



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota
ML 2024 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/23/2023

Proposal Title: RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota

Funds Requested: \$5,000,000

Confirmed Leverage Funds: -

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: John Voz

Title: RIM Easement & Working Lands Specialist

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Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands

- Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota will protect and restore approximately 585 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on approximately 9 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) to target, protect and restore high priority habitat. The program will utilize a ranking and selection process and be implemented locally by SWCD staff.

Design and Scope of Work

Wetlands are among the world's most productive environments with high biodiversity (a large variety of life forms). Only rain forests and coral reefs have more biodiversity. Wetlands are a home to many species of migratory and resident birds, reptiles and amphibians, fish, insects, and plants. They also benefit society by storing floodwaters, filtering pollutants, serving as a carbon sink, and providing recreation sites for boating and fishing. Minnesota has lost an estimated 42% of its original 16 million acres of wetlands to drainage or fill activities. The loss of wetlands is most severe in the prairie regions of the state (approximately 90% loss).

Nearly 75 percent of all wetlands are privately owned, making it imperative that the public participate in wetland management and protection.

Up to one-half of North American bird species nest or feed in wetlands and provide a home to at least one third of all threatened and endangered species. "Prairie potholes are highly productive ecosystems of unparalleled importance to breeding waterfowl and many other species of wetland wildlife. Moreover, they are important nutrient sinks, store runoff that reduces flooding, sequester carbon, and provide other environmental and socioeconomic values" The past, present, and future of prairie potholes in the United States. May 2008 Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 63(3).

The typical sites this program prioritizes and targets are privately 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 and selects applications that provide the greatest habitat and environmental benefit after restoration and protection via a BWSR RIM easement.

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.

Explain how the proposal addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

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 prairie 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 and habitat for pollinators. Targeted pollinator species include the Monarch Butterfly and several solitary bee species.

What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?

In 2023 throughout Minnesota an additional 65,999 acres of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) expired in Minnesota. 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. "We must, collectively, bend the curve of bird population declines by working together across the western hemisphere." - National Audubon Society. More than half of U.S Birds are in decline - 2022 U.S State of the Birds report.

Describe how the proposal expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

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 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

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

Explain how this proposal will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.

This proposal directly relates to four priority actions in the MN Climate Action Framework: 1) accelerate forest, grassland and wetland restoration, 2) Store more carbon, 3) restore and expand habitat complexes and corridors, and 4). increase water storage and infiltration and manage drainage. Restoring and protecting habitat with RIM easements.

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

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

Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife, and if not permanent outcomes, why it is important to undertake at this time:

The permanent protection and restoration of approximately 585 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on approximately 9 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.

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 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.*

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?

- Clean Water Fund

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain 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.

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 \$10,000 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.

Actions 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	-	-

Provide an assessment of how your program may celebrate cultural diversity or reach diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

For our statewide programs, BWSR will pilot designating a percentage of the easement acquisition budget line for applicants who self-certify as emerging farmers or from underserved populations, including Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). If funds remain at the end of a predetermined number of scoring/ranking periods and there are no additional applicants, the remaining funds would be added to the larger easement acquisition pool of funding.

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 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- Other : RIM Perpetual Easements

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?

Yes

Explain what will be planted:

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 neonicotinoid pesticide products be used within any activities of this proposal?

No

Will the eased land be open for public use?

No

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

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 7,500 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 proposal's funding and availability?

Yes

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC that are current OPEN appropriations?

Yes

Approp Year	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
2023	\$4,122,000	-	-	-
2022	\$4,199,000	\$1,615,100	\$2,583,900	38.46%
2021	\$3,051,000	\$1,903,800	\$1,147,200	62.4%
2018	\$10,000,000	\$9,080,400	\$919,600	90.8%
2017	\$10,398,000	\$9,214,100	\$1,183,900	88.61%
2016	\$13,808,000	\$13,099,300	\$708,700	94.87%
2014	\$9,710,000	\$9,019,000	\$691,000	92.88%
2013	\$13,390,000	\$13,292,600	\$97,400	99.27%
2012	\$13,810,000	\$13,810,000	-	100.0%
2011	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000	-	100.0%
2010	\$6,895,000	\$6,895,000	-	100.0%
2009	\$9,058,000	\$9,058,000	-	100.0%
Totals	\$111,441,000	\$99,987,300	\$11,453,700	89.72%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Obtain applications from eligible landowners	June 30, 2025
Easements recorded	June 30, 2028
Restorations complete	June 30, 2031

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$207,600	-	-	\$207,600
Contracts	\$40,500	-	-	\$40,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$4,592,000	-	-	\$4,592,000
Easement Stewardship	\$90,000	-	-	\$90,000
Travel	\$8,800	-	-	\$8,800
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$44,800	-	-	\$44,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$12,500	-	-	\$12,500
Supplies/Materials	\$3,800	-	-	\$3,800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$5,000,000	-	-	\$5,000,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Easements & Eng.	0.24	8.0	\$207,600	-	-	\$207,600

Amount of Request: \$5,000,000

Amount of Leverage: -

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%

DSS + Personnel: \$252,400

As a % of the total request: 5.05%

Easement Stewardship: \$90,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 1.96%

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

A 30% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally. Program management costs are the exception, due to program management & oversight remaining consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Personnel and DSS costs would be scaled accordingly.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally. Program management costs are the exception, due to program management & oversight remaining consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Personnel and DSS costs would be scaled accordingly.

Personnel

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

Contracts

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.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at \$10,000 per easement and 9 easements are anticipated to be completed. 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.

Travel

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

Direct Support Services

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.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

None anticipated at this time but we keep a small amount in this budget line for contingencies. Examples may be signs, posts, hand held field equipment, etc.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
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	185	400	0	0	585
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	185	400	0	0	585

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$1,500,000	\$3,500,000	-	-	\$5,000,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$1,500,000	\$3,500,000	-	-	\$5,000,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
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	10	175	0	400	0	585
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	175	0	400	0	585

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$100,000	\$1,400,000	-	\$3,500,000	-	\$5,000,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$100,000	\$1,400,000	-	\$3,500,000	-	\$5,000,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$8,108	\$8,750	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$10,000	\$8,000	-	\$8,750	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

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.

May 26, 2023

RIM Wetlands – Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota

Phase XIII Request

Minnesota’s primary private lands easement program, Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), focuses on restoring wetlands and associated uplands. The program involves:

- Permanent protection and restoration of over 1,260 acres
- Permanent protection, restoration and management of resources while private ownership continues
- \$ 5 million request



Funding History and Accomplishments



Phases I - VI: \$65,863,000

- 240 easements
- 24,000 acres protected

Phases VII -XII: \$41,456,000

- 132 easements
- 9,100 acres protected to date
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) easements
- Federal leverage

Outcomes – Benefits to Minnesotans

- Restores and permanently protects wildlife habitat that supports healthy populations
- Benefits society by storing floodwaters, filtering pollutants, serving as a carbon sink and providing recreation sites for boating and fishing
- Creates and sustains Minnesota jobs associated with restoration and planting cover

Demand

- Landowner interest in CREP wetland restoration practices remains very high, with 79% of CREP applications have been for wetland restoration practices
- Will continue to provide an opportunity to protect expiring CRP

Leverage

- Minnesota Clean Water Funds

For More Information:

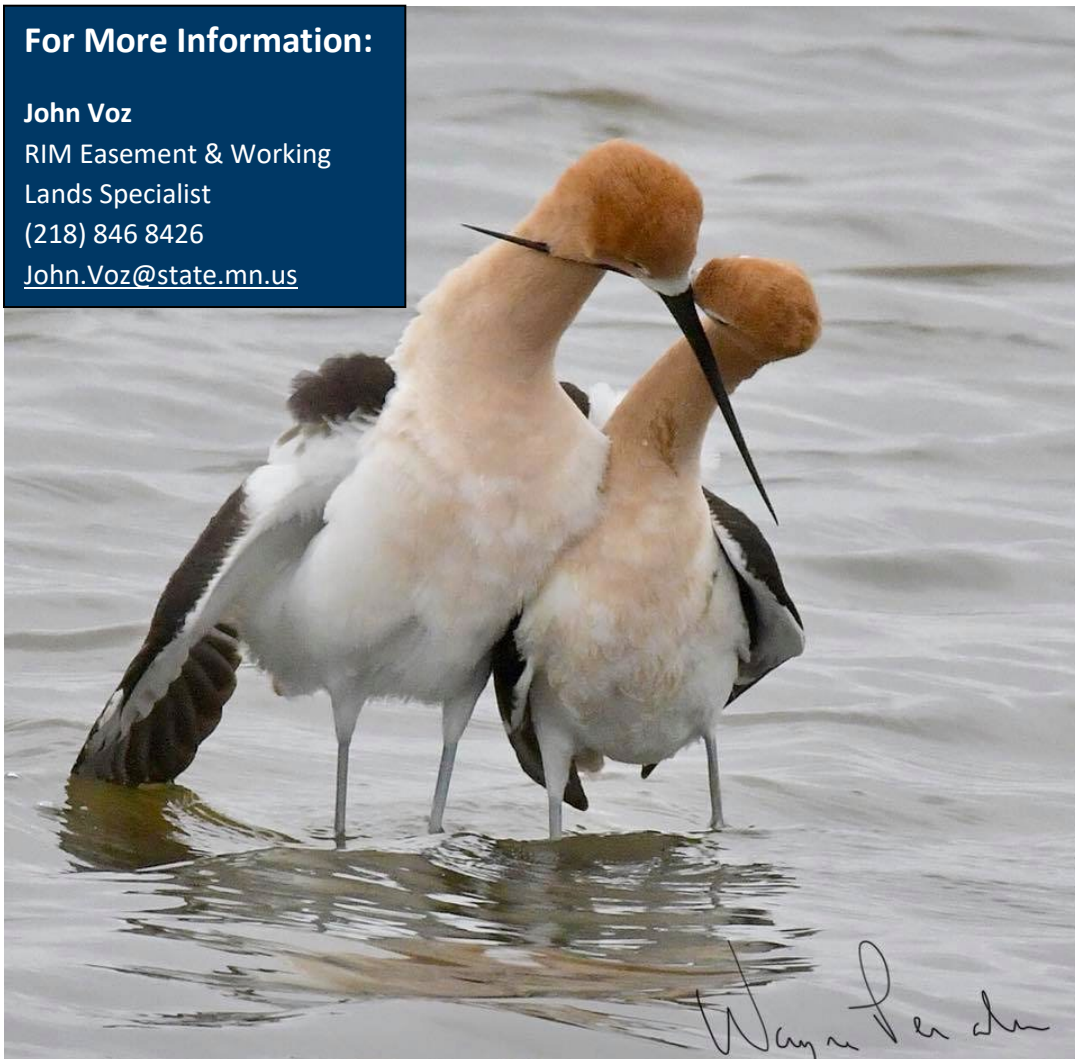
John Voz

RIM Easement & Working

Lands Specialist

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RIM FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS - CP23 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS SCORING SHEET



Landowner Name:	County/SWCD Office:
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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)
	1	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	2	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
	3	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 14
	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 17
	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 21
	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	<input type="checkbox"/> 24
≥ 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	

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)
	< 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	10 - 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	41 - 80	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
	81 - 120	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
≥ 121	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	

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)	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

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
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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:
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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
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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?