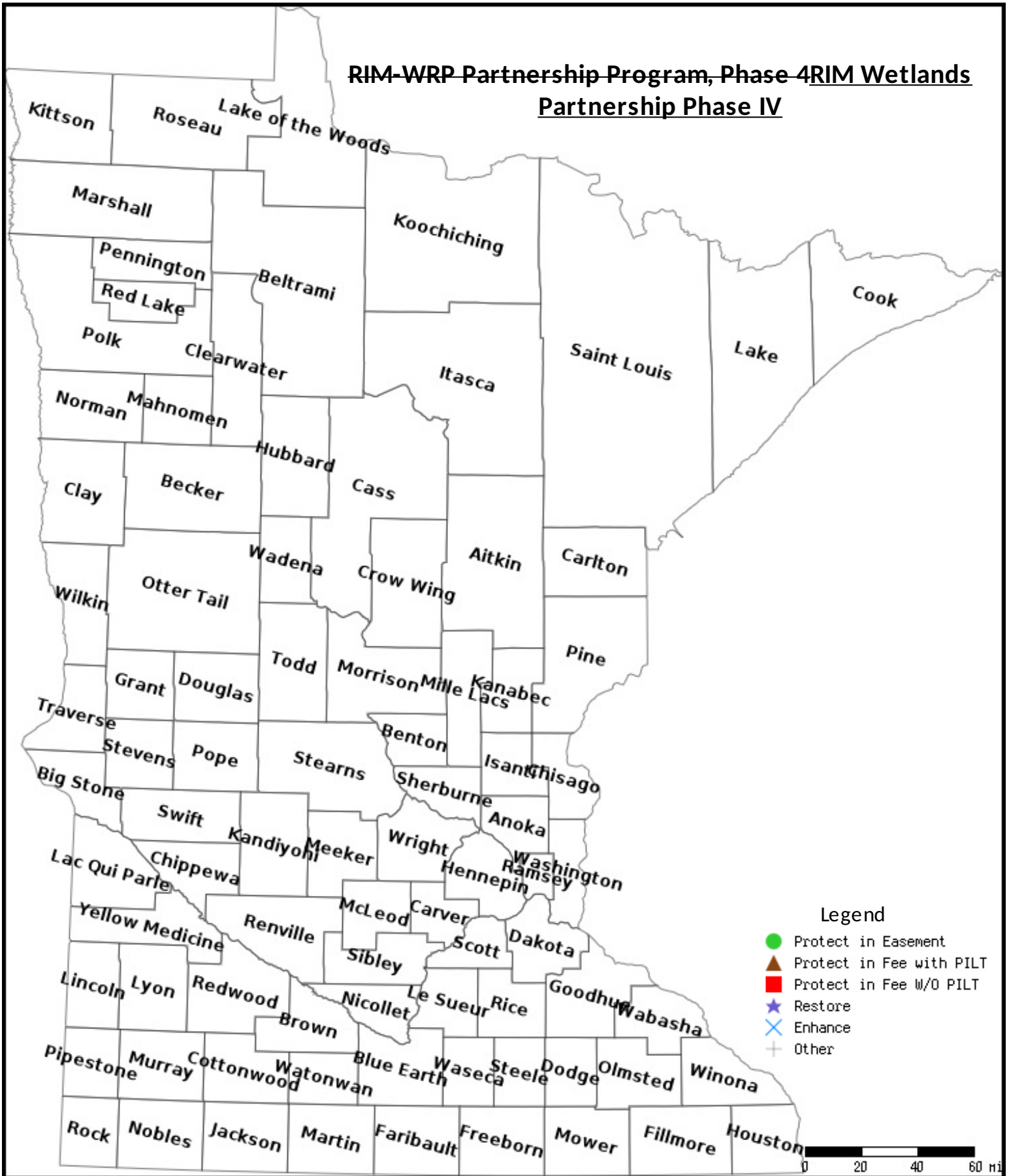
### Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.



# Parcel Map

## RIM-WRP Partnership Program, Phase 4 RIM Wetlands Partnership Phase IV



Data Generated From Parcel List

## 2013 Minnesota Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet

(for WRP and RIM-WRP)

Landowner/Project Name:	County (Field Office):	Prepared By:	Date:
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### SECTION I. Environmental Considerations

#### A. WILDLIFE BENEFITS *(determine score from Appendix 1 map and check appropriate score box)*

<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
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Score   
(Maximum 20)

#### B. LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE *(only one check per wetland class/shaded region)*

PROPOSED RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WETLAND CLASS							
Depressional			Floodplain		Non-Depressional (flats, swales, bogs)		
Number of Restorable Basins	Upland : Wetland Ratio			Total Restorable Wetland Area (acres)		Total Restorable Wetland Area (acres)	
	≥1:1	0.5:1-9:1	<0.5:1				
≥ 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	≥ 120	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	≥ 120	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
3 - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	40 - 119	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	40 - 119	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
≤ 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	≤ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	≤ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
<b>- OR -</b>							
Basin Size (Size of largest restorable wetland basin)							
≥ 50 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> 20						
30 - 49 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> 18						
10 - 29 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> 15						

Score   
(Maximum 20)

#### C. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY BENEFITS

*(only one check per wetland type/shaded region)*

PROPOSED HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION			
Current Condition/Status of Wetlands Proposed for Restoration		Expected Extent of Hydrologic Restoration	
Wetland Class	Extent of Drainage/Alteration	Full	Partial
Depressional	Effectively Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 20
	Partially Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
	Not Drained-Cropped	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Floodplain	Effectively Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	Partially Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	Not Drained-Cropped	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Non-Depressional	Effectively Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Partially Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Not Drained-Cropped	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1

Score   
(Maximum 30)

WATER QUALITY BENEFITS OF EASEMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5	Majority of easement area is in watershed of a designated impaired waters for excessive nutrients or turbidity
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5	Majority of runoff from easement drains to and is within 1/2 mile of DNR Protected Waters
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5	Majority of immediate contributing watershed(s) to easement is in agricultural use
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5	Predominant soil in easement is HEL or PHEL

Score   
(Maximum 10)

## SECTION II. Cost Considerations

### A. EASEMENT VALUE

#### AVERAGE PER ACRE COST FOR PURCHASING EASEMENT<sup>1</sup>

< \$1,500  4    \$1,500 - \$1,999  3    \$2,000 - \$2,499  2    \$2,500 - \$2,999  1    > \$3,000  0

<sup>1</sup> Based on perpetual WRP payment or total partnership payment, whichever is higher

Score   
(Maximum 4)

### B. RESTORATION VALUE

*(only one check per shaded region)*

#### ESTIMATED PER ACRE COST FOR RESTORING/ ESTABLISHING VEGETATION

< \$200  3    \$200 - \$299  2    \$300 - \$399  1    > \$400  0

#### ESTIMATED PER ACRE CONSTRUCTION COST FOR RESTORING WETLAND AREAS

< \$300  3    \$300 - \$699  2    \$700 - \$1,000  1    > \$1,000  0

Score   
(Maximum 6)

## SECTION III. Additional Considerations *(check all applicable areas)*

A. 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 <b>(State Special Concern species shall not be considered).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
B. Application is a local high priority resource project which is specifically identified in an existing comprehensive plan <b>(site specific projects only, not general focus areas).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
C. Easement application is within a designated Habitat Conservation Partnership or Working Land Initiative target area.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
D. Easement application is located within 1.0 miles of an existing permanent conservation area (public land, conservation easement etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
E. Easement application contains CRP contract or limited duration easement expiring within 5 years.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5

Score   
(Maximum 10)

**APPLICATION  
TOTAL SCORE**

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2013 Accomplishment Plan



Date: October 24, 2014

Program or Project Title: ~~RIM-WRP Partnership: Phase V~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership Phase V

Funds Recommended: \$ 13,390,000

Manager's Name: Tim Koehler

Title: ~~Acting Conservation Easement Section Manager~~ Senior Programs Advisor

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Address: 520 Lafayette Road North

City: St. Paul, MN 55155

Office Number: 651-296-6745

Email: tim.koehler@state.mn.us

Website: www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Legislative Citation: ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(a)

**Appropriation Language:** \$13,390,000 in the first year is to the Board of Soil and Water Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore wetlands and associated upland habitat in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program and Ducks Unlimited, including \$1,000,000 for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to provide technical and bioengineering assistance. Up to \$120,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund, as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report.

**Explanation of Amendment Change:** Changes to the new federal Farm Bill have eliminated the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and therefore the RIM-WRP Partnership program must transition to the RIM Wetlands Partnership program. This transition has been recognized in appropriation language, by BWSR Board resolution, and by concurrence from the USDA-NRCS MN State Conservationist. Elimination of WRP also changes federal leverage that is available, which alters planned acres. Budget and Output Table changes have been made along with narrative changes through this proposed amendment.

County Locations: Not Listed

Regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban
- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

### Abstract:

The Reinvest in Minnesota - (RIM) ~~Wetlands Reserve Program (RIM-WRP)~~ Partnership Phase V will protect and restore ~~6,875~~ approximately 2,500 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on ~~55~~ 25 conservation easements. It will ~~leverage nearly \$21.5 million in federal WRP funds,~~ utilize stand-alone RIM wetlands easements.

## Design and scope of work:

The ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetland Partnership Phase V will accelerate the restoration and protection of approximately ~~6,875~~ 2,500 acres of previously drained wetlands and associated upland native grassland wildlife habitat complexes via permanent conservation easements. The goal of the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, while optimizing wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled in the partnership. ~~The RIM-WRP Partnership enables Minnesota to leverage \$1.60 of federal WRP funding for every state dollar available through RIM Reserve. An appropriation of \$13.39 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) will leverage approximately \$21.4 million in WRP funds to Minnesota.~~

~~We~~  
We expect to enroll approximately ~~55~~ 25 permanent conservation easements totaling ~~6,875~~ 2,500 acres of wetland grassland wildlife habitat complexes. This will enable the ~~RIM-WRP partnership~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership to restore approximately ~~275~~ 100 previously drained wetland basins totaling ~~2,250~~ 825 wetland acres, and adjacent native grassland prairies on approximately ~~4,625~~ 1675 acres. 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, some that are threatened or endangered.

Minnesota's original wetland and prairie landscapes have been lost at an alarming rate over the last century and a half of European settlement. Minnesota's prairies once comprised nearly 20 million acres, extending from the borders of Iowa and Wisconsin in the southeast to North Dakota and Manitoba in the northwest. Less than 1% of this native prairie remains. Minnesota has lost an estimated 42 percent 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% of prairie wetlands have disappeared and in the southwestern part of the state losses are as high as 99%.

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 (including a significant portion of Minnesota), 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 originally abundant in the state. Of the nearly 1,200 known wildlife species in Minnesota, 292 species, or approximately one-fourth, are at risk because they are rare; their populations are declining or they face serious risks of decline due to loss of habitat.

~~The RIM-WRP Partnership, the premier private lands wetland restoration program in the nation, RIM Wetlands Partnership Phase V, is a local-state-federal partnership delivered locally by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the 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 Ducks Unlimited (DU), the Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA), Pheasants Forever (PF), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) and the United States Department of Interior - Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).~~

In addition, we are formally ~~including~~ continuing to include Ducks Unlimited in the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership Phase V. DU will provide engineering services, promote ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM easements and provide key essential technical assistance and project management services through approximately 10 DU ~~RIM-WRP~~ contract RIM specialists.

~~The RIM-WRP Partnership uses the NRCS State Technical Committee's established subcommittee for WRP to provide statewide guidance for WRP in Minnesota. In addition, the RIM Reserve Management Planning & Soil Conservation Committee - a subcommittee of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources - provides oversight and guidance on behalf of the BWSR.~~

The ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership ~~holds~~ will hold one to two ~~joint~~ meetings per year to provide program oversight and guidance and to establish payment rates for upcoming sign-ups. Specifically, the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership ~~has had~~ will use the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET), located in Fergus Falls, ~~develop a~~ developed GIS Wildlife Habitat Potential Model for use with the ~~WRP and RIM Reserve programs'~~ Wetlands Partnership's environmental evaluation. In addition, the ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership has developed the Minnesota RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet ~~(attached)~~ which is used to evaluate each easement application on its potential to restore wetland functions and values along with optimum wildlife habitat benefits.

~~We~~  
We will conduct a ~~RIM-WRP partnership~~ RIM Wetlands Partnership statewide sign-up in ~~the spring of 2013, or select from previously submitted high-scoring applications which were not previously funded, early 2015.~~ All applications will be scored and ranked using the Minnesota 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.~~ 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 Buffers have food plots.

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

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H7 Keep water on the landscape
- LU6 Reduce Upland and gully erosion through soil conservation practices

### Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare

### Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this proposal:

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Are able to leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Target unique Minnesota landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

### Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

#### **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
- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie
- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

#### **Metro / Urban:**

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)
- Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

#### **Prairie:**

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes
- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna
- Convert agricultural land to wetland/upland to protect, enhance, or restore existing habitat complexes, such as WMAs
- Protect, restore, and enhance shallow lakes

- Protect expiring CRP lands
- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

## Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund

Beginning in 2009, the BWSR has received FY10-11 and FY12-13 funding of \$18.5 million through the Clean Water Fund (from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment) to establish and restore permanent RIM Reserve Riparian buffers and Wellhead Protection Easements 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.

~~BWSR~~ BWSR has also received Clean Water Fund funding in FY10-11 and FY12-13 totaling \$5 million 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.

In addition, the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership with BWSR, DNR, PF and SWCDs pays for SWCDs to have 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) provided \$1.0M via an LCCMR recommendation in FY10-11, \$625,000 in FY12-13 and \$3.0M in FY14-15.

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

The RIM Reserve program was established in state statute in 1986 to restore and set aside marginal land principally for increasing fish and wildlife populations. Past funding via bonding varies, ranging from \$0 in most “off-year” bonding bills to a one-time maximum of \$52 million for the Minnesota River CREP in 2001. BWSR received bond funds in 2008, and in 2010 for a special flood disaster in Southern Minnesota.

~~The~~  
The RIM-WRP Partnership received Outdoor Heritage Funds in 2009 (\$9.058 million), 2010 (\$6.895 million), 2011 (\$13.0 million), and 2012 (\$13.810 million). All of these OHF appropriations are being used to protect and restore previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands through permanent conservation easements. The 2012 appropriation is also transitioning to the RIM Wetlands Partnership from the RIM-WRP Partnership. The RIM Reserve program is not funded by general revenue and is not part of BWSR’s agency base budget. All aspects of the program are funded by project funds the agency requests and receives to accomplish program objectives.

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

Once a ~~RIM-WRP~~ RIM easement is acquired, ~~NRCS~~ BWSR is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring ~~during the life of the 30-year WRP easement. The State of Minnesota assumes sole responsibility via its perpetual RIM Reserve easement once the 30-year WRP easement has expired.~~ 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 ~~NRCS and~~ partners’ staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

## Activity Details:

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

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

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

## Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Conduct sign-up, ranking and selection of easements	<u>Spring/Summer 2013 2015</u>
Acquire easements	<u>2013 - 2016 2015 - 2017</u>
Wetland/native grasslands restored	<u>2014 - 2016 2021</u>

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 6/30/2021

## **Federal Funding:**

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

## **Outcomes:**

### **Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors
- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need
- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands
- Water is kept on the land

### **Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need
- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and other species.

### **Programs in prairie region:**

- Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected
- Increased participation of private landowners in habitat projects
- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need
- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands
- Remnant native prairies and wetlands are permanently protected and are part of large complexes of restored prairie, grasslands, and large and small wetlands
- Water is kept on the land



# Budget Spreadsheet

*Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan*

**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount**

Not Listed

**Total Amount of Request: \$ 13390000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$1,309,000 833,500	\$632,000 35,000	DU, DU	\$1,941,000 868,500
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$10,558,100 11,292,300	\$20,372,000 0	NRCS	\$30,930,100 11,292,300
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
Travel	\$100,000 45,000	\$0		\$100,000 45,000
Professional Services	\$1,232,500 1,067,500	\$420,000 0	NRCS	\$1,652,500 1,067,500
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$23,900 10,800	\$0		\$23,900 10,800
Supplies/Materials	\$46,500 20,900	\$0		\$46,500 20,900
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$13,390,000	\$21,424,000 35,000		\$34,814,000 13,425,000

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Biologist	0.20	1.00	\$20,000	\$10,000	DU	\$30,000
DU Engineer	0.50	1.00	\$50,000	\$25,000	DU	\$75,000
Project Manager	0.50	3.00	\$102,300	\$0		\$102,300
Easement/Database/GIS	<del>1.50</del> 0.16	3.00	<del>\$277,200</del> 31,200	\$0		<del>\$277,200</del> 31,200
Program Management	<del>0.25</del> 0.10	3.00	<del>\$62,000</del> 30,000	\$0		<del>\$62,000</del> 30,000
Engineering and Eco Services	<del>4.40</del> 2.00	3.00	<del>\$797,500</del> 600,000	\$0		<del>\$797,500</del> 600,000
NRCS Technical Positions	0.00	3.00	\$0	\$597,000	NRCS	\$597,000
Total	<del>7.35</del> 3.46	<del>17.00</del> 14.00	<del>\$1,309,000</del> 833,500	<del>\$632,000</del> 35,000		<del>\$1,941,000</del> 868,500

## Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	DU	\$70,000	\$35,000	DU, DU	\$105,000
Contracts	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	DU	\$930,000	\$0		\$930,000
Direct Support Services	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$1,000,000	\$35,000		\$1,035,000

**Personnel - DU**

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
<del>DU Engineer</del> <u>DU Biologist</u>	<del>0.50</del> <u>0.20</u>	1.00	<del>\$50,000</del> <u>20,000</u>	<del>\$25,000</del> <u>10,000</u>	DU	<del>\$75,000</del> <u>30,000</u>
<del>DU Biologist</del> <u>DU Engineer</u>	<del>0.20</del> <u>0.50</u>	1.00	<del>\$20,000</del> <u>50,000</u>	<del>\$10,000</del> <u>25,000</u>	DU	<del>\$30,000</del> <u>75,000</u>
Total	0.70	2.00	\$70,000	\$35,000		\$105,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	BWSR	<del>\$1,239,000</del> <u>763,500</u>	<del>\$597,000</del> <u>0</u>		<del>\$1,836,000</del> <u>763,500</u>
Contracts	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	BWSR	<del>\$10,558,100</del> <u>11,292,300</u>	<del>\$20,372,000</del> <u>0</u>	NRCS	<del>\$30,930,100</del> <u>11,292,300</u>
Easement Stewardship	BWSR	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
Travel	BWSR	<del>\$100,000</del> <u>45,000</u>	\$0		<del>\$100,000</del> <u>45,000</u>
Professional Services	BWSR	<del>\$302,500</del> <u>137,500</u>	<del>\$420,000</del> <u>0</u>	NRCS	<del>\$722,500</del> <u>137,500</u>
Direct Support Services	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	BWSR	<del>\$23,900</del> <u>10,800</u>	\$0		<del>\$23,900</del> <u>10,800</u>
Supplies/Materials	BWSR	<del>\$46,500</del> <u>20,900</u>	\$0		<del>\$46,500</del> <u>20,900</u>
DNR IDP	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$12,390,000	<del>\$21,389,000</del> <u>0</u>		<del>\$33,779,000</del> <u>12,390,000</u>

**Personnel - BWSR**

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager	0.50	3.00	\$102,300	\$0		\$102,300
Easement/Database/GIS	<del>1.50</del> <u>0.16</u>	3.00	<del>\$277,200</del> <u>31,200</u>	\$0		<del>\$277,200</del> <u>31,200</u>
Program Management	<del>0.25</del> <u>0.10</u>	3.00	<del>\$62,000</del> <u>30,000</u>	\$0		<del>\$62,000</del> <u>30,000</u>
<del>NRCS Technical Positions</del> <u>Engineering and Eco Services</u>	<del>0.00</del> <u>2.00</u>	3.00	<del>\$0</del> <u>600,000</u>	<del>\$597,000</del> <u>0</u>		<del>\$597,000</del> <u>600,000</u>
<del>Engineering and Eco Services</del>	4.40	<del>3.00</del>	<del>\$797,500</del>	\$0		<del>\$797,500</del>
Total	<del>6.65</del> <u>2.76</u>	<del>15.00</del> <u>12.00</u>	<del>\$1,239,000</del> <u>763,500</u>	<del>\$597,000</del> <u>0</u>		<del>\$1,836,000</del> <u>763,500</u>

## 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	2,250,825	4,625,167	0	0	6,875,250
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,250,825	4,625,167	0	0	6,875,250

**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	\$5,026,000,418,700	\$8,364,000,897,300	\$0	\$0	\$13,390,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$5,026,000,418,700	\$8,364,000,897,300	\$0	\$0	\$13,390,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N 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	345,125	1,030,375	0	5,500,200	0	6,875,250
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	345,125	1,030,375	0	5,500,200	0	6,875,250

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N 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	\$669,000	\$2,009,000	\$0	\$10,712,000	\$0	\$13,390,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$669,000	\$2,009,000	\$0	\$10,712,000	\$0	\$13,390,000

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

0

# Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Initial parcel list will not be available until after Activity 1 is completed.	NaN		\$20,514,506	No	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

No parcels with an activity type protect.

## Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

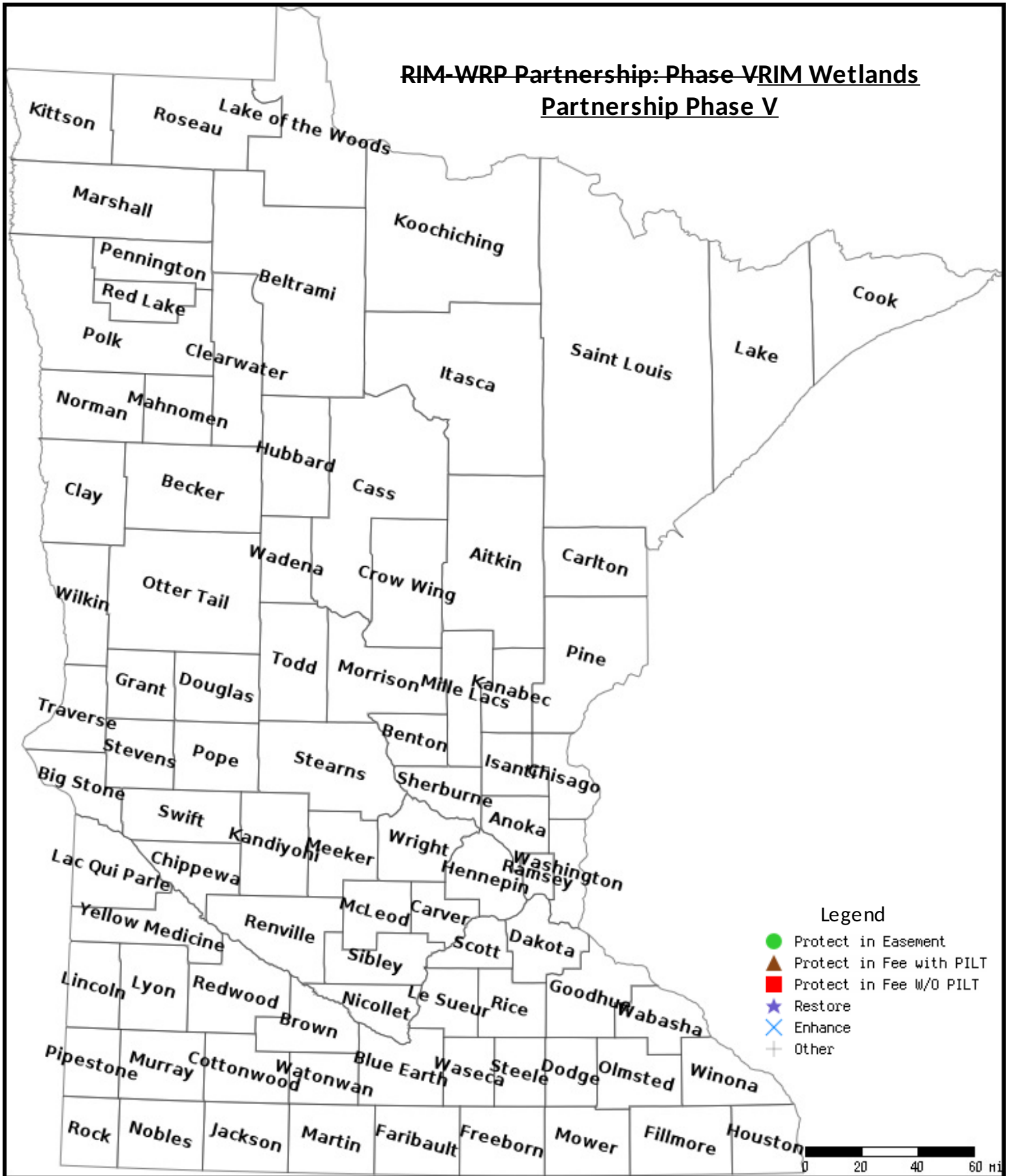
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

# Parcel Map

## RIM-WRP Partnership: Phase V VRIM Wetlands Partnership Phase V



Data Generated From Parcel List

## 2013 Minnesota Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet

(for WRP and RIM-WRP)

Landowner/Project Name:	County (Field Office):	Prepared By:	Date:
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### SECTION I. Environmental Considerations

**A. WILDLIFE BENEFITS** *(determine score from Appendix 1 map and check appropriate score box)*

<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	Score <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
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(Maximum 20)

**B. LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE** *(only one check per wetland class/shaded region)*

PROPOSED RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WETLAND CLASS							
Depressional			Floodplain		Non-Depressional (flats, swales, bogs)		
Number of Restorable Basins	Upland : Wetland Ratio			Total Restorable Wetland Area (acres)	Total Restorable Wetland Area (acres)		
	≥1:1	0.5:1-9:1	<0.5:1				
≥ 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	≥ 120	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	≥ 120	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
3 - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	40 - 119	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	40 - 119	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
≤ 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	≤ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	≤ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
<b>- OR -</b>							
Basin Size (Size of largest restorable wetland basin)							
≥ 50 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> 20						
30 - 49 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> 18						
10 - 29 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> 15						

Score

(Maximum 20)

**C. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY BENEFITS**

*(only one check per wetland type/shaded region)*

PROPOSED HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION				WATER QUALITY BENEFITS OF EASEMENT	
Current Condition/Status of Wetlands Proposed for Restoration		Expected Extent of Hydrologic Restoration			
Wetland Class	Extent of Drainage/Alteration	Full	Partial		
Depressional	Effectively Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 Majority of easement area is in watershed of a designated impaired waters for excessive nutrients or turbidity	
	Partially Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		
	Not Drained-Cropped	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		
Floodplain	Effectively Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 Majority of runoff from easement drains to and is within 1/2 mile of DNR Protected Waters	
	Partially Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		
	Not Drained-Cropped	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		
Non-Depressional	Effectively Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 Majority of immediate contributing watershed(s) to easement is in agricultural use	
	Partially Drained	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		
	Not Drained-Cropped	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		

Score

(Maximum 30)

Score

(Maximum 10)

## SECTION II. Cost Considerations

### A. EASEMENT VALUE

#### AVERAGE PER ACRE COST FOR PURCHASING EASEMENT<sup>1</sup>

< \$1,500  4    \$1,500 - \$1,999  3    \$2,000 - \$2,499  2    \$2,500 - \$2,999  1    > \$3,000  0

<sup>1</sup> Based on perpetual WRP payment or total partnership payment, whichever is higher

Score   
(Maximum 4)

### B. RESTORATION VALUE

*(only one check per shaded region)*

#### ESTIMATED PER ACRE COST FOR RESTORING/ ESTABLISHING VEGETATION

< \$200  3    \$200 - \$299  2    \$300 - \$399  1    > \$400  0

#### ESTIMATED PER ACRE CONSTRUCTION COST FOR RESTORING WETLAND AREAS

< \$300  3    \$300 - \$699  2    \$700 - \$1,000  1    > \$1,000  0

Score   
(Maximum 6)

## SECTION III. Additional Considerations *(check all applicable areas)*

A. 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 <b>(State Special Concern species shall not be considered).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
B. Application is a local high priority resource project which is specifically identified in an existing comprehensive plan <b>(site specific projects only, not general focus areas).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
C. Easement application is within a designated Habitat Conservation Partnership or Working Land Initiative target area.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
D. Easement application is located within 1.0 miles of an existing permanent conservation area (public land, conservation easement etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
E. Easement application contains CRP contract or limited duration easement expiring within 5 years.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5

Score   
(Maximum 10)

**APPLICATION  
TOTAL SCORE**