



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2008 CAPITAL BUDGET RIM Critical Habitat Match Governor's Recommendation: \$3,000,000

### It is needed because

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Critical Habitat Match Program protects critical fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat through the acquisition and improvement of land for wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, aquatic management areas, state parks, and state forests. The RIM Critical Habitat Match (CHM) Program is an innovative and cost-effective program leveraging state investments with equal investments in private donations of land or cash. Since 1986, more than \$46 million in private donations has been leveraged in the protection (78,150 acres) and enhancement (45,500 acres) of critical habitat through this program.

The sole source of match funding for this program is the \$3.5 million in annual proceeds generated by the Critical Habitat License Plate Program that are credited to the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Matching account and are used as state matching funds under the RIM Match Program.

Shortfalls in state matching funds result in the potential loss of key conservation opportunities. The value of cash and land parcel donations to the Critical Habitat Match (CHM) Program have ranged from one-half million to four million dollars per year, averaging about \$1.6 million annually. Currently, pledged donations exceed available state matching dollars by more than \$5.8 million. This includes several large, pending land donations being considered that would require matching dollars beyond what will be available through Critical Habitat License Plate sales.

This request also supports Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group priority AFW-2: Land Use Management Approaches for Protection and Enrichment of Soil Carbon.

### Major project elements

This funding will allow the state to meet the level of pledged or pending private donations. Approximately

2,000 acres of critical fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat would be acquired through public and private partnerships.

### Priority-setting

RIM Match critical natural habitat projects are prioritized using the following specific criteria:

- ◆ Occurrence of rare resources, including plants, animals, and undisturbed ecological communities;
- ◆ Existing and potential value as habitat for fish and wildlife, especially species of special management consideration;
- ◆ Level of threat to habitat;
- ◆ Surrounding land uses, such as amount and type of similar habitat and projected loss of habitat in area;
- ◆ Location of project in relation to existing management units;
- ◆ Integrity of parcel/long-term viability of project;
- ◆ Recreational potential of project; and
- ◆ Projected acquisition or management costs and potential future management problems.

### Project locations

Specific private donations under the program are difficult to predict. Donations are accepted as opportunities arise and qualifying contributions become available. Members of the public, nonprofit organizations, and corporations may propose donations for consideration. DNR works with donors to determine mutually agreeable acquisition projects for state matching dollars. Every effort is made to find projects that interest donors and meet DNR priorities.

### Key measures and outcomes

Approximately 2,000 acres of land are protected through the leveraging of state investments with private donations, providing:

- ◆ Enhanced environmental quality;
- ◆ Improved fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat; and
- ◆ High quality recreational opportunities.

**For further information contact:**

Kim Hennings, Wildlife Acquisition Consultant  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 7, St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 259-5210, [Kim.Hennings@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:Kim.Hennings@dnr.state.mn.us)

