

What is a partnership project?

A partnership project is where BWSR and a partner, such as a landowner or local government unit enter a contract to design and construct a wetland mitigation bank. BWSR then purchases a pre-determined amount of wetland mitigation credits from the bank with the purchase price based on actual project costs.

What type of sites are eligible?

BWSR is seeking to restore wetlands on lands that have been significantly affected by drainage infrastructure. To maximize the amount of credits sites must meet the following criteria:

- Wetlands were historically present at the site or are present in a degraded condition.
- Existing drainage infrastructure (tiles, ditches) can be disabled or rerouted to allow hydrologic and vegetative restoration.
- Sites of 40 acres or more with greater than 50% of the acres being restorable wetlands.
- The proposed easement boundary should support an upland buffer adjacent to restored wetlands.
- The property must be free of other easements or legal agreements that will conflict with the wetland banking easement.

Roles and Responsibilities?

BWSR is responsible for securing regulatory approval of the Wetland Bank Plan, while the partner is responsible for implementing the approved plan. In some cases, BWSR may assume additional implementation responsibilities, subject to the terms negotiated in the project agreement.

BWSR primary tasks will be the wetland bank plan development, which include the following:

- Developing the wetland bank plan and obtain regulatory approval under the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act
- Preparing engineered construction plans and documents
- Conduct pre-project project assessments and wetland delineation

Partner primary tasks will be the wetland bank plan implementation including the following:

- Recording a perpetual conservation easement on the wetland bank site
- Completing the construction components of the approved bank plan (e.g. grading, ditch/tile disablement, installing water control structures, etc.)
- Establishing native vegetation along with the required five-year vegetative management
- Conducting annual monitoring and reporting as required by the regulatory agencies
- Preparing credit deposit requests for regulatory approval
- Performing final wetland delineation

Benefits of a Partnership Project

Partnership projects leverage BWSR's extensive experience, technical capabilities, and regulatory expertise in wetland mitigation banking. Key benefits include:

- Technical expertise and experience in wetland mitigation banking ensuring:
 1. Timely regulatory approvals of the wetland bank plan.
 2. Efficient and sustainable engineering restoration design
 3. Comprehensive guidance throughout the banking process and operational lifecycle
- Financial risk reduction:
 1. Minimal upfront costs prior to bank plan approval
 2. Partial payment of contract value upon bank plan approval and easement recording
 3. Guaranteed credit sale after construction is complete

BWSR Expectations

The project must be beneficial to the state as we are serving the needs of local road authorities responsible for public road safety improvements. Therefore, BWSR will require the following for partnership projects:

- The cost per credit sale price to BWSR will be the agreed upon the estimated sum of the following:
 1. Land values costs, based on BWSR's easement acquisition rates
 2. Wetland bank construction costs
 3. Vegetation establishment and five-year vegetative management costs
 4. Vegetative and hydrologic monitoring costs
 5. Credit transaction administration costs
- Construction of the project can begin no later than one-year after wetland bank plan approval.
- Actual project costs will replace initial estimates as the project develops.

Who can participate?

Any person or entity that either owns the property on which the project is located or has obtained the necessary legal rights from the landowner to implement the project.

Application and Review Process

The applicant must submit the Partnership Project Plan application provided by BWSR. The evaluation of partnership proposals will be conducted using a two-step process as follows.

Step 1: BWSR will use the initial information provided by the applicant to assess the following:

- Technical feasibility
- Credit yield
- Credit type
- Ecological sustainability
- Easement compatibility

Applicants with the highest rated projects will be invited to a meeting to discuss the project details and partnership process.

Step 2: BWSR will prepare a concept plan, initial project budget and schedule a meeting with the applicant to review the following:

- Restoration strategies
- Forecasted credit yield
- Estimated project budget
- Roles and responsibilities
- Cost per credit
- Number of credits to sell to BWSR

The applicant must use this information to submit a final project proposal using the agreed upon cost per credit along with the number of credits to be sold to BWSR. This cost proposal will then be evaluated against BWSR's cost estimates as well as other applications.

Applications must be received by U.S. Mail or email no later than 4:30pm Central Time **November 13, 2025**.

- U.S. Mail or courier to the following address:
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
ATTN: Dennis Rodacker
520 Lafayette Rd North
St Paul, MN 55155
- Dennis.rodacker@state.mn.us (Please put “RFP Application” in Subject line)

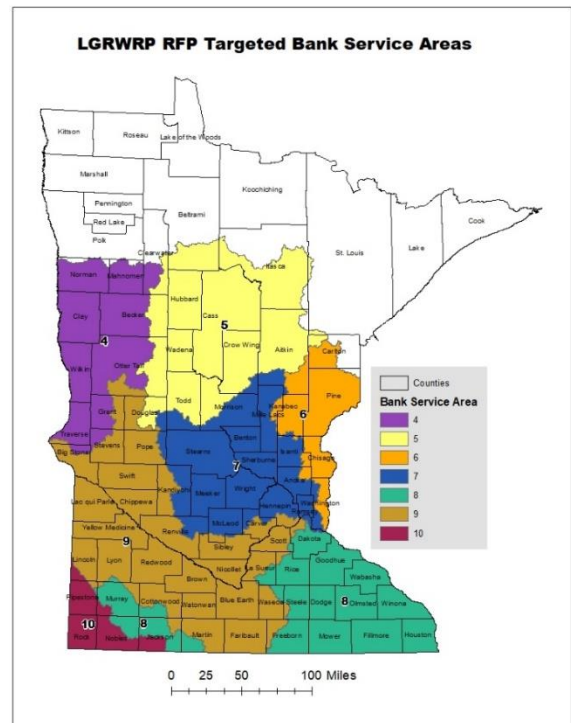
What criteria does BWSR use when evaluating projects?

Restoration projects will be evaluated using the following criteria. However, a technical feasibility assessment will be completed prior to the evaluation of the other criteria. The percentage in parentheses is the contribution of the criterion towards the total score for the project:

1. Cost per Credit (30%)
2. Credit Yield (20%)
3. Technical Feasibility (20%)
4. Functional Benefit for the Watershed (10%)
5. Rare or Difficult to Replace Wetland Functions (10%)
6. Qualifications of the Applicant (10%)

Does the location of the site matter?

BWSR is restricting this sign-up to the following Wetland Bank Service Areas (BSAs) 4,5,6,7,8,9, and 10.



Further Questions?

Questions can be directed to the SWCD where the project site is located or to the following BWSR Wetland Banking Staff.

Ben Carlson, Mitigation Coordinator, ben.carlson@state.mn.us or (651) 315-3952

Dennis Rodacker, Wetland Mitigation Supervisor, dennis.rodacker@state.mn.us (651) 666-0913