



Conservation Practice Fact Sheet

Forest Habitat RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota)

Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Program is a longstanding conservation easement program that has successfully protected fragile farmland and wetland resources in Minnesota. Expansion of the program to include forestland easements will protect rare and fragile wild rice lakes from development. Easements would be offered to landowners of priority parcels selected through a local screening process. A RIM formula using average township land values would be used to calculate payments for landowners.



Benefits

- A plan protects unique riparian forest parcels and waterfowl habitat on rare wild rice lakes.
- Easement purchases permanent protection from subdivision and development rights.
- Land stays on the tax rolls of local government.
- Private easements enhance adjacent public holdings.
- Forest stewardship plans (available through the county SWCD) maintain working forest capacity.

Protecting Wild Rice Habitat

Northern Minnesota is home to over 100 shallow wild rice lakes that have been identified as priority lakes within the eight county project area. These shallow wild rice lakes are some of the most important and unique wildlife habitats in Minnesota. The RIM Wild Rice Lake Program is funded by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and includes Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, St. Louis and Wadena counties.

Did You Know?

Through the RIM program, the land stays on the tax rolls of the local government and the owner retains access rights.



If you would like additional information on RIM or would like to speak to a conservation specialist contact the Carlton SWCD at 218-384-3891.



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Protecting Wild Rice Habitat

Minnesota has more acres of natural wild rice than any other state in the country. Wild rice is a persistent annual grass that reproduces each year from seed stock deposited in the fall. The plant typically grows in shallow to moderate water depths (1-3 feet) and is affected by water flow, turbidity, water quality and water level fluctuations. Wild rice attracts many wild birds especially waterfowl and red-winged blackbirds. It also provides nesting cover for waterfowl.

The goal of RIM is to protect wild rice habitat by placing a permanent easement on a property which prevents it from being developed. Less development equals less wild rice disturbance. The easement allows landowners to continue to actively manage the land and public access is not required. The easement only restricts division and development of the tract.



Getting Started

The first step in getting started is to contact the Carlton SWCD to discuss the goals and objectives for your land. Call 218-384-3891 to get started today!

Preventing development and protecting the lakes through a conservation easement will go a long way in maintaining their outstanding resource value well into the future.