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REINVEST IN MINNESOTA
BONDING REQUEST
FY 92-93 Biennium

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FY 92-93 REINVEST IN MINNESOTA BONDING REQUEST

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Resource Protection	BONDING
Fish Habitat Acquisition	\$450,000
Wildlife Acquisition	\$1,500,000
Prairie Bank Acquis & Dev.	\$1,130,000
Scientific and Natural Areas Program	\$600,000
Resource & Recreation Development	
Wildlife Habitat Development	\$2,300,000
Fish Hatchery Improvements	\$1,220,000
Fish Habitat Development	\$2,300,000
Grassland/Brushland Habitat Enhancement	\$1,000,000
Resource / Stewardship Partnerships	
Critical Habitat Match	\$4,500,000
RIM Conservation Reserve Easements	\$15,000,000
TOTALS	\$30,000,000

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This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's RIM bonding requests for the 1992-93 biennium.

FISH HABITAT ACQUISITION

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Adjustment

A biennial amount of \$450,000 from RIM Bonding is requested to maintain an acquisition program for stream easements, protection of northern pike spawning areas, and installation of roughfish barriers.

Goal

Maintain and enhance opportunities for public use, management practices and to protect critical resources. The goal is to acquire 1000 miles of trout stream easements on designated trout streams.

Problem

Acquisition is necessary to ensure angler access and before money can be spent for habitat improvement.

Funds

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY93</u>
RIM Bonding	\$225,000	\$225,000

Long Range Plan Solution

1. Obtain public access to stream trout waters through purchase.
2. Develop northern pike spawning areas identified in lake management plans.
3. Protect lakes from roughfish invasions, especially after rehabilitation, winterkill and where artificially aerated.

Results to be achieved

Resource 2000 funds for acquisition have been fully utilized. Acquisition funding would allow the purchase of approximately 70 miles of stream easements, 4 northern pike spawning areas and 4 roughfish barriers. Acquisition is made from willing sellers.

Continuation of this program to acquire interest on new sites and complete acquisition when only partial interest presently exists will provide angler and management access and resource protection.

022091

Contact : Ron Payer, Fisheries Program Manager, DNR, 296-3325

WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of the Fish and Wildlife's RIM bonding request for the 1992-93 biennium.

Adjustment

A biennial appropriation of \$1.5 million is requested for continued acquisition of wildlife management area lands.

Goal

The primary goal will be to complete existing management units and protect and restore small wetlands. The long range goal of the Wildlife Land Acquisition Program is to acquire and bring under management one million acres of wildlife habitat.

Problem

Valuable upland habitat and critical wetland acreage may be lost if we cannot accelerate

our acquisition efforts. There is an increasing interest in conservation and wildlife programs by private landowners that has created an excellent opportunity to acquire key wildlife parcels. Key parcels in existing units or valuable habitat in new projects may be lost forever if additional funds are not available for accelerated acquisition.

Long Range Plan Solution

Since the initiation of the program in 1951, approximately 581,000 acres have been acquired in 1,145 Wildlife Management Areas in 85 of Minnesota's 87 counties. This appropriation request is critical to continue this valuable

program to stem increasing habitat losses and to meet a growing demand for wildlife oriented recreational opportunities.

Results to be achieved

This request will purchase about 3,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat throughout the state. Continued funding under this program for land acquisition will help to ensure the future of wildlife populations and quality outdoor recreation in light of every increasing losses of wildlife habitat on private lands and greater recreational demands. Acquisition of key tracts in existing units will consolidate holdings, protect valuable habitat, safeguard past investments, and provide additional recreational opportunities.

Funds

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY93</u>
RIM Bonding	1,500,000	

022091

Contact : Tim Bremicker, Acting Wildlife Chief, DNR, 296-3344

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's requested base level adjustments for the 1992-93 biennium.

Adjustment

An appropriation of \$1,130,000 is requested from RIM Bonding for the purchase of prairie bank conservation easements on private land and related development costs.

Goal

Our goal is to eventually enroll 75,000 acres of private lands in the Prairie Bank Program.

Problem

Native Prairie is Minnesota's most endangered natural habitat type. We once had over 18 million acres of prairie in the state. Today, less than one percent remains (150,000 acres). Two thirds of these prairie lands are in private ownership.

The Minnesota Prairie Bank Program was established in 1987 with an appropriation

Funds

RIM bonding::	<u>FY 92-93</u>
Acquisition	950,000
Development	30,000
Professional Fees and Services	<u>150,000</u>
Total Prairie Bank	\$1,130,000

PRAIRIE BANK EASEMENTS

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

of \$300,000. Ten landowners were enrolled for a total of 1122 acres. In 1990, \$100,000 was appropriated for the program. This is being used to enroll an additional 7 landowners for 505 acres. A limited solicitation for applications in targeted high priority sign-up areas generated over \$2,000,000 worth of requests (6000+ acres). Landowner demand far exceeds available funding for the easements.

Long Range Plan Solution

Minnesota's prairies not under any type of protection program continue to be converted to cropland, or suffer from overgrazing, herbicide spraying, gravel mining, and other threats. Many private land-

owners do not wish to sell their prairies, or need these lands for haying or pasture. To protect prairies on private land, the Long Range Plan calls for expanded use of Prairie Bank easements.

The purpose of a Prairie Bank easement is to provide for the protection of the prairie resource while still allowing the land to remain in private ownership. Selected agricultural uses of the prairie, such as haying, or grazing, can be allowed under an approved set of conditions designed to benefit both the prairie and the landowner.

Results to be achieved

With this appropriation, an estimated 30 easements will be purchased, protecting approximately 3,000 acres of native prairie on private land. It will also allow for limited development work to facilitate prairie management including: firebreak construction, removal of tree and shrub encroachment, prescribed burning, and restoration of disturbed areas.

022091

Contact : Tim Bremicker, Acting Wildlife Section Chief, DNR, 296-3344

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's requested base level adjustments for the 1992-93 biennium.

SNA ACQUISITION/ DEVELOPMENT

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Adjustment

A biennial appropriation of \$600,000 is requested to accelerate the protection and development of sites with rare and endangered plants, animals and plant communities as State Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA).

Goal

Our goal is to protect a representative sample of Minnesota's prairies, old growth forests, peatlands, geologic features and other plant communities and their associated plant and animals species for nature observation and education for present and future generations.

Funds

	FY 92	FY93
RIM Bonding		
Acquisition	\$200,000	\$200,000
Development	\$100,000	\$100,000
Total	\$300,000	\$300,000

Problem

State significant habitats for rare and endangered species and plant communities such as old growth pine forests are being lost at ever increasing rates. Lack of development (e.g. fencing, interpretive signs), jeopardizes the existence of rare features on these sites.

Long Range Plan Solution

1. Use the Minnesota County Biological Survey and Natural Heritage Program to identify target areas for protection.
2. Establish at least five SNA for each plant community and at least three for each plant and animal species and geological feature found in each of Minnesota's 18 landscape units.

3. Conduct development work, including removal of tree and shrub encroachment and restoration of disturbed areas.

Results to be achieved

Presently, approximately 70 sites have been designated on public lands or acquired through purchase, or gift, as state natural areas.

This level of funding will ensure that significant examples of threatened old growth pine forests, endangered prairies, and habitat for endangered species such as the dwarf trout lily are protected and enhanced.

It is estimated that this level of funding will permit the protection of approximately 10 sites across the state as scientific and natural areas and permit development at 20 sites. At this level, Minnesota's protection goals will not be achieved until the year 2085.

022091

Contact : Tim Bremicker, Acting Wildlife Section Chief, DNR 296-3344

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of the Fish and Wildlife's requested base level adjustments for the 1992-93 biennium.

WILDLIFE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

BASE LEVEL ADJUSTMENT TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Adjustment

A biennial increase of \$2,300,000 from RIM Bonding is requested for improving and restoring wildlife habitat on public lands.

Goal

Our goal is to improve the quality of wildlife habitats on public lands to maintain and increase wildlife populations and to provide quality opportunities for the public to enjoy and use those lands.

Problem

Most wetland, grassland, forest, brushland and farmland habitats require active management to maintain or enhance their values for wildlife. Newly acquired lands, in particular, need a great deal of development work so that their wildlife values can be fully realized and so that quality recreational experiences are provided.

Long Range Plan Solution

1. Improve management of existing units and make improvements to newly acquired lands.
2. Conduct wetland development practices such as wetland restoration, installation of water control structures, dams, etc.

3. Establish woody cover or nesting cover.
4. Conduct forest wildlife habitat improvement projects, including forest regeneration and the creation and improvement of forest openings.

Results to be achieved

Funding will be used to improve approximately 15,000 acres of forest, 5,000 acres of wetlands and 6,000 acres of grasslands on WMAs. In addition, this funding will allow development and improvement of facilities on approximately 125 units annually.

Funds

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY93</u>
Recreational Unit Development	\$75,000	\$75,000
Wetland Development & Improvement	300,000	300,000
Forest/Brushland Development & Improvement	475,000	475,000
Farmland Development	300,000	300,000
Total	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000

022091

Contact : Tim Bremicker, Acting Wildlife Section Chief, DNR, 296-3344

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's RIM bonding requests for the 1992-93 biennium.

HATCHERY IMPROVEMENTS

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Adjustment

There is a need to improve and upgrade hatchery facilities. Many of the facilities are over 30 years old and in need of repair and upgrading to improve efficiency. A biennial appropriation of \$1,220,000 from RIM Bonding is requested to accelerate these needed hatchery improvements so that production can more efficiently meet management requests.

Goal

Our goal is to meet management requests for fish in an efficient manner as possible. To do this, facilities must be equipped with modern fish rearing equipment.

Problem

Many facilities are over 30 years old and have not benefited from the latest in fish rearing equipment. Some facilities must be upgraded to create safe working conditions. All work will contribute to more efficient hatchery production.

Long Range Plan Solution

To annually complete major repair maintenance projects and upgrade hatchery facilities e.g. Cutfoot Sioux, St. Paul, Lanesboro, Pike River, so that facilities are more efficient, safe and cost effective to operate.

Results to be achieved

This bonding amount will enable the section of fisheries to continue current hatchery operations without negatively impacting other programs. These improvements do not constitute a construction program to increase production. Current facilities are in need for upgrading and modifying to be more efficient and safe.

Funds

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY93</u>
RIM Bonding	\$610,000	\$610,000

022091

Contact : Ron Payer, Fisheries Operations Manager, DNR, 296-3325

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's RIM bonding requests for the 1992-93 biennium.

FISH HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Adjustment

A biennial increase of \$2,300,000 from RIM Bonding is requested for maintaining, improving, or restoring fisheries habitat.

Goal

Manage fisheries for optimum yield to provide anglers with the opportunity to experience quality fishing while protecting the resource for future generations.

Problem

Fisheries habitat has been adversely impacted by poor watershed use, development, pollution, and other factors which must continually be addressed to maintain quality fisheries.

Funds

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY93</u>
RIM Bonding	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000

Long Range Plan Solution

1. Improve fish habitat on 30 miles of stream annually.
2. Develop spawning areas as per management plans.
3. Utilize lake aeration, lake rehabilitation, barrier installation, water level control, and vegetation re-establishment techniques.

Results to be achieved

Funding will be used to improve approximately 30 miles of streams each year, improve or develop 2 spawning areas, install 16 lake aeration systems, rehabilitate 4 lakes, install 2 fish barriers, control water levels on 4-6 lakes/streams, and re-establish emergent vegetation on 5 lakes.

Sustained efforts in these areas are necessary to maintain fishing quality and meet increased recreational demands.

022091

Contact : Ron Payer, Fisheries Operations Manager, DNR 296-3325

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's and Forestry's RIM bonding requests for the 1992-93 biennium.

GRASSLAND/BRUSHLAND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Adjustment

An appropriation of \$1,000,000 from RIM Bonding is requested to improve native prairies and brushlands, through the expanded use of controlled burning on public lands.

Goal

Our goal is to triple the amount of prescribed burning done on public lands: from 15,000 acres per year to 45,000 acres.

Problem

Fire once played a major role in shaping our state's diverse native habitats. Periodic natural fires kept our prairies, brushlands, and other vegetation types lush and productive. Today, natural resource managers use prescribed burning

to improve these areas, however, current levels of burning are far below resource needs. Thousands of acres of prairie and brushland, are deteriorating because of a lack of fire management. Many of these need pre-burn development work such as firebreak construction, wood encroachment removal, and access construction, as well as a series of restoration burns to bring them back into a normal burning cycle.

Long Range Plan Solution

A number of Long Range Plan chapters call for increased prescribed burning, including: Native Prairie, Brushlands, Grasslands, Prairie Chicken,

Sharptail grouse, and Moose chapters. The department currently burns approximately 15,000 acres a year. This is about 1/3 of what is needed on DNR lands. Most field offices are burning up to their capacity. Additional seasonal personnel for burn crews and site preparation are needed to expand the burn effort.

Results to be achieved

This appropriation will allow the Department to burn an additional 85 sites totaling 10,000 acres per year or about doubling of level the FY90-91 effort. This will be accomplished by adding of up to four roving regional crews and providing additional seasonal personnel to area wildlife offices and state parks. Safety and effectiveness of burns will be increased through the use of advanced technologies (helitorch ignition and foam firebreaks for example), and improved fire weather forecasting.

Funds

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY93</u>
Crews/seasonal personnel (600 Wildlife-Regions 1,2,4,5; 100 Forestry-Regions 2,3,5)	\$350,000	\$350,000
Advanced technologies (Forestry)	75,000	75,000
Fire weather forecasting (Forestry)	25,000	25,000
Project leader/coordination(Forestry)	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Total Prescribed Burn (600 Wildlife, 400 Forestry)	\$500,000	\$500,000

011591

Contact : Tim Bremicker, Acting Wildlife Section Chief, DNR , 296-3344

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Division of the Fish and Wildlife's RIM bonding request for the 1992-93 biennium.

CRITICAL HABITAT PRIVATE SECTOR MATCH

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Adjustment

This request of \$4.5 million in bonding is for matching private donations to the increasingly popular Critical Habitat Private Sector Match.

Goal

The goal of the CHM is to encourage private donations of land and money to protect and enhance critical fish and wildlife habitats.

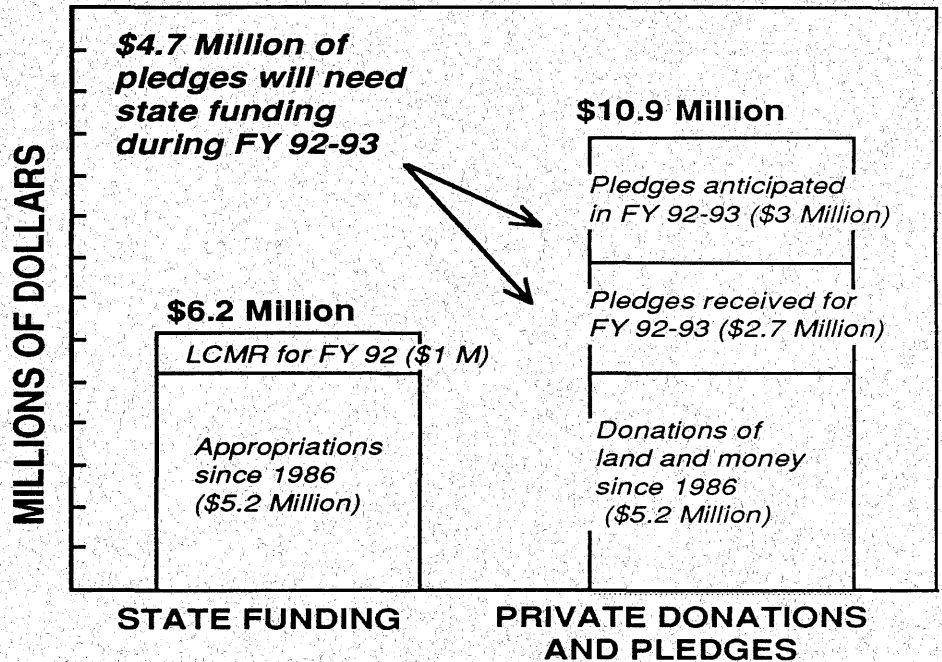
Problem

This program has exceptional public support. To date \$7.9 million of land and money has been donated to the DNR. Even with the \$1 million proposed from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the match account will be \$1.7 M behind private donations and we expect \$3 M more in pledges during FY 92 and 93.

Funds

	FY 92-93
LCMR/ETF	\$1,000,000
RIM Bonding	\$4,500,000
Private donations of cash and land	\$5,500,000
Toatal for Critical Habitat	\$11,000,000

STATUS OF CRITICAL HABITAT MATCH



Long Range Plan Solution

Several fish and wildlife long range plans call for the acquisition of habitat for protection purposes: prairie chicken, largemouth bass, stream trout, ducks, endangered flora and fauna, sandhill cranes, and wetland habitat.

Results to be achieved

These state funds will encourage the donation of an equal amount of private donations, thereby doubling the state's investment. The state funds, combined with donations will provide for the protection of about 18,000 acres of critical habitat such as wetlands, prairies, sedge meadows, rare plant and animal habitat, and trout streams for future generations.

022091

Contact : Jay Rendall, RIM Coordinator, DNR 297-1464

This briefing paper is prepared for one of the Board of Water and Soil Resource's RIM bonding request for the 1992-93 biennium.

RIM RESERVE EASEMENTS

RIM BONDING REQUEST TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Adjustment

This request is for \$15 million dollars from RIM Bonding to continue the RIM Reserve conservation easements.

Goal

To restore drained wetlands and retire from agricultural production fragile lands that are sensitive to agricultural usage and convert these lands to wildlife cover. This will result in erosion and sediment control, improved water quality, and enhanced fish and wildlife habitat.

Problem

Approximately 77% of Minnesota's land area is in private ownership. A large percentage of this land has been converted from wetland or native vegetation to agricultural usage. However, some of the conversion happened on lands which either were not suited for agricultural production, or due to soil or physical location characteristics, the agricultural activities have a negative impact on groundwater and surface water quality.

Long Range Plan Solution

It is the intent of the RIM Reserve Program to accept these drained wetlands, marginal, and sensitive lands through voluntary enrollment under long term conservation

easements. These easements will require the lands to be converted back to wildlife habitat under either 20 year or perpetual easements. Preference will be given to perpetual easements.

Results to be achieved

Funding will be used to enroll the parcels with the most critical need for protection and which will have the greatest positive impact on related natural resources. The restoration of previously drained wetlands will receive highest priority for funding. These funds will enroll approximately 1,000 parcels totalling about 25,000 acres.

Funds

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY93</u>
RIM Bonding	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000

011491

Contact : Ron Harnack, Board of Water and Soil Resources, 296-3767

