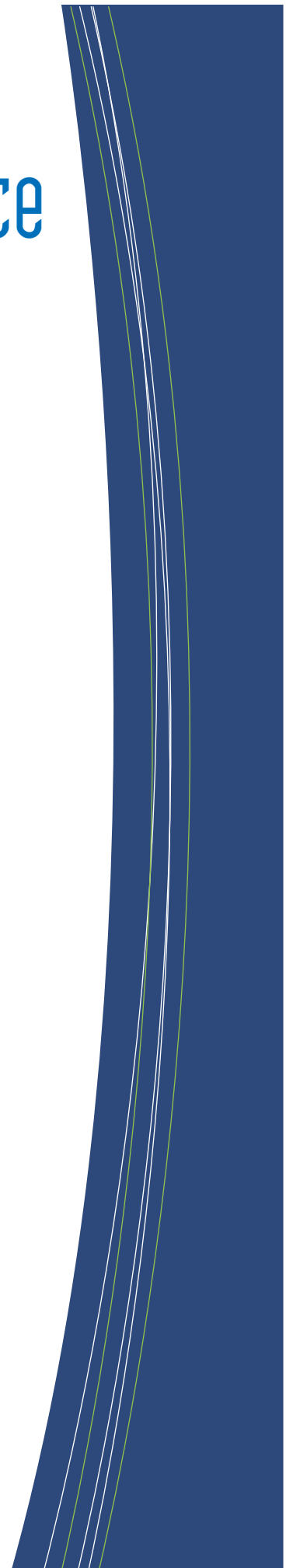




Conservation Marketplace OF MINNESOTA

Ecosystem Service Credits

An overview of credit opportunities in Minnesota





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Pollinator Habitat Credits

Bees, butterflies, and other animals pollinate more than 2/3 of the world's crop species. The Xerces Society reports that over 1/3 of managed honey bee colonies have died in past 3 years and some native bumblebee species are on the brink of extinction. The cause may be from a combination of pesticides, parasites, viruses, and/or climate change. Providing good quality habitat is a straightforward way to attract and increase native populations as well as benefit managed honeybees. Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) enhances pollinator habitat by generating conservation projects with the following specifications:

- **High diversity plantings with native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs.**
- **Blooming plants during entire growing season.**
- **Insecticide-free zones.**

CMM Services

CMM follows guidelines and recommendations from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and the Xerces Society to ensure pollinator credits accurately meet specifications. In addition, CMM will provide the following services:

- **Identify appropriate sites to establish managed or native pollinator habitat.**
- **Provide opportunities for enhancement of existing grasslands or new plantings.**
- **Oversee project installation and verify credits.**
- **Reporting and verification throughout the project.**

For information on Pollinator Credits, please call Linda Meschke with Rural Advantage at (507) 238-5449 or visit the website at www.conservationmarketplaceofmn.org.





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Wellhead Protection Credit

Wellhead protection is an effective way to protect a community's drinking water supply by managing the area around the well to prevent potential contamination. Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) will develop a program tailored to your community goals for nitrate-nitrogen reduction in your wellhead protection area. Nitrogen reduction practices may include:

- **Alternative nutrient management.**
- **Advanced application practices for nitrogen.**
- **Crediting nitrogen in irrigation water.**
- **Perennial plantings or cover crops to reduce nitrogen leaching.**

CMM Services

CMM utilizes tools to identify land parcels most vulnerable to nitrogen loss. CMM works with the Minnesota Department of Health and wellhead protection committees to ensure that project specifications will satisfy wellhead protection goals. In addition, CMM collaborators will:

- **Evaluate crop type, rotation, and management level to determine the best nutrient management alternatives.**
- **Oversee installation and validate credit enhancements.**
- **Complete reporting, monitoring, and verification throughout the project.**

For information on the Wellhead Protection Credit or other services offered by CMM, please call 507-389-5338 or visit the website at www.conservationmarketplaceofmn.org.





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Water Quality Protection

Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) can assist with water quality goals by providing services to facilitate a higher level of water quality protection. Project facilitation includes:

- **Ability to target projects in priority areas.**
- **Relationships with producers and rural landowners ready to implement conservation practices. Our representatives are local crop consultants, nonprofits, Soil and Water Conservation District employees, and technical service providers.**
- **Technical services for quality designs, construction, and inspections.**
- **Project development documents and reports.**

CMM Services

CMM provides expertise for all aspects of water quality protection, creating a valuable and efficient implementation alternative. Expertise and services include coordination of all aspects of conservation. Our team is dedicated to developing a solid understanding of water quality and social issues to provide the highest quality conservation projects. CMM continually considers:

- **Your watershed protection goals.**
- **The landowner's production and conservation objectives.**
- **Site prioritization—ensuring funding is allocated to the right mix of economic efficiency and environmental protection.**

For information on Water Quality Protection or other services offered by CMM, please call 507-389-5338 or visit the website at www.conservationmarketplaceofmn.org.





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Water Quality Trading Under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit

Water Quality Trading is a flexible permit compliance option available to industries and municipalities facing a new nutrient effluent limits. Water quality trading must result in greater protection to the resource when compared to conventional treatment. Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) works with permittees to ensure the following:

- **Reductions are measurable; use of monitoring or load reduction estimates based on best available science and includes a margin of safety.**
- **Both buyer and seller of credits must satisfy baseline treatment requirements.**
- **Trading permits, as well as standard permits, cannot cause or contribute to a violation of stream or lake water quality standards.**

CMM Services

CMM provides expertise for all aspects of water quality trading, creating a valuable permit process alternative. Expertise and services includes:

- **NPDES permitting and representation when working with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.**
- **Agricultural conservation planning and implementation.**
- **A list of interested landowners and producers.**
- **Documenting and reporting during and after project implementation.**

For information on Water Quality Trading, please call 507-389-5338 or visit the website at www.conservationmarketplaceofmn.org.





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Pheasant Habitat Credit

The single most important factor influencing pheasant success is habitat. Pheasants require a broad range of habitat requirements throughout their life cycle. Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) supports habitat enhancements that provide for:

- Adequate food supplies.
- Nesting cover.
- Winter cover.
- Habitat interspersion across the landscape.

Habitat enhancements often incorporate a vegetative buffer that contains a specified mix of native grasses and wildflowers and is more than 100 ft. wide.

CMM Services

CMM works with Pheasants Forever staff to select optimum sites that meet or exceed the habitat goals specified by the organization. In addition, CMM collaborators will:

- Identify appropriate site location to maximize habitat benefits.
- Identify and measure all environmental uplift generated.
- Oversee installation or verify credit enhancements.
- Complete reporting and project verification.



For information on the Pheasant Habitat Credit or other services offered by CMM, please call 507-389-5338 or visit the website at www.conservationmarketplaceofmn.org.





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Blanding's Turtle Habitat Credits

Watershed conservation efforts that restore wetlands, rivers, streams, and adjacent upland habitats can be effective steps toward helping the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). Blanding's turtles are threatened by loss of habitat, human disturbance, and increased predator populations. Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) promotes the following habitat management practices in areas with existing Blanding's turtle populations:

- **Wetland restoration projects.**
- **River, stream, and ditch enhancements.**
- **Upland nesting habitat improvement on hill shoulders and slopes.**

Preferred upland habitats are sparsely vegetated, often with a mix of grasses and forbs tolerant of well-drained soils. These conditions are selected by nesting female turtles because they promote egg development in the nest cavity and provide easy dispersal of turtle hatchlings.

CMM Services

CMM works with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to ensure the supported practice specifications meet their habitat standards. The following services will be provided:

- **Identification of appropriate sites to maximize habitat benefits.**
- **Oversight and verification of the project.**
- **Recognition of your environmental contributions.**

For information on the Blanding's turtle or other services offered by CMM, please call (507) 389-5338 or visit the website at www.conservationmarketplaceofmn.org.





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Carbon Reductions

Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) assists organizations with carbon-neutral goals by providing a simple process to financially support local conservation projects that sequester carbon. CMM will help offset your company's air travel, commuting, product shipping, or operating carbon emissions. A few examples of conservation practices and projects that sequester carbon and offset emissions include:

- **Tree plantings.**
- **Grassland establishments.**
- **Cover crops.**

CMM Services

CMM uses approved crediting metrics to provide and verify carbon credits. In addition, CMM will:

- **Demonstrate how to reduce your carbon emissions.**
- **Offer a menu of conservation projects and practices that you may invest in.**
- **Provide oversight and verification of the project.**
- **Promote your company's environmental contributions.**

For information on Carbon Reductions or other services offered by CMM, please call 507-389-5338 or visit the website at www.conservationmarketplaceofmn.org.

