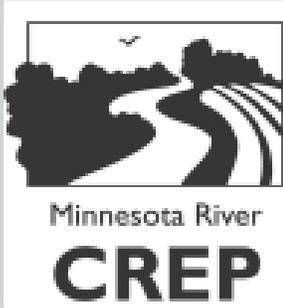


Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



“CREP is a good program for all.”

— Mankato Free Press
Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2000

Looking back

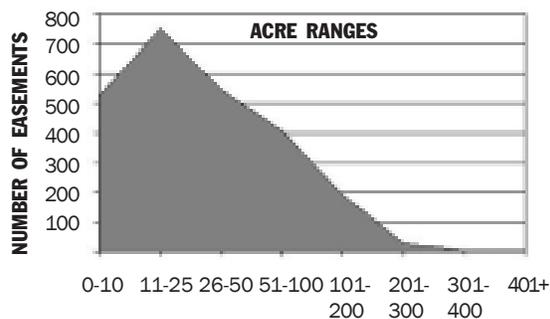
An ambitious land protection program

In 1998, Minnesota began an initiative to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, and create wildlife habitat in the Minnesota River basin. Minnesota's first Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which built off the successful Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve Program, brought together local, state, and federal officials, conservation groups, and interested landowners to work collectively on restoring the Minnesota River watershed.

- Minnesota River CREP was the second in the nation.
- 100,000 acres (more than half were wetland restorations) were protected.
- 2,456 easements were enrolled.
- Average easement size: 40.9 acres
- Median easement size: 24.5 acres

Tremendous opportunity to leverage federal money

- 2.3: 1 federal leverage
- \$81 million state investment: \$164 million federal investment



Distribution of easements

- 45,296 riparian acres
- 54,495 wetland restoration acres
- 673 marginal pasture acres

Customers respond favorably to RIM Reserve

- 25 percent of respondents from the Minnesota River watershed would like to enroll more land.
- 88 percent of respondents from the Minnesota River watershed would recommend the program to other landowners.

— 2002 University of Minnesota Water Resources Center survey

Minnesota River CREP eligibility requirements

- Frequently flooded cropland, including land within the 100-year floodplain and major tributaries
- Marginal cropland along rivers and streams
- Cropped wetlands and prairie potholes



A CREP wetland restoration site in Sibley County

Each application was reviewed by a local Farm Service Agency committee to determine eligibility for the federal Conservation Reserve Program before it was considered for CREP.

Looking ahead

Minnesota prepares for CREP II



In 2004, Gov. Tim Pawlenty submitted a second CREP application to the federal government as the centerpiece of his Clean Water Initiative. CREP II will address the Red River watershed in the northwest, the Lower Mississippi River watershed in the southeast, and the Missouri River and Des Moines River watersheds in the southwest.

- CREP II proposes a 120,000-acre goal.
- Deadline for the program will be Dec. 31, 2007 (end of the 2002 Farm Bill).
- Approximately 4,500 easements are anticipated.
- Wetland restorations have permanent easements (required by Minnesota Statute); flood damage reduction projects have permanent easements; the rest are limited-term (45-yr.*) easements.

What's changed?

Leveraging power increases

- 4: 1 federal leverage
- \$53.15 million state investment: \$200 million federal investment

Conservation practices are targeted within subcategories for each region

Red River targets (51,000-acre goal):

- 35,435 acres riparian zones (15 yr. CRP + 45 yr. RIM)
- 13,440 acres wetland restoration (15 yr. CRP + perpetual RIM)
- 2,125 acres flood damage reduction (15 yr. CRP + perpetual RIM)

Southeast targets (51,000-acre goal):

- 14,828 acres riparian zones (15 yr. CRP + 45 yr. RIM)
- 6,179 acres groundwater protection (15 yr. CRP + 45 yr. RIM)
- 18,058 acres highly erodible land (15 yr. CRP + 45 yr. RIM)
- 2,850 acres rotation contour strip (15 yr. CRP only)
- 6,960 acres wetland restorations (15 yr. CRP + perpetual RIM)
- 2,125 acres flood damage reduction (15 yr. CRP + perpetual RIM)

Southwest targets (18,000-acre goal):

- 11,634 acres riparian zones (15 yr. CRP + 45 yr. RIM)
- 2,016 wellhead/groundwater protection (15 yr. CRP + 45 yr. RIM)
- 3,600 acres wetland restorations (15 yr. CRP + perpetual RIM)
- 750 acres flood damage reduction (15 yr. CRP + perpetual RIM)

80-acre application threshold

Whenever an application for a parcel exceeds 80 acres in size, the local Soil and Water Conservation District and Farm Services Agency County Committee will have additional review responsibilities.

Landowner bill of rights

Landowners who enroll land in this voluntary program will receive a "landowner bill of rights" that explicitly spells out what rights are maintained and what rights have been purchased by the state to benefit long-term conservation.

**Easement duration is 45 years and runs concurrently with the CRP contract. Total term of land protection is 45 years. The RIM easement is subordinate to the terms of the CRP contract for the length of the contract.*



“Reducing run-off in our streams and rivers is an important step in preserving the quality of Minnesota’s waters.”

— Gov. Tim Pawlenty
March 29, 2004



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