

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



**Date:** May 28, 2020

**Program or Project Title:** RIM Grassland Reserve - Phase III (PA11)

**Funds Requested:** \$8,000,000

**Manager's Name:** John Voz  
**Title:** RIM Easement & Working Lands Specialist  
**Organization:** BWSR  
**Address:** 1732 North Tower Road  
**City:** Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
**Office Number:** 218-846-8426  
**Email:** John.Voz@state.mn.us  
**Website:** <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/index.html>

**County Locations:** Not Listed

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Prairie

### Abstract:

Using the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program, this project addresses the potential loss of grassland habitats from conversion to cropland and accelerates grassland protection efforts not covered by other programs. Working in coordination with established Prairie Conservation Plan Local Technical Teams (LTTs), this proposal will enroll 1,800 RIM acres (approximately 23 easements), focusing on Minnesota Prairie Plan-identified landscapes.

### Design and scope of work:

In 2020 alone over 165,300 acres of CRP will expire in Minnesota. In 2021 and 2022 an additional 166,000 acres of CRP will expire. Minnesota was once a land of 18 million acres of prairie. Today less than two percent remains. The few acres of native remnant prairie that remain were once thought of as too rocky or wet for row crops but not anymore. If the current trajectory of grassland and prairie loss continues it will be devastating to grassland wildlife populations, including pollinator species.

This proposal, working in partnership with Prairie Conservation Plan Local Technical Teams (LTTs), focuses on protecting current grasslands and buffering native prairie that are within wildlife habitat complexes not covered by other conservation programs. There are programs for native prairie such as MNDNR Native Prairie Bank, Federal Native Tallgrass Prairie (NTP)s and programs for cropland, but there are no programs for moderate quality prairies that have the potential for higher quality through protection and management. As Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and LTTs review these areas for possible enrollment, they may find additional tracts that are native prairie. With this project, some native prairie may be included to square up parcels. In cases where larger tracts are identified, they will contact the DNR's Biological Survey and Native Prairie Bank staff for a more formal botanical survey of the site.

The loss of native prairie and grassland habitat is arguably the greatest conservation challenge facing northwest, western and southern Minnesota. This proposal aims to protect 1800 acres of prairie and grassland habitat by coordinating and accelerating the enrollment of Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) through private land easements. This level of acceleration is needed to address today's rapid loss of

grassland habitat and meet the goals set forth in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

## **How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:**

Minnesota grasslands provide important habitat for a wide range of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Consistent with guidance in The Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan and Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, strategic site selection will be conducted as well as efforts to minimize landscape stressors and plan for plant diversity and long-term resiliency of project sites. More than 150 SGCN use grasslands for breeding, migration, and/or foraging.

Target Species include: Greater prairie chicken, Eastern meadowlark, Western meadowlark, Grasshopper sparrow, Northern pintail, Northern black duck, Burrowing owl, Chestnut collared longspur, Bobolink, Wilson's phalarope, Sedge wren, Plains hog-nosed snake, American badger, Prairie vole, Plains pocket mouse, Eastern spotted skunk, Dakota skipper, Monarch butterfly, Powe sheik skipper, Regal fritillary, Rusty patched bumble bee.

## **What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:**

Without permanent protection options, these remnant and existing grasslands are under great threat of conversion to row crops. Under the strategic direction provided by the Minnesota Prairie Plan, and recognizing that a new wave of grassland loss is upon us, the RIM program is realigning its targets and priorities. This realignment will ensure that a gap does not exist between programs, and that a private landowner interested in permanent protection of their grassland or prairie has viable options. Funding from this proposal will provide an acceleration of targeted acres enrolled.

## **Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:**

Native prairies are often part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and wetlands. These complexes will be the top priority for this project using the MN Prairie Plan framework. A preference will be given to protecting expiring CRP with enrollment of adjacent remnant prairie as identified in the MN County Biological Survey. This focus on expiring CRP will fill a niche that cannot otherwise be filled by the Native Prairie Bank program. LTT's will help guide restoration strategies such as prescribed burning, conservation grazing and woody tree removal to be used to restore the conditions of moderate quality prairies. In addition, the LTTs will identify remnant prairie sites that are not listed on the MN County Biological Survey and update the survey accordingly. By utilizing the LTT's, parcels will be targeted for protection and resulting acres will be tracked and reportable.

Recent genetic diversity research was conducted on Greater Prairie Chickens by the MNDNR to understand how birds move through the landscape using a new approach called landscape genetics. It found that prairie chickens in the northern part of the sampled area, near Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, are not very connected to prairie chickens in Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin counties to the south. Connecting these areas with high quality habitat would allow more genetic mixing, potentially reduce stress and mortality and eliminate the need for birds to travel long distances to find suitable habitat. This "follow the chicken" approach has worked remarkably well in identifying, targeting and protecting areas that have positive impacts on a wide range of species of greatest conservation need.

## **Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:**

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

## **Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:**

- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

## **Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:**

Following guidance in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan, LTT's will play a key role in project selection. Consistent with the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan there will also be a focus on:

- Stable or increasing native plant diversity, condition and cover;
- Stable or decreasing cover of invasive woody vegetation;

- Establishment of a diverse community of native grasses and forbs with geographically appropriate local ecotypes;
- Supporting diverse populations of native birds and insects, including declining prairie obligate species such as butterfly species, prairie chickens, meadowlarks, sedge wrens and prairie orchids.

### Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

#### Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna

#### Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

### Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

This program will focus on key parcels in need of protection and restoration using a ranking process and input from LTT's. Without permanent protection options, these grasslands are under great threat of conversion to row crops. This project focuses on LSOHC priorities by ensuring that key core parcels are protected while increasing participation of private landowners in habitat projects, and by restoring and enhancing grassland habitats.

### Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

#### Describe the relationship of the funds:

Historically the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership (FBAP) with BWSR, DNR, PF, NRCS, MASWCD, and SWCDs as primary partners, has provided funding to SWCDs to utilize technicians to promote the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and other conservation program opportunities to private landowners.

### Does this program include leverage in funds:

Not Listed

### Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:

This funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

### Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Not Listed

### How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement into perpetuity. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are calculated at \$6,500 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

## Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspection every year for the first 5 years; then every 3rd year	Corrective actions on any violations	Easement action taken by MN General Office
2021-Ongoing	Landowners Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms		

## Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

DNR staff, in consultation with a variety of experts in federal, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other agencies, have compiled a select group of indicator species and associated quantities to be used by any applicant to answer the question above.

### Bobolink and Grasshopper Sparrow

The breeding territory size of Bobolinks and Grasshopper Sparrows is 1.7 and 2.1 acres, respectively, in high quality habitat in Wisconsin.

If all of the habitat was occupied, 100 acres of habitat could potentially hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of Bobolinks and Grasshopper Sparrows, respectively.

### Monarch Butterfly

Research from the University of Minnesota has shown that it takes approximately 30 milkweed plants to result in one Monarch Butterfly contributing to the overwintering Mexican population. Grasslands can have between 100-250 milkweed stems per acre. Each acre of restored or enhanced grassland could potentially contribute 3 to 8 Monarchs to the population.

### Mallards

The Federal U.S Fish & Wildlife Service HAPET Duck Pair Accessibility decision support tool can estimate the number of duck pairs that have access to a particular tract or parcel of upland habitat. A biological decision support tool suggests that Mallard (Duck) productivity has a positive linear relationship to the amount of grassland in the landscape.

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

### Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

In certain circumstances food plots for wildlife are an allowable use on RIM easements and must be part of an approved Conservation Plan. Under this proposal no food plots would be allowed on remnant prairies which have never been cultivated (only areas that buffer remnant prairies). Food plots on narrow buffers, steep slopes and wet areas are not allowed but may be offered on any potential surrounding grass buffer on prior cultivated lands. RIM policy limits food plots to 10% of the total easement area or 5 acres whichever is smaller. There is no cost share for establishment of food plots and upon termination and/or abandonment the landowners must reestablish the vegetation as prescribed in the Conservation Plan at their own expense. Food plots are a rarely selected option by landowners, to date only 2.2% of RIM easements have food plots.

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, there could be a potential for new minimal use trails, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc.). Unauthorized trails identified during the monitoring process are in violation of the easement.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program which has over 7,000 individual easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first five years and then every third year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, there could be a potential for new minimal use trails, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc). Unauthorized trails identified during the monitoring process are in violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program which has over 7,000 individual easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this proposals funding and availability? - **Yes**

### Land Use:

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC? - **Yes**

### Past appropriations and spending to date:

Apprp Year	Approp Amount Received	Approp Amount Spent to Date	Leverage as Reported in AP/th>	Leverage Realized to Date	Total Acres Affected in AP	Total Acres Affected to Date	Program Complete and Final Report Approved?
ML19	2276000	0		0	497.8		5 easements in process
ML20	0	0	0	0			

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Enroll 1800 acres into the RIM private land easement program	June 30 th, 20 25
Final Report Submitted	November 1st, 20 26

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$8,000,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$307,900	\$0		\$307,900
Contracts	\$48,300	\$0		\$48,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$7,391,900	\$0		\$7,391,900
Easement Stewardship	\$149,500	\$0		\$149,500
Travel	\$14,000	\$0		\$14,000
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$62,400	\$0		\$62,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
Supplies/Materials	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$8,000,000	\$0	-	\$8,000,000

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Mgmt	0.35	5.00	\$210,000	\$0		\$210,000
Esmt Processing	0.29	3.00	\$61,900	\$0		\$61,900
Engineering / Eco Services	0.36	3.00	\$36,000	\$0		\$36,000
Total	1.00	11.00	\$307,900	\$0	-	\$307,900

Amount of Request: \$8,000,000

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

DSS + Personnel: \$370,300

As a % of the total request: 4.63%

Easement Stewardship: \$149,500

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 2.02%

### How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

BWSR calculates and periodically reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done.

### What is included in the contracts line?

The contract line includes costs covered under the SWCD MJPA, \$2000 for staff time per easement acquisition.

### Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - No

### Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:

The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

### I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan: - Yes

### Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

No leverage source listed.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes**

**Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the “economy of scale” and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:**

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally for the most part. Program management costs would be the exception, due to program development and oversight remaining somewhat consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

**What is the cost per easement for stewardship and explain how that amount is calculated?**

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship cover costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

**Has funding for these positions been requested in the past? - Yes**

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

This is Phase III of an ongoing program and these funds will pay for staff time spent on new easements associated with this phase.

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	1,800	0	0	1,800
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1,800	0	0	1,800

**Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?**

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	1,800
Enhance	0
Total	1,800

**Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$8,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$8,000,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	450	0	1,350	0	1,800
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	450	0	1,350	0	1,800

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$8,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$8,000,000



**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$4,444	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$4,444	\$0	\$4,444	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers*

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

0

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

# Outcomes

## **Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed during the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat availability within a certain region is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife within that region. This would have a positive impact on both game and non game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these complexes are restored.*

## **Programs in prairie region:**

- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed during the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat availability within a certain region is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife within that region. This would have a positive impact on both game and non game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these complexes are restored.*

# Parcel List

## Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

Through a combination of eligibility screening and a scoring and ranking process, each application will be assessed on its potential to restore functions and values (optimize wildlife habitat benefits) and to provide other landscape benefits. Each site is considered on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, as well as the site-specific features which highlight the benefits of selection for permanent protection. During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to indicate a site's usefulness as a corridor or extension to an existing habitat complex.

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

## Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

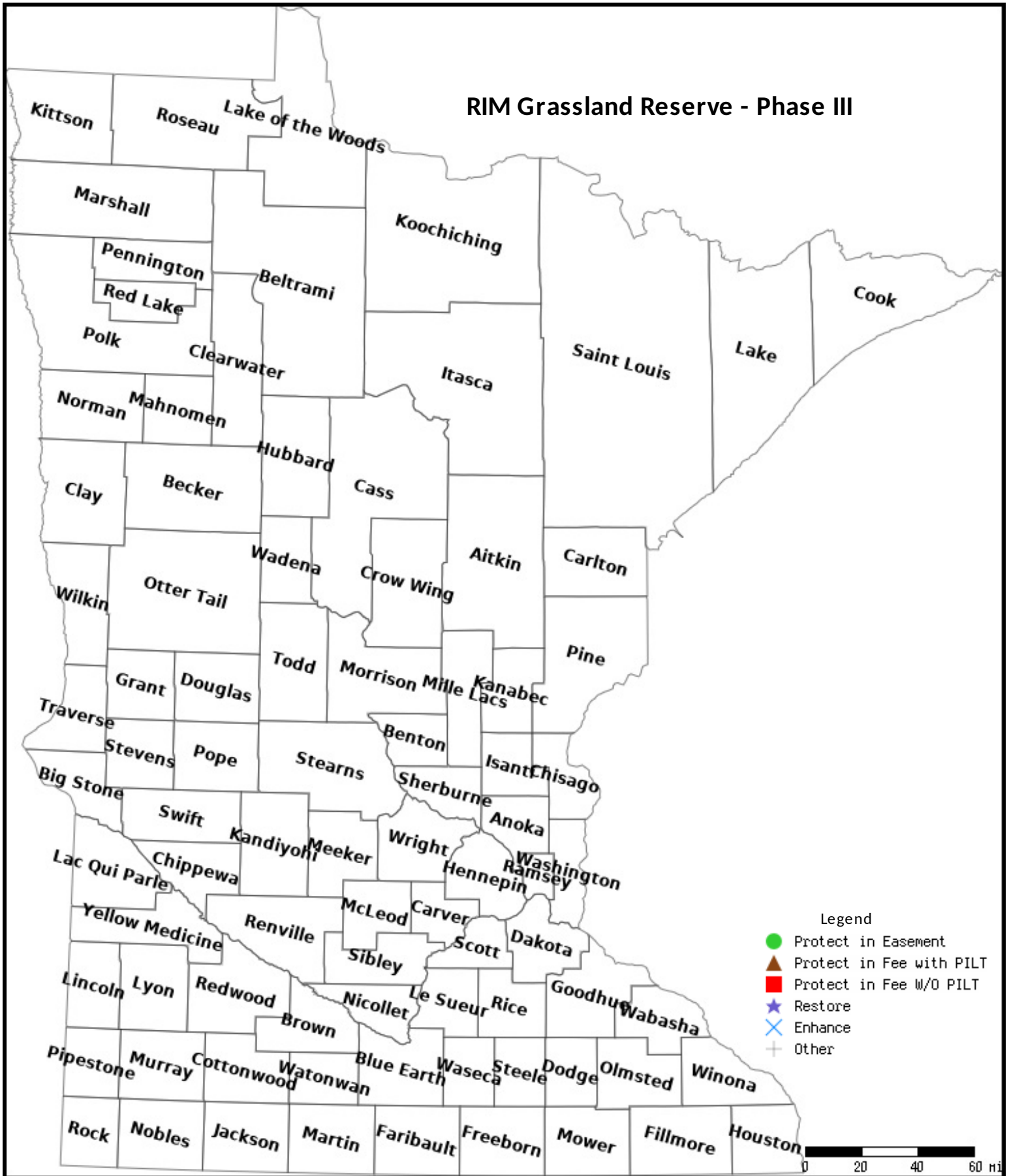
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

# Parcel Map

## RIM Grassland Reserve - Phase III



Data Generated From Parcel List

## RIM Grassland Reserve Phase III

### Grasslands at Risk

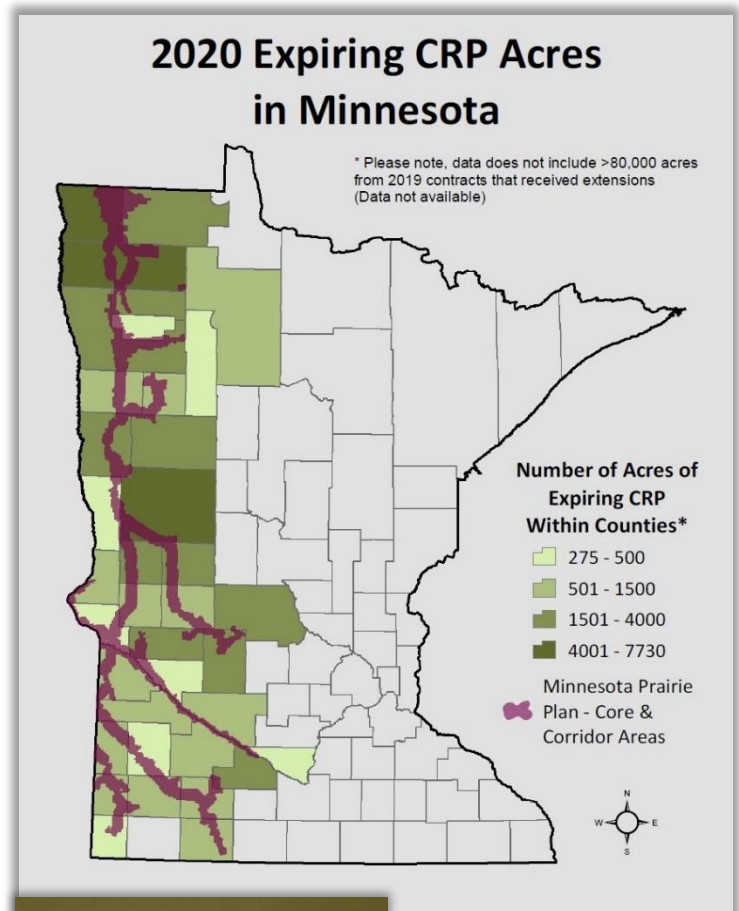
- In 2020 alone over 165,300 acres of CRP will expire in Minnesota, some of which may include or directly buffer remnant native habitats.
- In 2021 and 2020 an additional 166,000 acres of CRP will expire in Minnesota.
- Loss of native prairies has significant implications for over 150 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that rely on grasslands such as Greater Prairie Chicken, Meadowlarks, Northern pintail and many butterfly species.

### Project Request

- \$8 million for conservation easements providing permanent protection of 1,800 acres of high priority grassland acres.

### Project Benefits

- This program is structured to maximize landscape and other benefits including:
  - Benefiting a wide range of grassland wildlife including endangered birds and butterflies.
  - Helping to protect the genetic diversity of grassland plants and animals.
  - Using the expertise of Minnesota Prairie Plan Local Technical Teams.
  - Creating and sustaining Minnesota jobs.





## How this Program Will Work

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- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) is Minnesota's primary private lands easement program, focused on restoring wetland and upland habitats.
- Protecting and restoring remnant native prairie as part of habitat complexes (focus on Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan identified landscapes).
- Focusing on lands with cropping history (expiring CRP) and moderate quality native prairies that can be enhanced through restoration activities.
- Ranking and project guidance by Local Prairie Plan technical teams.
- Achieving restoration through prescribed burning, woody vegetation removal and planting of local ecotype seed in areas buffering native prairie.



### For More Information:

**John Voz**

RIM Easements & Working Lands Specialist

(218) 850-4283

[John.Voz@state.mn.us](mailto:John.Voz@state.mn.us)

# RIM Grassland Reserve

Landowner/Project Name:	County (Field Office):	Prepared By:	Date:
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**Offer must meet the minimum criteria outlined in the SWCD/LTT guidance document to be eligible.**

Factors	Possible Points	Score
<b>Prairie Plan Priority Areas</b>		
<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Core</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Corridor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Ag Matrix</li> </ul>	25 pts 20 pts 0 pts	0
<b>Risk of Conversion:</b>		
<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> High(&lt; 5yrs. CRP)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medium(&gt;5yrs. CRP)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Low-(Isolated, Regulated)</li> </ul>	20 pts 10 pts 0 pts	0
<b>Proximity to core, corridor and existing protected grassland complex &gt; 160 ac.</b>		
<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Immediately adjacent to a protected habitat within core or corridor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Within 1/2 mile</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Within 1 mile</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> &gt; 1 mile</li> </ul>	15 pts 10 pts 5 pts 0 pts	0
<b>Site Characteristics-check all that apply</b>		
<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wetland present or restoration potential</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Riparian to lake or stream</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> T &amp; E Species within 1/2 mi.</li> </ul>	5 pts 5 pts 5 pts	0
<b>Vegetative Diversity</b>		
<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> &gt; 20 Native species exist or planted</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 5 - 20 Native species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> &lt; 5 Native species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Restoration Needed-reseeding, site dominated by invasive species or subject to woody encroachment</li> </ul>	10 pts 5 pts 0 pts (10) pts	0
<b>Combined Easement Size</b>		
<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Regional Significance or &gt; 80 ac.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 41 - 80 ac.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 40 ac.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> &lt; 10 ac.</li> </ul>	15 pts 10 pts 5 pts 0 pts	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>