

Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program



The Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP) is a wetland and upland habitat restoration program that generates mitigation credits for local road authorities to satisfy their federal and state wetland regulatory permit requirements. Minnesota law requires BWSR to replace wetlands, and wetland areas of public waters, that are drained or filled by public transportation projects on existing roads. The program is utilized for *qualifying* road reconstruction, repair and rehabilitation projects conducted by local road authorities (cities, townships, counties).

Program Status

The Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP) will exhaust wetland credits that are used to provide required wetland replacement for local government road projects due to recurrent underfunding.

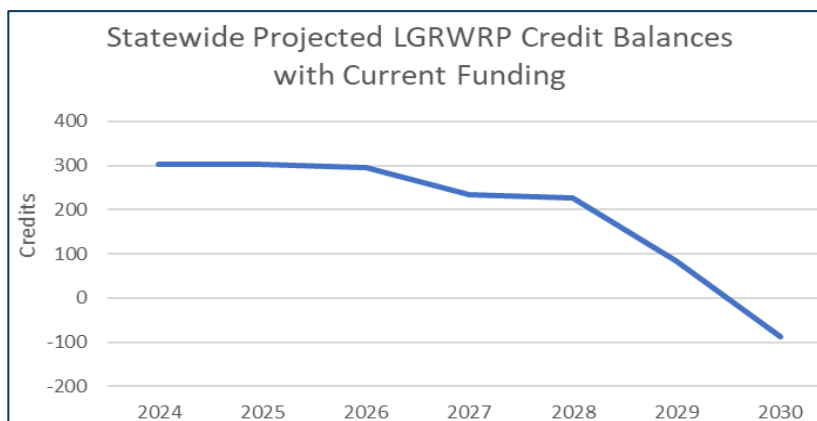
To overcome the credit deficit requires an appropriation of \$26 million. Once whole, annual funding necessary to maintain and support the program is estimated at \$9.5 million.

Benefits

- Streamlined and predictable permitting for local governments
- Larger and higher quality replacement wetlands
- More cost efficient for taxpayers
- Significant reductions in workload for local road authorities

Credit Projects

Based on currently available funding, BWSR projects exhausting all available credits in a few years (see graph below).



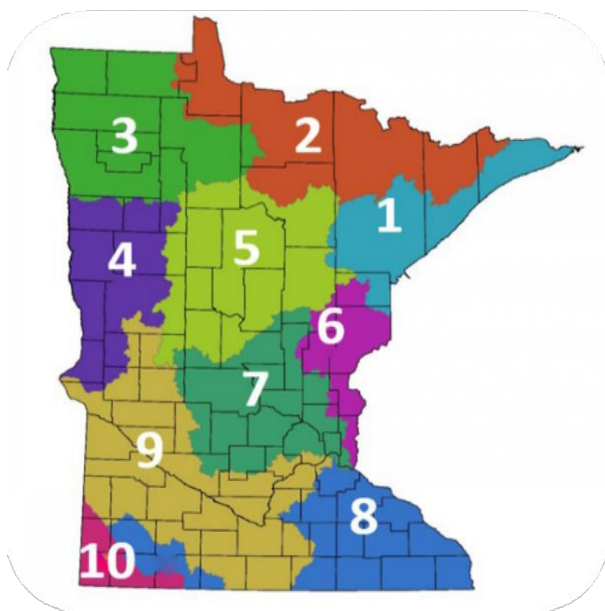
Above: A local road project with unavoidable wetland impacts **Below:** A restored wetland mitigates impacts



The results of not addressing the systemic funding issues include: increased costs for local governments, reduced funds for road improvements, delays, or denial of permit issuance due to wetland replacement and project plan approvals and local road authorities will need to receive Corp approval of replacement plans and develop, fund and manage mitigation requirements.

Wetland Bank Service Area (BSA) Map and Credit Availability

The table below shows the wetland credit balances in each BSA as of Sept. 6, 2024. Please note that two of the ten BSAs have a credit balance of just over a year, and five have a balance of less than one-year of demand.



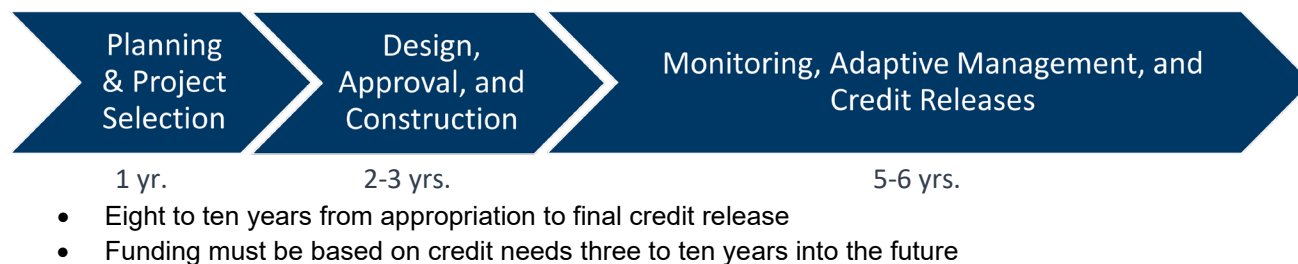
Bank Service Area	# Available Credits as of 9/6/2024
1 - Great Lakes	23.3
2 - Rainy River	100.9
3 - Red River North	42.2
4 - Red River South	8.4
5 - Upper Mississippi North	35.9
6 - St. Croix River	0.1
7 - Upper Mississippi South	5.7
8 - Lower Mississippi	4.6
9 - Minnesota River	9.9
10 - Missouri River	0
	231

* Red indicates a less than a one-year credit balance

Average Annual Statewide Demand: **171 Credits**

Receiving adequate and predictable funds is important due to the timeline to restore wetlands and receive regulatory approval for the resulting wetland credits which is typically seven to ten years.

Wetland Bank Project Development Timeline



Contacts

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