

Jackson County RIM-WRP Project



Pictured: (Above) Aerial photos of a 110.2-acre RIM-WRP project in Jackson County that converted cropland to wetland basins totaling 30.5 acres surrounded by 79.7 acres of native grasslands; and (Below) a wetland / grassland complex with a WRP field sign.



Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

Conservation Easements On Private Lands = Public Benefits:

- Protect and restore wildlife habitat and native plant communities
- Increase fish and wildlife populations
- Increase recreational opportunities
- Reduce flood damage
- Improve water quality
- Sequester carbon
- Provide potential bio-energy production opportunities

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Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Leveraging Project



Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

The RIM-WRP Partnership combines the **Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve** program, administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, with the **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**, administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The RIM-WRP partnership is implemented at the local level by Soil and Water Conservation Districts in partnership with other organizations, including Ducks Unlimited and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, and with private landowners.



The RIM-WRP Partnership Supports Constitutional Objectives and LSOHC Priorities

RIM Reserve makes Minnesota one of the top states in the Nation for leveraging USDA Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) dollars

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has recognized the RIM-WRP partnership as a national model for wetland restorations on private lands. This partnership allows Minnesota to compete favorably for federal dollars available nationwide through the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

| | Outdoor Heritage Fund \$ | USDA WRP \$ | # Easements | Acres Restored |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| FY 2010 | \$9 million | \$12.6 million | 68 | 8,007 |
| FY 2011 | \$6.895 million | \$9.6 million | 48 | 6,033 |
| FY 2012 LSOHC Recommendation | \$13 million | \$20.8 million | 75 (estimated) | 8,500 (estimated) |

Economic benefits

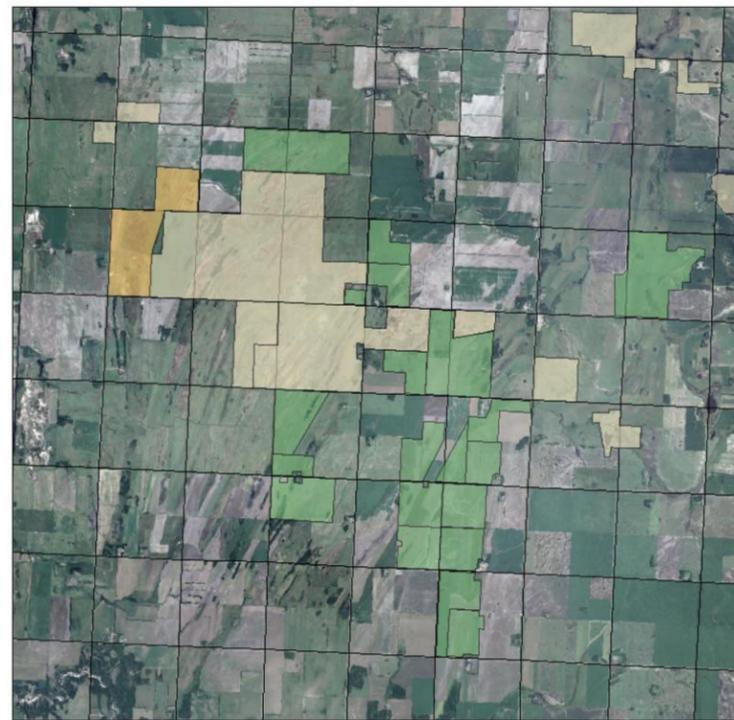
Conservation easement programs that restore wetlands require a broad range of skilled workers in the public and private sectors throughout Minnesota. According to the USDA NRCS, the RIM-WRP partnership in 2009 generated the following economic benefits:

- \$47.7 Million spent in Minnesota
- More than \$61 Million in total economic output
- 445 jobs created or maintained

Wetland and Native Grassland Complex

Pictured:

Map showing lands in WRP and RIM-WRP near a State Wildlife Management Area and Nature Conservancy lands near the border of Clay and Norman counties. These restored wetlands and uplands are part of a large wetland complex that provides critical habitat for game and non-game wildlife.



The RIM-WRP Partnership supports the following LSOHC Priorities:

Grant Purpose and Grant Criteria:

- **Protect:** action to maintain the ability of habitat and related natural systems to sustain fish, game or wildlife through acquisition of fee title or conservation easements.
- **Restore:** action to bring a habitat back to a former state of sustaining fish, game or wildlife, with an ultimate goal of restoring habitat to a desired conservation condition.

Priority Actions for the Forest/Prairie Transition Section:

- Protect, enhance and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and non-game wildlife.

Priority Actions for the Prairie Section:

- Protect wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to wetland/upland to enhance or restore existing habitat complexes.
- Protect, enhance and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests and oak savanna.
- Protect, restore and enhance shallow lakes

FY 2010 - 2011 RIM-WRP Easements by LSOHC Planning Sections

