

I. Easement Acquisition on Restored Wetlands - Wildlife 9

Program Cooperators:

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A. M.L. 91 Chap. 254, Art. 1, Sec. 14 Subd. 9 (h)                      Appropriation: \$400,000.00  
Balance: \$ 259.92

This appropriation is from the Minnesota environment and natural resources trust fund to the board of water and soil resources for a pilot program to acquire permanent conservation easements on federally restored or enhanced wetlands and adjacent lands in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Izaak Walton League.

B. Compatible Data: None

C. Match Requirement: \$5,040,000 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)  
Funds Raised to Date: \$5,040,000  
Match Requirement: \$60,000 (Izaak Walton League of America)  
Funds Raised to Date: \$38,580

II. Narrative

Since European settlement, 53 percent of America's and 42 percent of Minnesota's wetlands have been destroyed. Because of these losses, many species of waterfowl are at all-time lows and rural Minnesota is facing significant water quality, soil erosion, downstream flooding and surface/subsurface water

contamination problems. By restoring and protecting wetlands and associated uplands, many of these problems are reduced or eliminated.

III. Objectives

A. Wetland Restoration and Protection

A.1 Narrative: Through July 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will have restored over 5,000 wetlands totaling nearly 15,000 acres in Minnesota. A large number of these restorations will have been on private lands in association with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or with a Service/landowner agreement. Without long-term protection, many of these wetlands may be converted back to marginal cropland at the expiration of the CRP contracts or Service agreements. Through the purchase of perpetual conservation easements on restored wetlands and associated uplands, a significant number of these restored wetlands can be permanently protected.

A.2 Procedures: The Service will continue to restore wetlands in Minnesota wherever the opportunity exists through 1993. Beginning July 1991, Service employees in cooperation with the Project Coordinator hired on contract by the Izaak Walton League, will contact landowners who have participated in the Service's wetland restoration program and offer perpetual easements to them. The conservation easement document will be acquired through the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Conservation Reserve Program administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) and the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD).

New landowners will be concurrently contacted and encouraged to enroll into any of the several wetland restoration/protection programs that exist.

A.3 Budget

	<u>Service</u>	
	<u>Commission Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$400,000.00	\$5,040,000
b. Balance:	\$ 259.92	\$ 0

A.4 Timeline for Products/Task: July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan. 93 July 93

Contact landowners	.....
Restore wetlands	.....
Purchase easements	.....

#### A.5 Status: Final status report:

Project Coordinator received 334 referrals from ten Service field offices. Project Coordinator facilitated two inter-agency screening committee meetings to review and discuss Service referrals. Project Coordinator contacted 175 landowners with offers for their consideration for enrollment during the pilot program. Responses from all landowners have been summarized in Appendix A.

Twenty parcels were accepted for enrollment into the pilot program and conservation agreements and conservation easements for recording are currently being developed. Supporting information about the enrolled sites has been compiled by the Project Coordinator as Appendix B. Two easements were recorded during the project period (one was paid), and the remaining 18 easements are anticipated to be recorded and paid within six months of the end of the project period (pending landowners' ability to provide clear titles in a timely manner).

While up to 1,500 acres were originally designated to be enrolled into the pilot program with this appropriation, only about 700 acres will actually be enrolled. This is due to the fact that actual perpetual easement payment rates for the enrolled acres averaged approximately \$568/acre. However, approximately 30 additional acres have been donated to the pilot program through perpetual flowage easements on lands adjacent to seven of the 20 easement areas.

Project Coordinator has solicited approximately \$2060 from local sporting and conservation organizations to pay for the costs of establishing necessary permanent vegetative cover on five of the 20 easement areas. The remaining easement areas will not require any additional vegetative cover establishment. A summary of the vegetative cover practices, their costs and the financial contributors are provided in Appendix C.

At the time the pilot program was proposed, the Service had the authority to acquire easements in only 28 prairie pothole counties of Minnesota. As a consequence, there were many wetland restorations outside these counties which were left unprotected after the Service's ten-year wildlife development agreement expired. In addition, even in those 28 counties, the Service could only protect the restored wetland basin and not any of the surrounding upland. From a waterfowl management standpoint, this minimized the protection of the restored wetland. However, in the intervening time, these aspects have changed to some extent. In 1992, the Service received the authority to acquire easements in all 87 counties of Minnesota. And, just this month, the Service has begun to acquire upland (grassland) easements as well. However, the limitation of available federal funds will continue to restrict the implementation of these added authorities.

Opportunities to protect already restored wetlands through existing programs of the

Board have also improved since this pilot program was initiated two years ago. First, with the assistance of the Project Coordinator and the Service, the Board convinced the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) to establish a landmark policy in September 1992 regarding cancellation of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. This new statewide policy now allows any CRP contract holder to cancel his/her contract, without repayment or penalty to ASCS, as long as the contract holder enrolls the contract lands into the RIM Reserve Program under a perpetual conservation easement. Since many wetlands have been restored by the Service on existing CRP contract lands and most of these restored wetlands lack permanent protection, this new policy will provide landowners with an option to permanently protect these areas and not require them to wait until their CRP contract expires before enrolling them into RIM Reserve. (This statewide policy has been expanded in October 1992 and March 1993 to also allow federal Waterbank Program contract holders, as well as CRP contract holders, to cancel their contracts without repayment or penalty, as long as the contract lands are then enrolled into either the RIM Reserve Program or the Permanent Wetlands Preserve Program under a perpetual conservation easement.) Eight of the 20 easement areas enrolled into the pilot program contain CRP contract lands that will now receive permanent protection from the RIM Reserve conservation easement.

Secondly, a new perpetual conservation easement program called Permanent Wetlands Preserve had its inaugural signup in October 1992. The purpose of this new easement program administered by the Board is to protect existing type 1, 2, or 3 wetlands under a perpetual conservation easement as well as allowing the enrollment of adjacent uplands. Consequently, this new program also provides an opportunity to provide permanent protection to already restored wetlands.

Despite these new programs and program modifications, the League remains reservedly optimistic about the opportunities to provide adequate as well as long-term protection of restored wetlands. The principal reasons why landowners did not enroll lands into this pilot program were (1) lack of interest in a perpetual easement, (2) easement conditions were too restrictive, or (3) they desired to keep lands enrolled in CRP (see Appendix A). Consequently, the League will continue to pursue opportunities for interested landowners to provide long-term (albeit not necessarily perpetual) protection of restored wetlands, but also with greater flexibility to allow for limited use of the protected areas (e.g., limited grazing and/or haying rights). The League, however, still believes that the new program authorities described above will not fully address the resource protection needs that continue to exist, especially when considering that some landowners are not interested in perpetual easement programs to protect restored wetland areas. Therefore, the League will continue to seek and implement innovative means of wetlands restoration and protection through its "Partners for Wetlands" program.

A.6 **Benefits:** Through a cooperative venture of the Legislative Commission of Minnesota Resources (Commission), the Izaak Walton League of America (League), the Board, and the Service, up to 1,500 acres of restored wetlands and associated uplands will be protected through perpetual easements. This program will guarantee the integrity of restored wetlands and their critical values, for humans and wildlife, into the 21st century and beyond. This program will also serve as a model for others to follow in the restoration and protection of wetlands while at the same time provide economic incentives to landowners interested in preserving our vital natural resources.

B. **Restoration/Conservation Easement Project Coordinator**

B.1 **Narrative:** Under a cooperative agreement with the League of America, the League will contract for the services of a Project Coordinator to be stationed out of St. Cloud, Minnesota. This individual will provide administrative and promotional assistance to the Service's State Private Lands Coordinator in Minnesota for this program. This individual will also coordinate League activities with the Board's Easement Programs Coordinator. The League, under a grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a federally created nonprofit corporation, hereinafter referred to as the "Foundation", shall transfer \$75,000 of the State appropriated Project #9 funds provided to the Board as a state warrant made payable to the Foundation to receive a grant of \$25,000. The \$25,000 in grant funds shall be used by the League as follows: a) \$10,000 to contract for the Project Coordinator; and b) \$15,000 to promote the wetlands program in Minnesota and nationally. Upon return of the state's funds previously sent to the Foundation, the League shall promptly disburse the \$75,000 to the Board. If, for any reason, the grant awarded by the Foundation to the League is rescinded, up to \$20,000 of the Project #9 funds will be made available to the League to contract for the services of the Project Coordinator.

B.2 **Procedures:** The Project Coordinator will assist Service employees in contacting landowners with wetlands restored on their properties and offer perpetual easements to them. The Project Coordinator will also develop and distribute information and guidelines to Service field stations, Service Realty specialists, and private landowners in Minnesota concerning wetland restoration/protection program. Likewise, the coordinator will also monitor status of program and prepare required status reports.

B.3 **Budget:**

	<u>Commission Funds</u>	<u>League Matching Funds</u>
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$ 0	\$ 40,000.00
b. Balance:	\$ 0	\$ 2,420.00

B.4 **Timeline for Products/Tasks:** July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan. 93 July 93  
Employ coordinator .....  
Make landowner contacts .....  
Develop/distribute guidelines .....

B.5 **Status:** Final status report:

Project Coordinator visited eight Service field offices and the Service's Twin Cities Regional Office to discuss the 334 project referrals. Project Coordinator prepared initial application information for the 20 parcels that were enrolled and directed SWCD staff in 11 counties to prepare the required conservation agreements. Board realty specialists will provide assistance to SWCDs to prepare the conservation easement documents for recording and payment. Project Coordinator contacted 175 individuals inviting their participation in the pilot program and followed up each written notice with a telephone call to answer their questions on the purpose and requirements of the pilot program.

Project Coordinator presented pilot program information to the following audiences or at the following locations: (1) Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA) Game Lakes Chapter meeting, 10/24/91; (2) Carver County Pheasants Forever (PF) Chapter meeting, 11/4/91; (3) Watertown Rod & Gun Club meeting, 11/20/91; (4) Delano Sportsman Club meeting, 11/26/91; (5) MWA Board of Directors meeting, 12/7/91; (6) Wright County Federation of Sportsman Clubs, 12/9/91; (7) Service's Regional "States' Private Lands Coordinators meeting", 12/10/91; (8) Minnesota Steering Committee of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan meeting, 12/12/91; (9) Service's State Private Lands Coordinators meeting, 1/14/92; (10) League's Owatonna Chapter meeting, 3/12/92; (11) League's State Convention, 4/24-26/92; (12) LeSueur County Fair booth, 8/22/92; (13) Service's State Private Lands Coordinators meeting, 1/12/93; (14) League's New Ulm Chapter meeting, 1/26/93; (15) League's LeCenter Chapter meeting, 4/19/93; and (16) League's State Convention, 4/18/93. Project Coordinator also prepared news releases or was interviewed in the following publications: (1) Minnesota Waterfowler, winter 1991/92; (2) statewide news release through the Board, 4/20/92; (3) Wildfowl, February/March 1992; (4) Minneapolis Star Tribune, 9/14/92; (5) Minnesota Volunteer, September/October 1992; and (6) radio interview by Mike Priesnitz on behalf of Minnesota Lottery for statewide distribution, 11/18/92. As a result of these activities, the Project Coordinator responded to numerous telephone and written inquiries regarding the pilot program and wetlands in general.

B.6 **Benefits:** Through employment of the Project Coordinator, wetland conservation education, wetland restoration, and wetland conservation easement programs will operate with a high degree of efficiency and continuity on the county and state level. The coordinator will develop good rapport with the Service, League, and

the Board. Most importantly, this individual will help deliver the wetland restoration and protection services to farmers and landowners, who will learn that wetland conservation can be an important option in their agricultural operations.

C. **Improve Nesting Habitat and Protect Existing Wetlands**

C.1 Narrative: The League will provide \$10,000 annually to encourage landowners to improve waterfowl nesting habitats and nesting success on or adjacent to privately owned existing and restored wetlands. Methods to be used include installation of over-water nesting structures used by nesting ducks and geese.

C.2 Procedures: The Project Coordinator will locate and purchase over-water nesting structures for distribution throughout Minnesota. Service field personnel will install structures as soon as wetlands are restored or during winter months on existing private wetlands. Structures will be installed on properties where landowners have expressed an interest in the easement program and where good opportunity for improvement of waterfowl nesting success occurs.

C.3 Budget:

	<u>Commission Funds</u>	<u>League Matching Funds</u>
Amount Budgeted:	None	\$ 1,000
Balance:	None	\$ 0

C.4 Timeline for Products/Tasks: July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan. 93 July 93  
Erect nesting structures .....

C.5 Status: Final status report:  
The Minnesota Waterfowl Association donated 25 wood duck houses (value of contribution = \$1000) for placement on the acquired easement areas. While \$20,000 was initially intended to be raised by the League from various donors, only MWA's contribution was received for these activities. Consequently, the true amount budgeted (shown above) was \$1000 and the balance is zero.

Originally, this pilot program was to provide over-water nesting structures to enhance the wetland restorations on private lands. However, the Project Coordinator was unable to successfully solicit private donations towards the acquisition of these structures. Consequently, no over-water nesting structures (with the exception of the noted wood duck houses) will be established on the easement areas. Accordingly, there was no monitoring or evaluation of any over-water nesting structures on any of the easement areas.

B Use of the widespread interest and potential use of nest' structures, the

Service has initiated an evaluation of nesting structures out of their Morris Wetland Management district office. These efforts were to determine the best structure(s) to use in private wetland restoration projects. Preliminary results from the first year were promising and an expanded second field season of data collection and analysis has recently begun.

C.6 Benefits: Installation of over-water nesting structures may increase waterfowl nesting success to as high as 50-80 percent in some localities. In addition, the use of over-water nesting structures will demonstrate the importance of private lands to the production of wildlife. This program will also serve as a model for other agencies and private conservation organizations interested in improving private lands for wildlife.

IV. Evaluation

For the Fiscal Year 1992-1993 biennium, the program will be evaluated by its success to recruit private landowners to enroll their properties into the wetland restoration/protection program. Another measure of success will be how rapidly and efficiently the Service, Board, and the League can expend funds and the demand for landowner participation in the program after current budgeted funds have been expended. All of these parameters will be monitored and included in the status and final reports. Valuable but immeasurable benefits to this program will likely include changes in landowner attitudes about wetlands. Wherever possible, examples of these changed attitudes and support for wetland restoration/protection programs will be documented.

Item "C" of the program will be evaluated on the effectiveness of the cooperating agencies in implementing over-water nesting structure. The effects on local waterfowl breeding populations of the programs in Item "C" will be estimated using traditional wildlife census and monitoring techniques.

V. Context

A. Since 1985, the Service begin restoring wetlands on private lands throughout Minnesota. Up until now, only a small amount of effort has been expended towards obtaining perpetual conservation easements on these restored wetlands. Also, the current Service wetland easement program does not prohibit the haying, grazing, or cropping of restored wetlands when these areas go dry naturally whereas the RIM Reserve Program does prohibit these activities.

B. This partnership, between the Commission, the League, the Board and the Service will provide the funding, personnel, authority, and the initiative needed to promote, publicize and implement an effective and efficient wetland restoration/protection program. Through the acquisition of perpetual conservation sements by the RIM Reserve Program, restored wetla and

associated upland areas can be protected, offering a permanent and valuable wetland resource. Likewise, many of the economic needs of landowners concerned about natural resource protection can be addressed through this program.

- C. Prior Service wetland easements purchased in Minnesota have been financed by the Federal government and the Commission has not been a partner. Because of the great potential to enroll restored wetlands in this program, and because the wetland restoration/protection program provides a wide variety of public and natural resource benefits, it is very probable that an application will be made to the Commission for similar funding for the Fiscal Year 1992-1993 biennium. In this biennium, we hope to enlist the cooperation of a large group of private conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Pheasants Forever, and others.
- D. None.
- E. Program 20, Water and Soil Resources Board. M.L. 90 Ch. 300 Art. I, Sec. 12.

#### VI. Qualifications

##### 1. Program Cooperators

Sam Marler  
Regional Director  
North Central Region  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Federal Building, Fort Snelling  
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

Sam Marler administers the 8-state Service program designed to manage and protect a wide range of fish and wildlife resources and their associated habitats. Within the North Central Region (3), the Service employs over 1,000 professional and vocational personnel dedicated to natural resource management.

David Zentner  
National Director  
Izaak Walton League of America  
2116 Columbus Avenue  
Duluth, Minnesota 55803

The Izaak Walton League of America, one of America's oldest and most respected conservation organizations, has one goal: America's natural resources base should be protected, managed and used to assure the quality of life in the United States. David Zentner, currently a national director of the Ikes, has also served as the

League's national president and vice president, was chairman of the national executive board and president of the Minnesota division.

##### 2. Program Manager

David Behm  
Programs & Policy Analyst  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
155 South Wabasha, Suite 104  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

It is the mission of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to provide leadership in managing policies and programs that encourage all citizens to be stewards of Minnesota's irreplaceable land and water resources. The BWSR has administered the RIM Reserve Program since its inception in 1986. David Behm earned a BS degree in Water Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1982 and an MS degree in Resource Management (soils emphasis) from UW-Stevens Point in 1986. He has been employed by the Board since December 1988.

#### VII. Reporting Requirements

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1992, July 1, 1992, January 1, 1993, and a final status report by June 30, 1993.

# APPENDIX A: LANDOWNER RESPONSES TO ENROLLMENT

LANDOWNER RESPONSE OR ACTION TAKEN	NUMBER <sup>1</sup>	PERCENT RESPONDING <sup>2</sup>
	Landowners initially refusing	
Does not want an easement	20 of 63 (20 of 175)	32% (11.5%)
Wants to stay in CRP <sup>3</sup>	12 of 63 (12 of 175)	19% (7%)
Not interested at this time	12 of 63 (12 of 175)	19% (7%)
Enrolled in Federal Waterbank OR Service easement	5 of 63 (5 of 175)	8% (3%)
Needs area for hay/pasture land	4 of 63 (4 of 175)	6% (2%)
Interested, but unspecified reasons for not enrolling	3 of 63 (3 of 175)	5% (2%)
Enrolled in RIM Reserve	2 of 63 (2 of 175)	3% (1%)
Easement payment too low	2 of 63 (2 of 175)	3% (1%)
Wishes to sell land for WPA <sup>4</sup>	2 of 63 (2 of 175)	3% (1%)
Inconvenient to manage the small area enrolled	1 of 63 (1 of 175)	2% (0.5%)
	Landowners initially interested but then refusing	
Does not want an easement	24 of 56 (24 of 175)	43% (14%)
Wants to stay in CRP <sup>3</sup>	16 of 56 (16 of 175)	28% (9%)
Needs area for hay/pasture land	5 of 56 (5 of 175)	9% (3%)
Easement payment too low	4 of 56 (4 of 175)	7% (2%)
Enrolled in Federal Waterbank	3 of 56 (3 of 175)	5% (2%)
Not interested at this time	2 of 56 (2 of 175)	4% (1%)
Enrolled in RIM Reserve	1 of 56 (1 of 175)	2% (0.5%)
Land is for sale	1 of 56 (1 of 175)	2% (0.5%)
Ineligible	(24 of 175)	(14%)
	Status of applications	
Deemed undesirable for enrollment	6 of 32 (6 of 175)	18% (3%)
Not interested at this time	2 of 32 (2 of 175)	7% (1%)
Enrolled in Service easement	1 of 32 (1 of 175)	3% (0.5%)
Enrolled in RIM Reserve	1 of 32 (1 of 175)	3% (0.5%)
Unable to obtain consent	1 of 32 (1 of 175)	3% (0.5%)
Unable to obtain clear title	1 of 32 (1 of 175)	3% (0.5%)
Enrolled in pilot program	20 of 32 (20 of 175)	63% (21.5%)

## NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> The top numbers relate to a specific shaded grouping of landowner responses (i.e. "5 of 56") and the bottom numbers (contained in parentheses) show the relationship of the specific landowner response to a total of 175 landowner contacts that were made during the pilot program.
- <sup>2</sup> The top percentage relates to a specific shaded grouping of landowner responses (i.e., "( 3%)") and the bottom percentage (contained in parentheses) shows the relationship of the specific landowner response to the total of 175 landowner contacts that were made during the pilot program.
- <sup>3</sup> "CRP" is the federal Conservation Reserve Program, co-administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- <sup>4</sup> "WPA" is a federal waterfowl production area, operated and often owned in fee title by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

APPENDIX B:  
DESCRIPTION OF EASEMENT AREAS

SWCD	EASEMENT NUMBER	LANDOWNER NAME	T.I. COSTS	EASEMENT ACRES	WETLAND ACRES	WETLAND BASINS	EASEMENT \$	VEGETATIVE PRACTICE \$	RESTORATION COSTS
1) Carver	10-09-91-01	Deloras Jean Williams	\$128.00	9.0	3.0	2	\$7,788.42	\$600.00 MWA	\$1,600.00
2) Benton	05-08-91-01	H. Richard West Donald Plomborn	\$305.00 W/FE	45.4	23.0	1	\$14,194.88	NONE	\$3,990.00
3) Sibley	72-01-91-01	Tim and Mildred Brlard	\$424.00 W/FE	50.5	33.9	1	\$31,748.85	NONE	\$3,200.00
4) Mc	49-07-91-01	Don Gehrke	\$249.00 W/FE	32.0	16.0	1	\$6,887.04	NONE	\$800.00
5) Rice	66-10-91-01	Robert Schmidt Fox Den Farms	\$208.50	38.2	12.6	2	\$30,105.39	\$610.00 MWA	\$4,889.00
6) Faribault	22-06-91-01	Stenson Family Farm	\$294.00	75.7	38.0	1	\$83,759.94	\$715.00 MWA	\$9,856.00
7) Rice	66-11-91-01	Ben Rezac, Jr.	\$159.50	30.2	15.1	1	\$16,875.46	NONE	\$2,165.00
8) Rice	66-12-91-01	Stan Schreyer	\$131.50	18.1	6.7		\$8,325.55	\$60.00 MWA	(part of above)
9) Clearwater	15-01-91-01	David Lewis	\$406.00 W/FE	57.3	26.2	5	\$7,279.28	NONE	\$6,275.00
10) Beltrami	04-02-91-01	David Lewis	\$110.50	20.4	10.2	1	\$2,617.93	NONE	\$2,275.00
11) Clearwater	15-04-91-01	Jarome Snobeck	\$121.00 W/FE	34.3	7.0	2	\$6,019.28	NONE	\$2,270.00
12) East Polk	60-02-91-01-E	Verna Sather	\$110.50	9.0	1.8	1	\$2,157.38	NONE	\$500.00
13) Clearwater	15-02-91-01	Lyle Colligan	\$214.00 W/FE	12.4	4.0	2	\$1,544.71	NONE	\$780.00
14) Kandiyohi	34-05-91-01	Steve Kallevig	\$380.00	99.8	26.5	7	\$78,189.96	NONE	\$2,000.00
15) Kandiyohi	34-04-91-01	Ed Davis	\$170.00	25.5	7.9	1	\$19,177.96	NONE	\$3,567.00
16) Rice	66-14-91-01	Ron Barnes	\$138.50	12	4	1	\$10,345.80	NONE	\$1,082.00
17) Rice	66-15-91-01	Ken Poutz	\$114.00	4.5	1.5		\$3,506.46	\$75.00 Local Club	(part of above)
18) Becker	47-25-91-01	Allen Gardning	\$201.50	42.0	9.6	1	\$28,454.98	NONE	\$900.00
19) Kandiyohi	34-06-91-01	Dennis Rupp	\$454.00	42.7	11.0	2	\$21,984.52	NONE	\$1,250.00
20) Kandiyohi	34-07-91-01	Gawaln Hanson	\$647.00 w/FE (2)	44.7	21.1	2	\$13,476.29	NONE	\$1,700.00
TOTALS			\$4,966.50	703.7	279.1	34	\$394,440.08	\$2,060.00	\$49,099.00
TOTAL EASEMENT COSTS		\$399,406.58							

NOTES:

- "T.I. Costs" represent the cost to the State of Minnesota for purchasing title insurance, a statutory requirement in the easement acquisition process. These costs are reflected here to illustrate these professional services fees.  
  
The total "T.I. Costs" shown above is \$4,966.50, which is a conservative estimate of the anticipated title insurance costs for the 20 easements. A total of \$5,300 has actually been requisitioned from this appropriation to ensure that these professional services costs will be adequately covered.
- "W/FE" represents that these easement areas also required the acquisition of flowage easement(s) on adjacent lands.
- "MWA" is the Minnesota Waterfowl Association.

APPENDIX C:  
DESCRIPTION OF UPLAND VEGETATIVE PRACTICES ON EASEMENT AREAS

Location County [Easement#]	Easement Area, Acres	Upland Acres <sup>1</sup>	Estab. Practice <sup>2</sup>	Estab. Practice Acres	Estab. Practice Costs <sup>2</sup>	Estab. Practice Contrib. <sup>2,3</sup>	Add'l. Practice <sup>1,2</sup>	Add'l. Practice Acres <sup>2</sup>	Add'l. Practice Costs <sup>2</sup>	Add'l. Practice Contrib. <sup>2,3</sup>
Caryer [10-09-91-01]	9.0	6.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Native grasses	6.0	\$ 600	MWA
Benton [05-08-91-01]	45.4	22.4	Native grasses	10.9	\$1635	DNR	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Natural woods	11.5	N/A	N/A				
Sibley [72-01-91-01]	50.5	16.6	Introduced grasses	4.0	\$ 300	LO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Natural woods	12.6	N/A	N/A				
Morrison [49-07-91-01]	32.0	16.0	Natural woods	16.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rice [66-10-91-01]	38.2	25.6	Introduced grasses	14.2	\$1065	LO	Native grasses	7.7	\$ 610	MWA
			Natural woods	3.7	N/A	N/A				
Faribault [22-06-91-01]	75.7	37.7	Introduced grasses	17.0	\$1275	CRP	Native grasses	9.2	\$ 590	MWA
			Trees/shrubs	2.0	\$ 600	CRP	Introduced grasses	3.3	\$ 125	MWA
			Food plot	3.0	\$ 150	DNR				
			Natural woods	3.2	N/A	N/A				
Rice [66-11-91-01] [66-12-91-01]	48.3 (total acres)	26.5	Natural woods	25.5	N/A	N/A	Introduced grasses	1.0	\$ 75	MWA
Clearwater [15-01-91-01]	57.3	31.1	Introduced grasses	9.0	\$ 675	LO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Food plot	3.9	\$ 195	DNR				
			Natural woods	18.2	N/A	N/A				
Beltrami [04-02-91-01]	20.4	10.2	Introduced grasses	6.8	\$ 510	LO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Natural woods	3.4	N/A	N/A				
Clearwater [15-04-91-01]	34.3	26.9	Introduced grasses	3.8	\$ 285	LO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Trees/shrubs	19.9	\$5970	LO				
			Natural woods	3.2	N/A	N/A				
Polk [60-2-91-1-E]	9.0	7.2	Introduced grasses	6.3	\$ 473	CRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Natural woods	0.9	N/A	N/A				
Clearwater [15-02-91-01]	12.4	8.4	Introduced grasses	6.4	\$ 480	LO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Natural woods	2.0	N/A	N/A				
Kandiyohi [34-05-91-01]	99.8	73.3	Native grasses	64.7	\$9705	CRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Introduced grasses	2.8	\$ 210	LO				
			Trees/shrubs	3.0	\$ 900	CRP/PF				
			Natural wetland	2.8	N/A	N/A				
Mosker [47-25-91-01]	42.0	32.4	Introduced grasses	29.2	\$2190	CRP/LO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Natural wetland	3.2	N/A	N/A				
Kandiyohi [34-06-91-01]	42.7	31.7	Introduced grasses	31.7	\$2378	CRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kandiyohi [34-07-91-01]	44.7	22.5	Introduced grasses	6.5	\$ 488	CRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Natural woods	18.0	N/A	N/A				
Rice [66-11-91-01] [66-12-91-01]	16.5	11.0	Native grasses	8.0	\$1200	CRP	Introduced grasses	1.5	\$ 60	LO
			Introduced grasses	1.5	\$ 113	CRP				
Kandiyohi [34-04-91-01]	25.5	17.6	Native grasses	13.3	\$1995	CRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Introduced grasses	4.3	\$ 323	LO				

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> The acreage indicated represents the total acreage of the easement(s) identified in the first column. Where more than one easement is listed, this represents a multi-owner restoration project requiring more than one conservation easement.
- <sup>2</sup> "N/A" means not applicable.
- <sup>3</sup> • "CRP" is the federal Conservation Reserve Program, co-administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- "MWA" is the Minnesota Waterfowl Association.
- "DNR" is the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- "LO" is the respective landowner.
- "PF" is Pheasants Forever.



**1991 LCMR PROJECT ABSTRACT (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30,1993)**

Funding for this project approved by the Minnesota Legislature (ML 1991, Chapter 254, Art. 1, Sec. 14, Subd. 9(h)) as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

**TITLE:** Easement Acquisition on Restored Wetlands  
**PROGRAM MANAGER:** David H. Behm  
**ORGANIZATION:** Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 1991, Chapter 254, Art. 1, Sec. 14, Subd. 9(h)  
**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$400,000

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**

The Board managed a pilot program within its Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program to acquire permanent conservation easements on federally restored or enhanced wetlands and adjacent lands in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Izaak Walton League. The purposes of the pilot program were to:

- 1) encourage landowners with restorations on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract lands to cancel their CRP contracts and enroll the desired parcels under perpetual easements in RIM Reserve to provide permanent protection to the parcels;
- 2) encourage other landowners with restorations associated with Service wildlife development agreements to enroll the desired parcels under perpetual easements in RIM Reserve;
- 3) create a cooperative partnership involving a non-profit conservation organization to coordinate and accelerate private landowners' wetland restoration and protection initiatives with programs offered by federal, state, and local agencies; and
- 4) encourage landowners to improve waterfowl nesting habitats and nesting success on or adjacent to privately owned existing and restored wetlands.

**OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS**

Twenty perpetual conservation easements were enrolled in the RIM Reserve Program, providing permanent protection to 279.1 acres of restored wetlands and 424.6 acres of adjacent uplands. The enrolled acreage represents 34 restored wetland basins and nearly all of the easement areas are located within the prairie pothole region of Minnesota. Consequently, this cumulative acreage reflects a net gain in critically important waterfowl production habitat. This habitat achievement is further enhanced by the fact that eight of the twenty easement areas include multiple wetland basins or complexes. Wetlands enrolled included type 4 (6 basins), type 3 (25 basins), and type 2 (3 basins).

**PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION**

As a result of this pilot program, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) approved a statewide policy allowing CRP contract holders to modify or cancel their CRP contracts without repayment or penalties if the lands were enrolled under perpetual conservation easements into the RIM Reserve Program. This ASCS policy is unique to Minnesota and provides landowners with an important and timely land management option, especially since most of Minnesota's CRP contract acreage will be expiring within four years.

This pilot program provided Izaak Walton League the opportunity to evaluate its own "Partners for Wetlands" program. Consequently, the League reaffirmed its commitment to seek acceleration of these successes in other states which presently lack an adequate state or local wetland restoration program.