

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
520 Lafayette Road North • St. Paul, MN 55155



Phone: (651) 296-3767; Fax: (651) 297-5615  
TTY: (800) 627-3529 • Web: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us)

## **REINVEST IN MINNESOTA RESERVE FACT SHEET**

### **Background**

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program, one of the first such programs of its kind in the country, began in 1986 and is managed at the state level by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. It protects and improves water quality, reduces soil erosion, and enhances fish and wildlife habitat by retiring private land from agricultural production, planting permanent native vegetation, and restoring previously drained wetlands. Other benefits include flood control and groundwater recharge.

### **How it works**

Landowners are paid a percentage of the assessed value of their land to voluntarily enroll it in a conservation easement. A variety of land types are eligible, including wetland restoration areas, riparian agricultural lands, marginal cropland, pastured hillsides, and sensitive groundwater areas. After land is enrolled, it is managed under a conservation plan, which generally includes items like wetland restoration (for areas with drained wetlands), native grass plantings, and tree plantings.

RIM Reserve has several different arms under which it enrolls land: "regular" RIM Reserve; the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); and Permanent Wetland Preserves (PWP), which enrolls existing at-risk wetlands. Most recently, RIM Reserve funds have been used to leverage federal funds through CREP in the Minnesota River basin.

The state funds this program primarily through bonding. The RIM Reserve Program provides direct payments to landowners for conservation easement acquisition. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), which administer the program locally, receive funding through grants from BWSR for administrative and technical support. That grant program is called the RIM Service Grant.

### **Program information**

The program enrolls easements at a payment rate based on a county assessor's average market value of land in the township. In addition, RIM Reserve provides funds to help share the cost of establishing appropriate conservation or wildlife habitat practices on easement lands. Landowners may need to pay a small portion of conservation practice establishment cost if cost exceeds program maximums.

### **Who is involved?**

RIM Reserve has formed the basis for local partnerships among Soil and Water Conservation Districts, environmental groups, conservation groups, and state and federal agencies. Minnesota's 91 SWCDs implement the program locally, using knowledge of local resources to manage each easement to get the most environmental benefit. RIM Reserve is supported by a broad coalition of conservation, environmental, and farming groups.

### **What if I need more information?**

Call your local SWCD. Staff there can provide more details on the program. A directory of SWCDs is located on BWSR's web site: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us).



*Helping Minnesota's local governments manage and conserve our water and soil resources.*