



Agricultural Wetland Bank vs Regular Wetland Bank

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This document summarizes differences between the Agricultural Wetland Bank and other wetland banks within the State of Minnesota wetland banking system as established by Minnesota Rules 8420.0700 to 8420.0755 and administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). It also provides information for wetland bankers and perspective wetland bankers on administrative requirements and policies related to credit listings and transactions.

The Agricultural Wetland Bank was established in 2012 as a single-user subset of wetland banks within the Minnesota wetland banking system.

Agricultural Wetland Bank

- **Eligibility** - Credits must be generated from a wetland restoration (hydrology and vegetation restored).
- **Standards** - The Agricultural Wetland Bank Assessment Tool can be used to determine if functional standards are met for crediting.
- **Credit Use** - Credits can only be used by agricultural producers for projects that impact wetlands on cultivated land.

Regular Wetland Bank

- **Eligibility** - Credits can be generated from any eligible action in WCA rules.
- **Standards** - WCA rule replacement standards apply.
- **Credit Use** - No restrictions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a single wetland bank have credits in both the agricultural wetland bank and the regular wetland bank?

Yes, if the bank meets the eligibility requirements for both banks, the bank account owner can choose to put credits in both banks. Credits must have been generated by a wetland restoration to be eligible for the agricultural bank.

Are there extra account fees if my wetland bank has credits in both the agricultural wetland bank and the regular wetland bank?

No, you will still have one account number with one annual maintenance fee regardless of where your credits are listed.

If I have credits in both the agricultural and regular wetland banks, can I move them back and forth between the two banks?

Yes, credits can be moved back and forth as long as the credit subgroup being moved meets the eligibility requirements for both banks. There are no transfer fees associated with moving the credits as they will be in the same account, just reclassified as either agricultural or regular bank credits. For existing accounts, only whole credit subgroups can be reclassified, not individual credits within subgroups.

How do I reclassify credits in my regular bank account to agricultural bank credits?

If your bank credits were generated through wetland restoration, then you can submit a written request (e-mail or letter) to the Bank Administrator to reclassify credits. The administrator will confirm eligibility based on archived deposit forms. If the information is not available on the deposit form (some older credit deposits), then we will request that you get an eligibility determination from the Local Government Unit where the bank is located.

If I am an agricultural producer wishing to purchase wetland credits for agricultural purchases, can I only purchase credits from the agricultural wetland bank?

No, Wetland Conservation Act rules allow you to purchase credits from any wetland bank that is a restoration as long as it complies with the wetland replacement siting criteria. However, purchase of wetland credits to satisfy wetland replacement requirements of the Federal Farm Program may be different. Check with your Natural Resource Conservation Service representative for information on their program requirements.

How much do wetland bank credits cost?

Wetland bank credit purchases are a negotiated transaction between a credit user (purchaser) and a credit seller (bank account owner). BWSR provides limited sales data on their website, but these data are based on past transactions and may not reflect the current market. Buyers should contact multiple sellers to get the best price.

How can I find out about available wetland bank credits?

The Board of Water and Soil Resources website (www.bwsr.state.mn.us) has a listing of all wetland credits available to the general public for purchase. There is a separate listing for agricultural wetland bank credits. BWSR also has a wetland bank mapping tool that allows users to locate banks in particular geographic areas.

BWSR Fact Sheet – January 9, 2013. The primary author of this guidance document is Ken Powell, State Wetland Banking Coordinator. This document is available on the BWSR website and may be revised periodically. Check the BWSR website for the most current version (www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands).