

Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program



Program Status

The Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP) will exhaust wetland credits that are used to provide required wetland replacement for local government road projects due to recurrent underfunding. The funding necessary to support the program is estimated at \$9.5 million annually.

Program Overview

The LGRWRP is a wetland and upland habitat restoration program that generates mitigation credits for local road authorities to satisfy their federal and state wetland regulatory permit requirements. Minnesota law requires BWSR to replace wetlands, and wetland areas of public waters, that are drained or filled by public transportation projects on existing roads.



Above: A local road project with unavoidable wetland impacts Below: A restored wetland mitigates impacts

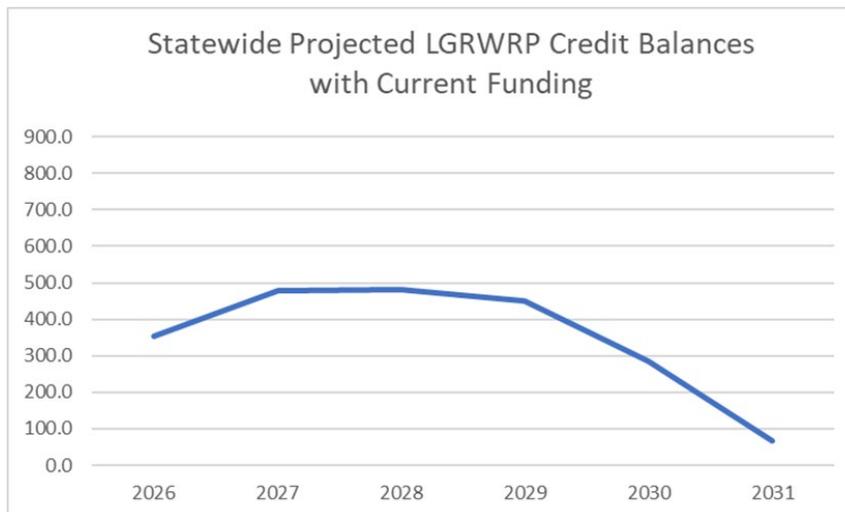
Benefits

- Streamlined and predictable permitting for local governments
- Larger and higher quality replacement wetlands
- More cost efficient for taxpayers
- Significant reductions in workload for local road authorities



Credit Projects

Based on currently available funding, BWSR projects exhausting all available credits in a few years (see graph below).

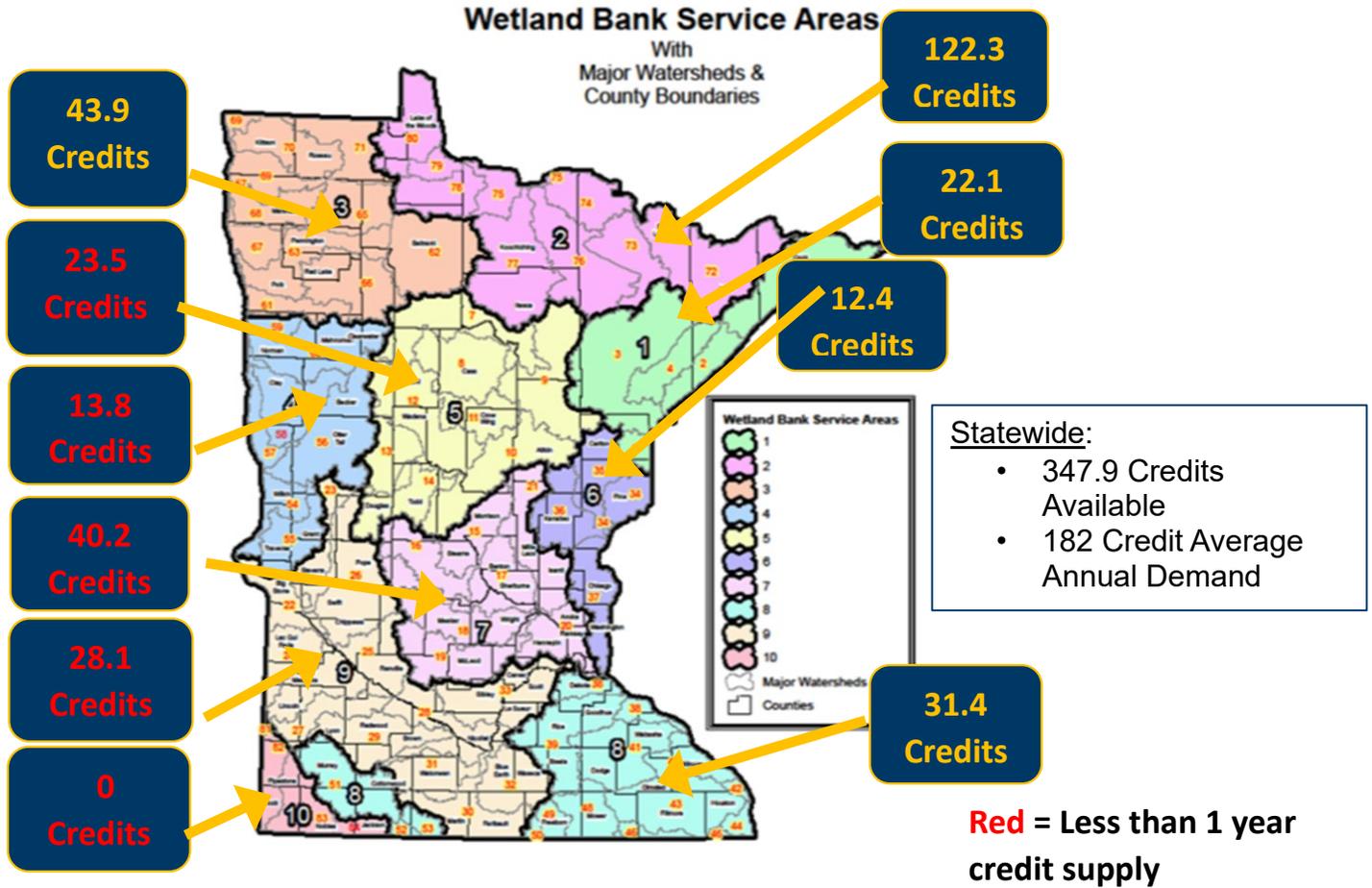


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Wetland Bank Service Area (BSA) Map and Credit Availability



Receiving adequate and predictable funds is important due to the timeline to restore wetlands and receive regulatory approval for the resulting wetland credits which is typically seven to ten years.

Wetland Bank Project Development Timeline



- 7 to 10 years from appropriation to final credit release
- Funding must be based on credit needs 3 to 10 years into the future
- Goal: Minimum credit balance of 5 times the average annual need in each BSA

