1993 LCMR PROJECT ABSTRACT
For the period ending June 30, 1995
This project was supported by the Environmental Trust Fund and the MN Future Resources Fund.

Title:	Reinvest in Minnesota Conservation Reserve Easements
Program Manager:	Marybeth Block
Organization:	MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
Legal Citation:	M.L. 93 Chapter 172, Article 1, Section 14, Subd. 3(e)
Approp. Amount:	$823,000

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

To accelerate the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements on certain marginal agricultural lands to protect and improve water quality, control erosion and sedimentation and to enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

RESULTS

Fourteen conservation easemenst acquired 943.7 acres of riparian cropland to a natural floodplain ecosystem. Returning these areas to their native vegetative and hydrologic state greatly reduces significant inputs of sediment and associated nutrients and pesticides to surface waters and provides superb habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species. Of the total acreage, 98 percent was located in the Minnesota River Basin and the remaining 2 percent in the Cannon River Basin.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The conservation easements acquired will be used to leverage federal dollars from the North American Wetlands Conservation Council to accelerate further easement acquisition in the Minnesota River Basin, and to restore wetlands and native vegetation on the easement areas.

Date of Report: July 1, 1995
LCMR Final Workprogram Update Report

LCMR WORK PROGRAM 1993 **A4-4 Reinvest In Minnesota Conservation Reserve Easements**

Program Manager: Marybeth Block, Special Projects Coordinator
Board of Water and Soil Resources
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I. Activity Description

M.L. 93 Chapter 172, Article 1, Section 14, Subd. 3(e) $500,000 of this appropriation is from the trust fund and $323,000 of this appropriation is from the future resources fund to the board of water and soil resources to accelerate the RIM program to acquire perpetual conservation easements on marginal agricultural lands. Up to $165,000 may be used to implement conservation practices on the easements. None of this appropriation may be used for administrative costs.

This project will acquire perpetual conservation easements on certain marginal lands to protect and improve water quality, control erosion and sedimentation, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. This appropriation may result in the enrollment of approximately 960 acres (based on assumption of $858/acre as an average cost for easement acquisition) of marginal agricultural lands, excluding drained restorable wetlands. Total enrollment goals (funded, in part, by this appropriation) for FY94-95 (see Appendix A) include: (a) 1,500 acres of sensitive ground water areas, (b) 4,000 acres of restored wetlands, (c) 6,000 acres of riparian lands, and (d) 4,500 acres of highly erosive marginal lands.

II. Status:

Soil and water conservation districts conducted local application periods for interested landowners during the month of October 1993. Landowners submitted applications requesting approximately $14.5 million to enroll some 14,698 acres of marginal agricultural and drained wetland areas. Of those, approximately $1.5 million for 1,600 acres of marginal agricultural lands were accepted for enrollment. The entire $823,000 appropriation was allocated to the easement acquisition costs for 15 marginal agricultural land applications. No dollars were used to implement conservation practices on the easements or for the professional services needed to acquire the easement. Only one of the 15 easement applications cancelled, and the fourteen remaining easements have been acquired and the landowners paid.

Sections III (program appropriations), IV (program accomplishments), VI (cumulative landowner interest and funding balances) and VIII (additional information) this work program reflect the final status of this project.

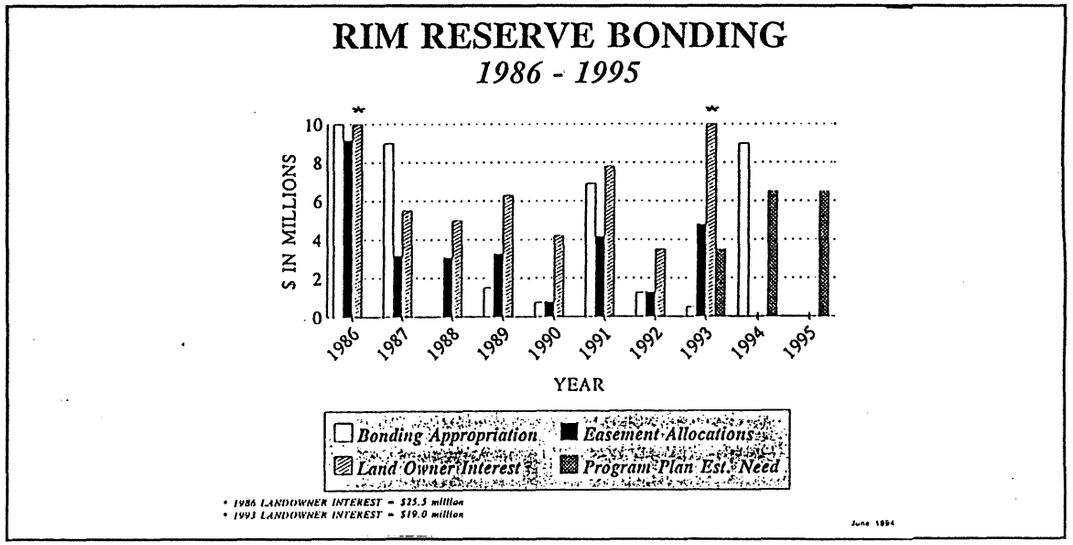
The conservation easements acquired converted 943.7 acres of riparian cropland to a natural floodplain ecosystem, thereby greatly reducing significant inputs of sediment to the Minnesota River and its tributaries. In addition, these easement acres will provide perpetual wildlife habitat. Thirteen of the 14 accepted applications funded by this appropriation are located within the Minnesota River watershed - the other proposed easement area is located in the Cannon River watershed.

III. Program Appropriations (amounts in thousands)

Total Biennial Appropriations:	Trust Fund & Future Resources Fund	$823
	Bonding (FY95-96)	$9,000

A. Bonding	Appropriated	Unliquidated Liquidated	Balance to but Encumbered[1]	Liquidate
1986, Ch. 383, Sec. 17, Subd. 3	9,400	9,376	24	0
1987, Ch. 400, Sec. 12	9,000	8,874	126	0
1989, Ch. 300, Art. 1, Sec. 12	1,500	1,347	153	0
1990, Ch. 610, Art. 1, Sec. 15	750	705	45	0
1991, Ch. 354, Sec. 1	5,000	2,945	2,055	0
1991, Ch. 254, Art. 1, Sec. 17	1,900	1,726	174	0
1992, Ch. 558, Sec. 19	1,250	885	365	0
1993, Ch. 373, Sec. 13, Subd. 12	500	117	383	0
1994, Ch. 643, Sec. 26, Subd. 3 & 4	9,000	184	4,714	4,102
	38,300	26,159	8,039	4,102
B. Trust Fund				
1991, Ch. 254, Sec. 14, Subd. 6(d)	600	423	44	133[3]
1991, Ch. 254, Sec. 14, Subd. 9(h)	400	389	9	2
1993, Ch. 172, Sec. 14, Subd. 3(e)	500	487	0	13
	1,500	1,299	53	148
C. Future Resources Fund				
1993, Ch. 172, Sec. 14, Subd. 3(e)	323	323	0	0

[1]"Encumbered" means: (a) funds that have been allocated to specific applications that have recently been accepted for enrollment, or (b) funds which have been requisitioned for specific conservation agreements prior to landowner's signature, or (c) funds that have been encumbered to specific conservation agreements following landowner's signature.
[2]Reappropriation of 1989, Ch. 300
[3&4] cancelled easement application dollars returned, or slated to be returned, to the trust fund; see section IV for an explanation.



IV. Program Accomplishments (acres)

The cumulative program accomplishments through FY 1994 include:	51,308
Sensitive ground water areas (limited duration and perpetual easements) =	899
Riparian lands (limited duration and perpetual easements) =	7,861
Marginal agricultural cropland (limited duration and perpetual easements) =	29,240
Pastured hillsides (limited duration and perpetual easements) =	679
Living snowfence areas (perpetual easements only) =	82
Wetland restoration areas (perpetual easements only) =	13,307

Approximately $26,159,000 (68%) of cumulative bonding appropriations have been liquidated to date, with $12,141,000 (32%) remaining to be liquidated. Of the unliquidated total, $8,039,000 (66%) is encumbered or committed to applications accepted for enrollment. The remaining $4,103,600 is reserved to fund special projects and FY 96 applications. Approximately $1,622,000 (89%) of cumulative trust fund appropriations have been liquidated to date, with $53,000 (03%) encumbered or committed to accepted applications. The balance to liquidate ($148,000) will be returned to the trust fund ($82,000 has been returned). The dollars returned to the trust fund were committed to applications that where cancelled by the landowner, or by the state if a wetland restoration application was deemed infeasible after an engineering investigation. These cancellations occurred after the two-year appropriation period. None of the cumulative future resources fund appropriations remain available for liquidation.

V. Program Issues from BWSR's "Strategic Plan" and "A Five-Year Program Plan for RIM Reserve (1993-1997)"

The mission of the Board of Water and Soil Resources is to provide leadership enabling local governments to properly manage water and soil resources and to help all citizens be stewards of our irreplaceable natural resources. This mission will be accomplished primarily by enabling local governments to effectively address four key resource management issues: land use alteration, nonpoint source pollution, soil conservation, and water quantity management. The board has identified fourteen "guiding strategies" to provide overall direction for the role of the RIM Reserve Program in addressing these four resource management issues (Attachment A).

VI. Program Enrollment Goals

Minnesota has over 2 million acres of marginal cropland, thousands of acres of drained restorable wetlands, thousands of miles of cropped shoreland, and sensitive ground water areas that should no longer be in agricultural production. Perpetual conservation easements will be acquired on certain marginal agricultural lands to convert these lands back to non-polluting, permanent vegetative cover. All easements enrolled in the program will address at least one of the following program purposes: (a) water quality protection and improvement, (b) soil erosion reduction, and/or (c) fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. Local screening committees, chaired by a soil and water conservation district, also provide individual review and prioritization of easement areas being offered for enrollment into the program, thereby providing additional assurances that the enrolled acreage will adequately address the statutory purposes of the program.

Landowner interest in enrolling acreage has consistently exceeded appropriations. As of June 1995, approximately $96.5 million of applications have been received in consideration of approximately $40 million appropriated. The board anticipates that this level of landowner interest in the program will be sustained for the foreseeable future.

The "Five-Year Program Plan for RIM Reserve (1993-1997)," as approved by the board in June 1992 (Attachment A), designates fiscal year enrollment goals which are based on statewide resource management needs and anticipated landowner interest in the program. Board staff have recently extended these enrollment projections for an additional two years to address the agency's capital budget requests through fiscal year 1999. Average baseline enrollment acreage goals for each fiscal year (FY94-FY99) consists of 2,000 acres of wetland restorations and 6,000 acres of riparian lands and other marginal land categories including sensitive groundwater. Appropriations necessary to achieve these baseline enrollment goals will require $7 million per fiscal year. In addition to these baseline enrollment goals, the board has also identified the need to enroll an additional 10,500 acres that are currently protected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This acreage amount reflects the most fragile CRP lands. Also, the board has identified the need to extend in perpetuity approximately 4,200 acres of 10-year RIM Reserve easement areas. This acreage amount reflects 50% of the most fragile lands, or 25% of the total 10-year easement area acreage. These additional enrollment goals will require an additional $11.5 million during FY96-FY2001.

Balance remaining to liquidate in bonding is $4,103,600 and this will be used for the purchase of easements submitting applications in 1995, for cost-sharing the establishment of necessary permanent vegetative cover (including wetland restoration practices) on easement areas, and, as necessary, for professional services fees incurred in acquiring the easements (including necessary engineering technical assistance). Accordingly, these available funds may result in an enrollment of some additional 4,000 acres of marginal agricultural land. These enrollment projections are based on the assumption that average easement acquisition costs are between $858/acre to $1,257/acre for these types of lands.

Balance remaining to liquidate in trust fund appropriations is $148,000, all of which will be returned to the trust fund. Balance remaining to liquidate in future resources fund appropriations is $0.

If FY93-FY99 enrollment goals are met, then cumulative program accomplishments would be:

- Sensitive ground water areas (limited duration and perpetual easements) = 5,946
- Riparian lands (limited duration and perpetual easements) = 14,460
- Marginal agricultural cropland (limited duration and perpetual easements) = 121,469
- Pastured hillsides (limited duration and perpetual easements) = 679
- Living snowfence areas (perpetual easements only) = 82
- Wetland restoration areas (perpetual easements only) = 19,176

VII. Context

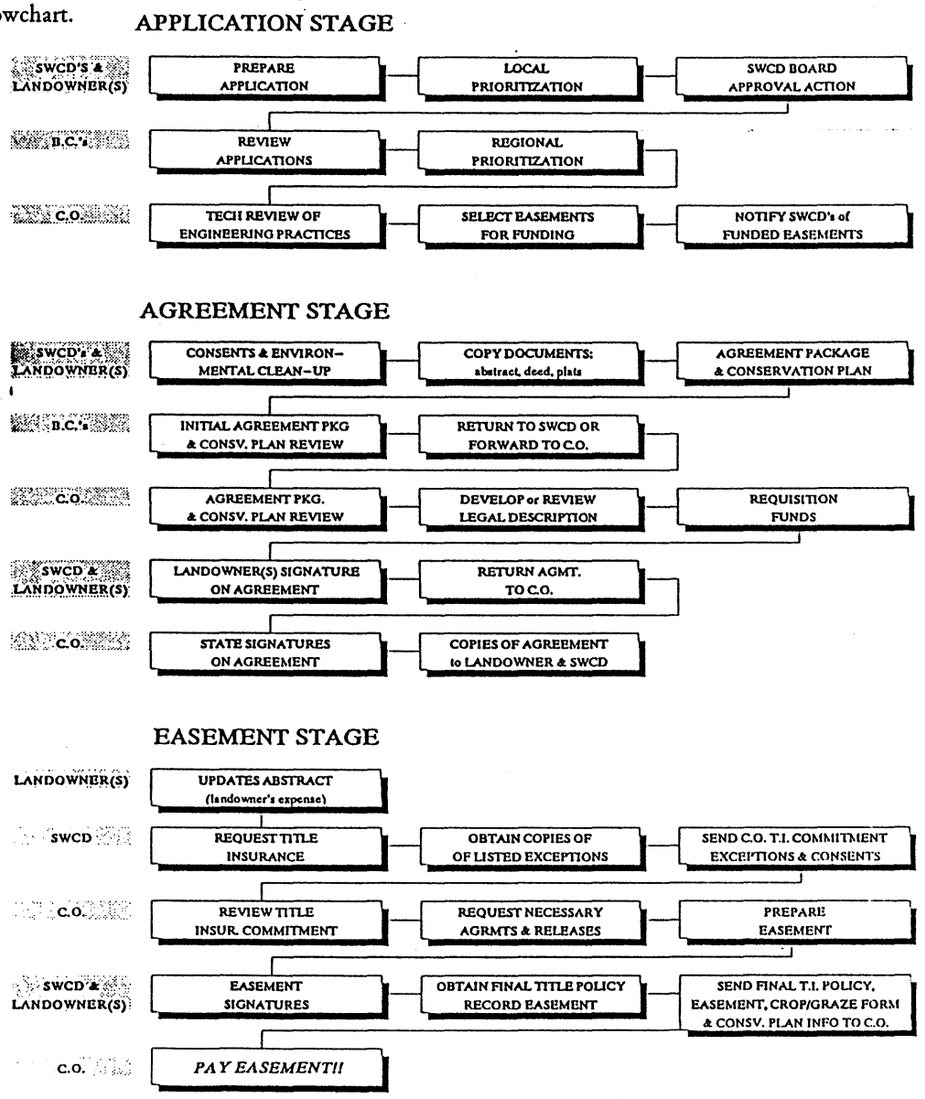
A. Current funding levels (appropriated from bonding, trust fund, and future resources fund) and easement acquisition accomplishments are addressing only a fraction of the statewide land retirement needs which, if substantially accomplished, will likely result in significant reductions of nonpoint source loadings of water pollutants, particularly sediments and nutrients.

B. This project will accelerate the acquisition of perpetual RIM Reserve conservation easements, especially within the board-designated priority area of the Minnesota River watershed. Status reports will be provided to the commission every six months during the project period.

VIII. Additional Information

A. Professional service fees for conservation easement acquisitions include: staff time for realty specialists, design engineer, wetland restoration technicians (or equivalent), Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Engineering, and the Attorney General's Office; and recording and title insurance fees to process conservation easement acquisitions. As of June 1994, cumulative administrative costs (including professional service fees) for acquisition of RIM Reserve conservation easements totaled $7.65 million.

B. The general procedure to acquire a RIM Reserve conservation easement is illustrated in the following flowchart.



The existing implementation process will be used. The board, through its Easement Programs Coordinator, will provide statewide guidance to the 91 local soil and water conservation districts which locally administer the program. Local SWCDs will prepare conservation agreements for all landowners who have been identified by the board as having high priority, eligible applications. The SWCD provides to the State agreements which contain a legal description and map of the proposed easement area, a conservation plan for the establishment of permanent practices, and a signed agreement between the landowner(s) and the State to formally initiate the easement acquisition process. Upon the review and approval of these agreements by board staff and the Attorney General's Office, funds are encumbered for the easement and necessary practice establishment payments. Upon receipt and approval of good and marketable title and title insurance, the conservation easement is then recorded locally in the given county's recorder's office. The landowner then becomes legally bound by the provisions of the conservation easement.

C. Permanent vegetative practices will be established on acquired perpetual easement areas to protect and improve water quality, control erosion and sedimentation, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. In the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats, consideration shall be given to ensure adequate habitat enhancements for all wildlife species. However, priority consideration shall be given for endangered or threatened flora or fauna species where the land has such capability (Appendix A).

The board, and cooperating federal and other state agencies, shall provide statewide technical guidance to the 91 local SWCDs to develop and oversee the implementation of the conservation practices (e.g., permanent vegetative cover such as grasses/legumes, shrubs, and trees, with priority given to the establishment of native species) established on the acquired easement areas. Appendix B provides a description of the types of conservation practices and the associated cost-sharing limits for each provided by the RIM Reserve Program. Upon practice establishment, the board shall reimburse the landowner up to the statutory cost-share limits for each conservation practice. Where actual costs exceed statutory cost-sharing limits and/or where such other sources of cost-share have been secured, cooperating organizations and agencies (e.g., Pheasants Forever for riparian area vegetative establishment, etc.) shall provide financial assistance directly to participating landowners.

D. Qualifications of Program Managers:

- **Marybeth Block, Special Projects Coordinator; Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources:** Marybeth was appointed the coordinator of board easement programs in late October, 1992. She has statewide responsibilities regarding overall program administration and coordination with local SWCDs, cooperating federal and state agencies, and cooperating private organizations. She left the easement coordinator position in February of 1995 to accept a position with the agency's land and water section. Marybeth received a B.S. (1992) in natural resources and environmental science from the University of Minnesota.

E. Cooperators/Other Investigators:

- **Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors and Staff:** Each SWCD designates an employee to administer the program at the local level. This includes landowner contacts, securing applications, on site assessment, local screening committee activities, agreement development, title searches, and vegetative cover certification, and spot checks to determine easement compliance. These employees have a varied educational background. Most have a degree in agricultural or natural resource management.

- **North American Wetland Conservation Council:** The board is currently administering $901,160 of reimbursable federal funds from the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) to accelerate wetland restoration activities within the Minnesota River watershed. The board is one of several partners in a cooperative project to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands in the basin. This contribution will be used to acquire easement areas, restore drained wetlands, establish permanent vegetative cover on adjacent upland areas, and employ a wetland restoration technician to provide accelerated technical assistance to participating soil and water conservation districts. As of March 1994, approximately $315,000 had been requested from NAWCC for disbursement to the board.
- **Ducks Unlimited:** Through its MARSH (Matching Aids to Restore States Habitat) Program, Ducks Unlimited will provide $125,000 in cash contributions to restore drained wetlands. Approximately $50,000 of this contribution will be targeted to the Minnesota River watershed and an additional $50,000 of this contribution will be targeted to the Cannon River watershed to accelerate wetland restoration activities within these basins. The balance of this contribution shall be used statewide. As of June 1994, approximately $5,200 had been requested from DU by the board for disbursement to participating landowners.
- **Pheasants Forever:** The 13 local chapters within the Minnesota River watershed have pledged approximately $30,000 in cash contributions for the establishment of permanent vegetative cover for easements acquired on riparian cropland. In addition, the national office will seek additional cash contributions to supplement the local chapters' contributions to further accelerate the establishment of permanent vegetative cover for easements acquired on riparian cropland within the Minnesota River watershed. As of June 1994, no funds had been disbursed by local PF chapters to participating landowners because no practices had yet been established on the designated riparian easement areas.
- **Wapashaw Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America:** The chapter has pledged a $500 cash contribution for trout stream habitat improvement, with the supervision of the Department of Natural Resources, in any Wabasha County trout stream that is adjacent to an easement acquired on riparian cropland and/or riparian pastured hillside. As of June 1994, no riparian easement area had been acquired along a trout stream in Wabasha County.
- **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources:** Through the RIM Coordinator, the assistance of selected DNR staff will be requested, as necessary, to provide the technical guidance regarding the establishment of conservation practices on acquired easement areas to ensure the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats.
- **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:** Through the Minnesota River Assessment Program Coordinator, the assistance of selected MPCA staff will be requested, as necessary, to provide guidance regarding the prioritization of acquiring riparian easements within the Minnesota River watershed.
- **Trout Unlimited:** The Program Managers will continue to seek cooperative assistance from one or more local chapters of Trout Unlimited to accelerate trout habitat improvement projects adjacent to easements acquired on riparian lands.

ATTACHMENT A

APPROVED BY BOARD, 6/24/92

Reinvesting in Minnesota's Water and Soil Resources:
A Five-Year Program Plan for RIM Reserve (1993-1997)

I. PURPOSE

A. Legislative Authority

1. Laws of 1986, Chapter 383, sections 2 through 6 created the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Resources Act to "keep certain marginal agricultural land out of crop production or pasture to protect soil and water quality and support fish and wildlife habitat."
2. Minnesota Statutes (1991) Sections 103F.501 - 103F.531 provides enabling legislative intent and specifies state policy "to encourage the retirement of marginal, highly erodible land, particularly land adjacent to public waters and drainage systems, from crop production and to reestablish a cover of perennial vegetation."

B. Administrative Authority

1. Minnesota Code of Administrative Rules (MCAR) Parts 8400.3000 - 8400.3930 were initially promulgated as emergency rules in 1986 and later as permanent rules in 1988 and most recently revised in January 1990. Substantive revisions are likely during this five-year period to reflect the long-term goals described herein.
2. Board of Water and Soil Resources has statewide coordination and administrative responsibilities and oversees the local administration of the program by soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs).

C. Guiding Strategies [from BWSR Strategic Plan]

1. Incentives should be a tool available to local government to enhance local program delivery.
2. Incentives should be offered to potentially affected land occupiers to create positive attitudes about proper land management practices.
3. Incentives should provide opportunities to dissuade harmful and encourage beneficial land and water use activities.
4. Incentives should be coordinated at the state level through the BWSR, and at the local level through comprehensive local water plans.
5. Programs should be available to protect or retire all existing marginal agricultural lands and highly sensitive lands.
6. Land retirement programs should be targeted to the highest priority marginal agricultural lands and sensitive lands.
7. Retired marginal agricultural lands with severe erosion potential should not be brought back into agricultural production unless they are effectively managed to prevent excessive soil loss.
8. Concepts such as "sustainable agriculture" and "watershed-based management" should be promoted and supported through incentive programs.
9. Retirement of marginal agricultural lands and highly sensitive lands will permit land managers to focus their stewardship efforts on more productive lands.
10. Every owner of land has a responsibility for the runoff from their property.
11. Runoff should be managed to minimize property loss and environmental damage by moderating high flows and maintaining low flows of streams.
12. Natural retention systems should be preserved and properly used to the maximum practical extent in managing surface water runoff and ground water recharge.
13. A "net gain" wetland management goal should be adopted in Minnesota.
14. Wetlands restored, enhanced or created under state and federal programs designed to increase our wetland base should not be used for mitigation purposes.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Long-term Goals

1. Water Quality Protection and Improvements

Protection of ground water quality shall be given priority over the improvement of state and locally-designated surface water resources.

(a) Ground Water

Only the following lands shall be considered:

- lands immediately adjacent and contributing to sinkholes,
- lands immediately adjacent and contributing to exposed and fractured bedrock, or
- lands lying within designated wellhead protection areas.

Enrollment goal = 20% of highest priority acres within wellhead protection areas (20% = 59,250 acres) and 75% of highest priority acres adjacent to known sinkholes and fractured bedrock outcroppings (75% = 15,000 acres)

Prioritized parameters limited to:

1) nutrient retention
2) pesticide retention
3) recharge potential

(b) Surface Water

- Lakes: **Only** lands immediately adjacent to the riparian source shall be considered. **Enrollment goal = 25% of highest priority acres** within shoreland areas **(25% = 358,850 acres)**

  Prioritized parameters limited to:

  1) nutrient retention
  2) sediment reduction
  3) manure reduction

- Rivers and Streams:

  Only lands immediately adjacent to the riparian source shall be considered. **Enrollment goal = 50% of highest priority acres** within shoreland areas **(50% = 418,180 acres)**

  Prioritized parameters limited to:

  1) sediment reduction
  2) manure reduction
  3) nutrient retention

- Wetlands: [Only restorations, not protection of existing basins.]

  Only legally drained wetlands shall be considered for restoration. **Highest priority** shall be given to:

  - wetlands which have been completely drained,
  - wetland basins which will be completely restored,
  - wetlands with a cropping history, and
  - wetlands of types 1 through 4.

  Enrollment (restoration) goal = 65% of highest priority drained wetlands (65% = 1,082,250 acres)

  b) Prioritized parameters limited to:

  1) runoff retention
  2) nutrient retention
  3) sediment retention from adjacent surface waters

2. Soil Erosion Reductions

1982 NRI (county level basis) indicated 5 million cropland acres eroding at rates exceeding 2xT. One half of those acres are inherently unproductive and should be retired from

agricultural production. **Only** marginal lands shall be considered. **Highest priority** shall be for those lands in land capability classes V through VIII, followed by capability class IV, followed by other specifically designated classes and subclasses. Except for allowing reasonable boundaries of easement areas, land capability classes I and II **shall not** be considered. **Enrollment goal = 30% of inherently unproductive agricultural lands, including enrollment of highest priority acres from expiring CRP contracts and expiring limited duration RIM Reserve easements (30% = 750,000 acres)**

3. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancements
   Each parcel enrolled shall have a conservation plan developed to ensure adequate habitat enhancements for all wildlife species, but particularly with a priority for endangered or threatened flora or fauna species where the land has such capability, and generally followed by fish species, and lastly generally followed by any game species of wildlife.
   Enrollment goal = sum of above enrollment goals

B. Five-year Objectives

FY93:

1. (a) Enroll and restore 2,000 wetland acres plus adjacent uplands.
   ($1000/acre average total costs, which is approximately 90% of average total costs[1])
   (b) Enroll 1,750 acres of riparian areas. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (c) Enroll 250 acres for ground water protection purposes. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
2. 50% of enrolled acres must be located within priority area(s) designated by the Board.

FY94:

1. (a) Enroll and restore 2,000 wetland acres plus adjacent uplands.
   ($1000/acre average total costs, which is approximately 90% of average total costs[1])
   (b) Enroll 3,000 acres of riparian areas. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (c) Enroll 2,500 acres of highly erosive marginal lands. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (d) Enroll 500 acres for ground water protection purposes. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
2. 50% of enrolled acres must be located within priority area(s) designated by the Board.

FY95:

1. (a) Enroll and restore 2,000 wetland acres plus adjacent uplands.
   ($1000/acre average total costs, which is approximately 90% of average total costs[1])
   (b) Enroll 3,000 acres of riparian areas. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (c) Enroll 2,000 acres of highly erosive marginal lands. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (d) Enroll 1,000 acres for ground water protection purposes. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
2. 50% of enrolled acres must be located within priority area(s) designated by the Board.

FY96:

1. (a) Enroll 25% of most fragile CRP acres from expiring contracts under perpetual easements.
   ($750/acre average total costs[2]) [25% = 10,200 acres]
   (b) Enroll 50% of most fragile RIM Reserve acres from expiring 10-year easements under perpetual easements.
   ($750/acre average total costs[2]) [50% objective = 55 acres]
   (c) Enroll and restore 2,000 acres of wetland basins.
   ($1000/acre average total costs, which is approximately 90% of average total costs[1])
   (d) Enroll 3,000 acres of riparian areas. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (e) Enroll 1,500 acres for ground water protection purposes. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
2. 50% of enrolled acres must be located within priority area(s) designated by the Board.

FY97:

1. (a) Enroll 25% of most fragile CRP acres from expiring contracts under perpetual easements. ($750/acre average total costs[2]) [25% = 75,500 acres]
   (b) Enroll 50% of most fragile RIM Reserve acres from expiring 10-year easements under perpetual easements. ($750/acre average total costs[2]) [50% objective = 4,060 acres]
   (c) Enroll and restore 2,000 acres of wetland basins. ($1000/acre average total costs, which is approximately 90% of average total costs[1])
   (d) Enroll 3,000 acres of riparian areas. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (e) Enroll 2,000 acres for ground water protection purposes. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
2. 50% of enrolled acres must be located within priority area(s) designated by the Board.

[1] Average total costs of wetland restoration projects include easement payment for acquisition of land rights, practice payment for restoration of wetland and establishing permanent vegetative cover (grasses, trees, and/or shrubs) on adjacent uplands, and administrative costs estimated to be approximately 20% of the total project costs.

[2] Average total costs include easement payment for acquisition of land rights, practice payment for establishing permanent vegetative cover (grasses, trees, and/or shrubs), and administrative costs estimated to be approximately 20% of the total project costs.

III. EVALUATION

A. Cumulative Accomplishments [Totals through 1990]

1. Water Quality Improvement
   (a) Ground Water:
      - Lands adjacent to sinkholes = 0.0 acres
      - Lands adjacent to exposed, fractured bedrock = N/A acres
      - Lands within wellhead protection areas = 0.0 acres
   (b) Surface Water:
      1) Riparian areas:
         a) Riparian cropland = 977.9 acres
         b) Riparian pastures = 0.0 acres
      2) Restored wetland areas = 2,053.1 acres

2. Soil Erosion Reductions
   (a) Expiring CRP contract enrollments = 0.0 acres
   (b) Expiring RIM Reserve limited easement conversions = 0.0 acres
   (c) TOTAL Marginal Agricultural Lands = 29,804.1 acres

3. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancements
   (a) Wildlife Habitat:
      1) Lands with grasses/legumes = 32,466.2 acres
      2) Lands with shrubs/trees = 3,515.2 acres
      3) Lands with wetlands/open water areas = 2,060.8 acres

4. Auditing and Enforcement
   (a) Violations:
      1) Cumulative = 10
      2) Resolved without legal action or penalty = 0
      3) Resolved with legal action or penalty = 0
      4) Pending = 10

ADDENDUM

Staff Projections for Fiscal Year 1998 & 1999

FY 1998:

1. (a) Enroll 25% of most fragile CRP acres from expiring contracts under perpetual easements. ($750/acre average total costs[2]) [25% = 33,150 acres]
   (b) Enroll 50% of most fragile RIM Reserve acres from expiring 10-year easements under perpetual easements. ($750/acre average total costs[2]) [50% objective = 50 acres]
   (c) Enroll and restore 2,000 acres of wetland basins. ($1000/acre average total costs, which is approximately 90% of average total costs[1])
   (d) Enroll 3,000 acres of riparian areas. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (e) Enroll 2,500 acres for ground water protection purposes. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
2. 50% of enrolled acres must be located within priority area(s) designated by the Board.

FY 1999:

1. (a) Enroll 25% of most fragile CRP acres from expiring contracts under perpetual easements. ($750/acre average total costs[2]) [25% = 24,650 acres]
   (b) Enroll 50% of most fragile RIM Reserve acres from expiring 10-year easements under perpetual easements. ($750/acre average total costs[2]) [50% objective = 50 acres]
   (c) Enroll and restore 2,000 acres of wetland basins. ($1000/acre average total costs, which is approximately 90% of average total costs[1])
   (d) Enroll 3,000 acres of riparian areas. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
   (e) Enroll 3,000 acres for ground water protection purposes. ($750/acre average total costs[2])
2. 50% of enrolled acres must be located within priority area(s) designated by the Board.