

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



Date: May 28, 2020

Program or Project Title: RIM Wetlands - Phase X (WA03)

Funds Requested: \$10,000,000

Manager's Name: Sharon Doucette

Title: Easement Section Manager

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County Locations: Not Listed

Eco 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:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Abstract:

RIM Wetlands Phase X will protect and restore approximately 1,950 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on approximately 32 easements across the State to restore wetlands and associated uplands for habitat and associated benefits. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will utilize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCDs). The program will continue utilizing a ranking and selection process and be implemented locally by SWCD staff. Previous phases of this project have protected and restored over 30,000 acres to date.

Design and scope of work:

Prairies once comprised nearly 20 million acres in Minnesota. Less than 1% of this native prairie remains. Minnesota has also lost an estimated 42% of its original 16 million acres of wetlands to drainage or fill activities. The loss of wetlands is most severe in the prairie regions of the state (approximately 90% loss).

The typical sites this program enrolls are drained and farmed wetlands and associated uplands that offer little habitat or ecological benefits in their current state. Through a combination of eligibility screening and a scoring and ranking process, the program evaluates applications and selects applications that provide the greatest habitat and environmental benefits after restoration and protection for enrollment in a BWSR RIM easement.

The RIM Wetlands program protects and restores wetlands and adjacent upland areas. Approximately 1,950 acres of wetlands and

associated uplands will be restored and permanently protected on approximately 32 easements in this phase. These restored wetlands and grassland complexes will provide critical habitat for waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife species.

RIM Wetlands is a local-state partnership delivered by SWCDs and BWSR. BWSR staff provide program oversight and manage the easement acquisition process and restoration design. Local staff promote RIM easements, assist with easement processing and provide technical assistance and project management services.

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:

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Rare and Wild (MN DNR) states "A statewide look at the species-habitat relationships show that prairies, rivers, and wetlands are the three habitats used by the most Species of Greatest Conservation Need." This proposal targets wetlands and prairies, two of the three most important habitats used by the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). An expansion of wetland and prairie habitat through this program will alleviate pressure on those species that are most sensitive to habitat changes occurring on the landscape.

SGCN in the proposal areas 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 Blanding's Turtle, Dakota Skipper, Poweshiek Skipperling, and Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.

Prairie wetlands are particularly important for migratory waterfowl. Although the North American pothole region contains only about 10% of the waterfowl nesting habitat on the continent, it produces 70% of all North American waterfowl. The extensive loss of Minnesota's prairie and wetland habitat has led to the decline of many wildlife and plant species. The RIM Wetlands program continues to restore this habitat and protect it through perpetual easements.

Diverse vegetation, access to water, and protection from pesticides are important to Minnesota's native pollinator species. BWSR's native vegetation guidelines and pollinator initiative demonstrate a commitment to protecting native pollinators. Complexes and corridors targeted through RIM Wetlands provide natural passageways for pollinators. Targeted pollinator species include the Monarch Butterfly and several solitary bee species.

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

In 2020, over 165,000 acres of CRP will expire in Minnesota. In the following two years, an additional 166,000 acres will expire. These acres currently provide critical habitat and are at risk of conversion. RIM Wetlands program scoring and ranking criteria will include expiring CRP land and prioritization of restoration and protection of wetlands in comprehensive water plans, including One Watershed One Plans.

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:

Science-based considerations historically used by the RIM Wetlands program will continue to be used. Through a combination of targeted outreach, eligibility screening, and a scoring and ranking process, the RIM Wetlands program evaluates each application on its potential to restore wetland/upland functions and values to optimize wildlife habitat and provide other benefits, including water quality. Each site is evaluated on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, ability to build upon existing corridors and complexes, and site-specific features that highlight the benefits of selection for permanent protection and habitat and associated environmental benefits.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to determine a site's importance as a corridor or as an extension to existing habitat complexes. Other examples of the science-based targeting used include proximity to threatened and endangered species, contributing watershed area, proximity to DNR Protected Waters, and the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team's (HAPET) Wildlife Habitat Potential Model. The HAPET model is a consolidation of models representing an array of migratory birds that use the Minnesota Prairie Pothole Region for breeding or migration.

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

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

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

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

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

Permanent habitat restoration and protection is vital to the future of waterfowl, grassland birds and other wildlife dependent on native and restored prairies, shallow lakes, wetlands and grasslands. The Long Range Duck Recovery Plan's primary strategy is the restoration and protection of 2 million additional acres (30% wetland, 70% grassland) of habitat in wetland/grassland habitat complexes. The science-based scoring criteria used by the RIM Wetlands program expands current complexes used by migratory waterfowl. The plan states that breeding duck numbers are driven primarily by wetland abundance, while productivity of breeding ducks is driven primarily by grassland abundance.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

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

Forest / Prairie Transition:

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

Metro / Urban:

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

Southeast Forest:

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

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 permanent protection and restoration of approximately 1950 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on approximately 32 permanent easements through this proposal advances the legacy outcomes listed below for each section.

Prairie - The loss of wetlands is most severe in the prairie regions of the state. The permanent protection and restoration of wetland habitat and associated uplands through RIM Wetlands will advance the Prairie Section outcome of a healthy and plentiful supply of habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, especially for waterfowl and upland birds. Another priority of the Prairie Section, expiring CRP contracts, will also be targeted through the RIM Wetlands program in order to permanently protect these acres.

Forest/Prairie Transition - The corridors and complexes this program targets and restores reflects the Forest/Prairie Transition Section 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 including keeping water on the land.

Metro Urbanizing - Targeting permanent conservation on acres that provide important connections and wildlife habitat advances the Metro Urbanizing Section outcome of complexes and corridors of biologically diverse habitat by providing multiple conservation benefits.

Southeast Forest - RIM Wetlands advances the Southeast Forest outcome through increased water retention, providing healthy terrestrial and aquatic habitat for fish, game and other wildlife species. Drained wetlands contribute to erosion and sedimentation of streams, negatively impacting aquatic species. The restoration of wetland areas will permanently protect and improve habitat.

Relationship to other funds:

- Clean Water Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

BWSR received funding in FY16-17, FY18-19 and FY20-21 totaling \$38.25 million from CWF for RIM Reserve easements as part of CREP. A

significant portion of the CWF CREP funding has been applied to wetland restoration easements. A funding request is expected to be made to the Clean Water Council for wetland restoration easements for FY22-23.

Does this program include leverage in funds:

No

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:

This funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

| Appropriation Year | Source | Amount |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014 | Bonding | Over \$19 million |
| 2009-2012 | Federal Wetlands Reserve Program | Approximately \$47 million |

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out oversight, monitoring and inspection of conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning 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 document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations 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 existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship includes costs of SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight and any enforcement necessary.

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

| Year | Source of Funds | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
|--------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2021-Ongoing | Stewardship Account | Inspection every year for the first 5 years; then every 3rd year | Corrective actions on any violations | Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General office |
| 2021-Ongoing | Landowner Responsibility | Maintain compliance with easement terms | | |

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, a 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).

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 (easement) 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 restoration and enhancement 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 - **No**

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, wildlife food plots are an allowable use on RIM easements as 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 re-establish vegetation as prescribed in the Conservation Plan at their expense. Food plots are infrequently used by landowners, to date less than 3% of RIM easements have food plots.

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:

Existing trails and roads are identified during the easement acquisition process and are often excluded from the easement area if they serve no purpose to easement maintenance, monitoring or enforcement. Some roads and trails, such as agricultural field accesses, are allowed to remain.

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Under the terms of the RIM Easement, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. Easements are monitored annually by SWCDs in cooperation with BWSR for the first five years and then every third year after easement acquisition to assure compliance with easement terms.

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, new trails could be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. fire breaks, berm maintenance). Unauthorized trails 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 BWSR's RIM Reserve Program that has over 7,000 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first five years and then every third year after that. BWSR, in

cooperation with SWCDs, 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 the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this proposals funding and availability? - **Yes**

Land Use:

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC? - **Yes**

Past appropriations and spending to date:

| Apprp Year | Approp Amount Received | Approp Amount Spent to Date | Leverage as Reported in AP/th> | Leverage Realized to Date | T otal Acres Affected in AP | T otal Acres Affected to Date | Program Complete and Final Report Approved? |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2018 | 10000000 | 4493100 | 23622300 | | 3920 | 1216 | No |
| 2017 | 10398000 | 5270200 | 20796000 | | 4137 | 1643 | No |
| 2016 | 13808000 | 9811300 | 27616000 | | 5480 | 3620 | No |
| 2014 | 9710000 | 9019000 | 15000 | | 1765 | 1392 | No |
| 2013 | 13390000 | 13292600 | 35000 | 35000 | 2500 | 2041 | Yes |
| 2012 | 13810000 | 13810000 | 5956600 | 4517500 | 3841 | 3385 | Yes |
| 2011 | 13000000 | 13000000 | 20800000 | 11065000 | 5828 | 5559 | Yes |
| 2010 | 6895000 | 6895000 | 0 | 9805200 | 4620 | 4166 | Yes |
| 2009 | 9058000 | 9058000 | 0 | 13100200 | 5800 | 7276 | Yes |

Accomplishment Timeline

| Activity | Approximate Date Completed |
|--|----------------------------|
| Obtain applications from eligible landowners | June 30, 2023 |
| Easements recorded | June 30, 2025 |
| Restorations complete | June 30, 2029 |

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$10,000,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

| Budget Name | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Personnel | \$634,700 | \$0 | | \$634,700 |
| Contracts | \$115,200 | \$0 | | \$115,200 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Acquisition | \$8,904,700 | \$0 | | \$8,904,700 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$208,000 | \$0 | | \$208,000 |
| Travel | \$17,500 | \$0 | | \$17,500 |
| Professional Services | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Direct Support Services | \$87,400 | \$0 | | \$87,400 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Capital Equipment | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$25,000 | \$0 | | \$25,000 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$7,500 | \$0 | | \$7,500 |
| DNR IDP | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Total | \$10,000,000 | \$0 | - | \$10,000,000 |

Personnel

| Position | FTE | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Program Management | 0.25 | 5.00 | \$210,000 | \$0 | | \$210,000 |
| Easement Processing | 1.14 | 3.00 | \$86,200 | \$0 | | \$86,200 |
| Engineering/Eco Services | 3.14 | 3.00 | \$338,500 | \$0 | | \$338,500 |
| Total | 4.53 | 11.00 | \$634,700 | \$0 | - | \$634,700 |

Amount of Request: \$10,000,000

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

DSS + Personnel: \$722,100

As a % of the total request: 7.22%

Easement Stewardship: \$208,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 2.34%

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.

What is included in the contracts line?

The contract line amount will be used for payments to SWCD staff for easement implementation. Estimated restoration costs are included in the easements acquisition line.

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 only includes traditional travel costs of mileage, food and lodging.

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan: - Yes

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Similar wetland restoration easement request for Clean Water Funding for FY 2022/2023 is expected.

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.

What is the cost per easement for stewardship and explain how that amount is calculated?

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.

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past? - Yes

Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?

This is Phase 10 of an ongoing program. These funds will pay for staff time spent on new easements associated with this phase.

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 | 650 | 1,300 | 0 | 0 | 1,950 |
| Enhance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 650 | 1,300 | 0 | 0 | 1,950 |

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 | \$1,386,000 | \$693,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,079,000 |
| 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 | \$2,621,000 | \$5,300,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$7,921,000 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | \$4,007,000 | \$5,993,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$10,000,000 |

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 | 98 | 194 | 98 | 1,560 | 0 | 1,950 |
| Enhance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 98 | 194 | 98 | 1,560 | 0 | 1,950 |

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | Northern Forest | Total |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Restore | \$104,000 | \$207,900 | \$104,000 | \$1,663,100 | \$0 | \$2,079,000 |
| 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 | \$396,100 | \$792,100 | \$396,000 | \$6,336,800 | \$0 | \$7,921,000 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | \$500,100 | \$1,000,000 | \$500,000 | \$7,999,900 | \$0 | \$10,000,000 |

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 | \$4,032 | \$4,077 | \$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 | \$4,042 | \$4,083 | \$4,041 | \$4,062 | \$0 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

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.

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands *A summary of wetland acres and associated native grasslands 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 outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna *A summary of wetland acres and associated native grasslands 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 outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Stream to bluff habitat restoration and enhancement will keep water on the land to slow runoff and degradation of aquatic habitat *A summary of wetland acres and associated native grasslands 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 outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands *A summary of wetland acres and associated native grasslands 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 outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

Parcel List

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

Through a combination of targeted outreach and eligibility screening followed by a scoring and ranking process, the RIM Wetlands program evaluates each application on the potential to restore wetland/upland functions and values; optimizing wildlife habitat benefits and providing other benefits including water quality. Each site is evaluated on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, ability to build upon existing corridors and complexes, and site-specific features that highlight the benefits of permanent protection and habitat.

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. Other examples of the science-based targeting used include proximity to threatened and endangered species, contributing watershed area, proximity to DNR Protected Waters, and use of the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team's (HAPET) Wildlife Habitat Potential Model for environmental evaluation.

BWSR will continue to utilize similar science-based considerations that have been historically used by the RIM Wetlands program. The current scoring and ranking criteria for CREP wetland practices is attached as an example of the score sheet and criteria that will be used.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

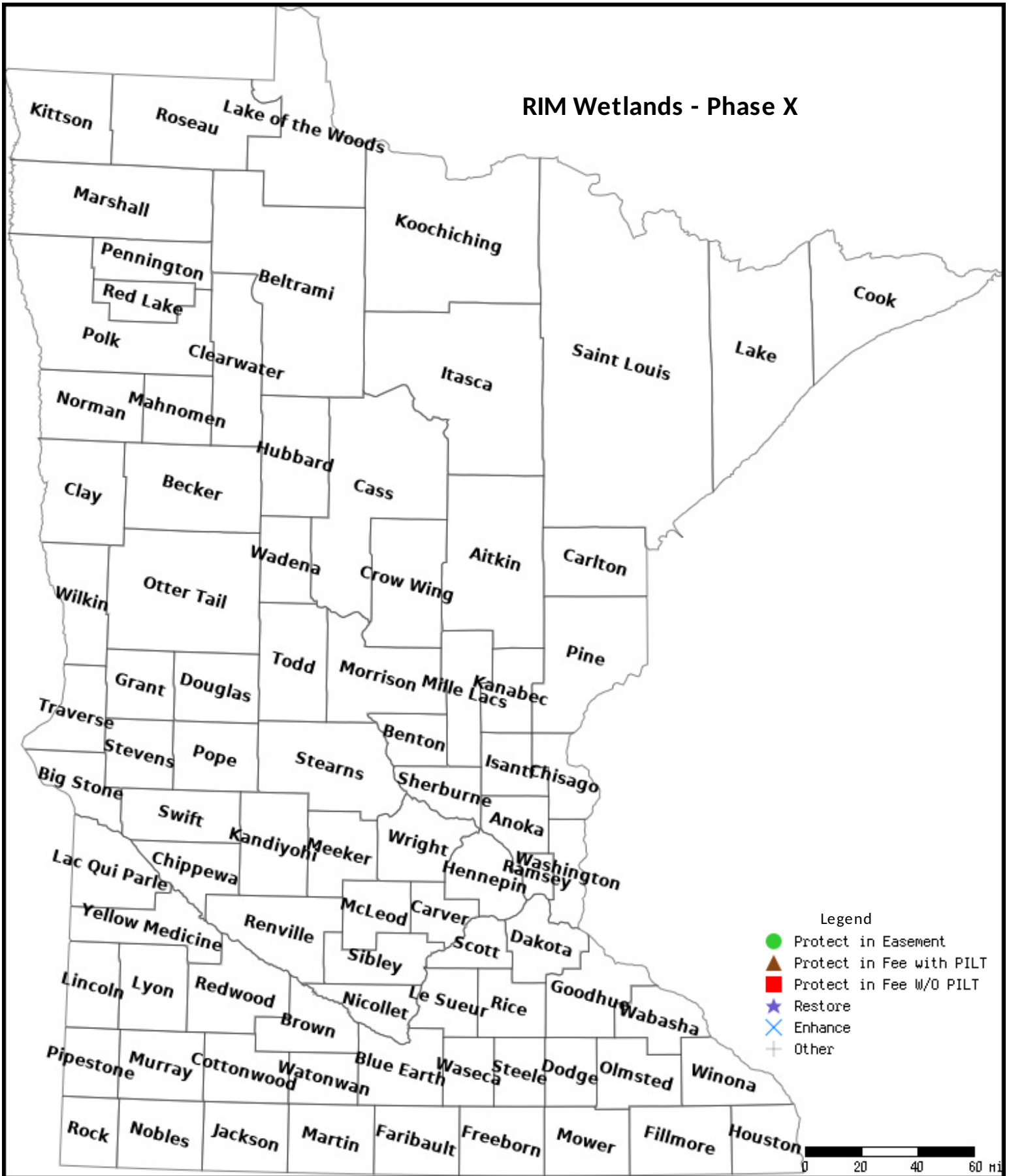
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

RIM Wetlands - Phase X



Data Generated From Parcel List

RIM Wetlands Phase X

Phase X Request

BWSR's RIM Wetlands program is Minnesota's primary private lands easement program that focuses on restoring wetlands and associated upland

- Permanent protection and restoration of almost 2,000 acres
- Permanently protects, restores and manages resources while private ownership continues
- \$10 million request
- Proposed leverage of Clean Water Funds.



Funding History and Accomplishments



Phases I – VI \$65,863,000

- 240 easements
- 24,000 acres protected

Phases VII-IX \$34,206,000

- 110 easements
- 7,500 acres protected to date
- CREP easements
- Federal leverage

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

High Demand for Wetland Restoration Programs

- Landowner interest in CREP wetland restoration practices is very high. 74% of CREP applications have been for wetland restoration practices.
- Will continue providing an opportunity to protect expiring CRP.



Past Successes

A successful wetland restoration in Dakota county creates multiple benefits: aquatic and terrestrial habitat, reduced erosion and sedimentation, and increased water retention.



For More Information:

Sharon Doucette

Conservation Easement Section Manager

(651) 358-4127

Sharon.Doucette@state.mn.us

RIM FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS - CP23 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS SCORING SHEET



| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Landowner Name: | County/SWCD Office: |
|-----------------|---------------------|

Application Total Score

A. RESTORATION BENEFITS *(maximum score capped at 50)*

Score

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

| Size of Largest Basin (acres) |
|-----------------------------------|
| Check one (if applicable) |
| < 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| 6-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |
| 11-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 15 |
| 21-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 20 |
| 31-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 |
| > 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 |

| Total Upland : Wetland Ratio |
|-----------------------------------|
| Check one (if applicable) |
| < 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| ≥ 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| ≥ 2:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| ≥ 3:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |

OR

| Wetland Condition → | Effectively Drained | Partially Drained | Farmed Only | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Restorable Non-Depressional Wetlands | Wetland Acres | Check one (if applicable) | Check one (if applicable) | Check one (if applicable) |
| | < 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| | 10 - 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| | 41 - 80 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| | 81 - 120 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| ≥ 121 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | |

| Total Upland : Wetland Ratio |
|-----------------------------------|
| Check one (if applicable) |
| < 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| ≥ 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| ≥ 2:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| ≥ 3:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |

B. ECOLOGICAL/HABITAT BENEFITS *(maximum score 20)*

Score

| Size (total CP23 acres) <i>(Check one)</i> |
|---|
| ≤ 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| 41 - 80 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| 81 - 120 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| 121 - 160 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| > 160 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |

AND

| LINEAR CORRIDOR CONNECTIVITY - Permanently protected land (fee title or easement) or another Minnesota Water Quality and Habitat CREP eligible offer or approved contract is on: <i>(check one)</i> |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Both ends of offer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Only one end of offer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 The same watercourse and ≤ one mile from either end of offer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 The same watercourse and > one mile from either end of offer |

RIM FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS - CP23 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS SCORING SHEET - *Continued*

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

Score

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Determine score from Additional Wildlife Benefits GIS layer located on the local USDA NRCS office server and check appropriate score box

D. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS *(maximum score 10)*

Score

(Check all that Apply)

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. The majority of the area within the CP23 offered area is within a Prairie Plan Core or Corridor Area. | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| 2. The CP23 offered area is beneficial to, and within 1 mile of breeding/population of Federal or State listed Endangered or Threatened species as identified by DNR Natural Heritage Database (State Special Concern species shall not be considered). Federal species to be considered include Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species, including designated critical habitat (e.g. Topeka shiner). | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| 3. The CP23 offered area project will result in addressing water quality concerns for conventional pollutants (examples: sediment, phosphorus, hydrology, bacteria, nitrogen) as identified in a TMDL report or implementation plan or a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| 4. The predominant soils (more than 50%) within the CP23 offered area are Highly Erodible Land (HEL) or Partially Highly Erodible Land (PHEL). | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| 5. The majority of the contributing watershed(s) to the CP23 offered area is in agricultural use. | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |

Note: *If points are taken for considerations 1 and 2, additional documentation must be provided. Refer to Site Evaluation Form - Instruction documents for further information.*

#NAME?

RIM WETLANDS PROGRAM - CP23a ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS SCORING SHEET



| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Landowner Name: | County/SWCD Office: |
|-----------------|---------------------|

Application Total Score

A. RESTORATION BENEFITS *(maximum score capped at 50)*

Score

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

| Size of Largest Basin (acres) | Check one (if applicable) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| < 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| 6-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |
| 11-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 |
| 21-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 |
| 31-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 |
| > 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 |

| Total Upland : Wetland Ratio | Check one (if applicable) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| < 1:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| ≥ 1:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| ≥ 2:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| ≥ 3:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| ≥ 4:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |

OR

| Wetland Condition → | Effectively Drained | Partially Drained | Farmed Only | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Restorable Non-Depressional Wetlands | Wetland Acres | Check one (if applicable) | Check one (if applicable) | Check one (if applicable) |
| | < 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| | 10 - 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| | 41 - 80 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| | 81 - 120 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| ≥ 121 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | |

AND

| Total Upland : Wetland Ratio | Check one (if applicable) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| < 1:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| ≥ 1:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| ≥ 2:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| ≥ 3:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| ≥ 4:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |

B. ECOLOGICAL/HABITAT BENEFITS *(maximum score 20)*

Score

| Size (Total CP23a acres) <i>(Check one)</i> | Check one |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ≤ 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| 41 - 80 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| 81 - 120 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| 121 - 160 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| > 160 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |

AND

| Acres of Permanent Habitat within 1.5 miles of the CP23a offered area <i>(Check one)</i> | Check one |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ≤ 200 | <input type="checkbox"/> 0 |
| 200 - 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| 501 - 1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| 1001 - 3000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| over 3000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |

RIM WETLANDS PROGRAM - CP23a

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS SCORING SHEET - *Continued*

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

Score

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Determine score from Additional Wildlife Benefits GIS layer located on the local USDA NRCS office server and check appropriate score box

D. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS *(maximum score 10)*

Score

(Check all that Apply)

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. The majority of the area within the CP23a offered area is within a Prairie Plan Core or Corridor Area. | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| 2. The CP23a offered area is beneficial to, and within 1 mile of breeding/population of Federal or State listed Endangered or Threatened species as identified by DNR Natural Heritage Database (State Special Concern species shall not be considered). Federal species to be considered include Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species, including designated critical habitat (e.g. Topeka shiner). | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| 3. The CP23a offered area buffers and/or the majority of runoff from it drains to and is within 1/2 mile of a DNR Public Waters or designated aquatic management areas. | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| 4. The CP23a offered area project will result in addressing water quality concerns for conventional pollutants (examples: sediment, phosphorus, hydrology, bacteria, nitrogen) as identified in a TMDL report or implementation plan or a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| 5. The predominant soils (more than 50%) within the CP23a offered area are Highly Erodible Land (HEL) or Partially Highly Erodible Land (PHEL). | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| 6. The majority of the contributing watershed(s) to the CP23a offered area is in agricultural use. | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |

Note: *If points are taken for considerations 1 thru 3, additional documentation must be provided. Refer to Site Evaluation Form - Instruction documents for further information.*

#NAME?