



# RIM Reserve Practice Specifications

## RIM Handbook

The following conservation practice specifications are detailed descriptions of the practices referred to in the [RIM Reserve Permanent Rules 8400.3700](#).

### Practice

Number	Description
RR-1	Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes
RR-2	Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
RR-3	Tree and/or Shrub Planting for Permanent Wildlife Habitat
RR-4	Field Windbreak Establishment
RR-5	Diversion
RR-6	Erosion Control Structure
RR-7	Grass Waterway
RR-8	Wetland Restoration
RR-9	see RR-1b and RR-2b
RR-10	see RR-3b
RR-11	Highway Windbreak (living snowfence)
RR-12	Wetland Creation
RR-13	Existing Wetland
RR-14	Existing Watercourse or Drainage Ditch
RR-FP	Food Plot

### RR-1 ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT INTRODUCED GRASS AND LEGUMES

#### Subcodes:

**RR-1a** To be established

**RR-1b** Already established

#### RR-1a

*No longer allowed as a primary practice, in compliance with the following most recent vegetation guidelines: [Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#) (June 2015). This practice code may be used as a supporting practice for native tree establishment (RR-3a, RR-4a, or RR-11).*

A. The purpose of this practice is to establish a perennial vegetative cover of introduced grasses and legumes on enrolled land that will control erosion, improve and protect water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

B. Policies for this practice are as follows.

1. Funding is authorized for:

- A. Minerals, eligible seed, seedbed preparation, seeding, and planned clipping during the establishment period.
  - B. Herbicides and/or mechanical weed control specified as necessary in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan to establish cover.
  - C. Temporary cover specified as necessary in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan when:
    - i. Needed until required seed is available.
    - ii. soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow immediate establishment of cover.
2. Funding is not authorized for:
    - a. Pesticides used to maintain the vegetative cover after it is established.
    - b. Clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded.
    - c. Fences.
    - d. Minerals for enhancing production.
    - e. Maintenance weed control (mowing and/or spraying) after grass is established.
    - F. Replanting when failure is due to inadequate weed control measures.
  3. Temporary Cover -- Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#).
  4. Seeding rates for permanent seeding must be based on pounds of Pure Live Seed. Seeding mixtures must be selected from the lists in [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#).
  5. Seed used must be labeled in accordance with the *Minnesota Seed Law, 1983, sections 21.80 to 21.92* and accompanying rules. The seed varieties used should be from those listed in the [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#), or the [MnDOT Seeding Manual](#).
  6. Lime and Fertilizer -- [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#).
    - a. Funding for gypsum or other sulphur bearing materials may be approved if the soil test shows the need for sulphur.
  7. Seeding Dates – Refer to September 2012 BWSR document [Planning Date Guidance for Restoration & BMP Projects](#).
  8. Seedbed Preparation -- Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#).
  9. Companion Crop – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#).
  10. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and, if applicable, locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label and other federal or state policies and requirements.
  11. Weed Control – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#), state and/or county noxious weeds must be controlled at the landowner’s expense during the easement period via spot spraying, spot mowing, or similar technique that is least disruptive to the cover.
  12. The acreage enrolled must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period, unless specifically approved by the BWSR.

13. The cover shall be maintained by the landowner as specified in [RIM Permanent Rules 8400-3800](#).  
*NOTE: Clipping, burning, disking, or reseeded of grasslands may be approved on a field-by-field basis for the purpose of restoring vegetation or stand vigor, except this practice may not be applied during the last 12 months of a limited duration easement.*
14. The acreage seeded will be viewed periodically by the SWCD to determine management measures to maintain stand vigor.
15. Maintenance is addressed in the provisions of each easement.
16. The SWCD must view the enrolled acreage at least once each year until stand establishment is assured.
17. Seeding of permanent vegetation after the easement is signed must be completed by the end of the next normal planting time, unless the landowner can provide documentation that seed stocks are not available, or soil conditions are not favorable. A temporary cover must be established during the interim period.

#### **RR-1b**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to maintain or enhance an existing vegetative cover of non-native permanent grasses, or non-native grasses and legumes on enrolled land that will provide wildlife habitat and control excessive erosion, and improve water, air and land quality.
- B. Apply this practice to already established permanent grasses.
- C. This practice must meet the criteria listed below. Where existing cover does not meet this criteria, other practices to establish cover (RR-2a or RR-3a) shall be used. This practice must:
  1. Control erosion at an acceptable level.
  2. Prevent excessive erosion from recurring.
  3. Be a cost effective solution when compared to other acceptable practices.
  4. Be maintained for the life of the easement.
  5. Be included in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  1. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and, if applicable, locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label and other federal or state policies and requirements.
  2. State and county listed noxious weeds shall be controlled at the landowner's expense throughout the duration of the easement period. If weed control results in loss of the permanent vegetative cover the landowner is responsible for restoring the vegetative cover at their own expense.
  3. The acreage seeded must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period, unless specifically approved by the BWSR as part of the vegetative management plan.
  4. The cover must be maintained by the landowner as specified in [RIM Permanent Rules 8400-3800](#).
  5. The acreage shall be reviewed periodically by the SWCD to determine management measures needed to maintain stand vigor.

## RR-2 ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT NATIVE GRASSES AND FORBS

### Subcodes:

- RR-2a To be established
- RR-2b Already established
- RR-2PP Pollinator Planting

### RR-2a

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish and maintain a perennial vegetative cover of native grasses and forbs on enrolled land that will control erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.
- B. Policies for this practice are as follows.
  - 1. Funding is authorized for:
    - a. Eligible seed, seedbed preparation, seeding, and planned mowing during the establishment period.
    - b. Herbicides specified as necessary in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan to establish cover. This may include the applications indicated in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan, within 36 months of practice initiation.
    - c. Temporary cover specified as necessary in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan when:
      - 1) Needed until required seed is available.
      - 2) Needed because normal planting period for the mixture has passed.
      - 3) Soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow immediate establishment of cover.
      - 4) A dormant seeding is planned.
    - d. Forbs recommended by the technical agency.
    - e. Prescribed burning or tree removal, when used as a cost-effective and less disruptive activity than extensive site preparation & interseeding on current native prairie areas.
  - 2. Funding is not authorized for:
    - a. Herbicides used to maintain vegetative cover after the 3 year practice establishment period.
    - b. Clearing rock piles or other unnatural obstructions from the area to be seeded.
    - c. Fences.
    - d. Minerals for enhancing production.
    - e. Maintenance weed control (mowing and/or spraying after vegetation is fully established).
    - f. Replanting when failure is due to inadequate weed control measures by the landowner.
  - 3. Temporary Cover – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#).
  - 4. Seeding rates for permanent seeding must be based on pounds of Pure Live Seed. Seed mixes can be developed using the recommendations from the May 2014 BWSR document, [Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#), or [State Seed Mixes](#) may be used. Use [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#), [Filter Strip \(393\)](#) or [Restoration of Declining Habitats \(643\)](#) for additional guidance.

5. Seed used must be labeled in accordance with the *Minnesota Seed Law, 1983, Section 21.80 to 21.92* and accompanying rules.
6. Seeding Dates – Refer to September 2012 BWSR document [Planning Date Guidance for Restoration & BMP Projects](#).
7. Seedbed Preparation – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\), Filter Strip \(393\) or Restoration of Declining Habitats \(643\)](#).
8. Companion Crops – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\), Filter Strip \(393\) or Restoration of Declining Habitats \(643\)](#).
9. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and, if applicable, locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label and other federal or state policies and requirements.
10. Weed Control – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\), Filter Strip \(393\) or Restoration of Declining Habitats \(643\)](#). State and/or county noxious weeds must be controlled at landowner expense during the easement period via spot spraying, spot mowing, or similar technique that is least disruptive to the cover. Clipping will more than likely be needed during the establishment period.
11. The acreage seeded must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period, unless specifically approved by the BWSR as part of a vegetative management plan designed for habitat improvement.
12. The cover must be maintained by the landowner as specified in [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
13. Maintenance: the acreage enrolled will be viewed periodically by the SWCD to determine management measures to maintain stand and vigor. Native plant communities are best managed by the use of prescribed fire. Refer to USDA NRCS practice standard (338)-Prescribed Burning. Other management techniques include mowing/haying and prescribed grazing. Periodic management will normally be required to maintain the stand, control woody species, and fully establish desired species.
14. Seeding of permanent vegetation after the easement is signed shall be completed by the end of the next normal planting time, unless the landowner can provide documentation that seed stocks are not available, or soil conditions are not favorable. A temporary cover must be established during the interim period.

#### **RR-2b**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to maintain or enhance an existing vegetative cover of native permanent grasses, or grasses and forbs on enrolled land that will provide wildlife habitat and control excessive erosion, and improve water, air and land quality.
- B. Apply this practice to already established permanent native grasses, or native grasses and forbs on enrolled land.

- C. This practice must meet the criteria listed below. Where existing cover does not meet this criteria, other practices to establish cover (RR2a or RR3a) shall be used. This practice must:
1. Control erosion at an acceptable level.
  2. Prevent excessive erosion from recurring.
  3. Be a cost effective solution when compared to other acceptable practices.
  4. Be maintained for the life of the easement.
  5. Be included in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
1. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and, if applicable, locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label and other federal or state policies and requirements.
  2. State and county listed noxious weeds shall be controlled at the landowner's expense throughout the duration of the easement period. If weed control results in loss of the permanent vegetative cover the landowner is responsible for restoring the vegetative cover at their own expense.
  3. The acreage seeded must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period, unless specifically approved by the BWSR as part of a vegetative management plan designed for habitat improvement.
  4. The cover must be maintained by the landowner as specified in [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
  5. The acreage shall be reviewed periodically by the SWCD to determine management measures the maintain stand vigor.

## **RR-2PP**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish and maintain a perennial vegetative cover of native grasses and forbs on enrolled land that will provide high vegetative diversity and provide nectar and pollen sources throughout several seasons. This cover is also intended to control erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.
- B. Policies for this practice are as follows:
1. Site selection is dependent on the following factors, and potential locations and acreages must be confirmed with BWSR staff prior to inclusion in the conservation plan:
    - a. Minimum plot size of 1 acre. Total plot area NTE 10% of easement acreage or 5 acres, whichever is less.
    - b. If planted in a strip, strip must be a minimum of 20 feet wide.
    - c. Site selection should account for the following factors:
      - 1) Distance from areas that experience pesticide and fungicide use
      - 2) Water source within 200 feet to account for flight distance
      - 3) Site is not isolated (habitat complexes are preferred)
  2. Funding is authorized for:
    - a. Eligible seed, seedbed preparation, seeding, and planned mowing during the establishment period.
    - b. Herbicides specified as necessary in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan to establish cover. This may include the applications indicated in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan, within 36 months of practice initiation.
    - c. Temporary cover specified as necessary in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan when:

- 1) Needed until required seed is available.
  - 2) Needed because normal planting period for the mixture has passed.
  - 3) Soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow immediate establishment of cover.
  - 4) A dormant seeding is planned.
  - d. Forbs recommended by the technical agency.
  - e. Prescribed burning or tree removal, when used as a cost-effective and less disruptive activity than extensive site preparation & interseeding on current native prairie areas.
3. Funding is not authorized for:
    - a. Herbicides used to maintain vegetative cover after the 3 year practice establishment period.
    - b. Clearing rock piles or other unnatural obstructions from the area to be seeded.
    - c. Fences.
    - d. Minerals for enhancing production.
    - e. Maintenance weed control (mowing and/or spraying after vegetation is fully established).
    - f. Replanting when failure is due to inadequate weed control measures by the landowner.
  4. Refer to resources specific to planning a pollinator planting, such as the [CRP CP42 Job Sheet](#) or the [BWSR Pollinator Toolbox](#).
  5. Temporary Cover – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#).
  6. Seeding rates for permanent seeding must be based on pounds of Pure Live Seed. Seed mixes can be developed using the recommendations from the May 2014 BWSR document, [Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#), or [State Seed Mixes](#) may be used. Use [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#), [Filter Strip \(393\)](#) or [Restoration of Declining Habitats \(643\)](#) for additional guidance. **The seeding plan must contain at least one species for each blooming period and must not contain non-native vegetation. You may also consider the inclusion of native, early-blooming shrubs to meet this criteria, if appropriate for the site location.**
  7. Seed used must be labeled in accordance with the *Minnesota Seed Law, 1983, Section 21.80 to 21.92* and accompanying rules.
  8. Seeding Dates – Refer to September 2012 BWSR document [Planning Date Guidance for Restoration & BMP Projects](#).
  9. Seedbed Preparation – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#), [Filter Strip \(393\)](#) or [Restoration of Declining Habitats \(643\)](#).
  10. Companion Crops – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#), [Filter Strip \(393\)](#) or [Restoration of Declining Habitats \(643\)](#).
  11. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and, if applicable, locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label and other federal or state policies and requirements.
  12. Weed Control – Refer to [USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover \(327\)](#), [Filter Strip \(393\)](#) or [Restoration of Declining Habitats \(643\)](#). State and/or county noxious weeds must be controlled at landowner expense during the easement period via spot spraying, spot mowing, or similar

technique that is least disruptive to the cover. Clipping will more than likely be needed during the establishment period.

13. The acreage seeded must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period, unless specifically approved by the BWSR as part of a vegetative management plan designed for habitat improvement.
14. The cover must be maintained by the landowner as specified in [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
15. Maintenance: The acreage enrolled will be viewed periodically by the SWCD to determine management measures to maintain stand and vigor. Native plant communities are best managed by the use of prescribed fire. Refer to USDA NRCS practice standard (338)-Prescribed Burning. Other management techniques include mowing/haying and prescribed grazing. Periodic management will normally be required to maintain the stand, control woody species, and fully establish desired species.
16. Seeding of permanent vegetation after the easement is signed shall be completed by the end of the next normal planting time, unless the landowner can provide documentation that seed stocks are not available, or soil conditions are not favorable. A temporary cover must be established during the interim period.

### **RR-3 TREE AND/OR SHRUB PLANTING FOR PERMANENT WILDLIFE HABITAT**

#### **Subcodes:**

**RR-3a** To be planted

**RR-3b** Already established/natural succession

#### **RR-3a**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish and provide a balanced and diverse blend of wildlife habitat that will control erosion and enhance wildlife habitat.
- B. Apply this practice to improve wildlife habitat, complement other habitats, or increase the availability of key habitat types that are lacking in abundance or quality. Aesthetics, recreational opportunities, limited timber production, and other multiple-use aspects should also be considered.
- C. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  1. Funding is authorized for:
    - a. Site preparation, native trees, native shrubs, forbs and planting costs, and release from vegetative competition to ensure establishment of planting.
    - b. Temporary cover (using RR-1 or RR-2)
      - 1) When required in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan.
      - 2) When needed until planting stock is available.
      - 3) When needed because normal planting period for the species has passed.
      - 4) Where soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow immediate establishment of cover.
    - c. For interplanting to bring stand up to desired stocking level when failure was due to circumstances

beyond the landowner's control.

- d. Other permanent vegetative cover that will provide habitat for wildlife and for erosion control (use RR-1 or RR-2).
  - e. Seeded (green) firebreaks (use RR-1 or RR-2).
  - f. Tubes, tree mats, etc.
2. Funding is not authorized for:
- a. Tilled (black) firebreaks, fuel breaks, fire lanes or roads.
  - b. Fences.
  - c. Planting orchard or nut trees for commercial production.
  - d. Planting for ornamental purposes.
  - e. Planting for Christmas tree production.
  - f. Plantation plantings.

***NOTE: Items c, d, e, and f above are not permitted on RIM Reserve acres.***

3. Planting must be protected from destructive fire and must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period, unless specifically approved by the BWSR as part of the vegetative management plan designed for habitat improvement.
  4. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and, if applicable, locally registered and must be applied strictly with authorized uses, directions on the label and other federal or state policies and requirements. Chemicals used to establish or release trees or shrubs must be banded or spot applied.
  5. The practice must be maintained by the landowner as specified in [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
  6. The acreage planted shall be reviewed by the technical agency at customary intervals.
- D. Planting must be completed according to the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan time schedule unless the landowner can provide acceptable documentation that seed or planting stocks are not available.
- E. Technical specifications should include, but are not limited to, [NRCS Standards 380, 612, 645 and 391](#), *Minnesota Extension Service Bulletin 196*, and *Woody Cover Plantings for Wildlife*, MN DNR, 1985.
- F. Tree planting plans must not conflict with existing electrical lines, telephone lines, road right-of-way or Drainage systems.
- G. Permanent vegetative cover within the woody planting may be delayed until after the planting is established (no longer than three years) if erosion is not a problem. However, weeds must be controlled.
- H. To provide adequate erosion control and create wildlife habitat, the areas between tree and shrub rows must be established in permanent vegetation (RR-1 or RR-2) for the life of the easement.
1. Forest management activities are allowed if included as part of a forest management plan included in the conservation plan, but not cost shared by RIM, as long as the wildlife habitat goals of this practice

are met.

**RR-3b**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to maintain or enhance existing plantings of trees and shrubs on enrolled land, or to allow natural regeneration of woody tree species in floodplain areas that will provide wildlife habitat and control excessive erosion, and improve water quality.
- B. Apply this practice to trees and shrubs already established on enrolled land that meets the required enrollment criteria.
- C. This practice must meet the criteria listed below. Where existing plantings do not meet these criteria, other practices to establish cover shall be used. This practice must:
  - 1. Control erosion at an acceptable level.
  - 2. Prevent erosion from recurring.
  - 3. Be a cost effective solution when compared to other acceptable practices.
  - 4. Be maintained for the life of the easement.
  - 5. Be included in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan agreement.
- D. Policies for these practices are as follows.
  - 1. Funding is not authorized for:
    - a. Fencing, clean tilled (black) firebreaks, fuel breaks, fire lanes or roads.
    - b. Planting orchard or nut trees for commercial production.
    - c. Planting for ornamental purposes.
    - d. Planting for Christmas tree production.
    - e. Plantation maintenance.

***NOTE: Items b, c, d and e are not permitted on RIM Reserve acres.***

- 2. Chemicals used in maintaining this practice must be federally, state and locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label and other federal or state policies and requirements.
  - 3. The acreage planted must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period, unless specifically approved by the BWSR as part of the vegetative management plan.
  - 4. The practice must be maintained for the life of the easement as specified in [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
  - 5. The acreage treated shall be reviewed by the technical agency at customary intervals.
  - 6. The majority of the existing acres of trees and shrubs must be native species.
- E. Selective cutting for timber stand improvement is allowable, but not cost-shared by RIM, as long as the wildlife habitat goals of this practice are met. Both the DNR Forester and the DNR Wildlife Manager must sign the conservation plan if any forestry measures are included in the plan.

## RR-4 FIELD WINDBREAK ESTABLISHMENT

### Subcodes:

**RR-4a** To be established

**RR-4b** Already established

### RR-4a

- A. The primary purpose of a field windbreak is two-fold:
1. To reduce wind erosion and,
  2. To get uniform snow distribution over the protected cropland for uniform soil recharge. Additional benefits are the creation of wildlife habitat, beautification and enhancement of the landscape, living snowfence and a reduction in evaporation/transpiration rates for groundwater recharge.
- B. Field windbreaks may be used in or around open fields, which need protection against wind erosion. Additional benefits will be realized from the creation of wildlife habitat.
- C. Policies for this practice are as follows:
1. Funding is authorized for:
    - a. Site preparation and planting native trees or shrubs as field windbreaks that will reduce wind erosion to an acceptable level.
    - b. Weed control to release from vegetative competition. This is limited to banding or spot treatment.
    - c. Temporary cover (use RR-1 or RR-2):
      - 1) When required in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan.
      - 2) When needed until planting stock is available.
      - 3) When needed because normal planting period for species has passed.
      - 4) Where soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow establishment of cover immediately.
    - d. Seeded (green) firebreaks (use RR-1 or RR-2).
  2. Funding is not authorized for:
    - a. Fencing, clean tilled (black) firebreaks, fuel breaks, fire lanes or roads.
    - b. Planting orchard or nut trees for commercial production.
    - c. Ornamental plantings.
    - d. Christmas tree production.
    - e. Plantation maintenance.

**NOTE: Items b, c, and d are not permitted in RIM Reserve acres.**

3. Planting must be protected from destructive fire and from grazing by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period.

4. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and if applicable, locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements.
  5. The field windbreak must be maintained by the landowner as specified in the [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
- D. Planting must be completed according to the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan time schedule, unless the landowner can provide documentation that seed or plant stocks are not available. Specifications for this practice are as follows:
1. The practice must be carried out according to [USDA NRCS Standards 612 and 380](#). The species used are to be selected in accordance with the [Field Office Technical Guide](#).
- E. Tree planting plans must not conflict with existing electrical lines, telephone lines, rights-of-way, or drainage systems.
- F. Selective cutting for timber stand improvement is allowable, but not cost-shared by RIM, as long as the wildlife habitat goals of this practice are met. This can be done via an approved vegetative management plan for the easement.

#### **RR-4b**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to maintain or enhance existing field windbreak plantings of trees and shrubs on enrolled land that will provide wildlife habitat and control excessive erosion, and improve water.
- B. Apply this practice to field wind breaks already established on enrolled land that meets the required enrollment criteria.
- C. This practice must meet the criteria listed below. Where existing plantings do not meet these criteria, other practices to establish cover shall be used. This practice must:
1. Control erosion at an acceptable level.
  2. Prevent wind erosion from recurring.
  3. Be a cost effective solution when compared to other acceptable practices.
  4. Be maintained for the life of the easement.
  5. Be included in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan agreement.
- D. Policies for these practices are as follows:
1. Funding is not authorized for:
    - a. Fencing, clean tilled (black) firebreaks, fuel breaks, fire lanes or roads.
    - b. Planting orchard or nut trees for commercial production.
    - c. Planting for ornamental purposes.
    - d. Planting for Christmas tree production.
    - e. Plantation maintenance.

**NOTE: Items b, c, and d are not permitted on RIM Reserve acres.**

2. Chemicals used in maintaining this practice must be federally, state and locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label and other federal or state policies and requirements.
  3. The acreage shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the duration of the easement period.
  4. The practice must be maintained for the life of the easement as specified in [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
  5. The acreage treated shall be reviewed by the technical agency at customary intervals and additions made to the conservation plan as necessary to maintain this practice.
  6. The majority of the existing acres of trees and shrubs must be native species
- E. Selective cutting for timber stand improvement is allowable, but not cost-shared by RIM, as long as the wildlife habitat goals of this practice are met. This can be done via an approved vegetative management plan for the easement.

## **RR-5 DIVERSION**

- A. The primary purpose of a diversion is to divert water away from an area to permit the establishment of vegetative cover, or divert water to areas where it can be used or disposed of safely. Diversion may provide additional benefit to wildlife.
- B. A diversion may be used where:
1. Runoff from a high area is eroding enrolled lands, or is needed to establish vegetative cover; or,
  2. Surface and shallow subsurface flow is damaging sloping enrolled lands or contaminating ground or surface water; or,
  3. Surface water can be diverted to an area where it can be used or disposed of safely.
  4. Diversions may be installed on nonenrolled lands if necessary to enhance or protect enrolled lands.
- C. Policies for this practice are as follows.
1. Authorized activities under this practice include:
    - a. Surface diversions.
    - b. Diversion ditches.
    - c. Dikes.
    - d. Pipe, chutes, or outlets if necessary to protect outlets from erosion.
    - e. Excavation and filling necessary to install an effective system.
    - f. Subsurface drains that are essential for the proper functioning of the diversion and including outlet stabilization structures, if needed. Funding is limited solely to the minimum size tile specified by the technician as needed for the proper functioning of the diversion.
    - g. Necessary vegetative protection that meets the component seeding specifications of this practice.
    - h. Mulching to protect the practice from erosion hazards. The technician will determine the type

required and the size of the area to be mulched.

2. Nonauthorized activities under this practice include:
  - a. Ditches or dikes designed to impound water for later use, or that will be part of an irrigation system.
  - b. Subsurface drains as the sole component of the practice.
  - c. Removing stone or hedgerows.
  - d. Installing a structure on land other than land designated for RIM Reserve purposes, unless necessary to enhance or protect enrolled lands.
- D. A protective outlet or waterway, which is installed solely as an outlet for a diversion system and serves no other conservation purpose, may be cost-shared as a component of this practice.
- E. Technical specifications for this practice are as follows:
  1. The practice and any supporting practices must be carried out according to [USDA NRCS Standards 342, 362, 410, 412, 606 and 620](#).
- F. The diversion must be maintained by the landowner as specified by [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
- G. Where required, the landowner is responsible for obtaining easements, right-of-way, local, state and federal permits, or other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice.

## **RR-6 EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURE**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to permit the establishment of vegetative cover, control soil erosion, protect or improve water quality, or create or improve wildlife habitat. An erosion control structure may provide additional benefits including, but not limited to, recreation, flood control, and channel stability.
- B. Structures may be used on enrolled lands where they are necessary to permit establishment of vegetative cover, for the control of soil erosion, water quality protection or improvement, or creation or enhancement of wildlife habitat. Structures may also be installed on nonenrolled lands if necessary to enhance or protect enrolled lands.
- C. Policies for this practice are as follows.
  1. Authorized activities under this practice include:
    - a. Water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, or similar structures, including conduits used for outlets.
    - b. Channel linings, chutes, drop spillways, and pipe drops that dispose of excess water.
    - c. Vegetative cover and for leveling and filling to permit the installation of the structure.
    - d. Mulching to protect the practice from erosion hazards. The technician will determine the type required and the size of the area to be mulched.
    - e. Riprapping, when needed to protect the slopes or outlets.
    - f. The installation of tile to provide a suitable outlet for water impounded by the structure.

2. Nonauthorized activities under this practice include:
  - a. Irrigation structures that are a part of a distribution system for irrigation water.
  - b. Fencing.
  - c. Installing a structure on land other than land designated for RIM Reserve purposes, unless necessary to enhance or protect enrolled lands.
  - d. Combining this practice with RR-8 or RR-12 structures and practices.
- D. Authorization is only given if the structure is needed to make possible the establishment of vegetative cover on RIM Reserve acres.
- E. The structure must be maintained by the landowner as specified by [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
- F. Technical specifications for this practice are as follows:
  1. The practice and necessary supporting practices must be carried out according to [USDA NRCS Standards 342, 350, 410, 484, 584, 587, 606, 608, 620 and 638](#).
- G. Where required, the landowner is responsible for obtaining easements, utility rights-of-way, local state and federal permits or other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice.

## **RR-7 GRASS WATERWAY**

- A. The purpose of a grass waterway is to permit the establishment of vegetative cover, provide a means of regulating or removing runoff to control erosion, or protect or improve water quality. Additional benefits may be provided through creation of wildlife habitat.
- B. A grass waterway may be used on enrolled lands by using vegetative measures for control of erosion or improvement of water quality. Grass waterways may also be installed on nonenrolled lands if necessary to protect or enhance enrolled lands.
- C. Policies for this practice are as follows.
  1. Authorized activities under this practice include:
    - a. Site preparation, grading, shaping and filling.
    - b. Subsurface drains that are essential for the proper functioning of the waterway and including outlet stabilization structures, if needed. The technician will specify the minimum size tile needed for the proper functioning of the waterway.
    - c. Mulching to protect the practice from erosion hazards. The technician will determine the type required and the size of the area to be mulched.
    - d. Cover that may consist of sod, sod-forming grasses, or other types of permanent vegetative cover that will provide the needed protection from erosion.
    - e. Temporary cover until permanent vegetative cover is established.
  2. Nonauthorized activities under this practice include:
    - a. Subsurface drains as the sole component of the practice.

- b. Fencing.
  - c. Installing a structure on land not designated for RIM Reserve purposes, unless necessary to enhance or protect enrolled acres.
- D. The practice must be maintained by the landowner as specified by [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
- E. Specifications for this practice are as follows:
- 1. The practice must be carried out according to [USDA NRCS Standards 342, 410, 412, 484, 606, 620 and 638](#).
- F. Where required, the landowner is responsible for obtaining easements, rights-of-way, local, state and federal permits or other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice.

## **RR-8 WETLAND RESTORATION**

### **RR-8**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to restore wetland areas for wildlife and more specifically:
- 1. To restore previously drained or partially drained wetlands to their original condition.
  - 2. To restore wetland complexes that include a variety of wetland types.
- B. Apply this practice to designated areas under RIM Reserve suitably located and adapted to the restoration of previously drained wetlands for wildlife.
- C. Policies for this practice are as follows.
- 1. Funding is authorized for:
    - a. Construction of dams, water control structures, levees, or dike, ditch or drain tile plugs, tile rerouting, and scraping, if needed to assist in the restoration of the wetland.
    - b. Costs associated with designing the practice.
    - c. Necessary vegetative protection that meets the component seeding specifications of this practice.
    - d. Mulching to protect the practice from erosion hazards. The technician will determine the type required and the size of the area to be mulched.
    - e. Temporary cover on the floodable area to control erosion and create a residue based to accelerate invertebrate production after reflooding.
    - f. Riprapping to protect the slopes or outlets of the structure.
  - 2. Funding is not authorized for:
    - a. Fencing.
    - b. Installing a structure on land not designated for RIM Reserve or other conservation program.
    - c. Level ditching and dugouts.
    - d. Restoration on limited duration easements.
    - e. Any project initiated for the purpose of wetland mitigation.
  - 3. Where required, the landowner is responsible for obtaining easements, utilities, rights-of-way, local,

state and federal permits and other permission necessary to perform and maintain this practice.

- D. The pool area must be planted to a temporary or permanent cover if a suitable vegetative cover does not exist to help control erosion and weeds until the pool area has water cover.
- E. Funding is only authorized for restoration on perpetual easements.
- F. The practice must be maintained by the landowner as specified by [RIM Permanent Rule 8400.3800](#).
- G. Specifications for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. [USDA NRCS Standards 342, 378, 484, 587, 620, 644 and 657](#) may be used as a guide to implement this practice. All work must meet accepted engineering specifications.
- H. Refer to the [Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide](#), (2015).

### **RR-11 HIGHWAY WINDBREAK (Living Snow fence)**

- A. The primary purpose of this practice is to establish living snow fences made up of multiple rows of trees and shrubs along highways experiencing snow drifting problems. A secondary purpose is to create wildlife habitat.
- B. Specifications for this practice are as follows.
  - 1. Funding is authorized for:
    - a. Site preparation, native trees, native shrubs and planting costs, and release from vegetative competition to ensure establishment of planting.
    - b. Temporary cover:
      - 1) When required in the RIM Reserve Conservation Plan Agreement.
      - 2) When needed until planting stock is available.
      - 3) When needed because normal planting period for the species has passed.
      - 4) Where soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow establishment of planting immediately.
    - c. For replanting dead, dying, and diseased trees and shrubs to bring stand up to desired stocking level during the one to three year establishment period when the failure was due to circumstances beyond the landowner's control.
    - d. Planting other noncompeting permanent vegetative cover that will provide habitat for wildlife and control erosion. (Use RR-2a Vegetative Cover in Wood Planting specifications, see F. below.)

***NOTE: In all cases, funding is only authorized if the respective road authority has approved the planting plan.***

- 2. Funding is not authorized for:
  - a. Tilled (black) firebreaks, fire lanes or roads.
  - b. Fences.
  - c. Planting orchard or not trees for commercial production.

d. Planting for Christmas tree or timber production.

**NOTE: Items c and d are not permitted on RIM Reserve acres.**

3. Planting must be protected from fire and from grazing by domestic livestock.
  4. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and if applicable, locally registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements. Chemicals used to establish or release trees or shrubs must be banded or spot applied.
  5. This practice must be maintained by the landowner for the duration of the easement. Once established, the maintenance responsibilities may shift to the respective road authority.
  6. The acreage planted shall be reviewed by the technical agency and the respective road authority at customary intervals and amendments made to the plan, as necessary, to maintain the planting.
- C. Planting must be completed by the end of the next planting season after the easement is signed, unless the landowner can provide acceptable documentation that soil condition is not conducive to planting, and/or planting stock is not available.
- D. An SWCD representative will develop the planting plan in cooperation with the road authority and the landowner. A minimum of six rows of trees and shrubs must be planted. The planting must be consistent with the [USDA NRCS Windbreak Shelterbelt Establishment Specifications 380](#). In row and between row spacing must be adequate to ensure long-term survival and function of the planting. A minimum of two rows shall be shrubs, and a minimum of two rows shall be conifers. The remaining two or more rows may be any combination of trees and/or shrubs.
- E. Plantings must not conflict with existing electrical lines, telephone lines, rights-of-way or drainage systems.
- F. If erosion is not a concern, permanent vegetative cover within the tree and shrub planting is optional. However, weeds must be controlled during the establishment period. Once the planting is established, permanent vegetative cover shall be seeded in accordance with [USDA NRCS Minnesota Standard – Conservation Cover 327](#).
- G. The first inside row of trees/shrubs shall be a minimum of 100 feet from the road edge.
- H. The area between the road right-of-way and the first row of trees or shrubs must be planted to RR-1 or RR-2 as soon as practical.

## RR-12 SHALLOW WATER AREA – CREATION

*BWSR no longer offers cost-share for this practice.*

- A. The purpose of this practice is to create shallow water areas for wildlife.
- B. Apply this practice to designated areas under RIM Reserve suitably located and adapted to the creation of a shallow water area for wildlife.
- C. Policies for this practice are as follows.
  - 1. Authorized activities under this practice include:
    - a. Construction of dams, water control structures, levees, or dike, ditch or drain tile plugs, and scraping, if needed to assist in the creation of the shallow water area.
    - b. Costs associated with designing the practice.
    - c. Planting to help establish aquatic vegetation for permanent habitat cover.
    - d. Necessary vegetative protection that meets the component seeding specifications of this practice.
    - e. Mulching to protect the practice from erosion hazards. The technician will determine the type required and the size of the area to be mulched.
    - f. Temporary cover on the floodable area to control erosion and create a residue base to accelerate invertebrate production after flooding.
  - 2. Funding is not authorized for:
    - a. Fencing.
    - b. Installing a structure on land not designated for RIM Reserve purposes.
    - c. Level ditching and dugouts.
    - d. Any project initiated for the purpose of wetland mitigation.
  - 3. Where required, the landowner is responsible for obtaining easements, utility rights-of-way, local, state and federal permits or other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice.
- D. The pool area must be planted to a temporary or permanent cover if a suitable vegetative cover does not exist to help control erosion and weeds until the pool area has water cover.
- E. The practice must be maintained by the landowner as specified by [RIM Permanent Rules 8400.3800](#).
- F. Specifications for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. [USDA NRCS Standards 342, 278, 484, 587, 620, 644, and 657](#) may be used as a guide to implement this practice. All work must meet accepted engineering specifications.

### **RR-13 Existing Wetlands**

- A. Use this practice for existing natural wetlands that have not been previously restored through another program.

### **RR-14 Existing Rivers and Ditches**

- A. Use this practice for existing ditches, creeks, rivers, etc. (Grass waterways are covered under RR-7 above.)

### **RR-FP**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to create and maintain food plots for wildlife, or other monoculture plots for pollinator benefit.
- B. Policies and practices are as follows:
  - 1. No cost-sharing is authorized for this practice.
  - 2. Food plots shall be no larger than 10% of the total easement area.
  - 3. Food plots shall not exceed 5 acres, unless allowance is made by BWSR staff.
  - 4. Food plot crops must be left over winter for wildlife. No fall harvest or tillage operations are allowed.