

# Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)

## 2023 Governor’s Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$11.88 million in general obligation bonds for the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP). This helps us meet the state contribution of \$175 million, which makes \$350 million in federal matching funds available for direct payments to landowners.

## MN CREP Overview

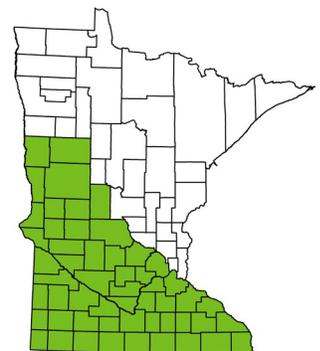
The MN CREP is expected to protect and restore approximately 40,000 acres of marginal cropland across 54 southern and western Minnesota counties using buffer strips, wetland restoration, and drinking water wellhead area protection. Native plantings on those acres will filter water, prevent erosion, and provide critical habitat for grassland dependent species. Private ownership continues and the land is permanently restored and enhanced for water quality and habitat benefits.

In this federal-state partnership, Soil and Water Conservation Districts work with landowners to simultaneously enroll in two voluntary conservation programs: the federally funded Conservation Reserve Program, and the state-funded, BWSR-administered Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program. RIM permanently protects enrolled land. Landowners receive payments from both programs.

## MN CREP secured state contribution to date (in millions)

State funding for MN CREP (000s)	Appropriated in past sessions	Governor's Recs
Env. and Natural Resources Trust Fund (LCCMR)	*\$19,500	-
Clean Water Fund	\$68,850	-
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$55,790	-
Capital Investment	**\$21,000	\$11,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$165,140</b>	

\*Includes \$6 million for outreach and implementation that was not available for easement payments  
 \*\*This appropriation includes up to \$1 million for working lands easements



54-county MN CREP area in green

## MN CREP Status

### APPLICATIONS

**SUBMITTED:** 873 applications submitted to date totaling nearly \$340 million in requests.

### ACRES ENROLLED:

35,000 to date

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