

[Insert Appropriation Year of Legal Citation] Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, [insert calendar year]

PROJECT TITLE: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

PROJECT MANAGER: Sharon Doucette

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08l, as amended M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 7 and as extended M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 20 as extended by M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19 (c.1) [to June 30, 2023]

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$13,500,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$13,493,861

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$6,139

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

MN CREP is a federal/state partnership to improve water quality and provide habitat in 54 counties in southern and western Minnesota by establishing buffers, restoring wetlands, and protecting groundwater resources. This \$13.5 million ENRTF project leveraged \$16.5 million from USDA to restore and protect over 3,900 acres on 74 easements.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) is a federal and state partnership to improve water quality and provide habitat in 54 counties in southern and western Minnesota by establishing buffers, restoring wetlands, and protecting groundwater resources. The primary objectives of CREP were to reduce phosphorus by 19,200 pounds per year, nitrogen by 1,220,000 pounds per year, and sediment runoff by 123,000 tons per year.

The program also reduces hydrological impacts to surface waters and increases infiltration for groundwater recharge. An expansion of wetland and prairie habitat availability through this program alleviates pressure on those species that are most sensitive to habitat changes occurring on the landscape. The MN CREP agreement has a 60,000-acre maximum protection goal in areas of Minnesota facing significant water quality challenges to protect and improve our natural resources for future generations.

MN CREP is designed to help improve water quality and provide habitat by establishing and maintaining buffers of permanent vegetation between eligible waterbodies and adjacent agricultural cropland, restoring and maintaining wetlands, establishing permanent vegetative cover in wellhead protection areas, and establishing beneficial terrestrial and aquatic habitat. Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) permanent conservation easements are secured in combination with a 15-year federal CRP contract to provide permanent protection for important natural resource benefits. This \$13.5 million ENRTF project has leveraged \$16.5 million from USDA to restore and protect over 3,900 acres on 74 easements. To date, CREP has enrolled 36,000 acres with the last state contribution to the agreement being secured during the 2023 legislative session.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Over the life of the project, outreach and dissemination efforts included:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP;
- presented CREP updates at multiple trainings;
- had an outreach booth at National Pheasant Fest on 2 occasions;
- produced CREP radio ads;
- submitted quarterly and annual reports to FSA; and
- Collaborated with local staff and landowners to create multiple articles highlighting CREP easements. Some stories also incorporated video links to additional information. Articles were available for local use as well. One of the most recent stories includes two easements granted from the same landowner where one of the easements was funded from this appropriation. The story also covers the LCCMR outreach funding.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2017 LCCMR Work Plan Final Report

Date of Submission: August 15, 2023
Date of Next Status Update Report: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: November 30, 2017
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2023
Does this submission include an amendment request? YES

PROJECT TITLE: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Project Manager: Sharon Doucette
Organization: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
Mailing Address: 520 Lafayette Road North
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Telephone Number: (651) 539-2567
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Web Address: www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Location:

Region: Central, Metro, Northwest, Southwest, Southeast

Counties: Becker, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Chippewa, Clay, Cottonwood, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Houston, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pipestone, Pope, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Scott, Sibley, Stearns, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Wilkin, Winona, Wright, Yellow Medicine

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$13,500,000
	Amount Spent:	\$13,493,861
	Balance:	\$6,139

Legal Citation: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08I, as amended M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 7 and as extended M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 20 as extended by M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19 (c.1) [to June 30, 2023]

Appropriation Language: \$2,729,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$5,771,000 the first year and \$5,000,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore land under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515. Of this amount, up to \$2,184,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to

Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.103. This work may be done in cooperation with the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Carryforward; Extension (c) The availability of the appropriation under Laws 2017, chapter 96, section 2, subdivision 8, paragraph (l), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), is extended to June 30, 2022.

M.L. 2022 - Sec. 2. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND; EXTENSIONS. [to June 30, 2023]

I. PROJECT TITLE: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) is a federal and state partnership designed to improve water quality and provide habitat in the 54 County area through establishing buffers, restoring wetlands, and protecting groundwater resources. The primary objectives of this entire CREP are to reduce phosphorus by 19,200 pounds per year, Nitrogen by 1,220,000 pounds per year, and sediment runoff by 123,000 tons per year. Total annual load reductions for the 4,200 acres include 1,300 lbs. of total Phosphorus, 100,800 lbs. of total nitrogen and 8,600 tons of sediment.

This program will also reduce hydrological impacts to surface waters and increase infiltration for groundwater recharge. An expansion of wetland and prairie habitat availability through this program may alleviate pressure on those species that are most sensitive to habitat changes occurring on the landscape. The MN CREP will target 60,000 acres in areas of southern and western Minnesota facing significant water quality challenges, to protect and improve our natural resources for future generations.

The MN CREP is designed to help improve water quality and provide habitat in the 54 County area by establishing and maintaining buffers of permanent vegetation between eligible waterbodies and adjacent agricultural cropland, restoring and maintaining wetlands, establishing permanent vegetative cover in wellhead protection areas, and to establish beneficial habitat for terrestrial and aquatic habitat. Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) permanent conservation easements will be secured in combination with a 15-year CRP contract to provide permanent protection for these important natural resource benefits. This \$13.5 million proposal will leverage a significant USDA match to restore and protect approximately 4,200 acres with 336 individual landowners.

Minnesota continues to see a net loss of grasslands and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres each year. This exodus is being driven by high land prices, increased pressure for alternative uses, and declining federal budgets for conservation programs. Minnesota's primary strategy to mitigate the loss of CRP is to target expiring contracts for enrollment into MN CREP, Continuous CRP practices and permanent easements.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Amendment Request as of November 2017:

Amendment request to add stewardship funds and to extend to June 30, 2022 the availability of the appropriation M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08l "Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)".

Project Status as of January 31, 2018:

BWSR was notified December 7th, 2017 of Work Plan approval effective November 30, 2017. Within this month, BWSR has made progress under the Activity, selecting two CREP applications for funding as of December 31st, and will look to secure additional applications as these funds are now available.

Amendment Approved as of May 30, 2018:

Amendment request to add stewardship funds and to extend to June 30, 2022 the availability of the appropriation M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08I "Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)".

Project Status as of July 31, 2018:

BWSR has received 241 applications from 41 SWCDs to enroll 8,651 acres. BWSR and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) have funded a total of 168 applications on 6,254 acres, for a total State and Federal cost of \$56,350,000. These numbers are as of funding decisions from the June 15, 2018 CREP Batching Period.

Since the last status update, BWSR staff had undertaken a review of CREP to determine its effectiveness and to identify any desirable and needed adjustments to achieve the program goals. As part of this process, in April 2018, BWSR staff held four MN CREP Engagement meetings to seek input from SWCDs throughout the project area. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an opportunity for district staff to share the feedback they've been hearing from landowners on what aspects of the MN CREP program are working well, and where adjustments are needed.

On June 27th, 2018, the BWSR Board authorized several adjustments for MN CREP. Training for local staff related to these adjustments occurred on June 28th.

BWSR found the SWCD Engagement meeting process to be very beneficial to hearing feedback from local SWCD staff working on the program, and to support any modifications to the program. BWSR plans to annually solicit input from partners on CREP implementation.

Project Status as of January 31, 2019:

Since the last status update in July, BWSR had two batching periods to secure new applications for CREP under the soon to expire Farm Bill. The last batching period closed on August 20, 2018 and the total acreage of funded CREP applications amounted to over 12,000 acres. Since that time CREP has been unable to approve any new CREP applications as the Farm Bill was only recently signed by the President and implementation is still forthcoming. Although our federal partners have not been able to process new CREP applications since last fall, landowner interest remains strong and SWCD offices, with support from the CREP staffing grants, continue to contact interested landowners and place them on a waiting list for when the program re-opens.

This appropriation to date has funded 44 of the nearly 300 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded out of other appropriations. These easements are advancing through the easement acquisition process and the first of these easements have been sent to LCCMR Staff for easement review.

Several signs were purchased and distributed to local staff for their use on posting these easement sites, per ENRTF requirements.

Project Status as of July 31, 2019:

Since the last update in January, BWSR was unable to hold additional batching periods for CREP through June 2019 as a result of the expiration of the Farm Bill, the federal government shutdown and awaiting the promulgation of rules under the new Farm Bill. USDA did resume CRP enrollment on June 3, 2019 using existing CRP authority while new rules continue to be developed. This allowed BWSR to hold 2 batching periods – one on June 28, 2019 and another on July 26, 2019. The June 28, 2019 batching period resulted in 32 applications (1,800 acres) that are currently being reviewed for eligibility. The July 26, 2019 batching period resulted in 62 applications for 4,200 acres. Preliminary review of these applications has just begun.

The appropriation, to date, has funded 40 of the nearly 300 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded out of other appropriations. Four easements since the January 31, 2019 Status Update have been removed from the parcel list. One parcel was moved to a non-LCCMR funding source. The remaining 3 applications were withdrawn by the landowners. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Eighteen easements have been recorded using this appropriation as of July 31, 2019.

Amendment request as of July 31, 2019:

Change project manager from Dave Rickert to Sharon Doucette, along with a change in email and phone number.

Amendment approved by LCCMR 10/01/2019.

Project Status as of January 31, 2020:

BWSR held 3 batching periods for CREP during the summer of 2019 (June, July and August). The 2019 batching periods resulted in 190 funded CREP applications.

The appropriation, to date, has funded 52 of the more than 450 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded out of other appropriations. The 12 new easements funded with LCCMR funding are included on the parcel list. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Twenty-eight easements have been recorded using this appropriation as of December 31, 2019 and can be seen on the parcel list. An amendment request will be submitted next month to add funding to the easement acquisition line with an equal reduction in other budget line items.

Amendment request as of February 24, 2020:

Amendment request to add funding to easement acquisition (\$3,818,900) and reduce funding for personnel (\$361,000); conservation plan reimbursements (\$1,184,900); easement stewardship (\$1,781,000); equipment/tools/supplies (\$10,300); travel (\$5,600) and professional/technical/service contracts (\$476,100). Also amend Outcome 1 and budget table – reducing projected number of easements and total acres.

The original budget for this project was established assuming there would be a significant interest in CREP buffer easements as a result of the buffer law and that more than half of appropriation would be used to fund small (average of 12.5 acres) easements. Currently almost 90% of the funded applications are wetland restorations with an average easement size of 54 acres. In addition, the original budget was prepared before BWSR updated payment rates for CREP (a 29% increase) in June 2018 and FSA decreased, on multiple occasions, the amount that they cost shared in the payment. In addition, almost half of the easements funded in this project are in Brown, Cottonwood, Freeborn, Jackson, Martin, Meeker, Murray and Redwood counties. Seven out of 8 of these counties have a CREP payment rate that is higher than the average. These 2 changes (type of easement and payment rate) creates a domino effect on almost every line item in the budget.

Personnel costs on a per easement basis have increased because wetland restorations are significantly more staff intensive than buffer easements. Buffer easements only require easement processing staff time (approximately 80 hours). Wetland restoration easements require 3.5 times more staff time because of the engineering involved with these projects. In addition, the average wage for engineering staff is 50% higher than easement processing staff. Project management costs remain consistent regardless of easement type or size. Direct support services are based on the appropriation amount; therefore, this budget line remains unchanged.

The professional/technical/service contract budget is used for payments to SWCDs. In addition to easement acquisition support for each easement acquired, SWCD assist with field work and construction oversight on

wetland restoration projects. The increase on a per easement basis for this line accounts for the additional SWCD staff work for the wetland restoration easements in comparison to buffer easements.

Easements payments and conservation plan reimbursements are calculated per acre, not by easement, therefore these costs are typically higher when calculated on an easement basis for larger easements.

Amendment approved by LCCMR **05/10/2020**.

Project Status as of July 31, 2020:

BWSR held 2 batching periods for CREP during 2020 before June 30 (March and May). The 2020 batching periods resulted in 116 funded CREP applications. There is an open batching period currently, closing on August 10, 2020.

The appropriation, to date, has funded 59 of the more than 470 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. The seven new easements funded with LCCMR funding are included on the parcel list. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Forty easements have been recorded using this appropriation as of June 30, 2020 and can be seen on the parcel list.

Project Status as of January 31, 2021:

BWSR held one batching period between July 31 and December 31, 2020 (July/August). 61 funded applications were received during the batching period.

The appropriation has funded 61 of the almost 600 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. The two new easements funded with LCCMR funding are included on the parcel list. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Fifty-four easements have been recorded using this appropriation as of December 31, 2020 and can be seen on the parcel list.

An amendment request will be submitted before July 31, 2021 to adjust the professional/technical/service contracts and stewardship lines of the budget and update easement and acre numbers.

Project Status as of July 31, 2021:

BWSR held one batching period between January 1 and June 30, 2021 (ended July 2, 2021). 54 applications were received during the batching period that are currently recommended for funding and awaiting FSA approval.

The appropriation has funded 70 of the almost 600 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. The nine new easements funded with LCCMR funding are included on the parcel list. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Sixty-one easements have been recorded using this appropriation as of June 30, 2021 and can be seen on the parcel list.

An amendment request will be submitted before January 31, 2022 to adjust the professional/technical/service contracts and stewardship lines of the budget and update easement and acre numbers.

Project Status as of January 31, 2022:

BWSR held one batching period between July 1 and December 31, 2021 (ended December 21, 2021). Seven applications were received during the batching period that were recommended for funding and have FSA approval.

The appropriation has funded 70 of the almost 650 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. Sixty-five of the easements have been recorded using this appropriation as

of December 31, 2021 and can be seen on the parcel list. The remaining 5 easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process.

Amendment Request as of January 31, 2022

An amendment is being submitted to adjust the easements, direct support services, personnel, professional/technical/service contracts and stewardship lines of the budget and update easement and acre numbers. Based on current expenditures, it is possible to secure additional easements if the currently requested one-year extension is granted. To secure additional easements, it is necessary to add funding to the easement acquisition line. To support the work necessary for additional easements, it is necessary to increase personnel (mostly for Engineering staff assuming that the additional easements will be for wetland restoration), contracts and stewardship lines. The increase in these lines is created by decreasing direct support services and conservation plan reimbursements. FSA cost share on conservation plans has allowed the state to decrease our cost assumptions on a per acre basis for this budget line. If the one-year extension is not granted, an amendment is still necessary for us to fully cover SWCD contract costs and stewardship that are already projected to be over-expended because of the number of easements we have secured to date. If the extension is not granted and there is not time to secure additional easements, funds will ultimately be returned.

Project Status as of July 31, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.

Update waived per LCCMR staff on 6/30/2022.

Project Status as of January 31, 2023:

BWSR held two batching periods between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Sixty-seven applications were received. Sixty-one were recommended for funding and received FSA approval.

The appropriation has funded 74 of the over 660 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. Sixty-nine of the easements have been recorded using this appropriation as of December 31, 2022 and can be seen on the parcel list. The remaining 5 easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process.

Amendment Request as of June 30, 2023

A budget amendment is requested to increase the easement acquisition and conservation plan reimbursement lines of the current budget. Both lines are payments to landowners. Easement acquisition was increased due to an adjustment in RIM rates in March 2023 and conservation plan payments were increased because of the large number (and higher cost) of wetland restoration easements funded with this project. Other budget lines were decreased to account for the increases in these two lines.

Final Report as of June 30, 2023 (to be submitted before August 15, 2023):

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) is a federal and state partnership to improve water quality and provide habitat in 54 counties in southern and western Minnesota by establishing buffers, restoring wetlands, and protecting groundwater resources. The primary objectives of CREP were to reduce phosphorus by 19,200 pounds per year, nitrogen by 1,220,000 pounds per year, and sediment runoff by 123,000 tons per year.

The program also reduces hydrological impacts to surface waters and increase infiltration for groundwater recharge. An expansion of wetland and prairie habitat availability through this program alleviate pressure on

those species that are most sensitive to habitat changes occurring on the landscape. The MN CREP agreement has a 60,000-acre maximum protection goal in areas of Minnesota facing significant water quality challenges and to protect and improve our natural resources for future generations.

MN CREP is designed to help improve water quality and provide habitat by establishing and maintaining buffers of permanent vegetation between eligible waterbodies and adjacent agricultural cropland, restoring and maintaining wetlands, establishing permanent vegetative cover in wellhead protection areas, and to establish beneficial habitat for terrestrial and aquatic habitat. Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) permanent conservation easements are secured in combination with a 15-year federal CRP contract to provide permanent protection for important natural resource benefits. This \$13.5 million ENRTF project has leveraged \$16.5 million from USDA to restore and protect over 3,900 acres on 74 easements. To date, CREP has enrolled 36,000 acres with the last state contribution to the agreement being secured during the 2023 legislative session.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Conservation Easement Acquisition & Restoration

Description: This program will target certain riparian areas, wetlands and wellhead protection areas, providing multiple benefits to water quality and wildlife habitat. Through a combination of targeted outreach, eligibility screening, and a scoring and ranking process, 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. The scoring and ranking process used with this program places a preference on sites that reduce pollutant loads and protect vulnerable groundwater resources. A preference is also placed on sites that are in close proximity to other protected habitat, selecting sites that build complexes. Each site is considered on its benefit to the surrounding landscape, ability to build upon existing corridors and complexes, and site-specific features which highlight the benefits of selection for permanent protection and habitat.

Easements will be secured via Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) permanent easement acquisition, utilizing both a 15-year CRP contract and permanent RIM easement. Due to the USDA paying the majority of landowner payments, which also include a portion of restoration costs, BWSR assumes a large proportion of administrative costs to acquire these easements.

Restoration activity occurs once an easement is acquired. Through the use of BWSR's Native Vegetation Guidelines, we will establish high diversity native plantings and restore hydrology when applicable. Easements acquired with these funds will exceed Buffer Law requirements. BWSR is continuing to work with the USDA on these considerations.

This program will benefit from work conducted through the ENRTF CREP Outreach and Implementation appropriation, which provides funding for the employment of approximately 26 CREP Technicians to assist with marketing and landowner contacts, application procurement and submittal.

Positions funded with the assistance of the ENRTF CREP Outreach and Implementation appropriation will be used for the entirety of CREP, serving a role in additional contracts beyond the 73 easement scope of this \$13.5M appropriation. In addition to their support of effective marketing of this program, these positions will serve as the workforce to timely processing as federal staff positions dwindle. The LCCMR commitment already seen through the ENRTF CREP Outreach and Implementation appropriation will play an important role in the successful implementation of CREP.

Professional/Technical/Service Contracts will be used to pay SWCDs for their role in the processing of funded applications, including receiving landowner signature on Agreement and Easement documents, assistance during the title stage which may include assistance with clearing exceptions and receiving an acceptable final

title policy to the state, and preparation of the RIM Conservation Plan or other advanced duties related to wetland restoration design and planning.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 13,500,000
Amount Spent: \$13,493,861
Balance: \$6,139

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire Conservation Easements (Projected number of easements: 73; Projected number of acres: 3,700)	June 30, 2020
2. Restore Acquired Conservation Easements	June 30, 2022

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2018:

BWSR has selected two applications for funding which are not yet encumbered, totaling 119.7 acres. Easement Staff are working with local staff to process applications selected for funding, as well as secure additional applications for funding.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2018:

BWSR has funded 13 easements on 305.4 acres. These easements include wetland restorations within the 100-year floodplain, wetlands outside of the 100-year floodplain, and filter strips. While no wellhead applications have been funded to-date, BWSR will continue to look to fund wellhead protection easements through this appropriation.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2019:

This appropriation to date has funded 44 of the nearly 300 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded out of other appropriations. These easements are advancing through the easement acquisition process and the first of these easements have been sent to LCCMR Staff for easement review. These 44 applications amount to nearly 2,090 acres, with the majority of applications funded being wetland restorations, along with several filter strip applications and one wellhead protection application.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2019:

The appropriation has funded 40 of the nearly 300 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded out of other appropriations. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Eighteen easements have been recorded using this appropriation as of July 31, 2019. These applications total nearly 1,900 acres, with the majority of applications being for wetland restorations, along with several filter strip applications and one wellhead protection application.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2020:

The appropriation has funded 52 of the over 450 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Twenty-eight easements funded from the appropriation have been recorded as of December 31, 2019. The 52 applications protect over 2,900 acres, with the majority of applications being wetland restorations. Several filter strips and one wellhead protection application have also been funded with the appropriation.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2020:

The appropriation has funded 59 of the over 470 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process.

Forty easements funded from the appropriation have been recorded as of June 30, 2020. The 59 applications protect over 3,200 acres. Most of the funded applications are for wetland restoration practices.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2021:

The appropriation has funded 61 of the almost 600 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Fifty-four easements funded from the appropriation have been recorded as of December 31, 2020. The 61 applications protect over 3,350 acres. Most of the funded applications are for wetland restoration practices.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2021:

The appropriation has funded 70 of the almost 600 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. These easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. Sixty-one easements funded from the appropriation have been recorded as of June 30, 2021. The 70 applications protect over 3,600 acres. Most of the funded applications are for wetland restoration practices.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2022:

The appropriation has funded 70 of the almost 650 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. Sixty-five of the easements funded from the appropriation have been recorded as of December 31, 2021. The remaining 5 easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. The 70 applications protect over 3,600 acres. Most of the funded applications are for wetland restoration practices.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2022:

Update waived per LCCMR staff on 6/30/2022.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2023:

The appropriation has funded 74 of the over 660 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. Sixty-nine of the easements funded from the appropriation have been recorded as of December 31, 2022. The remaining 5 easements are in various stages of the easement acquisition process. The 74 applications protect over 3,900 acres. Most of the funded applications are for wetland restoration practices.

Final Report as of June 30, 2023 (to be submitted before August 15, 2023):

The appropriation funded 74 of more than 680 funded CREP applications, with the remainder of applications funded from other appropriations. All easements funded from the appropriation have been recorded as of June 31, 2023. The 74 easements protect over 3,900 acres. 65 of the easements are for wetland restoration practices and account for almost 3,700 of the 3,900 acres.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Throughout the CREP we will follow our CREP Communications Plan to disseminate information to partners and the general public. Communication channels will include email, print and broadcast media, web content, and printed literature.

BWSR's CREP Outreach Webpage: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/crep/index.html>

Status as of January 31, 2018:

Through the period of Nov.30th through December 31st, the following has occurred: BWSR had disseminated CREP information or updates to local staff assisting with CREP through five separate email notifications.

Status as of July 31, 2018:

Through the period of January 1st through June 30th, BWSR has:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through 24 separate email notifications.
- held 2 webinars with local staff.
- presented and coordinated a peer-to-peer presentation about CREP at a meeting in January.
- held 4 in-person SWCD Engagement meetings in April to hear feedback from local staff; and
- submitted two quarterly outreach information reports to FSA.

Status as of January 31, 2019:

Through the period of June 30th through January 1st, BWSR has:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through 15 separate email notifications,
- held 3 webinars with local staff,
- presented CREP updates at an in-person training in October, and
- submitted two quarterly outreach information reports to FSA.

Status as of July 31, 2019

Through the period of January 1st through June 30th, BWSR has:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through email notifications
- held 1 webinar with local staff
- presented CREP updates at 7 in-person trainings, and
- submitted one outreach information report to FSA (covering 2 quarterly reporting periods due to program inactivity for the first quarter of the year).

Status as of January 31, 2020:

From July 1 through December 31, BWSR has:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through email notifications
- presented CREP updates at 2 in-person trainings, and
- submitted one outreach information report to FSA (covering 2 quarterly reporting periods due to program inactivity).

Status as of July 31, 2020:

From January 1 through June 30, BWSR has:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through email notifications
- presented CREP updates at 1 in-person training,
- had an outreach booth at the National Pheasant Fest,
- secured radio ad time for CREP
- held 1 webinar with local staff, and
- submitted two quarterly outreach information reports to FSA.

Status as of January 31, 2021:

From July 1 through December 31, BWSR:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through email notifications

- presented CREP updates at 1 virtual training, and
- submitted two quarterly outreach information reports and the annual report to FSA.

Status as of July 31, 2021:

From January 1 through June 30, BWSR:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through email notifications
- presented CREP updates at 1 virtual training, and
- submitted two quarterly outreach information reports to FSA.

Status as of January 31, 2022:

From July 1 through December 31, BWSR:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through email notifications
- presented CREP updates at 2 trainings, and
- submitted two quarterly outreach information reports and is preparing the annual report for submission to FSA.
-

Status as of July 31, 2022:

Update waived per LCCMR staff on 6/30/2022.

Status as of January 31, 2023:

From January 1 through December 31, BWSR:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through email notifications
- presented CREP updates at trainings, and
- submitted four quarterly outreach information reports and the annual report for submission to FSA.

Final Report as of June 30, 2023 (to be submitted before August 15, 2023):

Over the life of the project, outreach and dissemination efforts included:

- disseminated CREP information and updates to local staff implementing CREP through email notifications.
- presented CREP updates at multiple in-person and virtual trainings.
- had an outreach booth at National Pheasant Fest on 2 occasions.
- CREP radio ads.
- submitted multiple quarterly and annual reports to FSA.
- Created multiple articles highlighting CREP easements where both local staff and landowners collaborated on the article. Some stories also incorporated video links to additional information. Articles were available for local use as well. One of the most recent stories includes 2 easements granted from the same landowner where one of the easements was funded from this appropriation. The story also covers the LCCMR outreach funding that also expired this year. A pdf of this article and others related to CREP are included with the final report.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview:

*This section represents an overview of the preliminary budget at the start of the project. It will be reconciled with actual expenditures at the time of the final report.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff. These costs directly correlate with the staff needed to fill these services. Without these funds, these positions would not exist.

Direct and Necessary expenses are for Department Support Services (HR Support, Financial Support, Communications Support, and IT Support). These services are directly related to and necessary for the appropriation. Department Leadership services are not assessed, and BWSR does not require Planning Support or Safety Support. Direct Support Services were calculated based upon considerations used with the established DNR model, and using actual BWSR projections. HR Support (~\$30,200), Financial Support (~\$27,100), Communications Support (~\$5,400), and IT Support (\$48,700) are necessary to accomplish this funded project. The \$111,400 of Direct Support Services amount to 0.8% of this appropriation.

BWSR will periodically complete reconciliation between budgeted cost vs. actual costs during the appropriation. If we forecast there will be unspent funds for Direct Support Services, we may seek an amendment to shift some of these costs into the Permanent Easement Acquisition line or Conservation Plan Reimbursement line. Any unspent funds would be returned.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 10

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
USDA Funds	\$25,678,000	\$16,520,834	USDA funds, in the form of CRP payments and conservation plan payments to landowners (landowner contract payments and information to date collected on practice payments – practice payment data is likely incomplete)
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation			
CREP Outreach & Implementation	\$6,000,000	\$5,584,736	This project will benefit from work conducted through the ENRTF CREP Outreach and Implementation appropriation, which provides funding for the employment of approximately 26 CREP Technicians to assist with marketing and landowner contacts, application procurement and submittal.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$31,678,000	\$22,105,570	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Partners receiving ENRTF funding

- *SWCDs within the 54-County CREP Area, \$202,000 for easement processing*

Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

- *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical assistance provider for CRP contracts.*
- *Farm Service Agency (FSA) enrollment, administrator and fiscal agent for CRP contracts.*

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This program is the result of a five state agency effort, support from the Governor, and a large amount of local agency, organization, and farmer support for MN CREP. A broad coalition of over 70 non-state organizations and groups supports this program.

By themselves, CRP practices provide a substantial amount of water quality and habitat benefits, but may be removed 10 to 15 years later. Through this MN CREP partnership, BWSR leverages the federal CRP program, adding a permanent RIM easement on this same area and ensuring these benefits are preserved in perpetuity.

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements in perpetuity. 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.

C. Funding History:

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
ENRTF (ML17)	July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020	\$6,000,000
Clean Water Fund (ML15, ML17)	July 1, 2016-June 30, 2021	\$46,000,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund (ML15, ML16, ML17)	July 1, 2014-June 30, 2026	\$40,791,000
Bonding (ML17)	July 1, 2017-Completion	\$10,000,000

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- The project is for 6 years, will begin on 07/01/17, and end on 06/30/23.
- Project status update reports will be submitted January 31 and July 31 of each year, per LCCMR requirements.
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S):

See attached map of project area indicating the 54-county CREP project area as well as several BWSR stories related to CREP.

X. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List: The MN CREP signup started on May 15th, 2017, and the list of parcels that were funded through this appropriation were determined through a scoring and ranking process. Scoresheets used for the MN CREP signup are available upon request. The results of this ENRTF project were conservation easement acquisition on approximately 74 easements, securing approximately 3,900 acres under permanent protection. Conservation easements were purchased using established RIM Rates and will be held by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Easement size varies but were on average 53 acres from this project.

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:

Conservation Easement Acquisition

- 1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.** Through a combination of targeted outreach, eligibility screening, and a scoring and ranking process, 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. MN CREP uses a comprehensive scoring and ranking process and applications are chosen for funding at the end of specified batching periods. Scoresheets used for the MN CREP signup are available upon request.
- 2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.** This appropriation helped achieve goals mentioned in the following plans: Long Range Duck Recovery Plan, Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN, U.S. Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Plan, Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan, and the Sediment Reduction Strategy for the Minnesota River Basin and South Metro Mississippi River. Several Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) reports have been completed that recommend a strategy of securing permanent conservation easements on private lands. The list of parcels that will be funded through this appropriation were determined through the MN CREP scoring and ranking process.
- 3. For any conservation easement acquired, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.** Easements acquired through MN CREP have both a CRP plan and RIM Conservation Plan. The RIM Conservation Plan identifies practice areas and maximum cost-share available for practice installation, and also includes an Operation & Maintenance Plan. The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program. 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, implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the 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.
- 4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.**
Private ownership of the property continues after a RIM easement is acquired.
- 5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction. A copy of the written approval should be provided to LCCMR.**
N/A
- 6. Provide a statement addressing how conservation easements will address specific water quality protection activities, such as keeping water on the landscape, reducing nutrient and contaminant loading, protecting groundwater, and not permitting artificial hydrological modifications.**
The MN CREP agreement has a maximum acreage of 60,000 acres of protection on the highest priority areas across 54 counties. It targets riparian areas and marginal agricultural land, restores hydrology, increases infiltration, provides flood mitigation, and reduces nitrate loading in drinking water supplies. The objectives of the entire CREP are to reduce phosphorus by 19,200 pounds per year, nitrogen by 1,220,000 pounds per year, and sediment runoff by 123,000 tons per year. Four Conservation Practices are authorized under CREP:

CP-21 Filter Strips (buffers), CP-23 Floodplain Wetlands, CP-23A Non-floodplain Wetlands and CP-2 Wellhead Protection.

- 7. Describe the long-term monitoring and enforcement program for conservation easements acquired on parcels by your organization, including explanations of the process used for calculating conservation easement monitoring and enforcements costs, the process used for annual inspection and reporting on monitoring and enforcement activities, and the process used to ensure perpetual funding and implementation of monitoring and enforcement activities.**

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement in perpetuity. BWSR partners with local SWCDs for oversight, monitoring and inspection of 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 were calculated at \$6,500 per easement. These calculations were derived using the elements described in MS 103B.103. BWSR uses local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations which results in considerable cost savings.

Restoration

- 1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.** Restoration activities will occur on lands with a RIM easement.
- 2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.** Easements acquired through MN CREP will involve both a CRP plan and RIM Conservation Plan. The RIM Conservation Plan identifies practice areas and maximum cost-share available for practice installation and includes an Operation & Maintenance Plan. The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the BWSR RIM Reserve Program that has 7,500 easements. 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, implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the 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.
- 3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.** BWSR policy requires following the Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines for all RIM restorations.
- 4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.** BWSR provides reimbursement to the landowner for original installation and establishment work on RIM sites. In special circumstances, BWSR may cost-share for repair of any engineering structures and vegetative practices. Other than these special circumstances, any maintenance or management costs are borne by the landowner.
- 5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.** BWSR does not contract restoration activities. It is the responsibility of the landowner

to contract work and follow the restoration plan. SWCDs then inspect completed work and BWSR reimburses the landowner. BWSR provides SWCDs with CCM contact information to share with landowners as they consider vendors for restoration activity.

6. **Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.** The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the RIM Reserve Program that has 7,500 easements. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition/Restoration List - Final

Project Title: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Project Manager Name: Sharon Doucette

Organization: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

ENRTF \$ Request: \$ 13,500,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	County
		Latitude	Longitude		
	03-01-20-01	46°49'15.44"N	96°2'39.14"W	90,220	Becker
	03-02-18-01	46°43'24.71"N	96°4'14.60"W	6,326	Becker
	06-03-18-01	45°29'56.38"N	96°36'47.78"W	71,384	Big Stone
	07-02-18-01	44°2'40.97"N	94°20'40.12"W	98,281	Blue Earth
	08-01-18-01	44°12'51.70"N	94°34'9.82"W	9,213	Brown
	08-01-19-01	44°19'51.65"N	96°34'3.89"W	714,059	Brown
	08-08-19-01	44°13'20.81"N	95°3'11.32"W	270,650	Brown
	12-01-19-01	44°55'6.33"N	95°41'3.39"W	121,235	Chippewa
	12-01-22-01	44°56'42.91"N	95°46'26.76"W	183,862	Chippewa
	14-04-18-01	46°46'57.15"N	96°26'11.09"W	228,271	Clay
	17-02-18-01	43°56'25.66"N	95°14'2.95"W	132,022	Cottonwood
	17-05-19-01	43°55'29.65"N	94°16'5.10"W	29,221	Cottonwood

17-07-19-01	44°0'15.77"N	95°4'19.94"W	191,878	Cottonwood
17-08-18-01	44°5'34.78"N	95°22'28.48"W	68,131	Cottonwood
17-09-18-01	44°3'21.44"N	95°21'20.89"W	279,568	Cottonwood
20-04-19-01	44°2'9.50"N	93°1'17.80"W	250,847	Dodge
24-05-19-01	43°44'34.45"N	93°7'4.78"W	155,501	Freeborn
24-08-18-01	43°33'1.18"N	93°14'4.46"W	274,456	Freeborn
24-09-18-01	43°31'50.71"N	93°21'56.65"W	91,314	Freeborn
32-01-20-03	43°30'43.32"N	95°11'52.44"W	22,894	Jackson
32-05-18-01	43°48'29.40"N	95°4'39.56"W	177,643	Jackson
32-08-19-01	43°46'14.21"N	95°26'26.062"W	743,695	Jackson
32-10-19-01	43°30'42.038"N	95°11'59.19"W	511,957	Jackson
32-15-19-01	43°47'58.09"N	95°16'49.75"W	276,331	Jackson
34-01-19-01	44°58'54.35"N	94°49'36.02"W	90,223	Kandiyohi

34-01-20-01- -	45°5'38.01"N	94°50'30.84"W	70,610	Kandiyohi
34-02-20-01- -	45°21'41.63"N	95°13'41.81"W	117,140	Kandiyohi
40-01-18-01	44°15'11.49"N	93°44'43.62"W	78,490	Le Sueur
40-01-19-01	44°29'55.52"N	93°33'36.32"W	96,230	Le Sueur
41-01-18-01	44°21'21.65"N	96°5'19.64"W	80,231	Lincoln
42-02-18-01	44°36'40.97"N	96°5'22.91"W	31,053	Lyon
42-04-18-01	44°15'23.77"N	96°4'5.78"W	11,733	Lyon
42-07-20-01	44°33'32.06"N	95°48'58.99"W	85,474	Lyon
43-01-18-01	44°50'25.79"N	94°18'50.91"W	17,743	McLeod
43-04-18-01	44°56'13.93"N	94°23'30.60"W	40,320	McLeod
43-06-20-01	44°45'33.67"N	94°4'56.44"W	53,748	McLeod
46-01-22-01	43°40'34.54"N	94°25'16.74"W	111,298	Martin
46-05-18-01	43°35'11.17"N	94°40'30.73"W	20,443	Martin
46-05-19-01	43°33'47.47"N	94°33'54.31"W	76,680	Martin
46-09-18-01	43°33'48.80"N	94°36'37.74"W	280,868	Martin
47-03-18-01	44°57'49.78"N	94°39'3.741"W	5,306	Meeker
47-05-18-01	45°9'58.13"N	94°44'44.25"W	41,050	Meeker

47-08-18-01	45°11'10.42"N	94°44'7.43"W	70,696	Meeker
50-01-19-01	43°42'24.28"N	92°56'59.14"W	415,297	Mower
51-02-18-01	43°52'45.65"N	95°43'15.57"W	9,063	Murray
51-03-18-01	43°52'25.01"N	95°42'59.97"W	472,538	Murray
51-03-20-01	43°59'52.62"N	95°53'52.87"W	74,150	Murray
51-05-18-01	43°53'40.45"N	95°40'48.81"W	20,492	Murray
52-01-18-01	44°18'10.57"N	94°1'20.98"W	138,399	Nicollet
52-06-19-01	44°24'40.53"N	94°39'34.14"W	133,179	Nicollet West
56-02-18-01-W	46°22'24.11"N	95°54'9.27"W	260,302	Ottertail
59-02-18-01	44°9'20.64"N	96°13'59.59"W	44,505	Pipestone
64-05-19-01	44°31'2.94"N	94°59'37.43"W	337,818	Redwood
64-05-21-01	44°31'1.78"N	95°12'47.01"W	189,236	Redwood
64-10-18-01	44°30'38.71"N	94°57'32.26"W	138,721	Redwood
64-12-18-01	44°39'56.42"N	95°18'14.98"W	89,488	Redwood
64-21-18-01	44°16'38.11"N	95°31'32.39"W	157,449	Redwood
64-24-18-01	44°21'55.19"N	95°34'53.57"W	33,659	Redwood
65-25-18-01	44°33'29.32"N	94°55'6.96"W	210,389	Renville
65-26-18-01	44°52'1.06"N	94°34'45.75"W	29,692	Renville

66-01-22-01	44°26'19.08"N	93°31'1.90"W	298,569	Rice
67-01-18-01	43°47'41.13"N	96°4'25.16"W	73,049	Rock
72-03-20-01	44°32'54.68"N	94°24'9.01"W	54,527	Sibley
72-05-19-01	44°39'10.37"N	93°54'44.03"W	68,975	Sibley
75-01-18-01	45°29'39.41"N	95°59'10.23"W	173,567	Stevens
77-01-18-01	45°50'36.39"N	95°0'36.43"W	21,132	Todd
81-01-19-01	43°56'28.91"N	93°32'19.68"W	57,622	Waseca
83-01-20-01- -	44°2'40.25"N	94°47'52.85"W	51,716	Watonwan
83-02-18-01	43°51'37.28"N	94°26'37.36"W	30,473	Watonwan
83-02-22-01	43°57'32.74"N	94°32'55.45"W	36,709	Watonwan
83-03-19-01	43°59'48.19"N	94°37'1.33"W	338,290	Watonwan
84-04-20-01	46°33'15.04"N	94°25'20.35"W	73,913	Wilkin
84-07-18-01	46°30'15.28"N	96°24'44.42"W	87,414	Wilkin
87-07-18-01	44°38'1.42"N	96°3'19.54"W	291,303	Yellow Medicine

NOTES: The MN CREP signup started on May 15th, 2017 and the list of parcels that will be funded through the CREP signup are available upon request. Conservation easements will be purchased using established RIM R easements averaging at a size less than 10 acres and wetland restoration or wellhead protection easements

Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	75.06		ELSEY, TERRI LYNN AND WILLIAM J., WHITE, RICHARD LEE AND JAMIE L. JASON W. & LEAH M. GEHRIG	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	11.85		REDDY FAMILY TRUST	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	50.46		RICKY & JANE PIEPGRAS	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	40.58		WILLARD C. WAIBEL LIVING TRUST	BWSR	recorded
Filter Strip	Conservation Easement	3.47		STUEBER, MICHAEL & CONNIE MUELLER, LINDA & JOHN, TORDSEN, ROBERT & KAREN	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	167.35		WEHRSPANN, DELBERT & SHIRLEY	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	24.88		MOON, JOHN L	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration (Floodplain)	Conservation Easement	118.72		JERALD BUTENHOFF	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	294.15		JOHN WELLS	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	45.05		DARYL & ELAINE TASLER	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	8.4			BWSR	recorded

				ALLEN J. BAERG LIVING TRUST, ,		
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	56.66		BAERG, ARLYN	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	19.9		LARRY J. PETERSON	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	78.6		BRIAN BERG AFFRENS,	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	59.99		BRADLEY M. & SHERRY, HART, KEVIN L. & JILL, SEGLER, PATRICK J. & BETSY	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	75.08		JOHNSON, KENT B. & ALICE MESCHELE	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	134.16		MARLENE NELSON	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	43.49		ROBERT T. & SANDRA K. QUINN	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	4.4		DUDLEY & LINDA SCHMIDT	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	56.27		ROBERT & PAMELA LINDAMAN	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	202.2		HASSEBROEK, MARK & YVONNE, HASSEBROEK, MERLE	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	149.19		COYER, ALVIN B. & MARY ANN, KING, BARBARA & TROY, SCHULTZ, BRADLEY & BRENDA	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	71.63		JOHN A. HAY REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	38.88		TOREN, CHRISTOPHER JOHN	BWSR	recorded

Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	28.69	NELSON LIVING TRUST, DEAN A., NELSON LIVING TRUST, ELIZABETH M. DERUYTER, ALVIN D., PETERSON, LINDA K.	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	75.42	RANDALL L. & BETH G. ROEMHILDT	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	38.54	DIETZ, DOUGLAS & CHARLENE KAREN I PETERS HAYS	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	31.31	REV TR MICHAEL J. AHERN TRUST	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	33.32	C & C LAND COMPANY, LLC	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	20.54	BLOMME LLC	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	9.28	DEBRA NOWAK	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	19.9	CHARLES BUSS	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration (Floodplain)	Conservation Easement	5.79	SCOTT JR., DONALD CHRIST TRUST	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	28.31	AGREEMENT OF DALE S. MOELLER	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	21.68	OLIVER A. & LAURIE S. TRUESDELL	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration (Floodplain)	Conservation Easement	7.83	SMALL, MICHAEL W. & LINDA K.	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	22.4	MICHAEL W. & LINDA K. SMALL	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	60.07	MARLENE I. LOVELAND LIVING TRUST	BWSR	recorded
Filter Strip	Conservation Easement	1.13	LLOYD & KATHY MAHN	BWSR	recorded
Filter Strip	Conservation Easement	21.71		BWSR	recorded

Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	65.28	THE TRUST AGREEMENT OF MARK AND CYNTHIA JOHNSON	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	104.74	CHRISTIANSO N, AARON N. & JESSICA J. FRANK	BWSR	recorded
Filter Strip	Conservation Easement	2.25	CROWLEY	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	126.11	MARK S. & CHRISTINA L.T. THOMPSON	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	28.26	JOHNSON, DARYL L., JOHNSON, MICHAEL D.	BWSR	recorded
Filter Strip	Conservation Easement	4.84	GLORETTA BERGMAN TRUST	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	34.72	RICHARD GUSTAFSON	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration (Floodplain)	Conservation Easement	37.92	WENDINGER, JAMES J. & PHYLLIS E. , WENDINGER, LEE	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	154.83	WASVICK FAMILY RLT	BWSR	recorded
Wellhead	Conservation Easement	13.92	DIANE D AND DAVID R SCOTTING	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	84.43	LUSSENHOP, JON & KAREN	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	113.68	M & M FARMS LLP	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	55.86	RICHARD & DEBRA BOHN	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration (Floodplain)	Conservation Easement	40.09	CHAD H. & LEAH DONNER	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	40	JEANINE J. & JAMES VIK	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	11.28	BROCKWAY FAMILY, LLC	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	76.73	DWIGHT & CONNIE BLUHM	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	7.3	FRED & DEBRA RUNKE	BWSR	recorded

Wetland Restoarion	Conservation Easement	72.6	KRENIK, TIMOTHY R. & KATHLEEN J.	BWSR	recorded
Filter Strip	Conservation Easement	20.55	GARY FODNESS	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	19.99	ARHART, ANTHONY DALLAS & BARBARA A. VOS TRUST,	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	23.51	MICHAEL & SUSAN, VOS, JAMES & LYNN, VOS, PAUL & CHRIS	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	48.36	ROBERT BROWN	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	38.3	PAUL AND DONNA JENC	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration (Floodplain)	Conservation Easement	17.18	BENTLY, JOHN & DEBRA STURM,	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	22.48	JOSHUA D. & ANNE TERESA	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration (Floodplain)	Conservation Easement	7.92	NORMA JANE PULIS	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	25.48	DANHOFF, GARY & LINDA	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	83.53	MAYBERRY, THOMAS, TRUST B TRUSTEES	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	65.32	JAMES & LAURANNA JENNEN	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	44.23	JAMES & IDELLA NITZ	BWSR	recorded
Wetland Restoration	Conservation Easement	73.41	CAROL & JIM SORENSON	BWSR	recorded

is appropriation will be determined through a scoring and ranking process. Scoresheets used for the MN
ates and will be held by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Parcel size will vary, with buffer strip
close to a 60 acre average size.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2017 Project Budget - Final**



Project Title: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Legal Citation: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08I

Project Manager: Sharon Doucette

Organization: BWSR

M.L. 2017 ENRTF Appropriation: \$13,500,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 6 Years, June 30, 2023

Date of Report: August 11, 2023

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget 01/31/2022	Proposed Budget 08/13/23	Amount Spent 07/31/23	Activity 1 Balance (based on proposed budget)
BUDGET ITEM				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$1,161,000	\$1,043,500	\$1,038,327	\$5,173
<i>Assistant Easement Section Manager, \$137,600 (69% Salary, 31% benefits) 0.3FTE each year for 5 years</i>				
<i>State Program Administration Staff, \$904,600 (72% Salary, 28% benefits) 4.3FTE each year for 3 years</i>				
<i>Water Resources Engineer/Conservation Engineering Technician/Vegetation Specialist, \$298,800 (71% Salary, 29% benefits) 1.0FTE each year for 3 years</i>				
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts	\$282,200	\$202,000	\$202,000	\$0
<i>SWCD easement processing of funded applications, including receiving landowner signature on Agreement and Easement documents, assistance during the title stage which may include assistance with clearing exceptions and receiving an acceptable final title policy to the state, and preparation of the RIM Conservation Plan or other advanced duties related to wetland restoration design and planning. Payments are made upon successful completion of tasks tied to the roles above and are administered through a work order process.</i>				
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$33,600	\$22,000	\$21,888	\$112
<i>Equipment & supplies necessary to post signage or other supplies necessary for easement acquisition. Funds will be used for the purchase of signs used to identify easement boundaries, along with posts or other hardware necessary to post signs.</i>				
Permanent Easement Acquisition (Landowner Payments)	\$10,674,200	\$10,865,500	\$10,865,495	\$5
<i>Estimated 62 easements, totaling approximately 3,400 acres to be held by BWSR. Planned practices are buffers, wetland restorations, and wellhead protection. Estimated number of easements and acres are based on average easement size and average easement payment throughout the 54 County CREP Area. Total expected Federal match for Landowner Payments is \$22,413,750.</i>				
Conservation Plan Reimbursements on Acquired Acres	\$800,000	\$892,000	\$891,179	\$821
<i>Restoration costs for acquired easements, through reimbursement to landowners. BWSR estimated cost of \$200 to \$800 an acre for restoration on the approximately 3,400 acres. When restoration occurs, BWSR will pay the State portion of restoration that both meets or exceeds BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines and meets or exceeds NRCS Practice Standards. Total expected Federal match for restoration is \$3,264,250.</i>				

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget 01/31/2022	Proposed Budget 08/13/23	Amount Spent 07/31/23	Activity 1 Balance (based on proposed budget)
BUDGET ITEM				
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$18,000	\$5,400	\$5,372	\$28
<i>In-state travel, mileage, lodging and meals</i>				
Direct Support Services	\$50,000	\$47,100	\$47,100	\$0
<i>HR Support (~\$30,200), Financial Support (~\$27,100), Communications Support (~\$5,400), and IT Support (\$48,700) necessary to accomplish this funded project.</i>				
Easement Stewardship	\$481,000	\$422,500	\$422,500	\$0
<i>Perpetual stewardship 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 covers costs of SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and enforcement. Working with LCCMR Staff, Stewardship funds are included in this budget and BWSR intends to deposit funds into an already established Stewardship account. However, the ability to deposit funds into a Stewardship account is dependent on pending legislative approval authority. BWSR will be pursuing a language change in the 2018 session to allow for use of funds for the purpose of easement stewardship.</i>				
COLUMN TOTAL	\$13,500,000	\$13,500,000	\$13,493,861.03	\$6,139

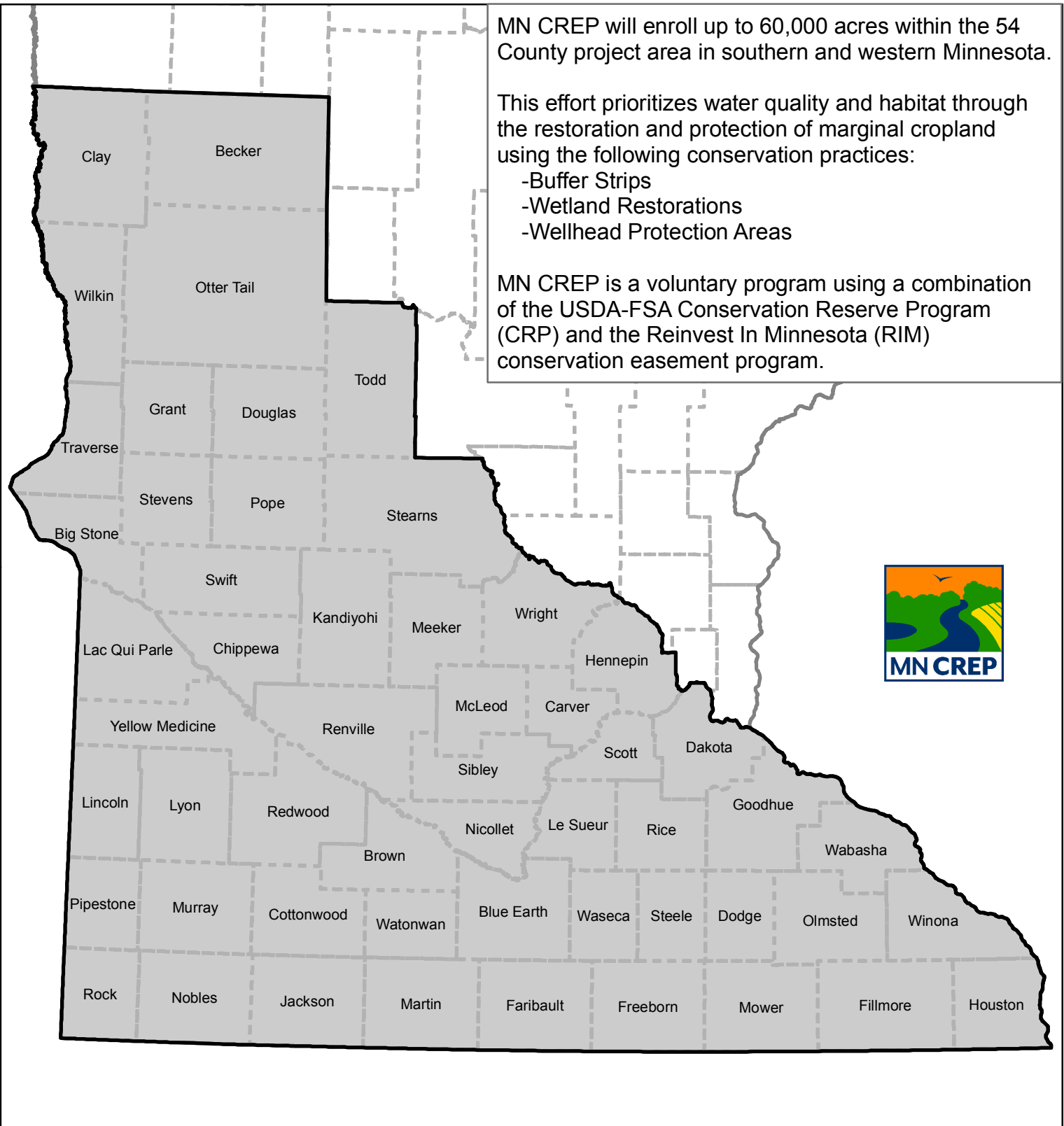
Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Project Area



MN CREP will enroll up to 60,000 acres within the 54 County project area in southern and western Minnesota.


This effort prioritizes water quality and habitat through the restoration and protection of marginal cropland using the following conservation practices:

- Buffer Strips
- Wetland Restorations
- Wellhead Protection Areas

MN CREP is a voluntary program using a combination of the USDA-FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) conservation easement program.



 MN CREP Project Area
 County Boundary

25
 Miles

