

THE RIM RUNDOWN

July 2025

CREP BATCHING PERIOD 25-01 WRAP-UP AND BATCHING PERIOD 25-02

CREP batching period 25-01 wrapped up on Friday, June 06. In total, 72 applications were received, making up 4,544.64 acres from 24 counties. BWSR staff would like to applaud local staff on their valuable efforts to advance enrollment for this short but important sign-up period. Your work is incredibly appreciated and a huge thank you is warranted – **THANK YOU!**

BWSR will hold a short MN CREP batching period starting June 25 and ending July 18. This will be the last MN CREP batching period held this federal fiscal year.

This BWSR MN CREP batching period 25-02 is only open to:

- CP21
- CP23 and CP23A applications **that meet peatlands criteria**
- CP2 applications that do not have wetland restoration potential
- CP2 applications that are within a wellhead protection area AND drinking water supply management area classified as having high or very-high vulnerability

Contact Dusty VanThuyne (dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.

ASSOCIATED EASEMENT COSTS

Please note that easement recording fees, title payments, and postage costs are **not** the responsibility of the landowner. These costs should be covered by the SWCD.

After the easement has been recorded, the landowner has received their easement payment, and the SWCD receives an easement payment notice from BWSR, the SWCD may submit a reimbursement request.

Reimbursement requests should be sent to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us using the [RIM Cost Reimbursement Request Form](#) available on BWSR's website. Since the forms are periodically updated, we recommend downloading the **latest version** of the form directly from the website each time you submit a request.

Contact Sumbal Rana (sumbal.rana@state.mn.us), Assistant Program Analyst, with questions.

HAYING AND GRAZING AGREEMENT FORMS

Please send all Vegetative Enhancement Haying/Grazing Agreements to the **RIM inbox** (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us) for review.



RIM EASEMENT PROCESSING UPDATES

Some updates have been made to the RIM easement process. These updates include:

- Changes to RIM Agreement document and routing process: Notarized signatures are no longer required on RIM Agreements. Documents are being routed electronically between BWSR and the SWCD, starting May 20, 2025.
- Survey Pilot Process: Beginning 2026, BWSR is planning to survey easement boundaries for **future RIM Wetlands applications**. Once this process is refined, it will be extended to all programs.
 - o SWCDs will contract with local surveyors based on BWSR's simplified specifications. BWSR will reimburse the SWCD for the full cost.
 - o If the survey cost exceeds \$5,000, the additional amount will be deducted from the final RIM payment. There will be no up-front costs to the landowner.
 - o Title insurance review will occur earlier in the process, prior to survey field work.
- Change in procedure related to updating RIM payment rates after the Application is submitted.
 - o The easement payment rates in place at the time of RIM Application submittal will now be considered final and applications will no longer be eligible for rate changes, even if updated rates or tax-assessed values are published after the Application is submitted and before the Agreement is signed.

A training on these updates was held on May 20, 2025. The recording is available [here](#).

Contact Lucy Dahl (lucy.dahl@state.mn.us), Easement Management & Acquisition Supervisor, with questions.

RIM GRAZING

The purpose of [RIM Grazing](#) is to protect existing grazing lands and encourage sustainable grazing practices for the benefit of surface water, groundwater, and grassland nesting birds through working lands easements. Priority is given to lands that are used predominantly for grazing. Easement applications can also encompass adjacent areas that are beneficial to wildlife.

A grazing plan is required for all lands that will be grazed under easement. Managed grazing enhances forage production for livestock, improves plant diversity, promotes soil health, and improves wildlife habitat. Additionally, it helps improve water quality by reducing runoff and minimizes soil erosion.

Currently, **\$1.7 million is available for landowner payments**. This program is available state-wide. Applications are reviewed monthly. Priority will be based on a first-come-first-serve basis for quality applications.

Contact Kevin Roth (kevin.roth@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.



RIM RIPARIAN AND FLOODPLAIN BATCHING PERIOD

A batching period for RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration opened on Tuesday, July 01 and closes Thursday, July 31. Due to MN CREP funding restrictions, CREP CP23 Wetland restoration floodplain applications that do not meet peatlands criteria will not be accepted in MN CREP batching period 25-02. These applications may be eligible for RIM Riparian and Floodplain.

Contact Dusty VanThuyne (dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: RIM DRINKING WATER (FORMERLY RIM WELLHEAD)

Significant updates to the RIM Drinking Water program have been made, with the goal of increasing landowner interest. This program focuses on protecting areas of sensitive groundwater.

RIM Drinking Water is available where at least 51% of the land is located within one of the following:

1. High and Very Highly Vulnerable Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs)
2. Mitigation Level 1 or 2 DWSMA under the Groundwater Protection Rule
3. Where drinking water protection plans developed by Tribal governments have identified high vulnerability

The Minnesota Department of Health has developed the [Source Water Protection Web Map Viewer](#) that shows Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs), DWSMAs, and their vulnerability. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture maintains DWSMA Mitigation Levels and those can be viewed [here](#). This map can be used to locate potential sites. This program will focus on cropland.

RIM rates were formerly used for landowner payments. To better reflect market values of these limited sites and more appropriately compensate landowners, tax-assessed values will now be used. Rates are summarized in the following table:

Location	Easement Type	Payment rate
Land within the DWSMA	RIM Drinking Water, perpetual	90% Tax-Assessed Value + 30% Public Health Benefit
	RIM Drinking Water, 25-year	60% Tax-Assessed Value + 15% Public Health Benefit
Land outside the DWSMA	RIM Drinking Water, perpetual	90% Tax-Assessed Value
	RIM Drinking Water, 25-year	60% Tax-Assessed Value

In addition to these updated rates, Drinking-Water Friendly Activities will also be allowed. These include habitat restoration, protection, perennial cropping systems, and managed grazing. Nitrogen application will be limited on the perennial crop. A comprehensive grazing management plan will be required to utilize managed grazing.

A training on this program will be held Wednesday, July 16 at 1 PM. A link for this training will be sent out. This training will be recorded.

Contact Sara Reagan (sara.reagan@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.



BWSR EASEMENT STAFF CONTACTS FOR SWCDs

If you have a general question and aren't sure who to ask, please send it to the general RIM inbox (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us).

Topic	Current BWSR Contact(s)	
General Easement Processing	Lucy Dahl	651-358-8676 lucy.dahl@state.mn.us
Easement Application Submittal and Landowner Eligibility (Non-CREP Programs)	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
	Brittany Polzin	651-539-2565 brittany.polzin@state.mn.us
General Payment Questions	Kristina Geiger	651-539-2531 kristina.geiger@state.mn.us
Electronic Payments	Sumbal Rana	651-539-2592 sumbal.rana@state.mn.us
General CREP Questions	Dusty VanThuyne	651-539-2573 dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us
CREP Module Questions	Pat Sherman	651-539-2570 pat.sherman@state.mn.us
Site Inspections/Boundary Issues	Peter Jordet	651-539-2580 peter.jordet@state.mn.us
Easement Compliance/Violations	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
Easement Alteration Questions	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
Conservation Plan Amendments & Practice Implementation Request for Funding (PIRF)	Sara Reagan	651-539-2533 sara.reagan@state.mn.us
	<i>Continue to send PIRFs to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us</i>	
Practice Implementation Reimbursement Request (PIRR)	Alan Ritchie	651-539-2562 alan.ritchie@state.mn.us
	<i>Continue to send PIRRs to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us</i>	
Work Orders	Alan Ritchie	651-539-2562 alan.ritchie@state.mn.us
Wetland Bank Easements	Brittany Polzin	651-539-2564 brittany.polzin@state.mn.us
Questions on Specific Easement Programs	Contact appropriate BWSR Program Manager (see Program pages)	
	Bill Penning	651-262-6403 bill.penning@state.mn.us
	Sara Reagan	651-539-2533 sara.reagan@state.mn.us
	Kevin Roth	651-539-2521 kevin.roth@state.mn.us
	John Voz	218-850-4283 john.voz@state.mn.us
	Dusty VanThuyne	651-539-2573 dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us