



## Governor’s Buffer Initiative – Funding

**Fact Sheet – 4/8/15**



Governor Mark Dayton has proposed an initiative aimed at protecting Minnesota’s waters from erosion and runoff pollution. Known as the Buffer Initiative, the legislation requires at least 50 feet of perennial vegetation, or alternative water quality practices, around Minnesota’s waters.

The Governor also has recommended the following funding for FY2016-2017 for implementation of the buffer initiative:

	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Program Implementation</b>	Buffer mapping and program coordination	\$800,000	DNR	Clean Water Fund	Establish and maintain an inventory map of each county that shows the waters that are subject to the buffer requirement and provide guidance to local units of government.
	Local government implementation	\$4,850,000	BWSR	Clean Water Fund	Provide grants to soil and water conservation districts for program implementation, including planning, map review, and technical assistance to landowners.
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,650,000</b>			

	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Landowner Programs</b>	RIM Buffers	\$12,000,000	BWSR	Clean Water Fund	Purchase and restore permanent conservation easements on riparian lands. This program is coordinated and matched with Outdoor Heritage Funds.
	CREP	\$18,000,000	BWSR	Clean Water Fund	Interagency effort aimed at restoring surface water quality in areas targeted for nutrient reductions and protecting sensitive groundwater and drinking water resources.
	CREP	\$20,000,000	BWSR	Bonding	Interagency effort aimed at restoring surface water quality in areas targeted for nutrient reductions and protecting sensitive groundwater and drinking water resources.
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$50,000,000</b>			

In addition to the funding listed above, the Governor has proposed to make use of an existing federal USDA program to provide financial support to landowners:

**Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)** – Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Ten to fifteen year contracts with annual rental payments and restoration cost-share. This program recently was reauthorized in the 2014 Federal Farm Bill, and funds are available.