



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota

ML 2027 Request for Funding

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### General Information

**Date:** 06/24/2026

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

**Funds Requested:** \$7,500,000

**Confirmed Leverage Funds:** -

**Is this proposal Scalable?:** Yes

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** John Voz

**Title:** RIM Easement Program Coordinator

**Organization:** Board of Water and Soil Resources

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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

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

Wetlands

Prairie

**Narrative****Abstract**

RIM Wetlands will protect and restore approximately 495 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on approximately 11 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. Wetlands are home to many species of migratory and resident birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, and plants. They also benefit society by storing floodwaters, filtering pollutants, serving as a carbon sink, and providing recreation sites. 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.

Up to one-half of North American bird species nest or feed in wetlands and at least one third of all threatened and endangered species are found in wetlands. According to the North American Bird Conservation Initiatives "State of the Birds 2025," grassland birds are seeing the sharpest decline (down 43% since 1970) and are under serious pressure as federal support declines. "Birds strengthen American communities, and more than 100 million Americans who watch birds contribute \$279 billion to the nations economy every year." Moreover, wetlands are important nutrient sinks, store runoff that reduces flooding, sequester carbon, and provide other environmental and socioeconomic values.

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 under a 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. RIM Wetlands will utilize funds to the greatest extent possible by leveraging federal funding through the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) when possible. MN CREP is a partnership between the USDA and BWSR that provides voluntary conservation easement opportunities for landowners. MN CREP focuses on protecting environmentally sensitive land across 66 counties in Minnesota. Landowners enroll in the federally funded CRP for 14-15 years as well as a state-funded perpetual conservation easement through RIM.

RIM Wetlands will also secure conservation easements on lands not eligible for MN CREP and/or during periods when MN CREP enrollment is paused.

## **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 2026, 2027 & 2028, throughout Minnesota, 240,606 acres of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will expire in Minnesota. RIM Wetlands program scoring and ranking criteria prioritizes expiring CRP land as well as 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.

### **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 top 2 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

**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:**

The permanent protection and restoration of approximately 495 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on approximately 11 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.

**If this project/program does not have permanent outcomes, describe why it is important to undertake at this time:**

### 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 the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. An increase in habitat acres is expected to increase the carrying capacity of both game and non-game wildlife species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as the areas are protected and/or restored. On-site inspections are performed every three years to ensure outcomes are maintained.*

#### **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.*

**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
2027- 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
2027- 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:**

Generally, RIM priority areas are focused on rural communities across the state due to the nature of the program and payment rates. Review of the Environmental Justice map produced by the MPCA shows RIM easement programs overlap with many identified environmental justice areas across the state, particularly those areas that are identified by lower than state median incomes. Lower annual income areas of the state benefit from RIM in several ways, including financial benefits for landowners through easement payments. The program also requires seeding and wetland restoration work by local contractors. The work by SWCD staff also includes outreach, monitoring and maintenance which helps maintain and grow rural jobs and economies.

**Activity Details**

**Requirements**

**Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?**

Yes

**Land Use**

**Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?**

Yes

**Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:**

In certain circumstances, wildlife food plots are an allowable use on RIM easements as part of an approved Conservation Plan. Annual or perennial food plots may be allowed at the owner’s expense. Food plots must be maintained annually. If a food plot is discontinued, it must be immediately replanted to appropriate high-quality, permanent native vegetative cover and the associated establishment cost is the responsibility of the landowner(s). Food plot size and the number of food plots allowed are based on the size of the easement. Food plots will not exceed more than 10% of the easement area or will not exceed a maximum acreage depending on the size of the easement.

**Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?**

No

**Will the eased land be open for public use?**

Yes

**Describe the expected public use:**

RIM easements do not require that private land is open to the public; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expand

wildlife habitat near public lands; and do not limit the potential for the land to be open to the public through other programs. SWCD and other partner staff who work with landowners on RIM easements are also usually the staff who enroll landowners into the DNR Walk-In Access (WIA) program. The WIA program is available in 54 counties, all of which are eligible for RIM. Conversations about WIA between the SWCDs and interested landowners occur at the time the landowner submits an easement application. BWSR's Conservation Easement Application includes a question for a landowner to indicate if they are interested in enrolling in WIA if eligible. RIM's statutory language requires restriction of building and agricultural activities on an easement. If RIM also required public access, the landowner would be retaining almost no private rights to the land and still paying property taxes. RIM easement land is still in private ownership and the landowner still pays property taxes and is still consistent with the statutory goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund of protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . .the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie." Criteria in all RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to the public. Parcels immediately adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive additional points in the scoring and ranking process than a parcel that does not provide that benefit. Wildlife do not follow property lines; therefore protected private lands adjacent to and near public lands create complexes of public and private land that provide high quality habitat supporting wildlife, including recreationally hunted species, allowing them to thrive on and off public lands. Protected private lands also add visual and noise buffers that allow users of public land to better enjoy their experiences. Additionally, easement lands allow for an interim step before public ownership, likely making public purchase more affordable in the future.

**Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?**

Yes

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

Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement.

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

**Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this proposal's funding and availability?**

Yes

**Previous OHF Appropriations**

**Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC for this program or project in the past?**

Yes

**Are there any of these past appropriations still OPEN?**

Yes

**If needed, please include any explanation of unspent funds.**

ML 2021 & 2022 - All easement payment funding expended; remaining funds for conservation plan implementation. ML2021 will have a final report submitted in 2026.

ML 2023 & 2024 - All easement payment funding expended or encumbered.

ML 2025 - All easement payment funding encumbered or committed to approved applications.

ML 2026 - Funds not yet appropriated.

**Open OHF Appropriations - Data from Most Recent Status Update**

Project	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
ML 2026 - RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota	\$3,455,000	-	\$3,455,000	0.0%
ML 2025 - RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota	\$4,291,000	\$592,400	\$3,698,600	13.81%
ML 2024 - RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota	\$3,202,000	\$2,803,800	\$398,200	87.56%
ML 2023 - RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota, Phase 12	\$4,122,000	\$3,598,000	\$524,000	87.29%
ML 2022 - RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region	\$4,199,000	\$3,754,100	\$444,900	89.4%
ML 2021 - RIM Wetlands - Phase X	\$3,051,000	\$2,672,000	\$379,000	87.58%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$22,320,000</b>	<b>\$13,420,300</b>	<b>\$8,899,700</b>	<b>60.13%</b>

**Timeline**

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Activity 1 - Easements recorded	June 30, 2031
Activity 2 - Restorations complete, and final report submitted	June 30, 2035

**Budget**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$540,300	-	-	\$540,300
Contracts	\$55,000	-	-	\$55,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$6,626,100	-	-	\$6,626,100
Easement Stewardship	\$110,000	-	-	\$110,000
Travel	\$13,100	-	-	\$13,100
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$131,100	-	-	\$131,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$18,800	-	-	\$18,800
Supplies/Materials	\$5,600	-	-	\$5,600
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Engineering	0.4	4.0	\$252,900	-	-	\$252,900
Easements	0.52	4.0	\$287,400	-	-	\$287,400

**Amount of Request:** \$7,500,000

**Amount of Leverage:** -

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 0.0%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$671,400

**As a % of the total request:** 8.95%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$110,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 1.66%

N/A

**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 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

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

A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

### **If the project received 30% 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.

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

A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

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

#### **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?**

These funds will pay for staff time spent on new easements associated with this project.

#### **Contracts**

**What is included in the contracts line?**

The contracts line is used for payments to SWCD staff for easement acquisition and technical assistance, as appropriate. Estimated restoration costs are included in the easement acquisition line.

#### **Easement Stewardship**

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

11 easements at \$10,000 per easement. The total stewardship amount will ultimately be dependent on the cost of easements and if the proposed easement number is reached. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are \$10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal 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 will only be used for traditional travel costs.

**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 annually reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done and the program staff time involved.

## **Other Equipment/Tools**

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

Steel posts and signs to mark easement boundaries.

## **Federal Funds**

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

Yes

**Are the funds confirmed?**

No

**What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?**

## 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	124	371	0	0	495
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>495</b>

### Restoration/Enhancement Acres of OHF Acquired Lands (Table 1a.1)

	RESTORE: Lands acquired in this proposal	RESTORE: Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<5yrs old)	RESTORE Total	ENHANCE: Lands acquired in this proposal	ENHANCE: Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<5yrs old)	ENHANCE Total
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	495	0	495	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Restoration/Enhancement Acres Breakdown of Existing Protected Lands (Table 1a.2)

	RESTORE: Lands acquired with OHF	RESTORE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF
DNR Lands (WMA, State Forests, etc.)	-	-	-	-
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	-	-	-	-
Easements	0	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 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	\$1,875,000	\$5,625,000	-	-	\$7,500,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,875,000</b>	<b>\$5,625,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>

### 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	50	74	0	371	0	495
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>495</b>

**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	\$300,000	\$1,575,000	-	\$5,625,000	-	\$7,500,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$1,575,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$5,625,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>

**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	\$15,120	\$15,161	-	-
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	\$6,000	\$21,283	-	\$15,161	-
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 public lands, 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 wetland practices is attached as an example of the score sheet and criteria that is used.

## RIM Wetlands

### Private lands are key to Minnesota’s conservation efforts

- Over 75% of Minnesota's land is privately owned. To support fish and wildlife resources, we must protect and restore habitat on private lands.
- Private landowners steward conservation lands that, together with public lands, build complexes of contiguous high-quality habitat – often where additional habitat is needed and adding public land isn’t an option.

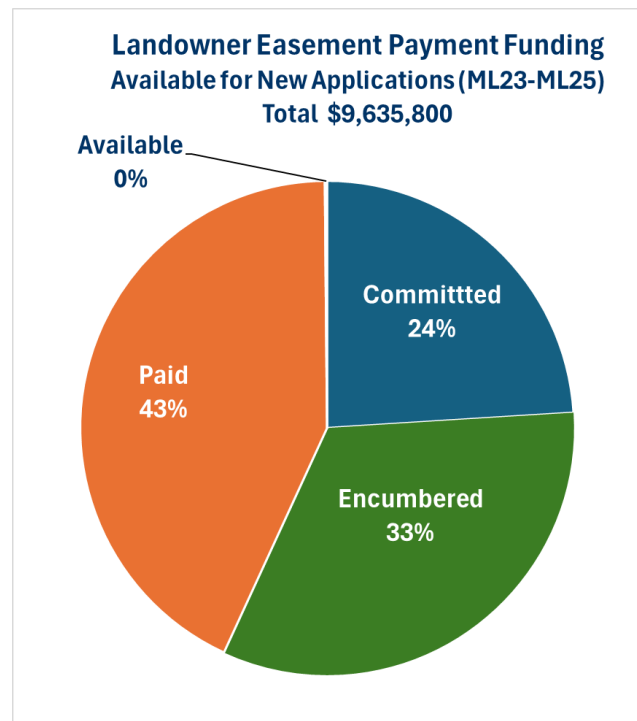


### Wetland conservation gives the best return on investment

- Perpetual conservation easements fulfill the statutory requirements of the Outdoor Heritage Fund to restore, protect, and enhance habitat.
- Restoring wetlands – including those on private lands – is the single greatest benefit for wildlife. Half of all federally listed species in the United States are wetland dependent and 40% of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands.

### RIM Wetlands produces results

- Since 2010, BWSR’s Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) programs have secured 400 wetland easements, protecting and restoring 35,000 acres across all funding sources.



### For more information

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