



"Helping bring YOU clean water"

For Immediate Release

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Wetland Restoration Program Started March 1

Local-State-Federal Partnership Offers Competitive Rates

Landowners looking for competitive payment rates to restore wetlands are encouraged to sign up for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) – Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) program.

The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Ivanhoe Field Office are now accepting applications for funding to restore wetlands that have been drained and have a history of being used for agricultural production. Scoring periods will occur monthly starting at the end of April and will continue until funds are fully obligated.

RIM-WRP is a local-state-federal partnership that combines the state's Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve conservation easement program with the USDA Wetlands Reserve Program. Combining these two programs allows state funds to leverage federal funds that are available through the Federal Farm Bill. Funding for this partnership is through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

The state dollars for this partnership are expected to be provided from the constitutionally dedicated Outdoor Heritage Fund, based on a recommendation of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Details of the RIM-WRP Partnership:

- To leverage federal funds that are available until the end of the federal fiscal year, the RIM-WRP signup period starts March 1, 2011 and funding decisions will occur monthly until funds are fully obligated.
- Interested landowners should contact the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff at the Ivanhoe USDA Service Center.
- Eligibility is statewide, but priority is given to areas of Minnesota that have experienced the greatest wetland losses.
- Competitive payment rates have been established for this partnership using township average land values. Contact your Lincoln SWCD/NRCS field office to determine your payment rate per acre by township. The phone number is (507)694-1630 ext.3.

The Mission of the Natural resources Conservation Service is to provide USDA technical leadership, working in partnership with local, state, and other federal conservation agencies and organizations, to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources.

BWSR Mission: Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.