



Native Buffer Cost-Share Program Fact Sheet

Date: 5-27-08

Purpose:

Grants for cost-sharing contracts to establish and maintain diverse native vegetation buffers using seeds of local ecotype regions.

Policies:

I. Program Requirements

- BWSR State Cost-Share Program processes required.
- Eligible conservation buffer areas to be determined by the SWCD.
- Projects must be sustained for a minimum of 15 years.
- Eligible project areas are limited to list of counties in M.S. 84.02, Sec. 17, Subd. 4
- Min/max size and costs determined by SWCD boards using reasonable cost process.
- Multiple estimates are required for work done, to the extent possible.
- A complete set of program records must be kept, like other Cost Share programs.
- An attempt must be made to find local ecotype seed according to the following geographic areas - in sequential order. If project cannot go forward due to a lack of local geographic area seed or unreasonable costs the SWCD may approve using seed from the next local geographic area according to the following sequence:
 1. The same county or within 25 miles of the county's border but not across an ecotype region boundary
 2. Anywhere within the local ecotype region
 3. Neighboring ecotype region or county
 4. All prairie eco-type regions in Minnesota
 5. Prairie eco-type regions in neighboring states within 25 miles of MN boundary
- The seed source shall be verified by the SWCD using a source verification form. Yellow tag certified seed is recommended to aid in the verification of source.
- Cultivars are discouraged.
- Projects must have a goal of 25 species within the project site.



II. Eligible Practices

- Site prep, seed collection, seed, seeding, and establishment costs.
- Native vegetation management; prescribed burning, inter seeding, weed control when tied to veg. improvement, invasive species control, disking, haying and reseeding existing stands of grass on existing RIM easements.
- Lakescaping, including minimal grading for site preparation, plant materials, seed and mulch.
- Remnant native prairie management using vegetation management activities with approval from BWSR vegetation management specialist.
- Land rental costs, for non-program lands, during establishment (3yrs. CCRP rate x 75%) for agricultural lands or seed production areas. The rental payment is at the discretion of the SWCD board when there are acres being converted from ag use and no other program payments are involved. The intent is to cover costs as native vegetation establishes.

III. Allowable Activities

- Haying, seed propagation, energy production and prescribed burning, outside nesting season (Typically June 1st to August 1st) if allowed by any underlying program conditions.

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