

May 26, 2022

RIM Working Lands for Habitat

Managed Grass in Decline

- The number of cows in Minnesota has decreased by 50% since the 1960's. There has been a subsequent loss of pastures.
- Since 2020 over 226,700 acres of CRP has/will expire in Minnesota, including remnant native habitats.
- Over the next five years, 2022-2026, 350,000 additional acres will expire.
- Loss of grassland and pasture has significant implications for over 150 Species of Greatest Conservation Need that rely on grasslands such as Sharp-tailed Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink and many butterfly species.

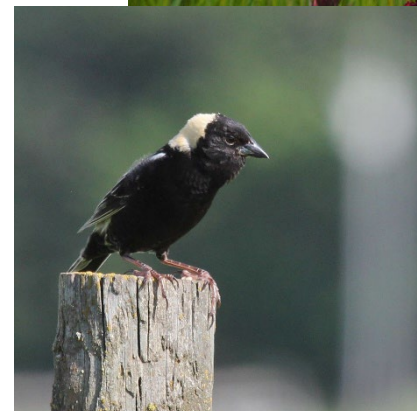


Project Request

- \$6 million for conservation easements providing permanent protection and grassland renewal using cattle of 1,580 acres of high value grassland acres.

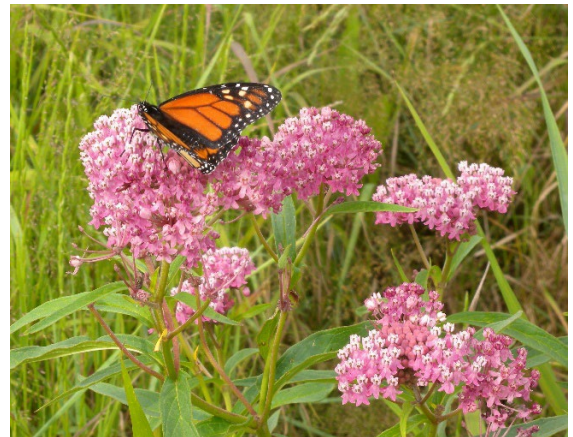
Project Benefits

- This program is structured to maximize landscape and other benefits including:
 - Benefiting a wide range of grassland dependent wildlife including Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
 - Improving downstream and wetland water quality and improving aquatic habitat.
 - Using the expertise of local technical teams.
 - Protecting family farms while implementing good grazing management.



How this Program Will Work

- Voluntarily removing cattle from sensitive riparian and wetland areas will reduce erosion, sedimentation and nutrient loading and improve downstream aquatic habitat.
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) is Minnesota's primary private lands easement program.
- Protecting and enhancing grazing land as part of habitat complexes will provide needed short-grass habitat for a variety of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
- Focusing on preventing existing grazing lands from being converted to row crops and preserving/creating habitat complexes and corridors.
- Ranking and project guidance by local technical teams.



For More Information:

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