



Northeast Minnesota Wetland Mitigation & Siting Analysis

Breakout Session:
Wetland Mitigation and Siting Analysis
July 10, 2008



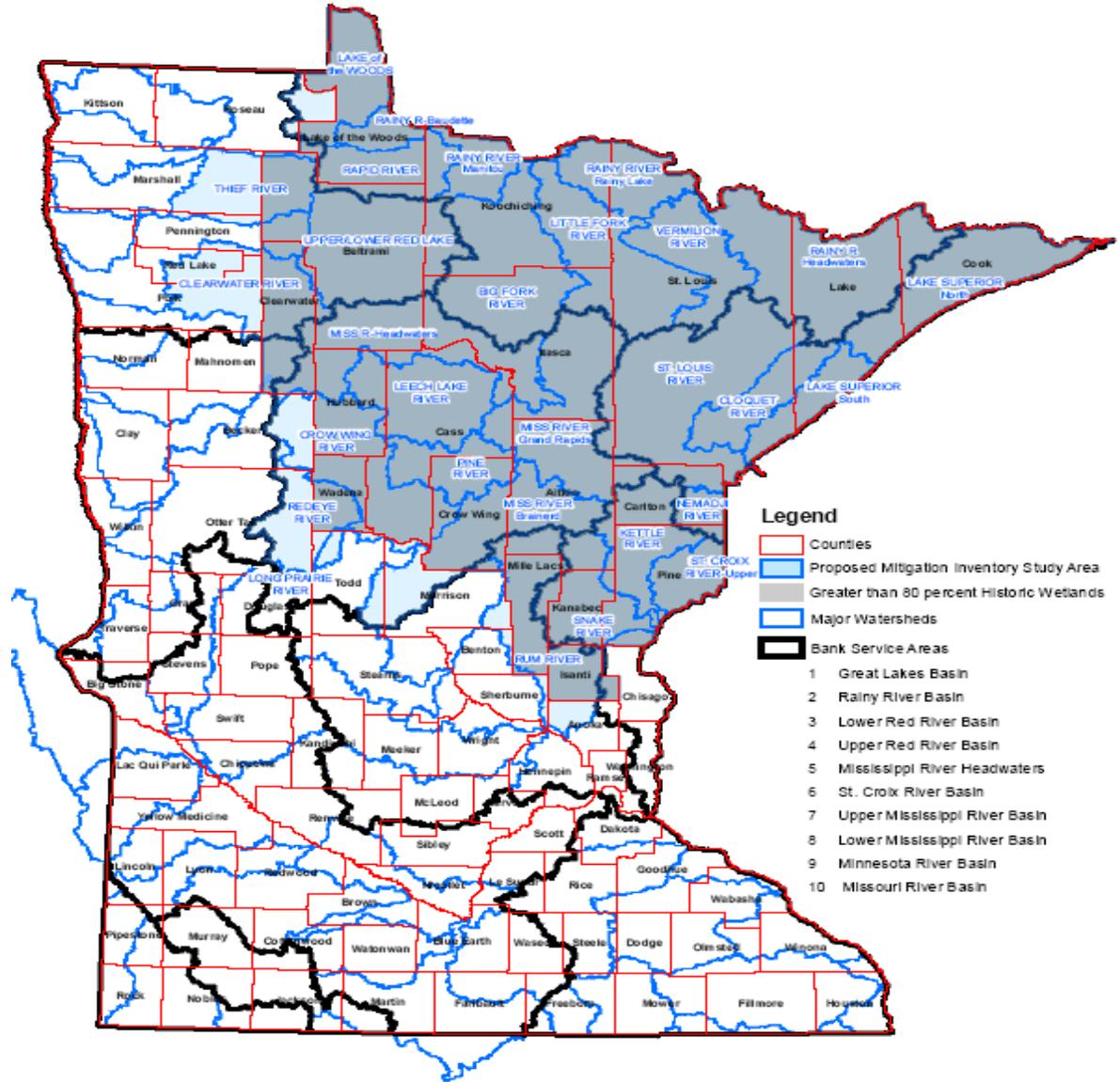
Background

Project purpose:

- (1) Collect and analyze data on the wetland mitigation potential in northeast Minnesota.
- (2) Objectively evaluate this data to determine ability of region to accommodate wetland mitigation needs.
- (3) Develop wetland regulatory recommendations.

Study Area

18 Counties with >80% pre-settlement wetlands





Phase I:

Wetland Mitigation Inventory

- Develop and analyze data on the wetland mitigation potential in Northeast Minnesota.
- Document mitigation potential on minelands.
- Provide data for Phase II: Wetland Mitigation Siting Analysis.



Phase II:

Wetland Mitigation Siting Analysis

- Utilize inventory data to evaluate mitigation potential in NE Minnesota.
- Analyze wetland mitigation priorities and needs among: 1) mining; 2) residential/commercial; and 3) roads.
- Analysis will be prioritized within major and minor watersheds and will address water quality needs.
- Develop wetland regulatory policy recommendations.



Phase II

Advisory Committee

- Purpose
 - guidance for strategy development
 - Identify regional and local issues
 - Identify mitigation siting goals & priorities
- Representation
 - Agencies, LGU's, Counties, etc
 - Environmental groups
 - Regulated public and industries
 - Seeking interested parties



Regulatory Issues

- Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Rule.
- Board of Water and Soil Resources-U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-St. Paul District Wetland Mitigation Memorandum of Understanding.
- St. Paul District Guidance.
- National Mitigation Rules



Regulatory Issues: *WCA Rulemaking*

Significant Issues:

- Rule Re-Organization.
- Wetland Typing.
- Replacement Requirements/Ratios.
- Move to Single Wetland Credit System.
- Actions Eligible for Credit
- Replacement wetland Monitoring.
- Local Government Requirements.
- Wetland Planning



Regulatory Issues:

BWSR-Corps Mitigation MOU

Purposes:

- (1) streamline wetland compensatory mitigation requirements under WCA and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- (2) increase state and federal regulatory consistency with the resulting programmatic and natural resource benefits.



Regulatory Issues: *BWSR-Corps Mitigation MOU*

Issues:

- Preservation as a mitigation option.
- Mitigation credit for stream restoration.
- In-lieu fee mitigation.
- Definition of In-kind, In-place, and In-advance for mitigation.
- Options for mitigation credit.
- Mitigation ratios.
- Agency participation in developing local wetland plans.



Regulatory Issues

Project Impact

- Detailed information on wetland mitigation potential in northeast Minnesota.
- Locations and quantity of potential wetland mitigation sites.
- Possible recommendations on regulatory program issues based on project findings.
- Additional banking opportunities.



Local Road Wetland Replacement Program

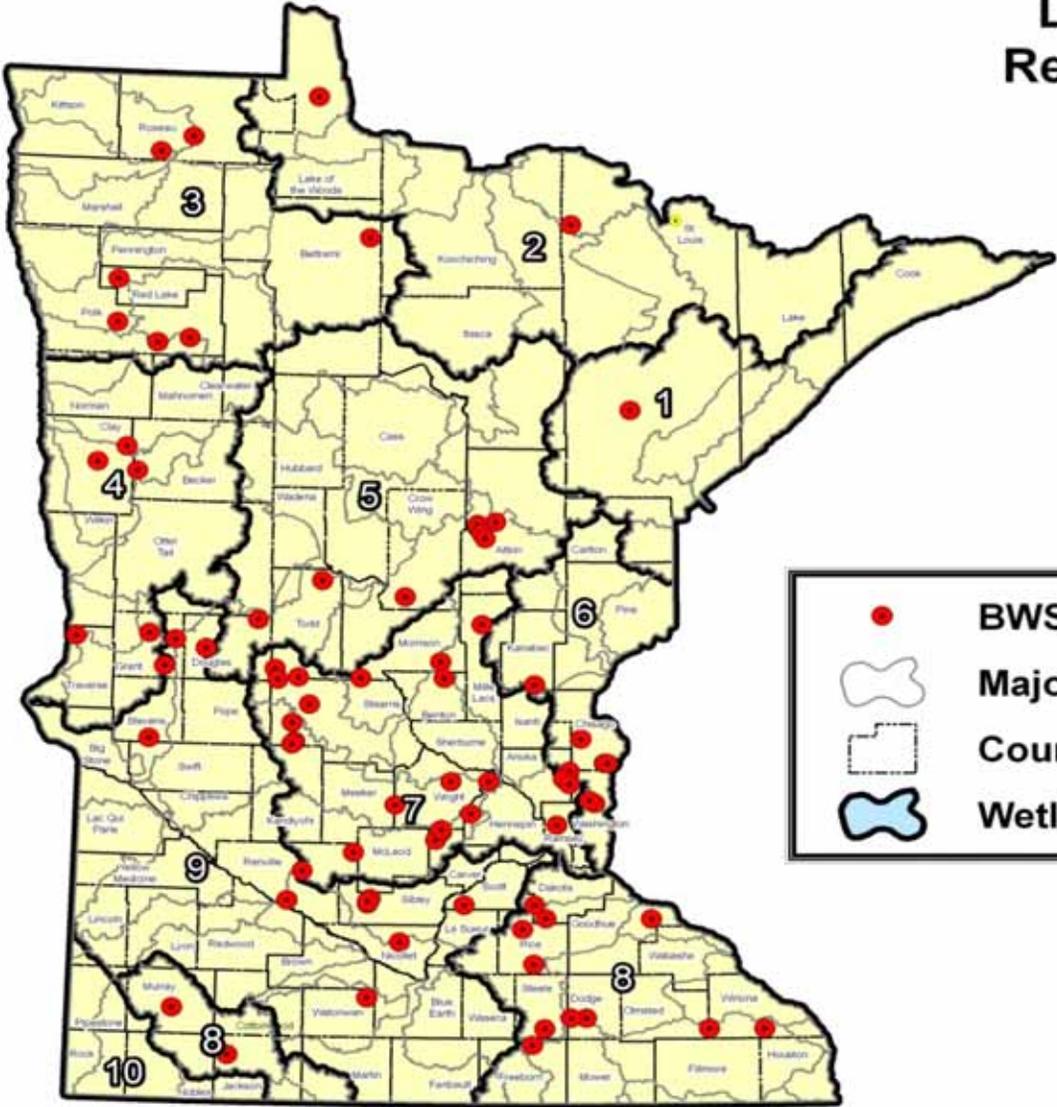
- Under State law, the State (BWSR) is responsible for mitigation wetland impacts as a result of county, city, and township road repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement projects to existing roads.



Local Road Wetland Replacement Program

- Annual statewide wetland mitigation need is approximately *225 credits*.
- Estimated annual regional wetland need is *85 acres*.

Local Road Wetland Replacement Program Project Locations 1997 - 2007



	BWSR Mitigation Banks
	Major Watersheds
	Counties
	Wetland Bank Service Areas

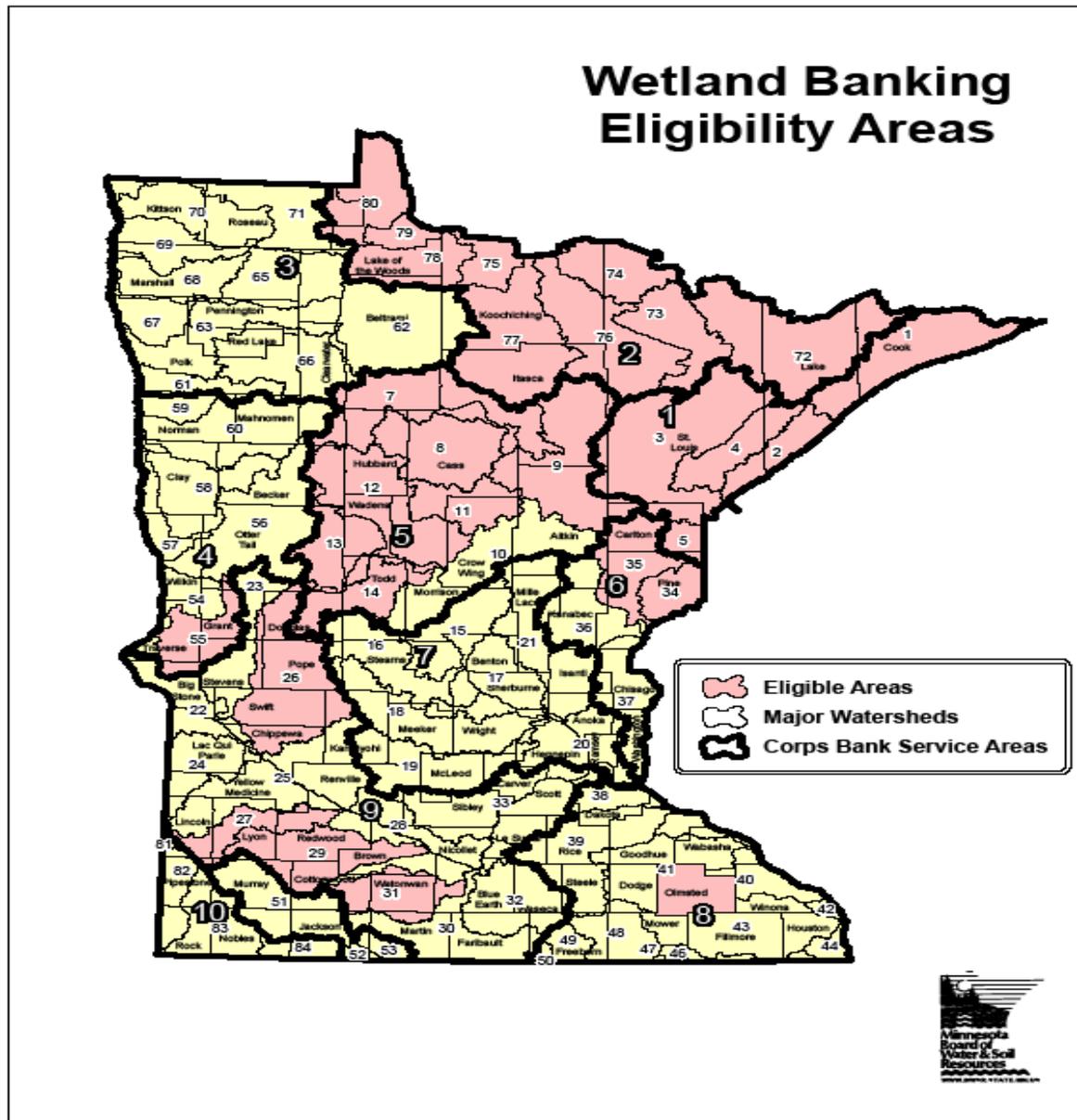


January 2008

Local Road Wetland Replacement Program:

2008 Request
for Proposals

Available funds:
\$2.5 million





Discussion

- Does the study address the wetland mitigation issues in NE Minnesota?
If not, what is missing?
- What policy issues generate the most concern/discussion?
- What role should the public sector take in addressing mitigation needs? The private sector?



Discussion (Cont.)

- What mitigation types are priorities in your area? What do you think should be the minimum size for a mitigation site? Bank site?
- What effect does land ownership have?
- What are the water quality improvement needs for impaired waters & watersheds in your county?
- What are the historic wetland losses?



Discussion (Cont.)

- What are the significant regional and local siting issues?
- What groups/organizations should be represented on the Mitigation Siting Advisory Committee?
- Do you have other questions????