

ADVANCED RIM

BWSR ACADEMY

October 26, 2010

1:00 - 3:00

Tabor Hoek & Kevin Lines

OLD RIM

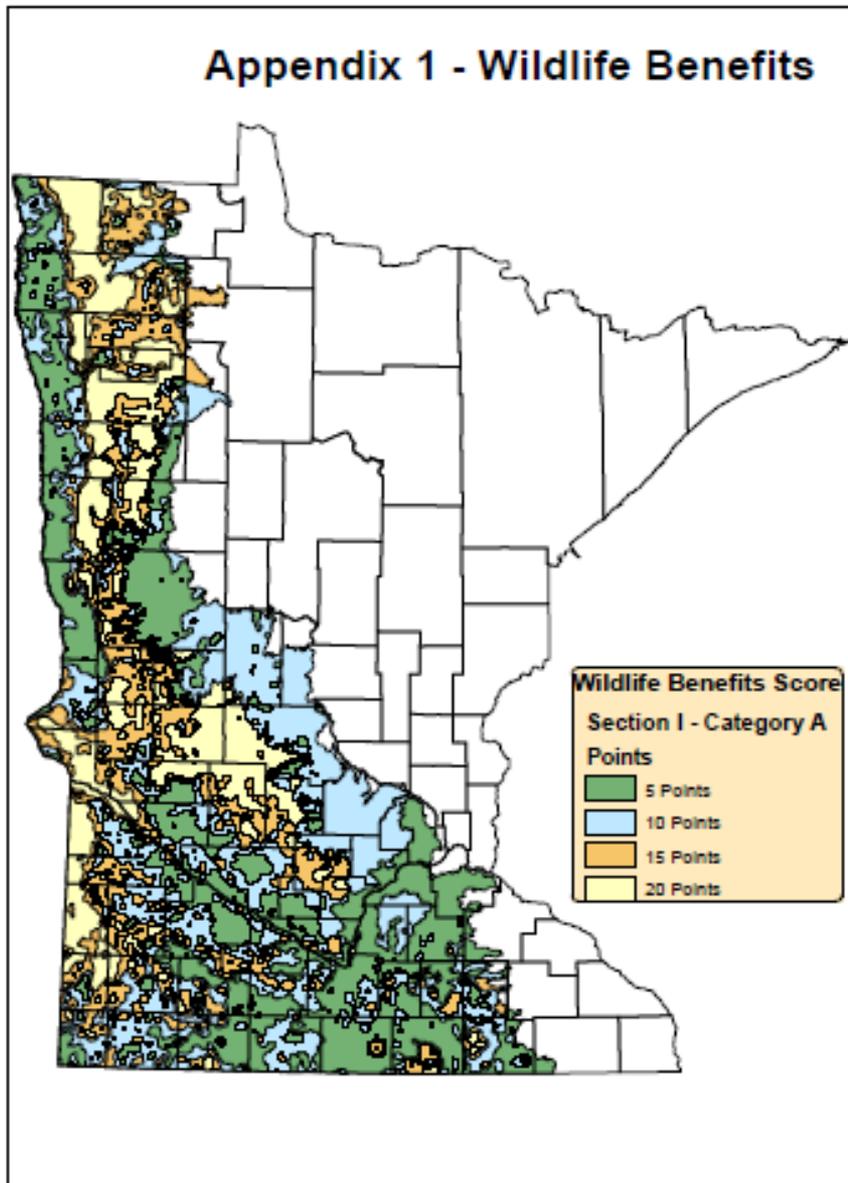
VS.

NEW RIM

RIM PROJECT: RIM - WRP

- **FUNDING: TENTATIVE**
 - \$13m LSOHC
 - \$20.8 NRCS
- **DATES: Spring 2011 (Tentative)**
- **PRIORITIES:**
 - LSOHC
 - NRCS

Appendix 1 - Wildlife Benefits



Minnesota Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet (for WRP and RIM-WRP)

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	Score <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>
					(Maximum 20)

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

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

Score
(Maximum 20)

C. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY BENEFITS

(only one check per wetland type/shaded region)

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

Score (Maximum 30)

Score (Maximum 10)

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Clear Form

Print Form

SECTION II. Cost Considerations

A. EASEMENT VALUE

AVERAGE PER ACRE COST FOR PURCHASING EASEMENT ¹									
< \$1,500	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	\$1,500 - \$1,999	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	\$2,000 - \$2,499	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	\$2,500 - \$2,999	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	> \$3,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 0

¹ Based on perpetual WRP payment or total partnership payment, whichever is higher

Score
(Maximum 4)

B. RESTORATION VALUE

(only one check per shaded region)

ESTIMATED PER ACRE COST FOR RESTORING/ ESTABLISHING VEGETATION							
< \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	\$200 - \$299	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	\$300 - \$399	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	> \$400	<input type="checkbox"/> 0

ESTIMATED PER ACRE CONSTRUCTION COST FOR RESTORING WETLAND AREAS							
< \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	\$300 - \$699	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	\$700 - \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 0

Score
(Maximum 6)

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

A. Easement application is beneficial to, and within 1 mile of breeding/population of Federal or State listed Endangered or Threatened species as identified by DNR Natural Heritage Database (State Special Concern species shall not be considered).	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
B. Application is a local high priority resource project which is specifically identified in an existing comprehensive plan (site specific projects only, not general focus areas).	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
C. Easement application is within a designated Habitat Conservation Partnership or Working Land Initiative target area.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
D. Easement application is located within 1.0 miles of an existing permanent conservation area (public land, conservation easement etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5
E. Easement application contains CRP contract or limited duration easement expiring within 5 years.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5

Score
(Maximum 10)

Print Form

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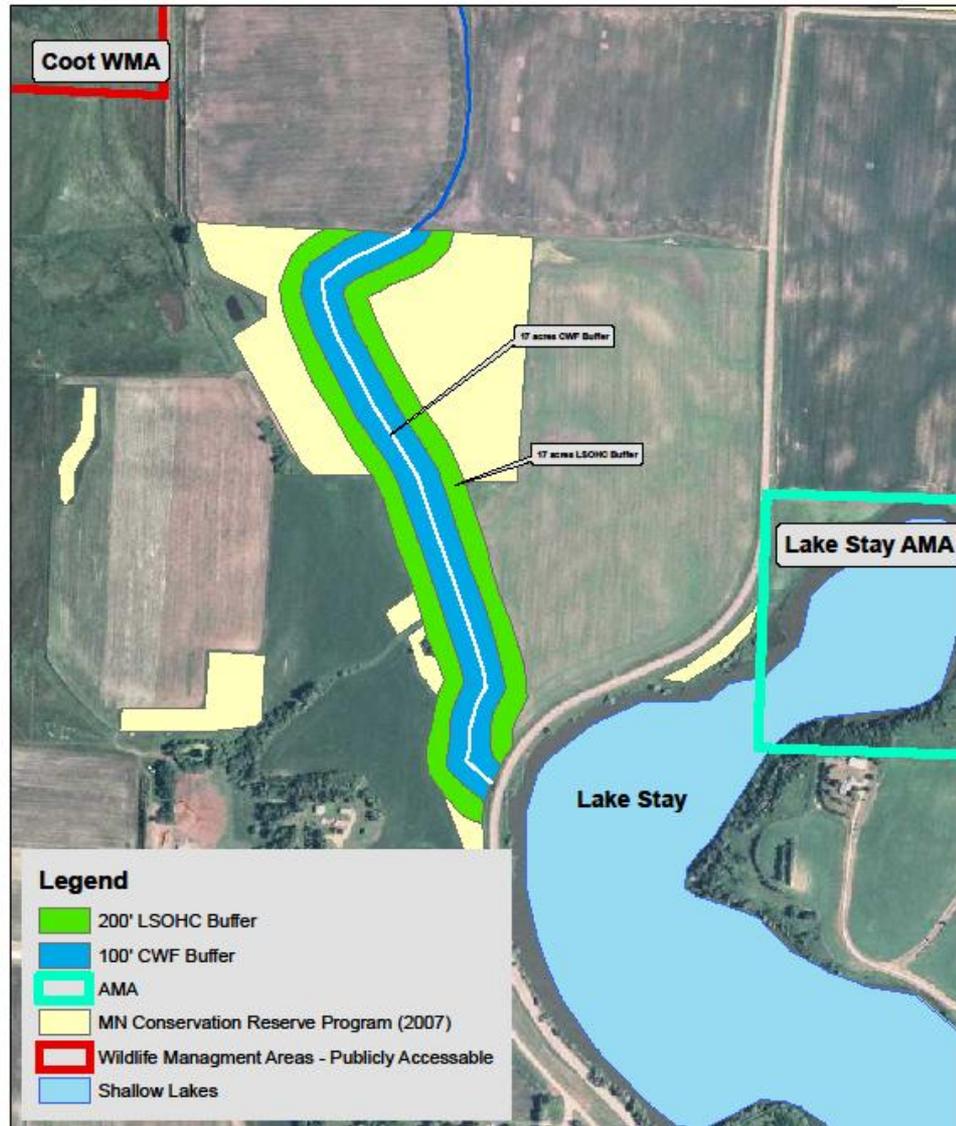
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APPLICATION
TOTAL SCORE

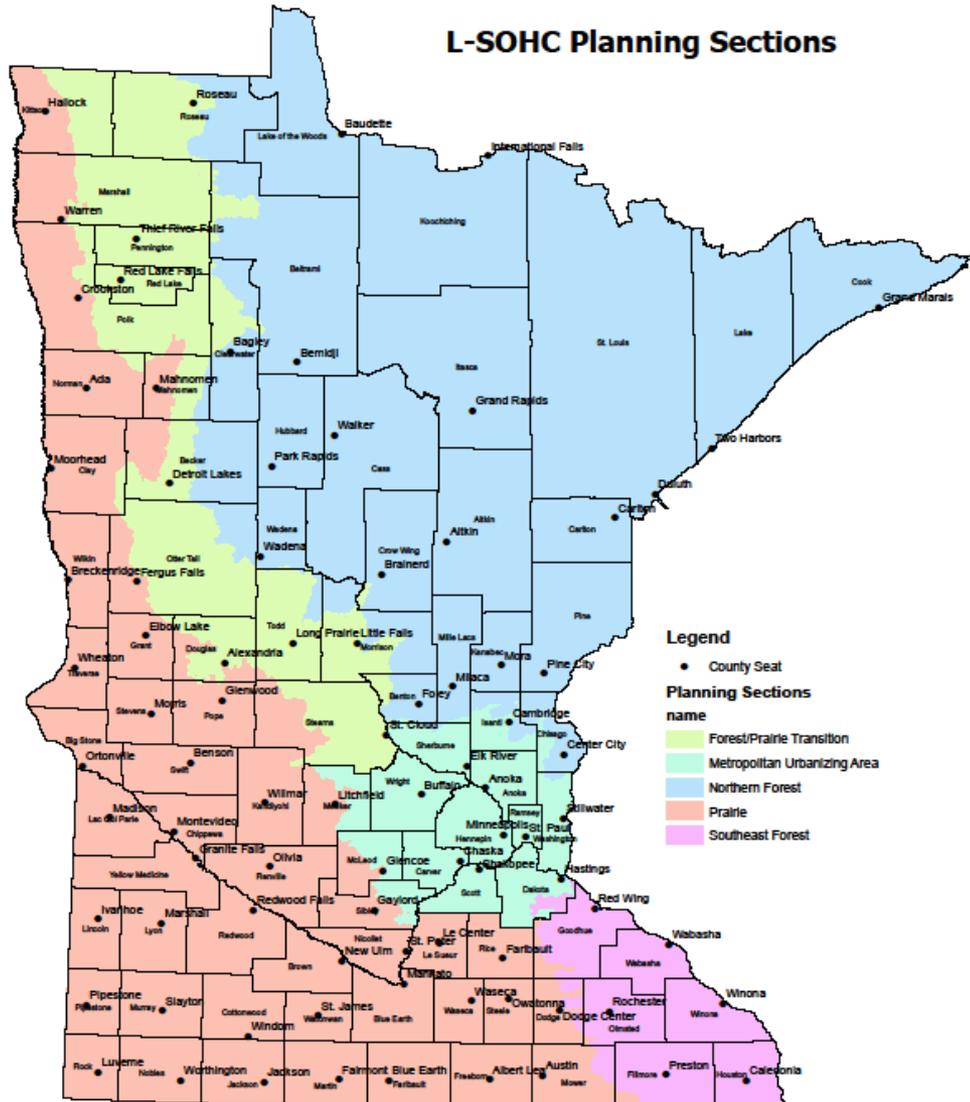
RIM PROJECT: BUFFERS

- **FUNDING:** \$10m CWF (Tentative 2 yrs.)
\$2.249m LSOHC (Tentative FY12)
- **DATES:** SPRING 2011 (Tentative)
- **PRIORITIES:**
 - 50 - 100' Cropland
 - 100 - 200' for Wildlife - Competitive LSOHC
Prairie region

MN Buffers For Wildlife & Water - After



L-SOHC Planning Sections



Legend

- County Seat

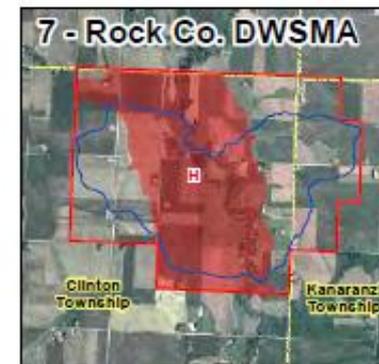
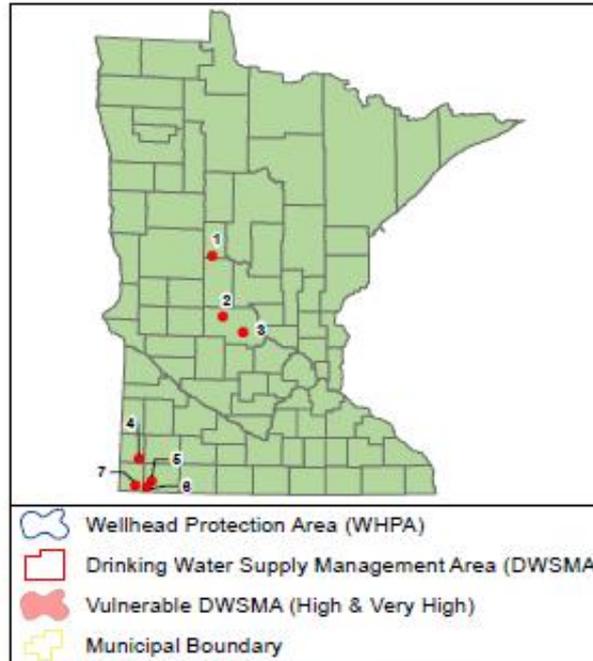
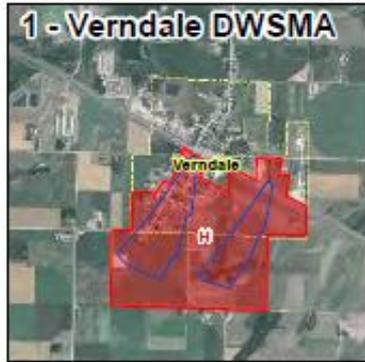
Planning Sections name

- Forest/Prairie Transition
- Metropolitan Urbanizing Area
- Northern Forest
- Prairie
- Southeast Forest

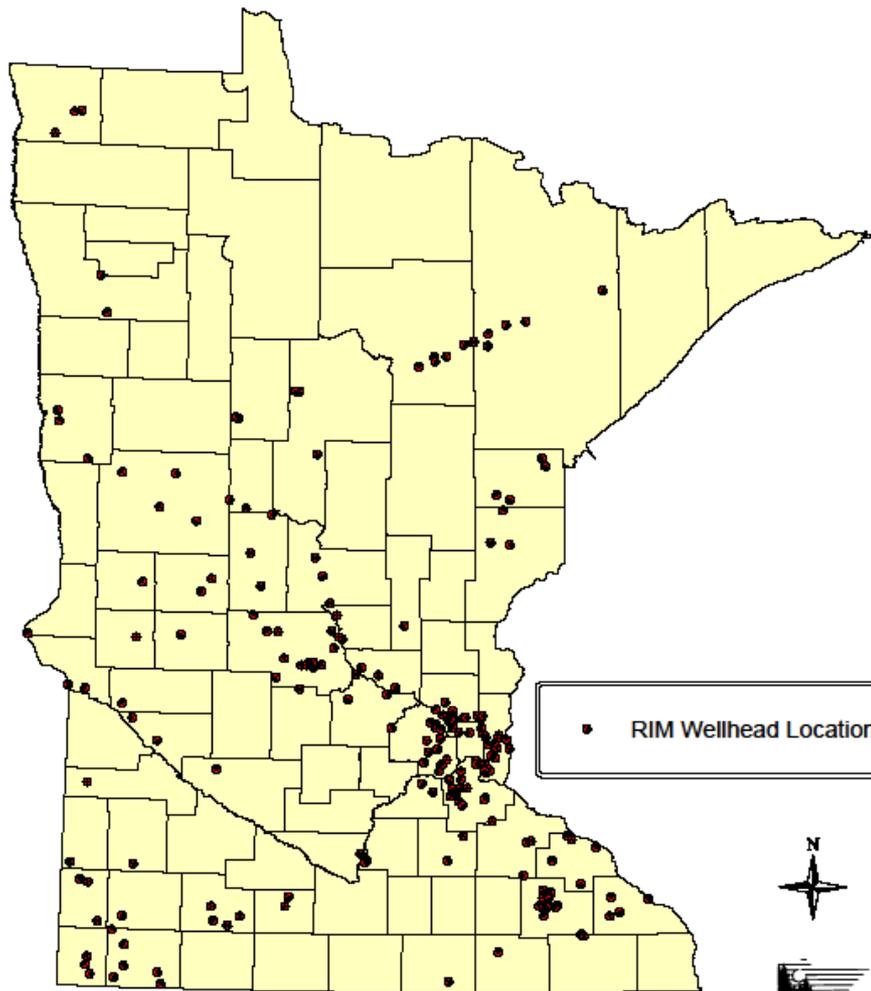
RIM PROJECT: WELLHEAD PROTECTION

- **FUNDING: FY 10 & 11 CWF 2.0m
FY 12 & 13 CWF 2.0m (Tentative)**
- **PRIORITIES:**
 - **7 Wellheads selected to start**
 - **Now any approved wellhead with H or VH vulnerability**

2010 Clean Water Fund Target Wellhead Protection Areas



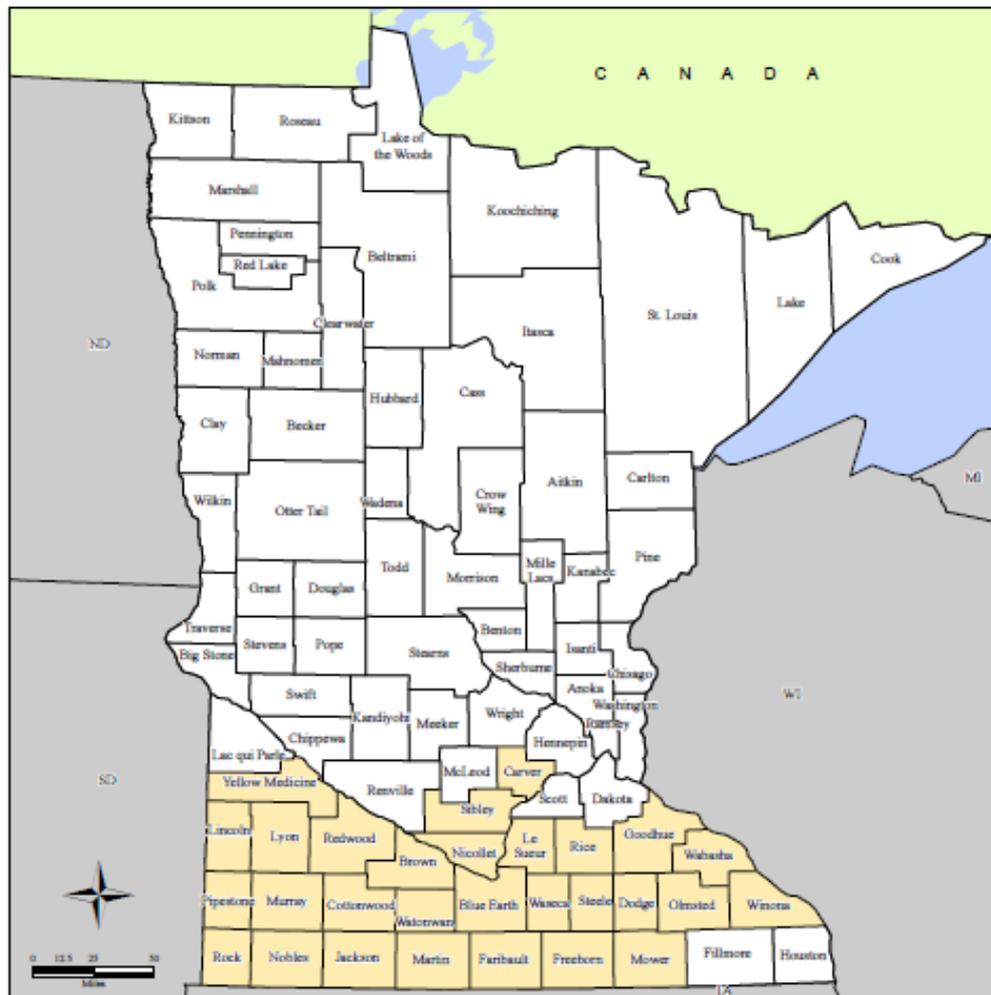
RIM Wellhead Protection Areas



RIM PROJECT: RIM FLOOD RESPONSE

- **FUNDING:** \$10m MN Special Session (10-18-10)
- **DATES:** Nov. 1, 2010 - Jan. 31, 2011
- **PRIORITIES:**
 - RIM - WRP & EWP
 - Floodplain
 - Buffers
 - 29 counties to-date

FEMA-1941-DR, Minnesota Disaster Declaration as of 10/19/2010



Legend

	Designated Counties
	Public Assistance

All counties are eligible for Hazard Mitigation


FEMA
ITS Mapping & Analysis Center
 Washington, DC
 10/19/10 - 11:50 AM EDT
 Source: Disaster Federal Registry Notice
 Amendment No. 2 - 10/19/2010



For Immediate Release

October 19, 2010

Contact: Jon Fure, 651-296-0884

State flood recovery dollars available for wetland restoration and water quality projects

St. Paul – The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) received \$13 million through the flood disaster relief law signed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty following the Oct. 18 Special Legislative Session. The money will pay for conservation projects on marginal, flood-prone lands that will prevent future flood-related damage to property in the 21 disaster-declared counties.

"These dollars will be used to install or repair conservation practices that provide additional flood storage and reduce soil erosion from flood events," said John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director. "Interested landowners should contact their local soil and water conservation district, because they have the expertise to identify specific areas where a conservation practice, such as a water retention structure or a grassed waterway, can minimize flood damage to crops, roads and buildings. These kinds of projects often provide secondary benefits related to water quality and wildlife habitat."

The appropriation to BWSR includes

- \$10 million for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve conservation easement program, and
- \$3 million to install, repair, or rehabilitate erosion and sediment control projects in the disaster area to protect soil and water quality and to support fish and wildlife habitat.

The RIM Reserve dollars will be used to acquire permanent easements from willing landowners to restore floodplains, riparian buffers and wetlands on marginal lands in order to provide flood attenuation and to protect soil and water quality per the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515. BWSR is pursuing supplemental, complementary or matching federal funds for these easements and will give priority for site selection and design to flood-prone areas or flood attenuation and retention areas identified in local water management plans or by local staff involved based on site assessments. Jaschke said the \$10 million for RIM Reserve is expected to leverage \$10 to \$15 million in federal dollars through the USDA Wetland Reserve Program or through other funds made available because of the federal disaster declaration.

Additional details, including an enrollment period for landowners to apply for RIM Reserve funds, will be announced by BWSR as soon as those details are available.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources consists of 20 members, including local government representatives that deliver conservation programs, state agencies, and citizens. Board members are appointed by the governor to four-year terms. The board is the state's administrative agency for soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, metropolitan watershed management organizations, and county water managers.

The BWSR mission: Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

- end -

RIM PROJECT: RIM WILD RICE

- **FUNDING:** \$1.9m LSOHC (Partial/Tentative)
- **DATES:** SPRING 2011 (Tentative)
- **PRIORITIES:**
 - **8 counties** - Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, St. Louis, Wadena
 - **Wild Rice lakes & sensitive shoreline**

RIM PROJECT: DNR CPL

- **FUNDING:** FY2011 \$4.2m LSOHC - 15% match
FY2012 \$5.6m LSOHC - tentative
- **DATES:** FY2011 August - Sept. 16, 2011
FY2012 - Likely Similar
- **PRIORITIES:**
 - LSOHC Selection - RIM prior approval



DNR Conservation Partners Legacy(CPL) Grant RIM Reserve Guidance

DRAFT- August 25, 2010

There is a growing interest in securing wildlife and water quality projects using permanent easements within as well as outside of traditional state funding sources for the program. The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program has been in place since 1986 and provides a unique opportunity to work with private landowners to accomplish these important conservation projects on private lands. To sustain the high quality of RIM Reserve, accommodate future stewardship obligations, and efficiently process easements, the BWSR has developed guidance for local SWCDs to guide the development of projects as they are being planned.

Guidelines for CPL funded easements require that the easement must permanently "restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife".

If you are considering a RIM easement, please follow the criteria listed below.

- All standard RIM Reserve program policies and procedures are to be used.
- BWSR approved payment rates for cropland and non-cropland are to be followed.
- Project area meets current RIM Reserve program priorities of wetland restoration and riparian areas or other eligibility criteria authorized ahead of time.
- Easement Services cost of 10% of grant amount, with a \$5000 minimum. This amount includes a standard rate of \$2000/easement for SWCD administrative work.
- Conservation practices meet current native vegetation standards found at: http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/native_vegetation/seeding_guidelines.pdf
- BWSR Engineering oversight of project will be required for all wetland restorations. All engineering workload and costs associated will be identified and incorporated in easement project costs. If your project involves a wetland restoration we must receive a completed 2010 Minnesota Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet.
- As the CPL process requires local match and operates on a reimbursement basis, the applicant should have made all necessary arrangements to cover costs and submit funding to BWSR for easement and practice payments prior to final recording. BWSR may require a written agreement with the unit of government prior to funds being transferred to the state.
- BWSR reserves the right to reject, or work to modify, projects that do not meet current program priorities or that may obligate the state to unknown future stewardship issues (invasive species).
- A letter of support will be needed from the local DNR Area Wildlife Manager outlining the wildlife benefits obtained by the proposed project.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to meet the DNR Heritage Database review requirements.

Applicants should submit a preliminary RIM Reserve application, aerial photo, and DNR support letter electronically to tabor.hoek@state.mn.us for review and approval prior to CPL application being completed.

For more information contact Tabor Hoek at tabor.hoek@state.mn.us or 507.537.7260.

From: Hoek, Tabor (BWSR)

Sent: Tuesday, September 07, 2010 3:35 PM

To: Hoek, Tabor (BWSR)

Cc: Fredbo, Tim R (BWSR); Lines, Kevin (BWSR); #BWSR_BWSR-Regional Supervisors; #BWSR_BWSR-Board Conservationists

Subject: RIM Vegetative Enhancement Funds Available

The BWSR Easement Section would like to remind you and your landowners that we still have funding available for RIM easements that would benefit from an enhancement to the conservation cover. While conducting your spot checks this summer you may have noticed areas that could use some work. There remains approximately \$535,000 of the original \$1.25m for these projects. Cost sharing is authorized at 100% of the cost not to exceed \$300/ac. Management activities such as prescribed burning or haying may only be cost shared if part of an overall enhancement effort to reseed or inter seed additional native species. Should you have a project in mind, you can request these funds using the following guidance:

1. Vegetative Management on Easement lands: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/VegMgmtPolicy.pdf>
2. Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines: http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/native_vegetation/seeding_guidelines.pdf
3. Practice Implementation Request Form located on this forms page: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/handbook/index.html>

Should you have any further questions about your specific project or the utilization of these funds, please contact me.

Tabor Hoek

BWSR Private Lands Coordinator

PO Box 267, Marshall, MN 56258

tabor.hoek@state.mn.us

(507)-537-7260

POLICY

DECEMBER 17, 2008

VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT LANDS

The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) recognizes the need to establish a policy and procedure for vegetative management and enhancement of conservation easements. This may include the practices of mowing, haying, grazing, harvest for seed or energy, prescribed burning, establishment of native grasses, forest land and wetland management. This policy applies to conservation easements held by the BWSR and is to compliment language already stated in the easement terms and conditions. Easements held in partnership with other agencies may have limitations that prohibit some or all of the activities outlined in this policy.

A Conservation Plan exists for each easement that identifies the location and type of practices found on the site. Easements require ongoing management to assure their quality is maintained. To that end this policy supports landowner efforts to achieve the highest degree of quality from every easement. A Management Plan needs to be developed and attached to the Conservation Plan for all activities being conducted on the easement site.

In some cases financial assistance will be available for certain practices, while others will be at the owner expense, entirely or partially. Certain practices may produce an economic return to the landowner, as long as wildlife benefits are protected. Practices to be implemented are best determined by the landowner in consultation with the SWCD and BWSR staff. The Management Plan shall be signed by all three parties. Consultation will be made with other professionals as deemed necessary by this group. Activities eligible for financial assistance must be consistent with the RIM program guidelines and approved by BWSR prior to practices being implemented.

Easement vegetation can be broken into three distinct cover types:

I. Grassland Management: For purposes of species diversity, wildlife habitat, water quality and erosion control, it may be necessary to undertake practices to enhance or modify some or all of the cover of a conservation easement. Practices may include:

A. Mechanical (mowing, haying, harvest, energy)

Mechanical methods can successfully manipulate growth stages of habitat. Annual mowing and mowing of entire stands is not allowed without technical justification from the resource manager preparing the management plan. Removal of biomass can increase the vigor of desirable vegetation, remove stored nutrients for water quality and provide a seed bed for restoration or enhancement. Generally, mechanical treatment will be done no more frequently than once every third year, with no more than one third of the acreage mowed each year. In some cases it may be not be practical to manage smaller sites in stages, especially, if they are within a larger habitat complex. Mowing, haying, or harvest is not allowed during the nesting season May 15 to August 1. Minimum stubble

heights are 4-6 inches. Any modifications to these criteria should be explained and specified in the management plan.

B. Chemical/Biological

Chemical Application: Herbicides used must follow label restrictions and be conducted in a way that maintains plant diversity and wildlife habitat. Care should be taken to minimize impacts to desired vegetation while controlling target species as specified in the Management Plan.

Biological Control: Biological control agents may be used for the control of invasive plant species. Minnesota DNR and Minnesota Department of Agriculture guidelines for using biological control agents should be followed and incorporated into the Management Plan.

C. Grazing

Livestock may be used to manage health and vigor of permanent vegetative cover when done in accordance with a grazing plan. Grazing on easement lands requires very careful management to assure the site is not overgrazed. Grazing should not be recommended unless the landowner fully understands the plan and is capable of managing the system. Grazing plans are to be developed according to applicable NRCS practice standards. Generally, grazing will not be done more often than once every three years on the same acres, and only one third of the area will be grazed each year. In some cases it may be not be practical to manage smaller sites in stages, especially if they are within a larger habitat complex. Grazing shall not occur during the primary nesting season of May 15 to August 1. Minimum stubble heights are 4-6 inches. Livestock will be removed from the site when the grass on the site is grazed to these stubble heights. Any modifications to these criteria should be explained and specified in the management plan.

D. Prescribed Burning

Improvement of plant species diversity, control of brush, and recycling of nutrients can be achieved by controlled burning. Burning will be allowed on cool season as well as warm season grass stands. The Management Plan will indicate the timing of burns for the area being treated. Appropriate permits must be obtained by the landowner prior to performance of a prescribed burn. Follow appropriate NRCS practice standards for prescribed burning.

E. Native Prairie Planting.

Enhancement or re-establishment of existing native prairie or replacement of cool season vegetation shall use native grasses & forbs of local eco-type where possible or as required by statute or rule. Quality of habitat can be increased by conversion of introduced grass stands to native grass stands. Follow appropriate NRCS practice standards for habitat management and restoration of declining habitats. BWSR has suggested native grass and forbs seed mixes available as well as recommendations for inter seeding of grasslands.

II. Forest Land Management: Necessary to provide regeneration, maintenance, or conversion of species to manage forest stands for wildlife benefits and stand density.

Easement lands planted to trees need to be managed to maintain and improve preferred species that are critical to providing specific wildlife habitat. When tree cover is requested in the RIM conservation plan and established, the planting should not be considered the final product. The planting should be viewed as a component of the desired future condition to retain tree cover on the site. Harvesting can be done for a variety of purposes such as to create wildlife openings, manage browse for specific wildlife species, and for forest stand improvement. The Management Plan should outline the necessary steps to achieve this desired future condition.

III. Wetland Management:

Wetland management activities for vegetation and water level control are site specific. Wildlife habitat and nutrient reduction benefits of wetlands are affected by: vegetative quality, fish, minnows, invasive species, sedimentation, and water depth to name a few. Detailed plans exist for each restoration project that lay out the engineering of the restoration as well as any vegetative component. The BWSR is updating the MN Wetland Restoration Guide which should be consulted for further information. Any questions or requests regarding management of wetland areas should be directed to the BWSR Easement Program Manager.



Lake Maria

CREP Easement

Non-crop area

Lake Sarah





Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines

12-23-2009

This document summarizes current guidelines for the use of native seed and plants (herbaceous and woody). Consistent with the following legislation, projects are required to use local sources of plant materials and strive for diversity levels that will provide high levels of ecological function.

(2009 Legislation) "To the extent possible, any person conducting a restoration with money appropriated in this section must plant vegetation or sow seed only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination."

The following guidelines apply to BWSR programs across the state for seed and plants.

Current Site Conditions	Soil Stabilization	Water Quality	Grassland Bird Nesting	Habitat for Multiple Wildlife Groups	Native Plant Community Restoration (marsh and sedge meadow)	Native Plant Community Restoration (prairie, savanna, forest)
Natural Areas with High Species Diversity	15	20	30	30	30	40
Some Intact Ecological Characteristics	10	20	25	25	25	35
Agricultural Field	10	15	15	20	20	25
Disturbed Site (Urban Soils, Compaction etc.)	5	10	15	20	20	25
Disturbed Site with High Invasive Species Risk	5	5	15	20	20	20

Conservation Easement Alteration Requests and Board Policy

RIM Reserve Rule Affecting Alteration Requests

8400.3610 Alteration, Release or Termination of Conservation Easements

The state board may alter, release, or terminate a conservation easement after consultation with the commissioners of agriculture and natural resources. The board may alter, release, or terminate an easement only if the state board determines that the public interests and general welfare are better served by the alteration, release, or termination.

The state board must be provided the following information at least 30 days prior to a state board meeting, before the state board will consider a request to alter, release, or terminate a conservation easement:

- A. a copy of the letter from the landowner to the district board justifying the change and identifying how the public interest and general welfare will be better served;
- B. a letter from the district board recommending either approval or disapproval of the proposed change;
- C. a letter from the Department of Natural Resources area wildlife manager recommending either approval or disapproval of the proposed change; and
- D. other supporting documents, including:
 - 1) an aerial photo identifying the requested change;
 - 2) a soil survey map of the area;
 - 3) cropping history information; and
 - 4) other pertinent documentation that will support the request.

The state board reserves the right to require special provisions to ensure at least equal resource value as a condition of approving the request. The state board must be compensated by the landowner for all damages and loss of benefits to the conservation easement and the state board may also require reimbursement for administrative expenses and costs incurred in the alteration, release, or termination of a conservation easement.

Policy Developed by Easement Alteration Subcommittee and adopted by the BWSR on 5-24-06

This policy applies to all state RIM, PWP and CREP easements currently in place and all future state conservation easement acquisitions.

All easement alteration requests that come to BWSR will be accompanied by a \$500 processing fee. Checks should be made payable to the BWSR. For alterations where actual costs to amend the easement exceed \$500 the state reserves the right to charge the applicant the actual cost.

Public initiated projects (public road and utility projects, etc.)

Easement staff has the authority to tentatively approve of releases for public infrastructure projects. However, releases are not considered final until after the release request is presented to and approved by the Board and all fees have been paid.

In addition to the fee as outlined above, public entities must pay:

- 1) Two times the current average township assessed market value (ATAMV) for acres released, and
- 2) An amount equal to all state funds dispersed as reimbursement for costs incurred to establish cover on the land being released.

Private landowner requests

All alteration requests that come to the BWSR must contain all the information items requested in Section 8400.3610 of RIM Reserve Rule (items A – D as listed above), plus the \$500 processing fee in the form of a check made payable to the BWSR.

All requests must also meet the following conditions for BWSR approval:

- 1) Replacement acres will increase by a minimum factor of 2:1 (replacement acres to released acres). Replacement acres proposed on easements must meet crop history requirements, cropped 2 of last 5 years, if land proposed for release was cropland at the time the easement was granted.
- 2) The resource protection and habitat benefits of the original easement will remain the same or be enhanced by the proposed alteration. For example;
 - restored wetland acres will not be drained or filled by the proposal
 - riparian buffers will be preserved or enhanced
 - easement configuration will preserve or enhance wildlife benefits (larger blocks of habitat, not fractured puzzle-like boundaries).
- 3) The SWCD Board and/or the DNR Area Wildlife Manager approve of the proposed alteration.
- 4) Landowners will be required to pay all costs associated with establishment of conservation cover practices on replacement acres according to an approved conservation plan.
- 5) Any alteration proposed would not allow or enable any land development projects to occur on lands currently under easement. Land development projects include, but are not limited to, such things as new homes, cabins, storage buildings, livestock facilities, cell phone towers, wind generators, sewage treatment systems, private roads and drives, and mining operations.

Meeting the criteria outlined above for private requests does not guarantee that the Board will approve of the request for release and alteration of a conservation easement.

RIM QA - 2010 Legislation

Restoration Evaluations

New state law requires restoration evaluations be conducted on habitat restoration projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50), Outdoor Heritage Fund (M.S. 97A.056), and Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53) (M.L. 2010, Ch. 361, Art. 1). The new law directs DNR and BWSR to convene for each of the three funds a ~~technical~~ restoration evaluation panel (TEP), which will contain at least five technical experts who will evaluate a sample of up to 10 habitat restoration projects annually beginning July 1, 2011. The ~~T~~TEPs will evaluate the restorations relative to the law, current science, stated goals and standards in the restoration plans, and applicable guidelines. The agencies will assign a coordinator for ~~each of the three T~~TEPs. The coordinator(s) are responsible for providing reports to the legislature and governing councils determining whether restorations are meeting planned goals, identifying problems with implementation of restorations and, if necessary, providing recommendations on improving restorations.

BWSR REVIEW - Fall 2010

Key Findings:

- **ADMIN**

- Great documentation at local office
- Spot checks completed - needs updating
- Ownership tracking
- Data Base, Data Base, Data Base!!

- **FIELD**

- Boundary Making - Sings & GPS
- Product as planned - updated?

- **DOLLARS**

- To make improvements

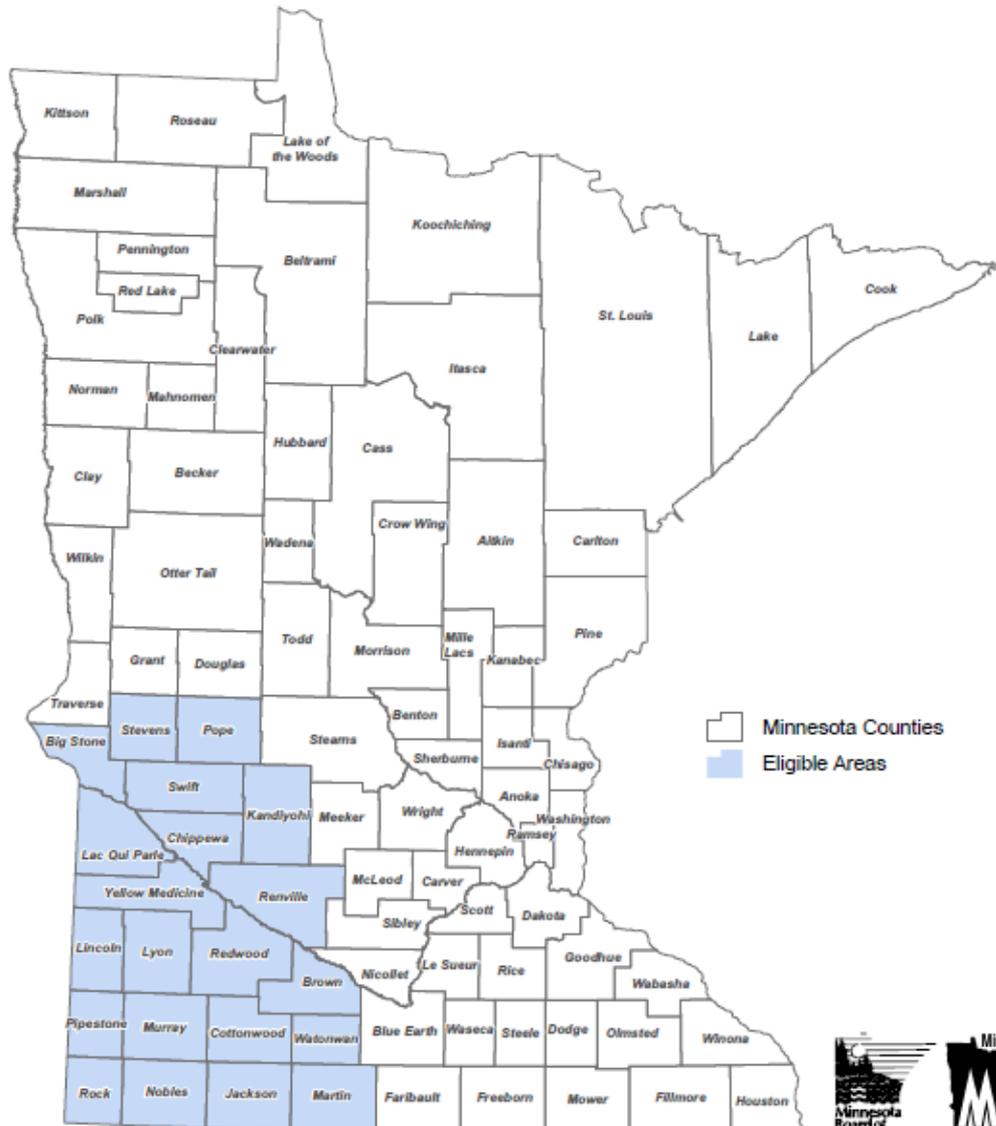
SWCD SERVICES \$

- **Spot Checks - \$67/esmt.**
- **Easement Processing - \$2,000/esmt.**
- **Wetland Restoration Assistance up to \$3,500/esmt.**

MN WALK-IN ACCESS PROGRAM (Pilot)

- **21 SW - WC Counties**

Minnesota Pilot Walk In Program Eligible Areas



MN WALK-IN ACCESS PROGRAM (Pilot)

- **21 SW - WC Counties**
- **\$2.7m over three years - USDA**
- **10,000 ac. Growing to 50,000 ac.**
- **2011 hunting season**
- **DNR & BWSR Cooperative Effort**
- **Nov. 5th Meeting - Marshall**