

Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Strategic Plan 2019 - 2029



CAMP RIPLEY
SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

USDA



Where Missions Meet

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Executive Summary

Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation's defense mission-places where preserving the rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital testing and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes. The Sentinel Landscape partnership is a nationwide federal, local and private collaboration dedicated to promoting natural resource sustainability and the preservation of agricultural and conservation land uses in areas surrounding military installations. The Sentinel Landscape partnership seeks to recognize and incentivize landowners to continue to maintain these landscapes in ways that contribute to the Nation's defense. Where shared interests can be identified within a landscape, the partnership coordinates mutually beneficial programs and strategies to preserve, enhance or protect habitat and working lands near military installations to reduce, prevent or eliminate restrictions due to incompatible development that inhibits military testing and training.

Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Mission is to protect the current and future military training mission of Camp Ripley while protecting and enhancing natural and cultural resources and preserving the rural character and economies of the landscape. The Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CRSL) focuses on the needs of communities and common interests in a defined geographical landscape. Successful landscape stewardship collaboratively builds agency, organizational and community capacity, increases landowner trust through streamlined management and communications by partners, and motivates landowners using messages and activities suited to their needs and, supports the application of science and knowledge through well informed policies and practices.

This strategic plan is the implementing document for the CRSL program during the period 2019 - 2029.

The planning process used in developing the CRSL Strategic Plan focused on using Minnesota Statue 190.33 partners and other landscape key stakeholders from the U.S. Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, National Guard Bureau, U.S. Department of Agriculture's, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, Minnesota Army National Guard, Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Military Affairs, Natural Resources, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Morrison, Crow Wing, Cass, and Todd Counties Soil and Water Conservation Districts and planning staff, Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB), The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, and the City of Baxter. Together, these stakeholders represent the CRSL Committee (Appendix A).

This plan contains four chapters that address strategic planning within the CRSL:

- Chapter 1: Background and Purpose
- Chapter 2: Program Development
- Chapter 3: Goals and Objectives
- Chapter 4: Operationalizing the Plan

Chapter 1 Introduction

This strategic plan provides articulated goals and objectives that promote and sustain compatible land uses for military operations while providing tangible benefits to conservation and working lands within the defined landscape. The Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CSSL) is an outgrowth of Camp Ripley's Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program to limit rural residential land development within a 3-mile radius (Figure 2) of the Camp's boundaries to reduce land use conflicts with military operations. Since the ACUB Program's inception in 2004, approximately 28,000 acres have been permanently protected through perpetual easement by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and 2,000 acres have been protected through fee title acquisition by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create a development buffer around the Camp. Those acres combined with other permanently protected acres by nonprofits and government partners now provide over 42,000 acres under permanent protection within the three-mile radius from Camp Ripley.

1.1 Background

The Minnesota Department of Military Affairs (DMA) manages Camp Ripley for the Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG). Camp Ripley, located in central Minnesota, is approximately 100 miles northwest of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area (Figure 1). Camp Ripley occupies a gross area of 53,000 acres (approximately 82 square miles) within the posted limits of the installation, and approximately 1,700 acres off post. The primary mission of MNARNG is to provide a readily accessible training area to the US Department of Defense and other civilian agencies to enhance the MNARNG's readiness for its federal, state and community mission. Those missions are respectively: respond with active service as directed by the President of the United States in times of national emergency; assist local law enforcement agencies during state emergencies at the direction of the governor; and add value to local communities.



Figure 1: Location of Camp Ripley Training Center, Minnesota.

1.2 Program History

In 2004, the MNARNG approved moving forward with the Camp Ripley Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program between the DMA and the DNR. In 2006, this interagency partnership included BWSR integrating their Reinvest in MN (RIM) easement program to be locally delivered by the Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District. The ACUB initiative is referred to as the “*Central Minnesota Prairie to Pines Partnership...preserving our heritage*” and is intended to maximize the compatibility of land use adjacent to Camp Ripley and thereby sustain not only the military mission but also the natural environment that Camp Ripley has been nationally recognized for. One of the largest threats to both the mission of Camp Ripley and the surrounding natural landscape is residential encroachment and significant land conversion from current natural state to other non-habitat compatible state. If significant lands are

converted to a non-habitat state, Camp Ripley may become the only refuge for threatened and endangered species or species of special concern, resulting in mission training impacts. Central Minnesota's population has grown by 140,000 residents between 2000 and 2016. The population in Crow Wing County is projected to increase by about 29% to over 80,000 by 2035 (City of Baxter Comprehensive Plan 2015).

A ten-mile buffer was originally selected as the study area for the ACUB boundary based on documented noise complaints. Noise is a significant encroachment issue, the projected noise contours attributable to blast and airfield noise. The ACUB boundary was narrowed to lands that lie within unacceptable noise contour zones (zone 1, 2 and 3) that extend beyond the boundary of Camp Ripley. The noise contours were developed through a noise model prepared by the U.S. Army Public Health Command as part of Camp Ripley's Environmental Noise Management Plan. The approved ACUB boundary allows for fee and easement acquisitions within a three-mile buffer area surrounding Camp Ripley. This buffer represents 110,000 acres with an end state goal of protecting 75% or 78,000 acres within the buffer. Figure 2 is a representation of the current status of the ACUB program as of January 2019. Parcels in red have fee or conservation easements in place that restrict further development. Parcels in pink are landowners that have expressed interest in the program and are awaiting execution. Limiting factors to execution are primarily the availability of funding.

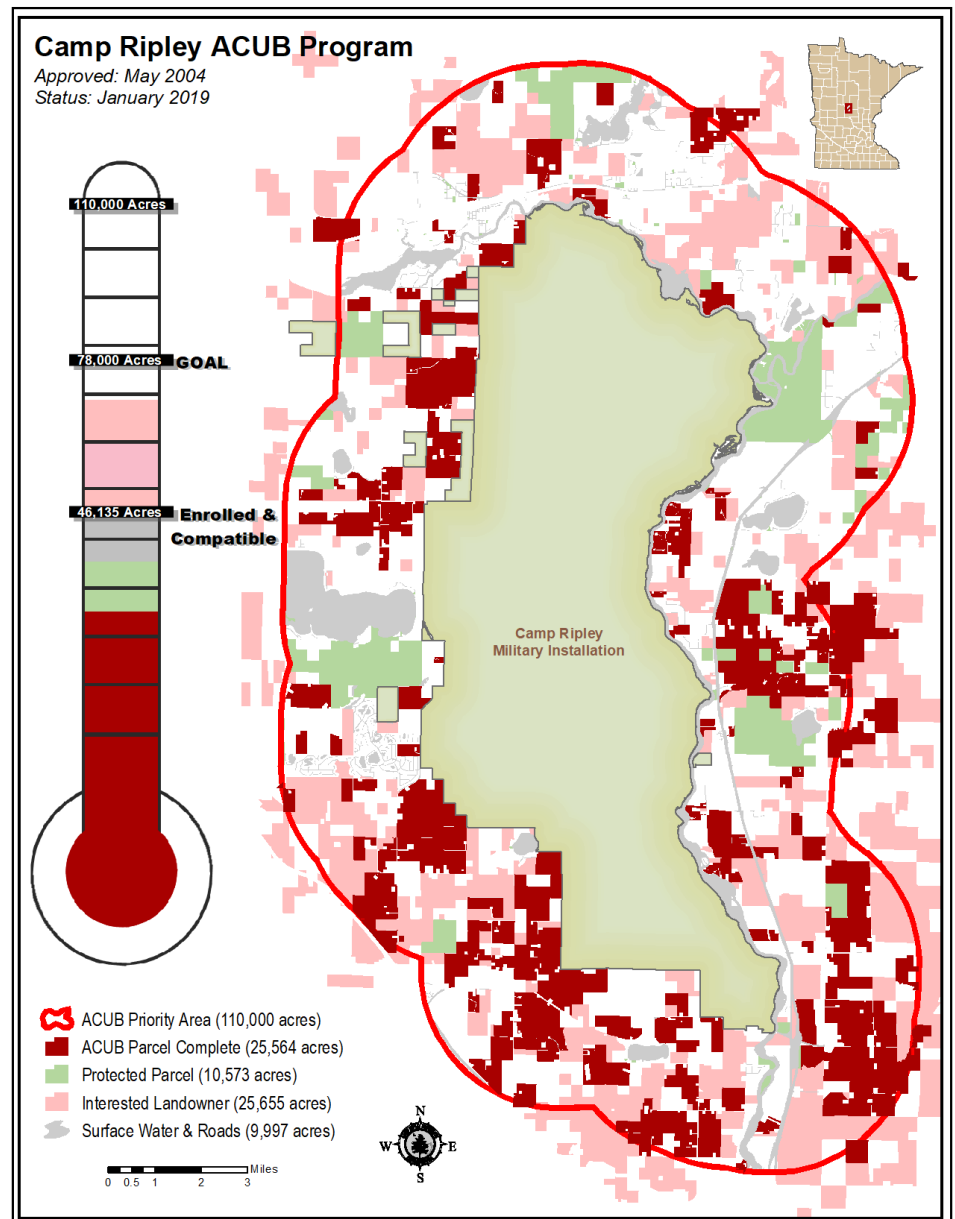


Figure 2: Camp Ripley ACUB boundary.

In 2013, The US Departments of Defense, Agriculture and Interior announced an initiative titled “The Sentinel Landscape Partnership”. This created a nationwide federal, local and private collaboration dedicated to promoting natural resource sustainability in areas surrounding military installations. In

Minnesota, working lands for agriculture and forestry and other natural lands provide many important public benefits; source and surface water protection, recreational opportunities for hunting and fishing, habitats for species of greatest conservation need, threatened and endangered species, shoreline protection of the Mississippi River, open space, commodity production, and maintaining the rural character of Minnesota. The partnership wished to expand services to private landowners within the ACUB program and out to a 10-mile radius around Camp Ripley. Working in cooperation with the Minnesota Forest Resources Council staff, the Camp Ripley program applied for a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grant to develop a Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP). The plan would guide development of strategies to foster private forest management, working forests and technical support to landowners. Out of that LSP process came a watershed-based map intended to bring forest management goals and objectives into other statewide watershed plans currently underway (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Watershed Restoration and Protection Plans, BWSR One Watershed One Plan and local county water plans.)

In May 2015, Camp Ripley, through state law, (Minnesota Statue 190.33) was designated as the first state sentinel landscape in the Nation. The designation established a state coordinating committee in March 2016. The group is comprised of state commissioners from BWSR, DNR, DMA and Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). This legislation allows the MNARNG to more effectively compete for federal funding from agencies beyond just the Department of Defense and to better align federal, state and local programs that could support private landowners in a Sentinel Landscape. Federal agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USFS, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) who envision enhancing their program priorities and interests that are complementary to the CRSL joined at the table. Reference Appendix 1, Partners.

In 2016, Camp Ripley was designated as a federal Sentinel Landscape representing the formal partnership agreement between the U.S. Departments of Defense, Agriculture and Interior.

Developing a Sentinel Landscape Boundary

The CRSL boundary establishment began by evaluating Camp Ripley's priorities for protecting against encroachment. Camp Ripley identified noise contours, aviation routes, the fly neighborly program and regulated airspace as priority features (Figure 3). To leverage and expand on the conservation being implemented as part of the ACUB Program and on other public lands around Camp Ripley, the area for this project was expanded to incorporate consolidated priorities from the DNR, USFWS, MHB, MDA, and NRCS (Figure 4).

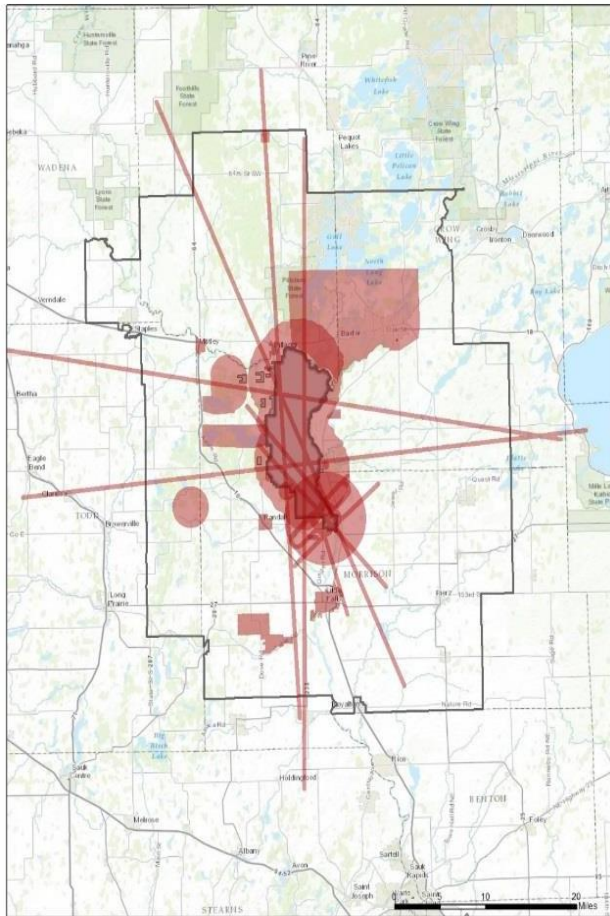


Figure 3: MNARNG agency priorities.

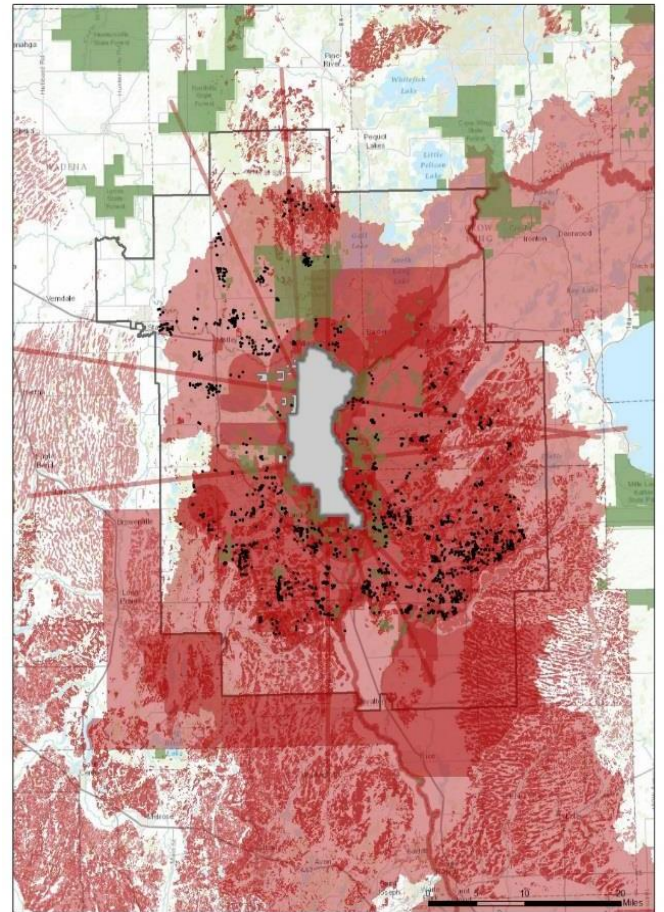


Figure 4: Consolidated partner priorities.

Watersheds were used to further define the project area boundary. Minor (Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12) watersheds were selected that were within 10-miles of Camp Ripley and that had hydrologic connections within the 10-mile boundary. These 40 minor watersheds representing 804,557 acres (Figure 5) were then grouped into eight watershed management units (WMUs) based on function (Figure 6). The total project area encompasses 804,557 acres. There are 748 miles of streams, 243 miles of rivers, 50 miles of the Mississippi River, and 3,997 lakes and ponds.

To achieve consensus developing the CRSL program goals, all partner organizations shared their specific goals within the CRSL boundary that are compatible with Camp Ripley's military training mission. DNR's multi-divisional priorities, BWSR watersheds and local county water plan priorities, MDA nutrient reduction and soil health goals, USFWS Community Conservation Plan goals, National Park Service cultural and recreational goals and NRCS resource protection goals led to a multi-agency commitment to prioritize resources that advance shared goals within the CRSL. Priorities and metrics were developed for protection (fee/easement) and land production (nutrient reduction via practices, program enrollment, restoration and enhancement).

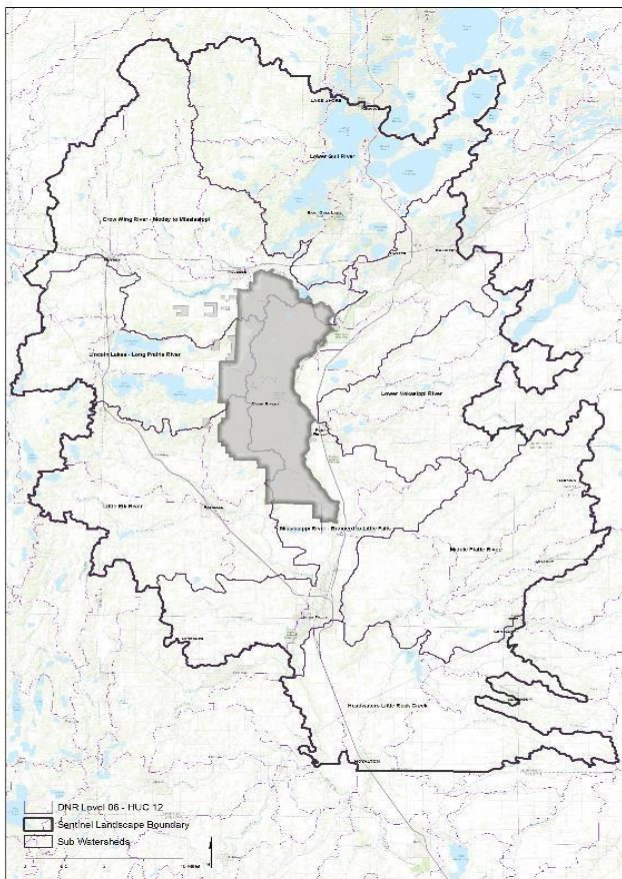


Figure 5: Minor watersheds (HUC 12).

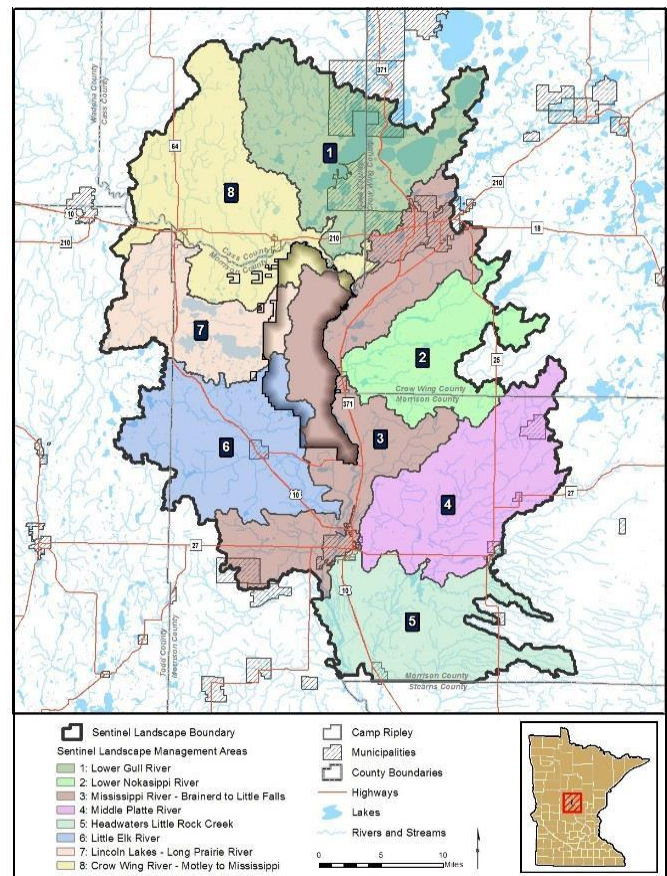


Figure 6: Watershed management units (WMUs).

The priorities of the agencies and organizations described above validate the diversity of the landscape. It sits at a convergence of several high-quality water features, including two major continental ecological transitions zones and thousands of acres of public and private conservation lands that could be connected by conservation corridors. This landscape is also one of Minnesota's most important source water protection areas for drinking water. This provides an excellent opportunity to protect, maintain, and restore natural and cultural resources within the CRSL boundary (Figure 7), providing multiple benefits for military, ecological, social, and economic interests achieved through coordinated conservation efforts. Watersheds are not confined to political boundaries, thus collaborative efforts across this landscape are critical to protect, maintain, and restore these lands resulting in cleaner water, less erosion, better fish and wildlife habitat and more recreational opportunities.

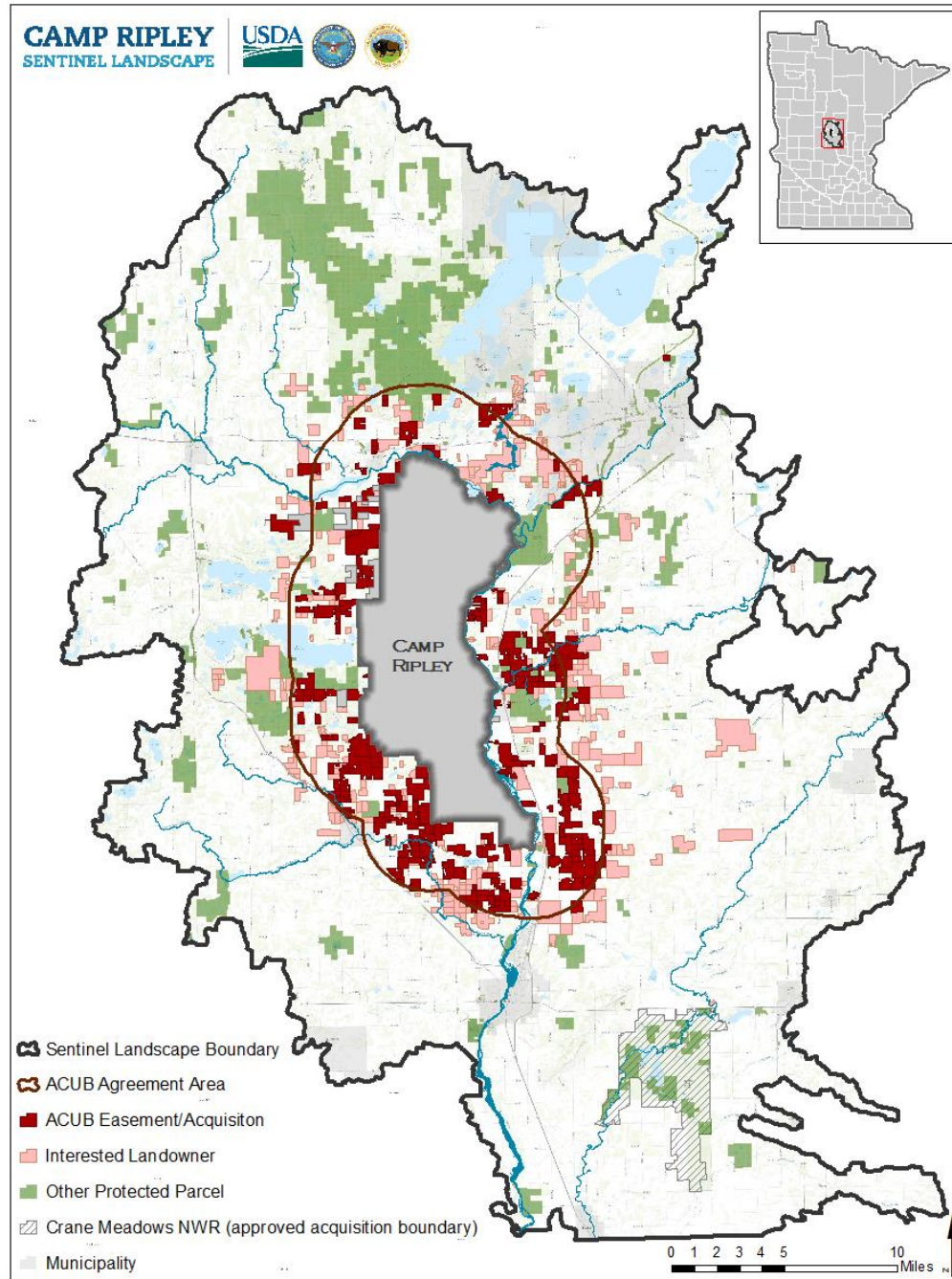


Figure 7: Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape boundary with highlighted ACUB priorities.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of the CRS� program is to identify and develop programs that provide land protection and restoration strategies that benefit the military mission of Camp Ripley, working lands and local communities within the landscape. Improved coordination and collaboration across different resource priorities within a Sentinel Landscape provides an opportunity for participating agencies and organizations to better target their collective resources and possibly develop new technical and financial assistance options that are specifically tailored to local needs.

1.4 Coordination with Other Conservation Efforts

Data and plan inputs used to develop the CRS� program include resource assessment, partner program priorities assessment, internal and external opportunities, and program sustainability.

- Camp Ripley training noise analysis map and flight routes
- Existing land cover data, forestry and agricultural production data
- US Forest Service data
- Camp Ripley Landscape Stewardship Plan
- Minnesota Biological Survey
- DNR State Wildlife Action Plan
- Parks and Trails Legacy Plan
- The Nature Conservancy: Multiple Benefits for People and Nature
- Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan 2015
- MN Pollution Control Agency: Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy 2014
- Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge: Comprehensive Conservation Plan
- US Forest Service: Forests, Water and People analysis (2009)
- Recreation Map (Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail (CRVST), Paul Bunyan State Trail (PBST), Soo Line trail, MRT, DNR water trail, Crow Wing and Lindbergh State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, National Park Service and Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge)
- Local land use plans and local county water plans
- MHB Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 2 CRSL Program Development

The primary purpose of the CRSL Strategic Plan is to communicate the direction and strategies of partner organizations under one philosophy: “Where Missions Meet.” Each organization has their own mission statement and enabling programs. These missions will be accomplished by using a holistic approach toward managing a landscape where all parties have an opportunity to provide input in management decisions. Each agency will have the opportunity to target their priorities, programs, and initiatives in one or more of the three strategy areas: education outreach, improve/manage, or acquire (Figure 8). Within the three broad categories in the toolbox measure acres protected or enrolled, best management practices (BMPs), restoration acres and nutrient reduction tracked at the minor watershed level to achieve either a goal of 75% protected or 20% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus.

For example, the goals, objectives and projects defined in the CRSL strategic plan will be accomplished by following the guidelines in the plan; all management actions will be monitored by a team approach through the CRSL coordinator and Camp Ripley environmental supervisor; and program management will be adapted according to metric results annually. The Scenario Application Manager/Hydrological Simulation Program Fortran (SAM/HSPF) was used to help us determine different combinations of agricultural BMPs, land protection and restoration strategies needed to achieve 20% nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions.

This final chapter of the CRSL Strategic Plan outlines the implementation strategy and represents a distinct step in the planning process, marking the end of planning and the beginning of action. For implementation to be successful it is imperative that the CRSL Committee address the following activities with goals and objectives:

- Staffing
- Education and outreach
- Improve/manage
- Acquire
- Funding
- Provisions for updating/revising the CRSL Strategic Plan

2.1 Coordination

Successful implementation requires timely and purposeful coordination. Coordination, before implementation, is one of the most overlooked and underestimated cost-saving management efforts in resource management. This section provides guidance on a range of coordinative and administrative topics that need close consideration by partners working in the CRSL.

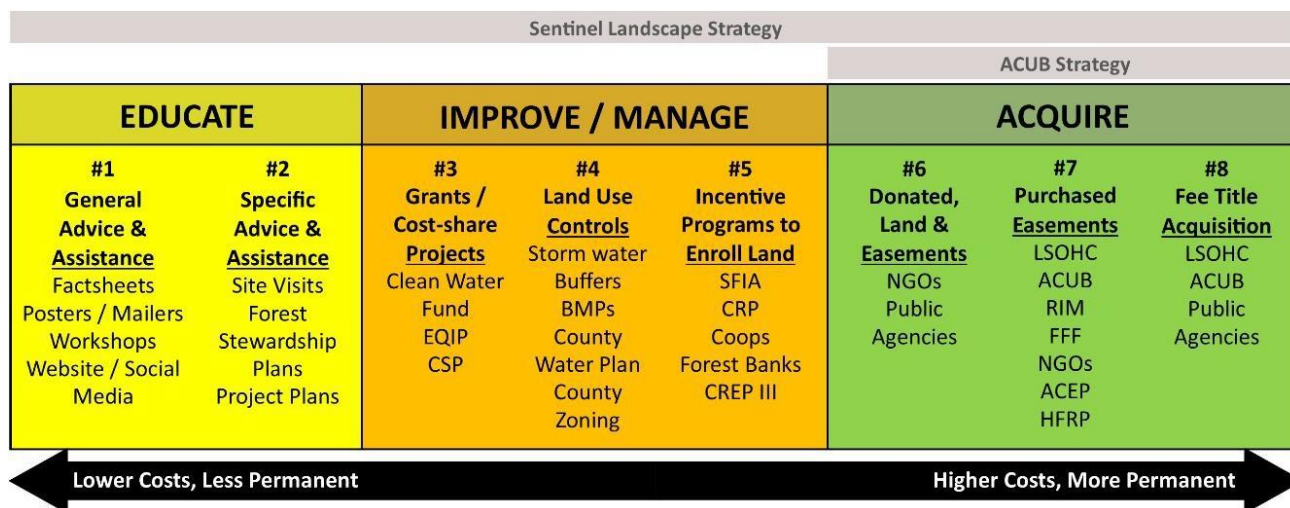


Figure 8: CRSL Toolbox.

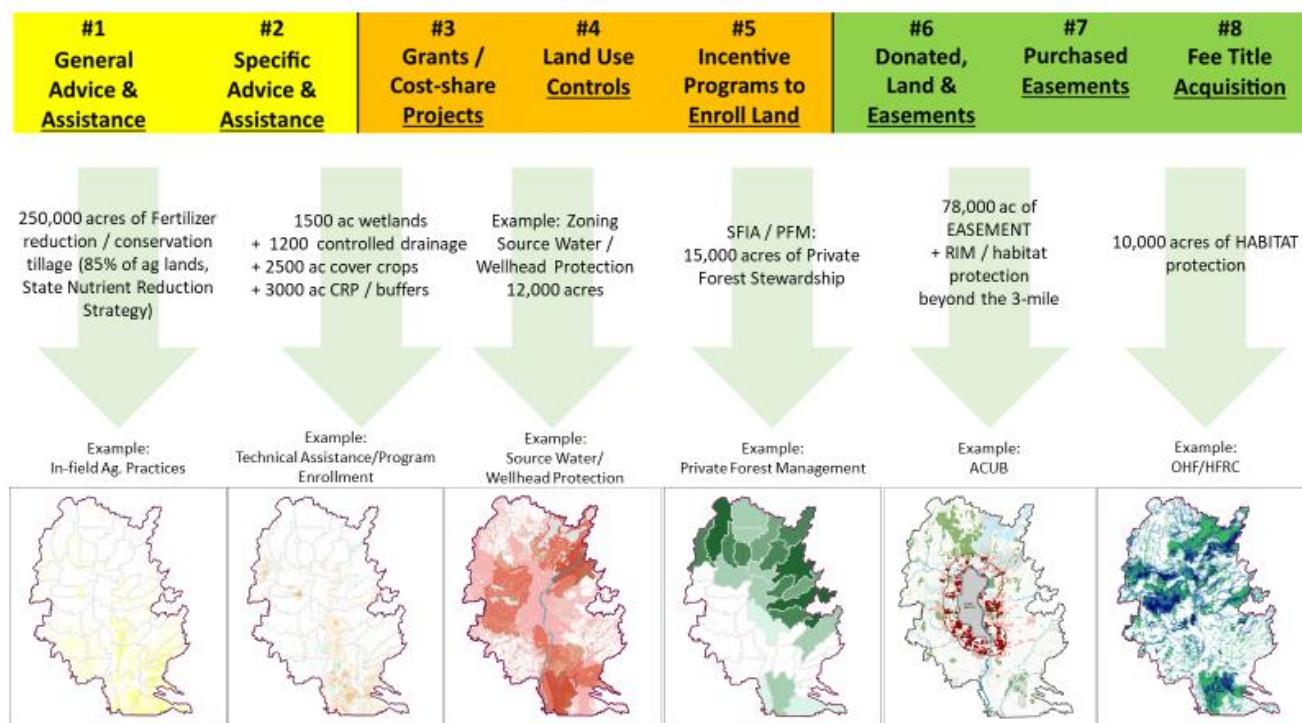


Figure 9: Examples and Goals for Implementation.

Tracking and Monitoring Database		
Track funding allocated to the strategies in Figure 8; plus, a table tracking technical assistance (site visits, FSPs & other private landowner management plans by HUC 12 area or Watershed Mgmt. Unit	A table tracking funding allocated to, acres treated by, and estimated load reductions from the strategies in Figure 8, organized by HUC 10 or HUC 12	A shapefile and table organized by HUC12 showing progress towards -ACUB Goal: 78K acres; or 3,000 acres/year; broken down by category: (1) working farmland easement (2) working forest (3) wildlife habitat (4) shoreland/ water quality protection

One of the primary goals of the CRSL is to provide seamless service to a far greater number of private landowners while at the same time coordinating efforts with public land managers over large geographic areas to create a more sustainable landscape. To attain this goal, increased levels of coordination by multiple state and federal agencies, local units of governments (LUG), and organizations working within a landscape are needed.

The narrative in this section provides guidance on four areas of coordination that resource managers and their landscape partners should address before the implementation of the CRSL Strategic plan:

- Partners and partnerships
- Implementation programs and priorities
- Training and funding
- Engaging communities and landowners
- Effectiveness monitoring of program delivery

New ways of thinking and working together will be required to move from a paradigm of preparing and implementing single forest stewardship plans and projects for individual landowners to a landscape approach involving hundreds, perhaps thousands, of landowners and their communities.

Partners and Partnerships

There is no one entity solely responsible for the management of forest and water resources within the CRSL. Rather, there are numerous agencies and organizations with varying and sometimes overlapping roles and authorities. Identifying partners and clarifying roles is important to the successful implementation of this plan especially since there is no one governing entity.

Partners in the Camp Ripley Area

Partner agencies listed below have been involved in the development of this plan (see Appendix A for a list of participants). Agencies and organizations that have not been involved in the planning process are welcomed and encouraged to get involved in implementing this plan.

- **Minnesota Army National Guard**
- **Camp Ripley Environmental Office**
- **U.S. Department of Defense REPI program**
- **National Guard Bureau**
- **Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
- **Other county and municipal government departments**
- **The Nature Conservancy**
- **The Conservation Fund**
- **The city of Baxter**
- **Minnesota Forestry Association**
- **Minnesota Forest Resource Council**
- **Mississippi Headwaters Board**
- **Great River Greening**
- **The Anoka Sandplain Partnership**
- **Minnesota State Agencies.** The DNR Divisions of Fish & Wildlife, Ecological and Water Resources, and Parks and Trails; BWSR; MDA; and MPCA.
- **Federal Agencies.** U.S. Department of Agriculture, USFS, NRCS, USFWS, and NPS.

Partners are encouraged to be active through the coordination, implementation and monitoring phases of this plan. They should all work to complement each other's efforts to increase the successful implementation of this plan. The goals and objectives outlined in this plan are attainable but will be accomplished only if the people and the organizations that work within the CRSL can develop the collective will to do what is necessary to make the plan's goals a reality.

Currently the DMA does not have funding to hire staff dedicated to the coordination and implementation of the ACUB or CRSL Programs. The Camp Ripley environmental office has assumed the primary responsibility for ACUB and CRSL within the MNARNG. On October 1, 2016 the MNARNG created a 3-year contract for service to develop and coordinate the CRSL program. That contract was awarded to The Nature Conservancy for fiscal years 2017 - 2019. A second phase of CRSL coordinator funding was secured by The Nature Conservancy for fiscal years 2020 - 2022 through the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities/Department of Defense REPI.

2.2 Partnership Structure and Roles of Partners

- **CRSL Leadership Team:**

Make up: Facilities Management Office-Environmental (FMO-E) and Camp Ripley environmental.

Purpose: Communication within Camp Ripley/DMA/MNARNG/REPI, coordinate public relations on post and via media, oversee contracts and cooperative agreement relationships, facilities coordination for CRSL related events, GIS/IT support.

Meeting frequency: Monthly

- **CRSL Protection Team (fee/easement):**

Make up: CRSL Coordinator, FMO-E and Camp Ripley environmental, Soil and Water Conservation District, BWSR, NRCS, DNR, NGO and local government.

Purpose: To coordinate fee and easement acquisition, fund sourcing development, public engagement and outreach, reporting to funders.

Meeting frequency: Quarterly

- **CRSL Practices, Restoration and Program Enrollment Team:**

Make up: DMA, MDA, BWSR, DNR, NRCS, USFWS and NGO partners with restoration, program enrollment or cost-share practices goals within the CRSL program area.

Purpose: To coordinate grant and program funding, working partnerships for restoration, landowner outreach and reporting to funders.

Meeting frequency: Quarterly

- **CRSL Coordinating Committee:**

Make up: DMA, MDA, BWSR, DNR, NRCS, USFWS, NPS, USFS CRSL Leadership Team, CRSL Coordinator, local government leadership, NGO leadership, Camp Ripley Senior Commander.

Purpose: Develop program policy and priorities, act as a communication liaison to representative agencies, internally advance CRSL mission and objectives, network across division and agency constructs to advance CRSL mission and objectives, share new and emerging programs that are relevant to the CRSL program.

Meeting frequency: Quarterly

Chapter 3 Goals and Objectives

Figure 10 illustrates spatially where the following four strategies would be focused and implemented. An important nuance of the map is that federal REPI funds can only be used in the Priority One ACUB area, but those federal funds can be used to leverage other state and federal funds throughout the CRSP program area. Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's -NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) includes a category of easement called Agricultural Land Easements (ALE). Intended to keep farms permanently protected as production working lands. The map representation shows that future CRSL program implementation could deliver this program across the CRSL landscape.

The following tables provide goals and objectives grouped by the type of strategy to achieve desired future conditions. As the plan is implemented and partnerships for action formed, additional strategies and actions may be identified, and the plan will be modified. There are four primary strategies within the CRSL.

The strategies are:

1. Protect and enhance high quality natural resources
2. Protect working lands
3. Increase coordination
4. Restore and improve habitat and water resources

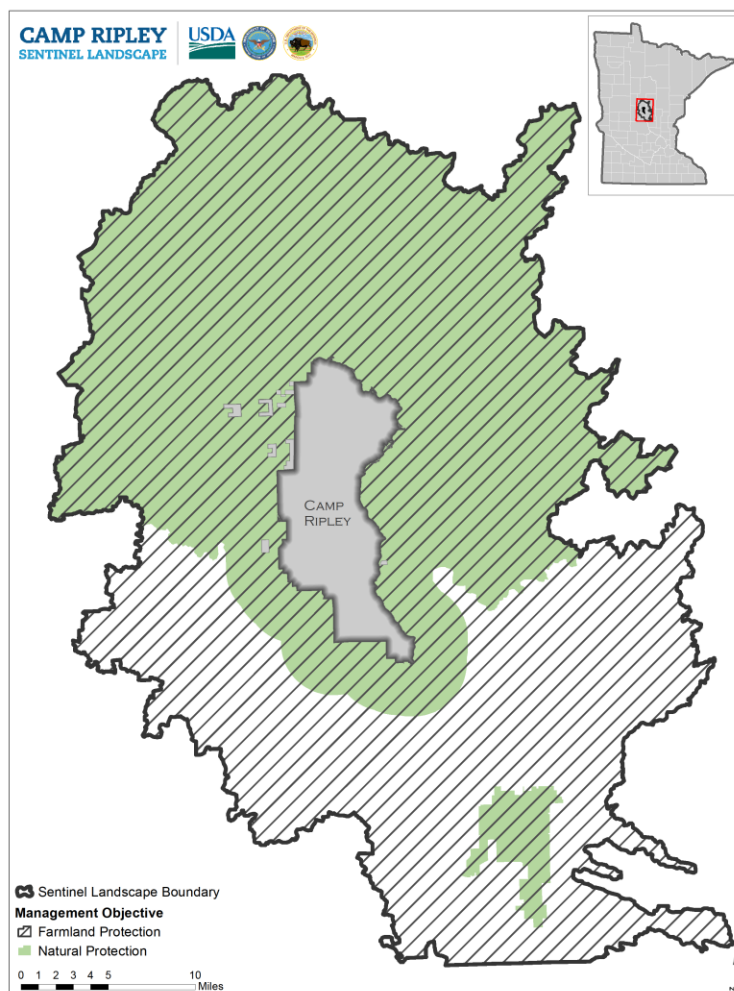


Figure 10: CRSL land protection strategies map.

Strategy 1- Protect and Enhance High Quality Natural Resources	
Goal 1: Protect the military mission of Camp Ripley by promoting compatible land use.	
Objective A: Facilitate enrollment of approximately 3,000 acres a year into fee and conservation easements toward the ACUB goal of protecting 78,000 acres within the ACUB boundary.	Camp Ripley, BWSR, NGO, NRCS, MHB
Objective B: Maintain a criterion ranking system for prioritization of lands within the ACUB boundary.	Camp Ripley, BWSR, MHB
Goal 2: Protect and enhance healthy water and forest ecosystems.	
Objective A: Permanent protection of 75% of each minor watershed containing greater than 50% perennial cover within the CRSL.	CR, BWSR, DNR, NGO, NRCS, LUG, MHB
Objective B: Support the maintenance and enhancement of public and private forest lands.	USFS, DNR, BWSR, SWCD, NRCS
Objective C: Protect forested corridors identified in the LSP.	
Goal 3: Protect and expand natural resource-related public recreation and tourism.	
Objective A: Support the development of trail and water trail networks: Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail, Cuyuna Lakes State Trail, National Water Trail, Mississippi River Trail.	CRSL, NPS, CRVST, Baxter, Brainerd, counties, townships
Objective B: Support the acquisition of land to be used for public recreation (WMA's, SNA's, Parks etc.).	DNR, CRSL, NPS, NGO, LUG, MHB
Goal 4: Collaborate to assist local, state, and federal partners within the CRSL implement agency protection and restoration goals.	
Goal 5: Collaborate with local, state, federal and tribal stakeholders to develop and implement a cultural resources protection strategy.	
Objective A: Work with partner to develop a CRSL cultural resource assessment.	MHB, SCSU, MHS
Strategy 2- Protect Working Lands and Compatible Land Use	
Goal 1: Protect agricultural production lands that are compatible with Camp Ripley's mission.	
Objective A: Minnesota's Farmland Protection Toolbox: Work with local counties toward relevant implementation.	MDA, SWCD, NRCS

Objective B: Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program: Maximize certification of agricultural land within the CRSL.	MAWQCP, SWCD
Goal 2: Protect working forest and grasslands that are compatible with Camp Ripley's mission.	
Objective A: Support programs that target private landowners in the development of forest management plans and foster private enrollment in Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) and 2c tax incentive programs.	DNR, SWCD, MFRC, NRCS
Objective B: CRSL partnership support working grasslands where applicable to develop grazing management plans in areas identified for highest water quality benefit (ground and surface water).	MDA, SWCD, MPCA, MDH, BWSR
Strategy 3- Increase Coordination and Landowner Outreach	
Goal 1: Ensure adequate staffing and resources to coordinate CRSL partner objectives.	
Objective A: Maintain cooperative agreements with National Guard Bureau and ACUB partners.	Camp Ripley, BWSR, TCF, Morrison SWCD
Objective B: Maintain administrative ACUB requirements and continue to seek and execute funding for implementation.	Camp Ripley, BWSR, Morrison SWCD, TCF
Objective C: Identify funding and mechanisms to continue staff capacity to implement CRSL coordinator responsibilities.	Camp Ripley, TNC
Goal 2: Develop programmatic prioritization to implement federal, state and local priority implementation strategies in the CRSL.	
Objective A: Encourage and develop local and state policies and programs to leverage the sentinel landscape partnership.	Camp Ripley, TNC
Objective B: Work with partners and stakeholders to link citizens and businesses in the area to support organizations actively working to protect, restore and improve forest and water resources in the watershed.	MAWQCP, CRSL, BWSR, SWCD, DNR, MPCA
Goal 3: Leverage Sentinel Landscape partnership funding.	

Objective A: Review, track, and develop funding proposals that leverage Federal-Federal and Federal-State matching dollars for program implementation.	CR, TNC, SWCD, BWSR, TCF, DNR, MAWQCP
Goal 4: Advance knowledge of natural resource concerns and management programs available to private landowners.	
Objective A: Proactively educate landowners through coordinated partner outreach.	CRSL, MAWQCP, NRCS, SWCD, DNR, MPCA, MHB

Strategy 4- Restore and Improve Habitat and Water Resources	
Goal 1: To maintain and improve water quality of surface and groundwater to meet drinking water, aquatic life and recreational use standards; and contribute to downstream water quality goals.	
Objective A: Support and implement agricultural BMP's which reduce runoff and maintain surface flows storage and groundwater recharge while reducing pollutants in surface runoff and groundwater.	BWSR, SWCD, NRCS, MDA, MAWQCP
Goal 2: Enhance enrollment in the Minnesota Agriculture and Water Quality Certification (MAWQCP) program in minor watersheds prioritized for ground and surface waters focus.	
Goal 3: Target Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to increase federal technical and financial assistance in minor watersheds.	
Objective A: Increase availability of financial and technical assistance for agricultural BMP's in the production areas of the CRSL program	MDA, MAWQCP, NRCS, SWCD
Objective B: Increase forest protection (HFRP) and enhancement (EQIP) programs in the greater than 50% perennial area of the CRSL.	NRCS, SWCD
Goal 4: Encourage native, perennial vegetation restoration on private and public lands.	
Objective A: Support the implementation of forest restoration projects where appropriate.	NRCS, DNR, BWSR, NGO
Objective B: Implement projects that restore and improve native, perennial vegetation in riparian corridors.	MDA, MAWQCP, CRSL, DNR, BWSR, SWCD, NRCS

Chapter 4: Operationalizing the Plan

4.1 Organizing for effective implementation

Implementing a proactive outreach strategy (both internal and external) to expand the current understanding about the ACUB and CRSL programs will be critical to the success of the CRSL Strategic Plan. Strategies will be developed with clear, consistent and compelling messages and materials about the CRSL and how it can help maintain the rural character of the area, protect drinking water and provide economic, environmental and societal benefits to local people, their communities and other Minnesota residents. The desired outcomes are to help more agricultural producers and forest landowners install conservation practices on their land and accelerate the protection and restoration of important wildlife habitat and the conservation of clean drinking water and other natural resources including the Mississippi River.

Provisions for Updating/Revising the CRSL Strategic Plan

The MNARNG will maintain administration of the CRSL Strategic Plan development, implementation, and updating through the state CRSL Coordinating Committee and continue to solicit participation from federal, state, local, non-governmental partners, and private landowner in updating the strategic plan for the CRSL. Individual goals, objectives, and policies will be reviewed bi-annually. Major revisions will be formally reviewed every five years.

Appendix 1: Partners and Collaborators

- U.S. Department of Agriculture:
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Troy Daniell, State Conservationist
 - Lanette Dietrich, Assistant State Conservationist
 - Josh Hanson
 - Candi Fuller
 - Ginger Kopp
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - Dennis McDougall
- U.S. Department of Interior:
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Steve Karel
 - Sheldon Myerchin
 - National Park Service
 - Holly Larson
- Department of Defense: REPI
 - Kristin Thomasgard-Spence
 - Jaime Simon
 - Bruce Beard
- National Guard Bureau
 - ACUB
 - Alisa Dickson
- Department of Military Affairs
 - MG Jon Jensen, The Adjutant General
 - BG Lowell Kruse
 - Don Kerr, Executive Director
 - Camp Ripley
 - Jay Brezinka
 - Josh Pennington
 - Jake Kitzmann
- Department of Natural Resources
 - Sarah Strommen, Commissioner
 - Keith Parker, Central Region Director
 - John Carlson
 - Mark Hauck
 - Lindberg Ekola, MFRC
- Pollution Control Agency
 - Seth Goreham
- Department of Agriculture
 - Thom Petersen, Commissioner
 - Bob Patton
 - Brad Redlin
 - William Fitzgerald
- Board of Water and Soil Resources
 - John Jaschke, Executive Director
 - Bill Penning
 - Dan Steward
 - Chris Pence
- Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Shannon Wettstein, Executive Director
 - Lance Chisholm
- Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Melissa Barrick, Executive Director
- Cass County
 - John Ringle, Env. Services Dir.
- Morrison County
 - Amy Kowalzek, Env. Services Dir.
- Crow Wing County
 - Gary Griffin, Director of Land Services
 - Ryan Simonson, Env. Services Supervisor
- City of Baxter
 - Josh Doty, Community Development Director
- Mississippi Headwaters Board
 - Tim Terrill, Executive Director
- The Nature Conservancy
 - Todd Holman, Mississippi Headwaters Program Director/CRSL Coordinator
 - Peggy Ladner, State Director MN-ND-SD
- The Conservation Fund
 - Kim Berns, Minnesota State Director
 - Emilee Nelson

Appendix 2: Partner CRSL Integration Table 2019 - 2029

Partner CRSL Integration Table 2019 - 2029			
<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Fund Sources</u>
Protection	DNR	Forest Legacy, MFF, F&W, AMA, SNA, Parks & Trails, EWR	Fed. Forest Legacy, OHF, CWF
	BWSR	RIM easements, CWF practices/cost-share	OHF, CWF, bonding
	NGOs	Transaction capacity and private fund leverage	TNC MN Headwaters Fund
	REPI	Federal funding leverage, advocacy, program support	Federal appropriation
	MNARNG	State funding leverage, advocacy, program support	Federal appropriation
	MHB	Fee/easement coordination in project area	OHF
	NRCS	HFRP easements	RCPP biennial proposal
	CRSL partnership	Convene and coordinate programs and leverage, tracking	REPI Challenge, MNARNG
	USFWS	private land easement program, acquisitions w/in boundary	LWCF, NAWCA,
Restoration	CRSL	Convene and coordinate programs, fund sourcing	OHF-CPL
	SWCD	SWCD program targeted to priority minor watersheds in CRSL	Bonding, OHF, capacity dollars
	DNR	WMA, SNA, Parks, F&W restoration public lands	OHF-CPL, other legacy, bonding
	USFWS	Federal and private land restoration programs	LWCF
	NGOs	Legacy fund sourcing, stewardship admin., crew logistics	Legacy-OHF/CWF, private funds
	Camp Ripley	fund sourcing, partner support letters, on post restorations	NA
	USFS	Public engagement, TA, Forest Legacy advocacy	Forest Legacy
Nutrient Reduction	NRCS	RCPP support, HFRP, CSP, EQIP, and TA support	Farm bill RCPP
	MDA	MAWQCP, AgBMP loan program, research, partner linkage, best practices	bonding and CWF
	SWCD	SWCD program targeted to priority minor watersheds in CRSL	Capacity, BWSR CWF, NRCS

<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Fund Sources</u>
<i>Ag/Forestry Practices</i>	NRCS	CSP, EQIP, HFRP, forestry TA,	Farm bill RCPP, other
	DNR	CFM/PFM, pubic land resto	bonding, OHF
<i>Program Enrollment</i>	MDA	MN AgWater Quality Certification	Legacy CWF, bonding
	DNR/SWCD	SFIA, 2c	state bonding and local levy
	FSA	CRP	Farm bill
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	CRSL	Convene coordinate, fund sourcing	MNARNG
	Camp Ripley	Tribal Consultation	MNARNG
	NPS	Convene coordinate NPS recreation and cultural division leads	
	MN Historical Society	Support grant oversight, fund sourcing, research coordination	
	SHPO	Support grant oversight, fund sourcing, research coordination	
	Local Historical Society	Support grant oversight, fund sourcing, research coordination	
	Tribe representation	Support grant oversight, fund sourcing, research coordination	present and ongoing
	St. Cloud State Univ.	Support grant oversight, fund sourcing, research coordination	
<i>Community Engagement</i>	CRSL	Coordinate, promote events, newsletters, website	
	All partners	Participate in public events, intra-agency messaging, logos	

Appendix 3: Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

ACUB: Army Compatible Use Buffer

BMP: Best management practice

BWSR: Board of Water and Soil Resources

CRP: Conservation Reserve Program

CRSL: Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

CWF: Clean Water Fund

DMA: Department of Military Affairs

DNR: Department of Natural Resources

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

GIS: Geographic Information Systems

HFRP: Healthy Forest Reserve Program

LSOHC: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

LWCF: Land and Water Conservation Fund

MFF: Minnesota Forests for the Future

MFRC: Minnesota Forest Resources Council

MHB: Mississippi Headwaters Board

MNARNG: Minnesota Army National Guard

MDA: Minnesota Department of Agriculture

MAWQCP: Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

NAWCA: North American Wetlands Conservation Act

NGO: Non-governmental organization

NPS: National Park Service

NRCS: Natural Resource Conservation Service

OHF: Outdoor Heritage Fund

PFM: Private Forest Management

RCPP: Regional Conservation Protection Partnership

REPI: Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration

RIM: Reinvest in Minnesota

SFIA: Sustainable Forest Initiative Act

SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office

SWCD: Soil and Water Conservation District

TCF: The Conservation Fund

TNC: The Nature Conservancy

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USFS: United States Forest Service

WMA: Wildlife management area

WMU: Watershed Management Units

Appendix 4: References

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Appendix 5: Partner Contacts

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