

# RIM Conservation Easements September 24, 2025

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### Reinvest in Minnesota

- Overview of Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Conservation Easements
- Current BWSR led Programs
  - Restoration Programs
  - Protection Programs
- Partner Programs funded by LSOHC
- RIM Easement Process



## Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Resources Law

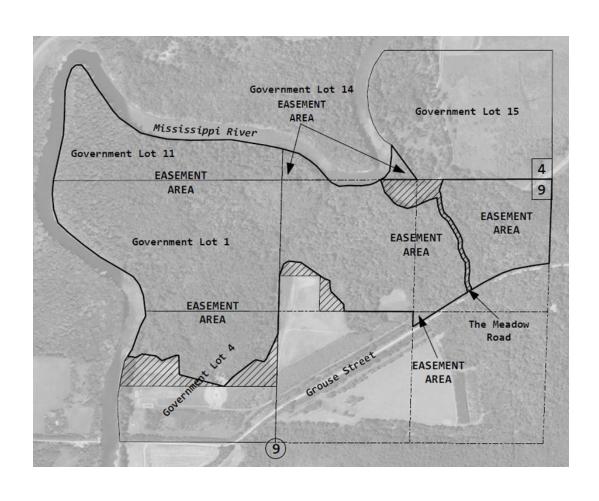
Minnesota Statute: 103F.505 to 103F.531

Purpose of RIM is to **restore** certain marginal ag land and **protect** environmentally sensitive areas to:

- 1. enhance soil and water quality
- 2. minimize damage to **flood-prone areas**
- 3. sequester carbon
- 4. support native plant, fish, and wildlife habitats
- 5. establish perennial vegetation

Environmentally sensitive areas include wellhead protection areas, grasslands, peatlands, shorelands, karst geology, and forest lands in priority areas

### RIM Easement Basics



- RIM is voluntary
- Easement programs vary by funding language that determines resource, landscape, priority areas & ranking
- Landowner completes application with local SWCD
- BWSR confirms eligibility and researches property title/history
- Landowner is paid for granting easement
- Most easements are perpetual

### RIM Easement Basics



- Easement goes with the land; as ownership changes, the easement terms apply to future owners
- Property remains privately owned and landowner retains title to property and obligations of ownership
- RIM easements do not require that land be accessible to the public
- SWCDs monitor to ensure easement terms upheld

## Uses not allowed on state funded easements (examples)

#### Activities that alter vegetative cover, hydrology, or wildlife habitat

- Permanent cabin, home, storage facility or any other structure
- Row crops
- Roads or driveways
- Haying, grazing or timber harvest without an approved plan

- Wells, septic systems
- Dumping of solid wastes
- Cell towers
- Wind and solar facilities

## Easement **Programs** ACUB CREP I CREP II CREP III PWP RIM RIM-WRP **Urban Areas Tribal Governments** SWCD Boundaries

## RIM Numbers

- 7,900 active recorded easements
- 350,000 acres protected statewide

## RIM Funding Sources

- Outdoor Heritage Fund
- Clean Water Fund
- Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Bonding
- General Fund
- Federal Partnerships





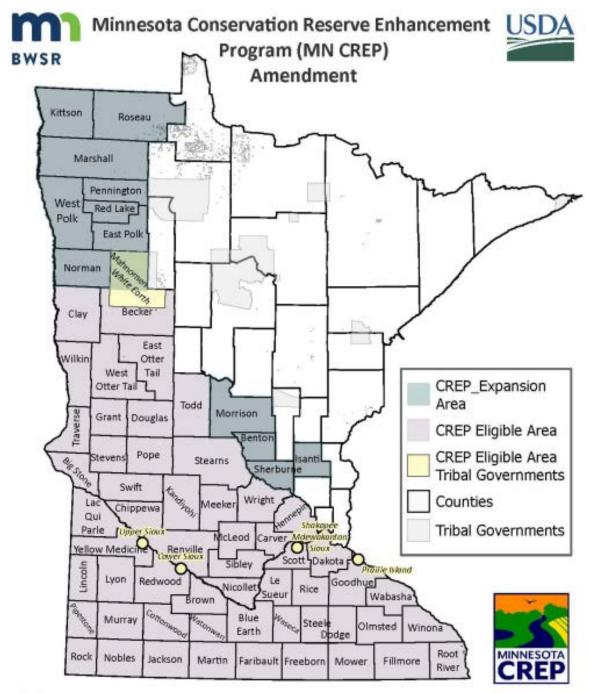
# RIM Restoration Programs

- Conservation Reserve
   Enhancement Program (CREP)
- RIM Wetlands
- RIM Wetlands Peatland Emphasis
- RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration



#### Restoration - CREP

- Federal partnership
- Landowners enroll in the federally funded Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 14-15 years, repurposing agricultural land for conservation
- The same land is also enrolled in a RIM easement
- Must meet CRP and RIM eligibility
- Focus on wetlands, buffers, wellhead, and grasslands
- Goals are: enhancing habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and non-game species; restoring riparian areas and marginal agricultural land; restoring hydrology, improving water infiltration, and mitigating flood risks; reducing nitrate contamination in drinking water supplies.
- 66 county CREP area
- 780 easements; 42,000 acres (in-process and recorded)



#### Restoration - RIM Wetlands



- Restorable wetlands and upland complexes
- Statewide
- Land NOT eligible for CREP (doesn't meet CRP eligibility, outside of 66 county area, mid-CRP contract)

## Restoration – Riparian and Floodplain

- Protect, restore, and enhance habitat and water quality adjacent to public waters
- Statewide
- Land NOT eligible for CREP (doesn't meet CRP eligibility, outside of 66 county area, mid-CRP contract)
- Can be traditional RIM, Working Lands, Limited-Term (30 years) or Working Lands AND Limited-Term (CWF only)



# RIM Protection Programs

- Wild Rice Shoreland
- Grasslands
- Grazing Lands
- Critical Shorelands



## Red Lake Beltram Bois Forte Clearwate Hubbard White Earth South St. Becker -Louis Wadena Carlton \* East Otter West Ofter Todd Wild Rice Lakes Stearns

## Protection – Wild Rice Shoreland

- Protect shoreland habitat of wild rice lakes to protect native wild rice beds
- 14 counties
- 97 easements; 6,700 acres

## Protection - Grasslands

- Protect, restore and enhance grassland habitat of moderate quality
- Eligibility based on MN Prairie Plan (DNR)
- 50 easements; 3,200 acres





#### Clearwate Leech Lake Hubbard White Earth Becker Wadena East Otter **Crow Wing** West Otter Tail Todd Morrison Grant Douglas Eligible Watersheds Pope Stevens Stearns Crow Wing River Pine River Swift Mississippi River Brainerd Kandiyohi Redeye River Chippewa Long Prairie River Chippewa River O Upper Sioux

## Protection - Grazing Lands

- Protect and promote perennial vegetation land cover through "working lands" (haying and grazing) easements
- Redeye, Crow Wing, Pine River, Long Prairie, Chippewa and Mississippi River -Brainerd watersheds currently
- 6 easements; 1,400 acres

## Restoration and/or Protection Easements

- Integrating Habitat and Clean Water (1W1P/RIM)
- Drinking Water
- Watershed and Forest Restoration



#### Roseau Lake of River the Woods Rainy River-Rainy Lake/ Two Rivers Plus Lower Rainy River Rainy Middle-Snake-Rapid River Tamarac Rivers Thief River Lake Upper & Lower Rainy River Headwaters Superior Red Lake Red Lake Vermillion River North River Clearwater Big Fork River Little Fork River Sand Hill River Mississippi River Headwaters Wild Rice - Marsh St. Louis River Leech Lake Upper Mississippi **Crow Wing** Buffalo Grand Rapids Red River Pine River Otter Tail Mississippi River Nemadj Brainerd River Rum Kettle & Upper St. Croix Legend Mustinka Snake Bois de 7 County Metro Area River Sioux Sauk River Sartell 1W1P Planning Boundaries \* River Major Watersheds Mississippi Minnesota River River Minnesota Tribal Nations Chippewa River Approved Plan North Fork Crow River Start Year - 2022 Lac qui Parle-Hawk Yellow Bank South Fork of Start Year - 2023 the Crow River Minnesota Yellow Medicine Start Year - 2024 Lower MN River West River East Redwood River MN River Cannon Cottonwood-Middle River Mankato Greater Winona Watonwan River La Crescent Le Sueur **Des Moines** River River Root River Missouri Cedar River Basin River Shell Rock River & Winnebago Watershed

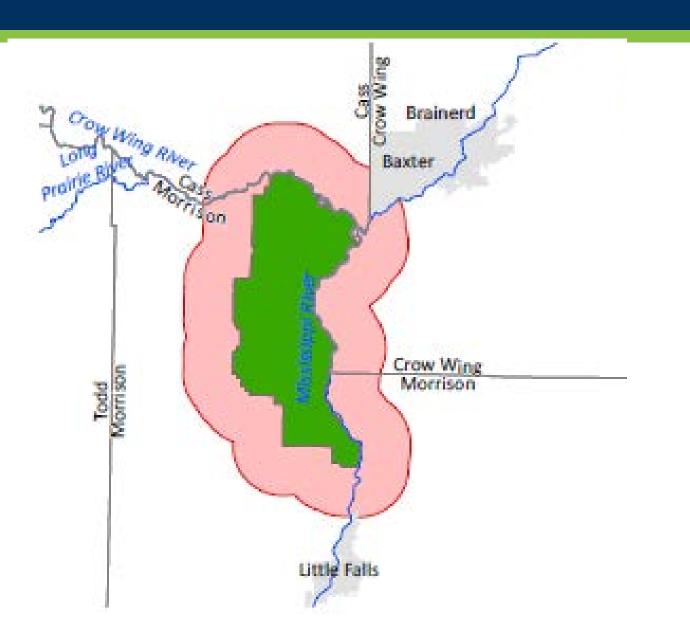
## Integrating Habitat and Clean Water (1W1P/RIM)

- Protection or restoration
- Targeted resource concern identified through the local One Watershed One Plan process
- Requires: An approved plan (green),
   easements/permanent protection listed
   as a priority, wildlife listed as a priority
- 27 easements, 1,600 acres

## Partner led Protection Programs

- Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Morrison SWCD
- Mississippi Headwaters Mississippi Headwaters Board
- Pine & Leech Watersheds Crow Wing SWCD
- Kettle & Snake Watersheds Pine SWCD

## Protection - Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB)



- Federal/state partnership to protect military mission and natural resources within a 5-mile buffer around Camp Ripley
- Partnership with Morrison SWCD/Camp Ripley
  - Morrison
  - Cass
  - Crow Wing
- 390 easements; 39,000 acres (federal and state funded)

## Eligible Area **Major Rivers** Red Lake Beltram Bois Forte Clearwater Itasca Hubbard Cass Aitkin Crow Wing Morrison

## Protection – Mississippi Headwaters

- Protect wildlife habitat in the Mississippi headwaters – Mississippi and its tributaries
- Partnership with Mississippi Headwaters
   Board Mississippi River counties from
   Lake Itasca through Morrison County
- 66 easements; 5,700 acres

## Beltrami Eligible Watersheds Red Lake Leech Lake River Pine River Leech Lake Hubbard Cass Aitkin **Crow Wing**

## Protection - Pine and Leech Watersheds

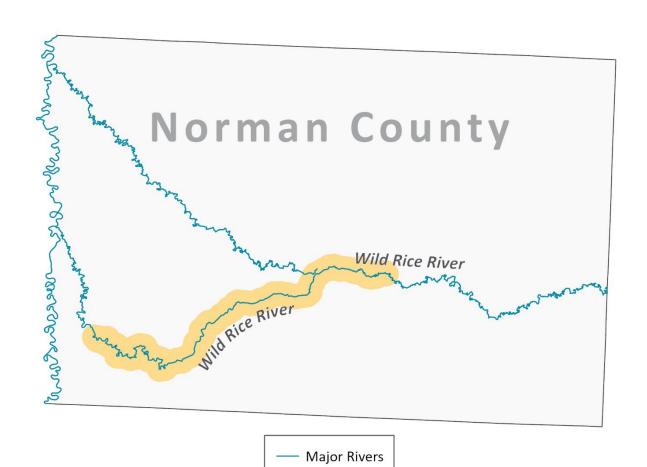
- Protect undeveloped shorelines (forest, wetland and shoreland habitat focus)
- Pine and Leech Watersheds Cass,
   Crow Wing and Hubbard
- Partnership with Crow Wing SWCD
- 26 easements; 1,300 acres

## Fond du Lac Aitkin Carlton Mille Lacs Pine Mille Lacs Kanabec Eligible Watersheds Kettle River Snake River Isanti Chisago

# Protection - Kettle and Snake Watersheds

- Protect high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat in the Kettle and Snake River watersheds
- Partnership with Pine SWCD
- Parts of 5 counties: Aitkin, Carlton,
   Pine, Kanabec and Mille Lacs
- 18 easements; 1,100 acres

### Protection and Restoration – Stream Corridors



Target Area

- Red River Basin Riparian Habitat
   Program Red River Watershed
   Management Board in partnership
   with WRWD, BdSWD and MSTRWD
  - Lower Wild Rice River (WRWD), Doran Creek (BdSWD), Swift Coulee (MSTRWD)
- Buffalo-Red River Watershed District
   Stream Habitat Program— BRRWD
  - Buffalo River, Upper Buffalo River,
     Stony Creek, Whisky Creek and
     Whiskey's Creek southern tributary

#### **Process Milestones:**



