



# Wetland monitoring season gets underway

## *BWSR set to visit nearly 100 sites*

June 2013 Snapshots



*From left: Eric Mohring installing a shallow monitoring well at a wetland bank site in Lake of the Woods County (2010), Karli Tyma monitoring newly established wetland bank site (2013) and Carol Strojny conducting routine monitoring (2012).*

From getting vehicles stuck in tire-high mud in the most remote locations in Minnesota, to invitations for beer, food and even taking a swim in a landowner's pool, BWSR monitoring staff members have seen it all. Since 2005, Karli Tyma, Carol Strojny and Eric Mohring have logged thousands of miles and have monitored countless wetland restoration sites as part of the Board of Water and Soil Resources' (BWSR) monitoring efforts.

Wetland monitoring season typically begins in April, though this year started in May due to the late winter. The BWSR staff trio expects to visit nearly 100 wetland sites throughout monitoring season. This year, their efforts will include monitoring in two programs: Approximately 26 Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) – Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) sites and the approximately 71 Wetland Bank Program sites.

According to Strojny, Tyma, and Mohring, monitoring provides information to direct compliance, maintenance, and design and implementation activities necessary to achieve program goals.

"Site visits allow us to evaluate the overall restoration of the wetland, including easement compliance, general condition and vegetation and hydrologic restoration successes," Strojny said. "Monitoring ensures the state's investment is maintained into the future."

Strojny and Tyma conduct monitoring activities for vegetation, management and compliance issues, while Mohring monitors for hydrology. Sites that are being established may be visited multiple times throughout the summer.

The majority of monitoring takes place on privately-owned lands and BWSR staff said that landowners are generally cooperative and interested in monitoring activities. "Landowners profit from these easements and they really enjoy the benefits that wetland restorations provide, including bird-watching and habitat development," said Mohring.

So what's their favorite part of monitoring? Strojny and Mohring agreed that it is fun to watch the same piece of real estate change over a period of time, though they watch for different reasons. For Strojny, she enjoys seeing the vegetation and habitat grow over the years, while Mohring likes to see water levels re-emerge.

Tyma said she loves getting to see parts of Minnesota that have not been at all altered among those that have been restored. "There are some RIM-WRP sites near the Iowa border that have native prairie remnants that will be perpetually protected," Tyma said. "It's rewarding to feel like we are playing an important role in protecting some of Minnesota's most important resources, and to see thousands of acres of monoculture cropland being returned to native wetland and prairie ecosystems."

For more information, visit <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/index.html>.

# 2013 monitoring plan

