



Climate and conservation

mn BOARD OF WATER
AND SOIL RESOURCES

Angie Becker Kudelka and Dan Shaw

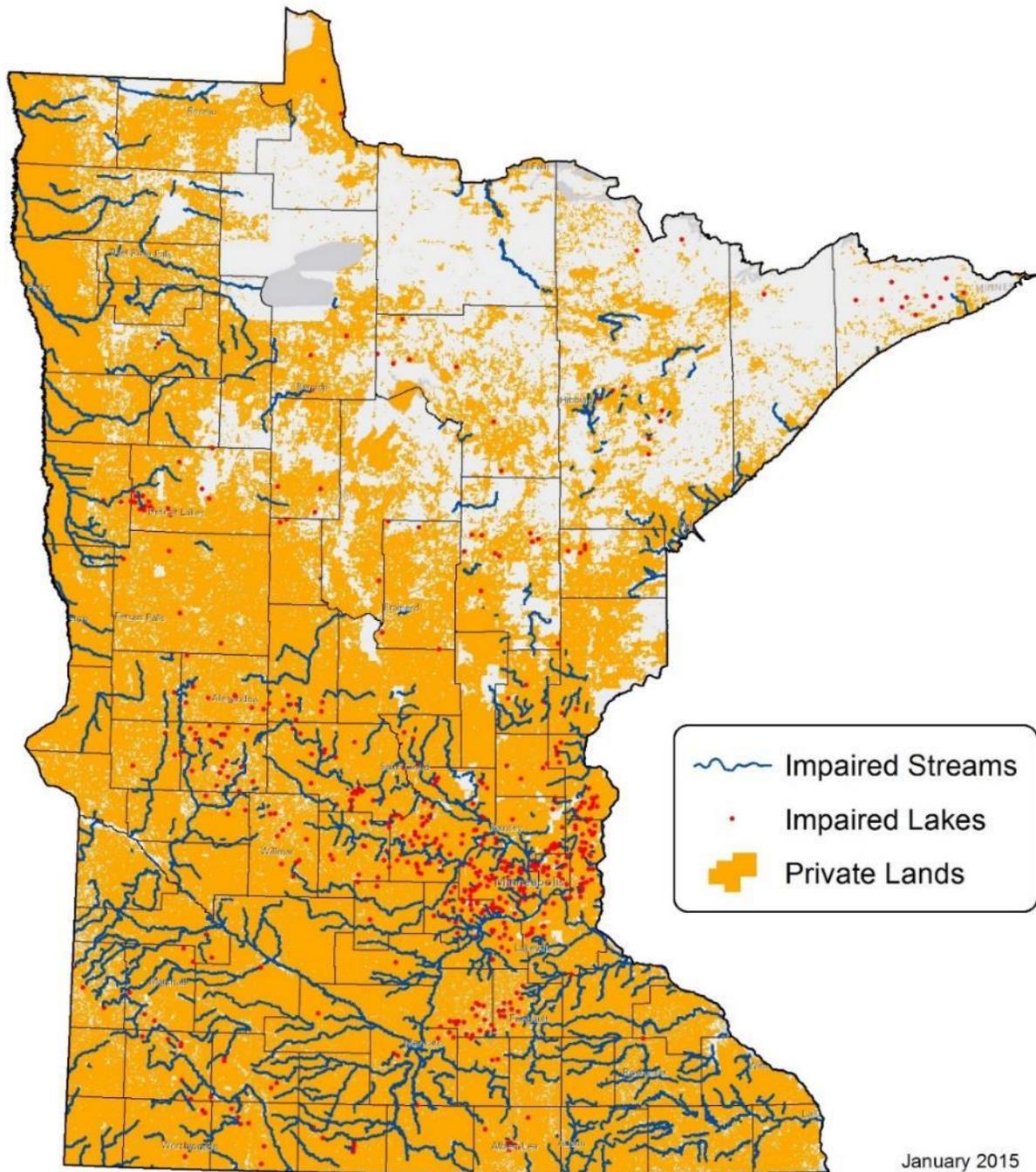
1-27-2020

BWSR Mission

A scenic view of a wetland or marsh area. In the foreground, tall, thin grasses with some seed heads are visible, partially obscuring the view. The middle ground shows a body of water reflecting the sky and the surrounding vegetation. The background is a flat expanse of marshland with more tall grasses under a sky with soft, white clouds. The overall lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting.

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

Business model



Private lands

Local government
delivery system

On-the-ground results

BWSR Climate Action

Leading indicators of climate change in Minnesota:

- winter warming
- increased extreme rainfall



Climate Change Trends and Action Plan

September 2019



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

520 Lafayette Road North

St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-3767

www.bwsr.state.mn.us





BWSR Climate Action



Climate Change Trends and Action Plan

September 2019



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

520 Lafayette Road North

St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-3767

www.bwsr.state.mn.us

BWSR Climate Action

Priority setting based on science.



BWSR Key Strategies

- Restoring resilient landscapes
- Restoring soil health
- Effective water management, treatment, and use
- Collaborating with communities to increase resiliency of landscape
- Green infrastructure and urban forests



BWSR Climate Action

BWSR programs with climate benefits

- Grants for best management practices
- Conservation easements
- Wetland restoration
- Soil health
- Cover crops
- Pollinator habitat



Soil and water conservation grants

- Buffers, field borders
- Reduced tillage
- Grassland restoration
- Fertilizer management

300,000 metric tons CO₂-e per year



Conservation Easements

Reinvest in Minnesota
(RIM) Reserve Conservation
easements

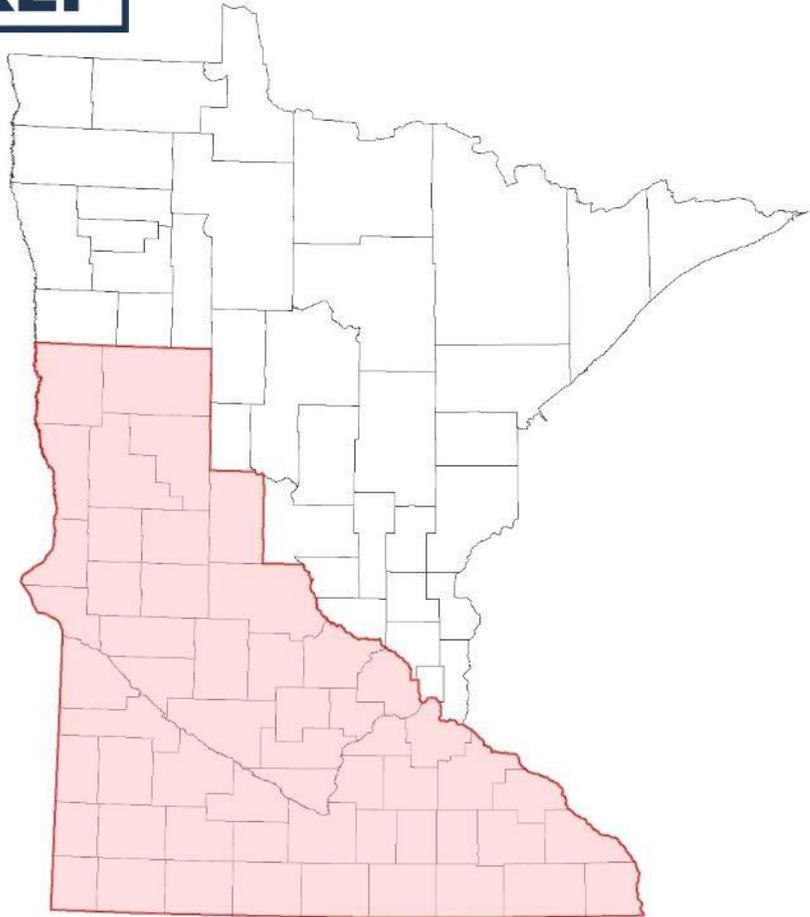
180,000 acres statewide

213,400 metric tons CO₂-e
per year





Minnesota CREP



- Permanent protection
- Voluntary & targeted
- Prioritizes 3 conservation practices:
buffers,
wetlands,
wellheads for drinking water
- Federal financial support

Wetland Protection

enhances climate adaption
increases water storage
provides habitat

11,800 acres
restored wetlands

13,500 metric tons CO₂-e
per year



Soil Health

Minnesota Office
for Soil Health



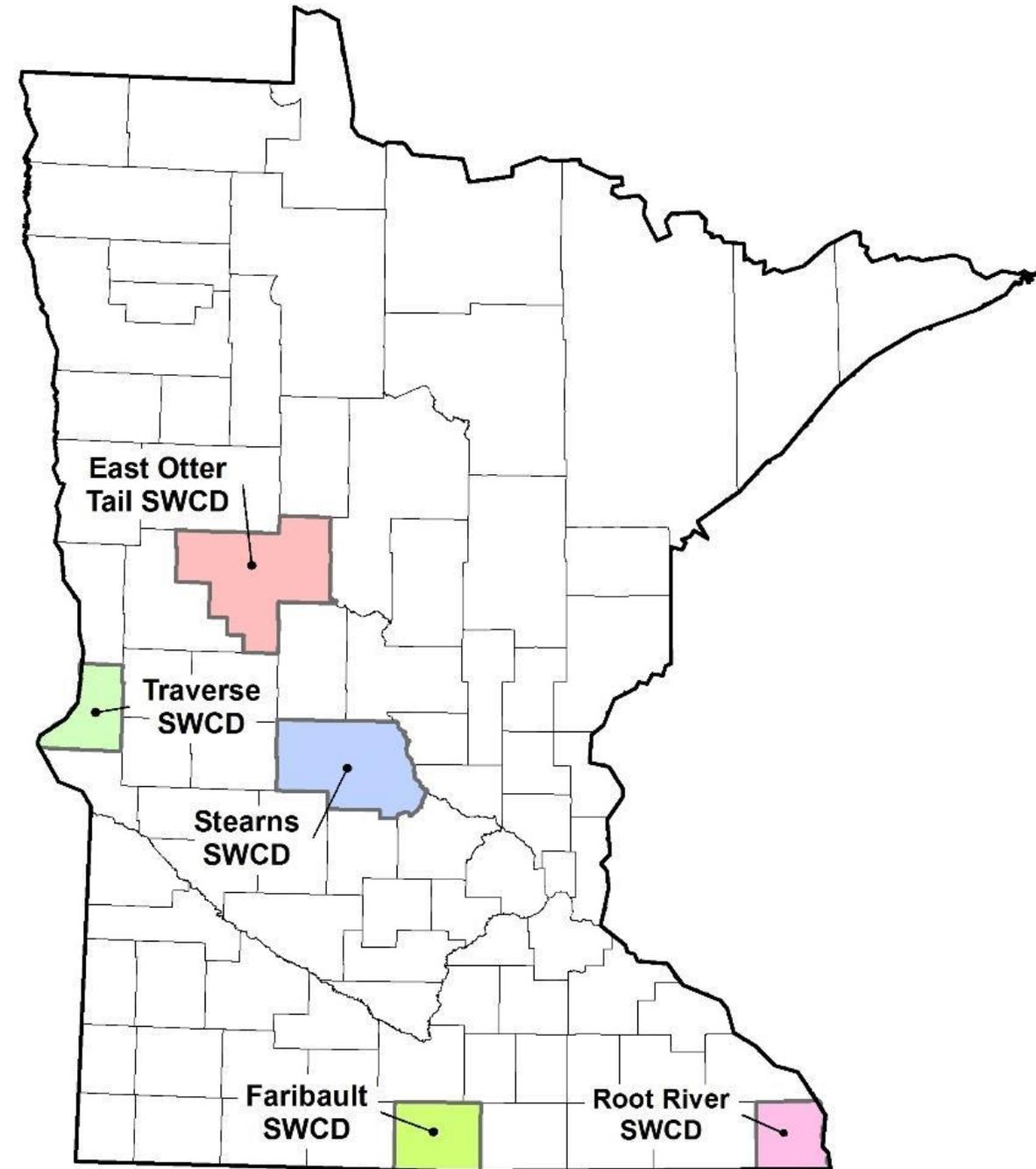
Cover Crops benefits

- Reduce erosion and runoff
- Increase infiltration.
- Increase soil organic matter
- Reduce nitrogen fertilizer needed
- Provide high-quality grazing
- Provide food sources for beneficial insects



Cover Crops

2020 Demonstration Grants





Pollinator habitat



Lawns to Legumes Program

- Open to all Minnesota residents
- Applications accepted through Feb. 28



Stacked Benefits



The Conservation Continuum

Landowner choices:

No outside
support

Technical
Assistance

Contracts

Short-term
land retirement

Perpetual land
retirement

