



WETLAND RESTORATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Wetland Restoration

This program is a partnership between Manitoba Water Stewardship, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation to work with farmers to permanently restore drained wetlands. Wetlands perform many important functions including: carbon sequestration, surface and groundwater storage, nutrient retention, pesticide adsorption as well as providing habitat for wildlife.

Wetlands sequester two to four times the greenhouse gases as cultivated land under best management practices. When wetlands are drained these gases are released into the atmosphere, however when they are restored they again become storehouses for greenhouse gases. Wetlands restored under this program will help Manitoba meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

Eligibility Criteria

- Only wetlands drained before December 2006 are eligible for the program.
- The landowner must be willing to sign a Conservation Agreement (CA) in perpetuity on the land that is being restored.
- A minimum of a total of 40 acres of habitat should be included in the Conservation Agreement. This can include existing wetlands and grasslands as well as the restored wetlands and can consist of a number of smaller separated parcels of land owned by the same land owner. CA's smaller than 40 acres will be considered on a case by case basis.



Calculation of Payments to the Landowner

- **All payments are one time payments.**
- Payments for CAs will be based on the assessed value of the land, with a premium paid for restored wetland acres.
- The Wetland Restoration Incentive Program (WRIP) payment of \$200/acre will be paid in addition to the CA payment.
- The area of the restored wetland is calculated based on an engineering survey of the land. The calculation of restored acres will be based on the high water level as agreed to by the landowner as well as the immediately adjacent wet meadow area.
- In cases where a wetland has not been entirely drained, but the area of the original wetland has been reduced, the WRIP payment will be based on the total size of the restored wetland.

Restoration Works

- All restoration works will be completed by project partners at no expense to landowners. The delivery agencies restoring the wetlands will obtain appropriate licenses under criteria laid out by Manitoba Water Stewardship.
- In most cases the restoration works will consist of plugging the ditch of a drained wetland with an earthen plug.

If you are interested in this program please contact any of the following:

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation Field Offices:

Killarney
203 South Railway St. E.
523-5522

Minnedosa
214 Main St.
867-6032

Reston
402 4th St.
877-3162

Shoal Lake
306 Elm St.
759-4220

Brandon:
545 Conservation Drive
729-3501

Winnipeg:
200-155 St. James Street
784-4350

Ducks Unlimited Canada:

Brandon Office
Unit 2
545 Conservation Dr.
729-3500

Manitoba Water Stewardship:

Rhonda Dyck-Pankratz
200 Saulteaux Cresc.
Winnipeg
945-1007

