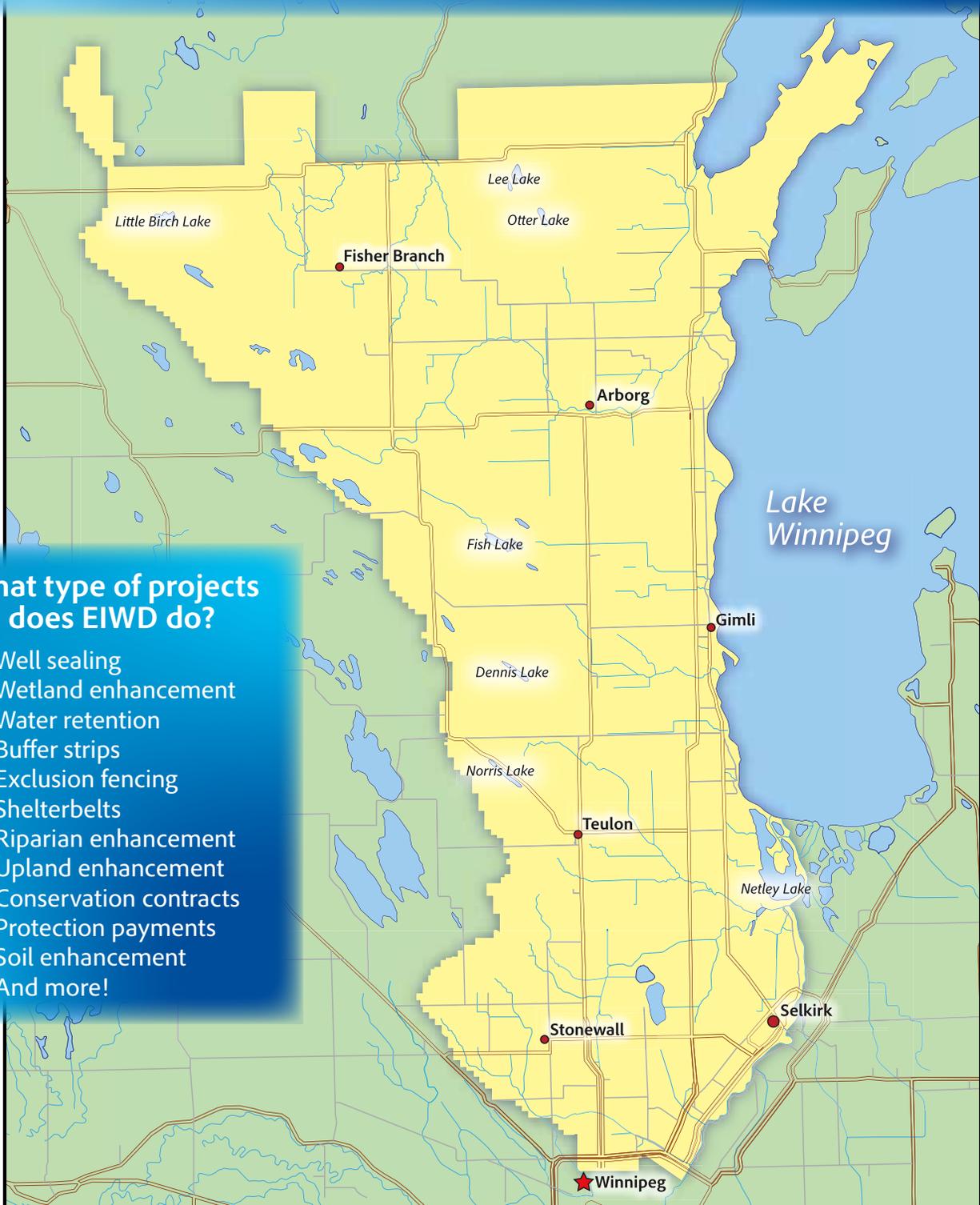


PROJECT TYPES AND PROGRAM AREA

Who is the EIWD?

In 2005, the local governments within the East Interlake partnered with the Province of Manitoba to deliver land and water conservation projects on a watershed basis.



What type of projects does EIWD do?

- Well sealing
- Wetland enhancement
- Water retention
- Buffer strips
- Exclusion fencing
- Shelterbelts
- Riparian enhancement
- Upland enhancement
- Conservation contracts
- Protection payments
- Soil enhancement
- And more!

ENHANCEMENT PROTECTION PROGRAM | Information Sheet #2
STEPS TO COMPLETE A PROJECT

1

DISCUSS

EIWD and Landowner to discuss project design and partnership.

2

DEVELOP

EIWD staff will work with landowner and partners to develop project design and Enhancement Protection application/bid.

3

APPLY

Project design and application/bid submitted for evaluation by Watershed Sub-District/ GROW committee.

4

APPROVAL

Project Approved or Denied.

WHAT IF MY PROJECT IS DENIED?

If the landowner is interested, EIWD will work with the landowner to resubmit application based on GROW committee recommendations.

5

IMPLEMENT

EIWD staff will work with landowner and partners to complete project as designed.

6

EVALUATE

Completed/ongoing projects will be inspected and evaluated regularly by project team with reports submitted to Watershed Executive Board.

7

REVIEW

Executive Directors will review project reports and may make recommendations on project design and delivery. Directors will finalize annual reports then deliver results to project partners.



But what if I only want to seal an abandoned well?

Easy...It's a 1-step approval process!

Just fill out the Abandoned Well Sealing form from our website and you should receive a decision quickly.

FAQ & A

What is the Enhancement Protection Program?

The Enhancement Protection Program is being conducted by the EIWD and its partners to promote and protect Environmental Goods and Services in the EIWD. EIWD would like to acknowledge the financial support we receive from The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) through the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) Program and the Conservation Trust Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program, and from our 16 partnering municipalities listed below.

What are Environmental Goods and Services (EGS)?

EGS are the benefits that arise from a healthy natural environment. They include water purification, phosphorus/nitrogen abatement, habitat for fish and wildlife, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and many more. EGS can be created and/or protected by altering management practices or by limiting use of a site.

What kinds of EGS is the EIWD interested in?

The EIWD watershed management plans identifies the following priorities in EGS: surface water quality improvements, surface water quantity, drinking water quality improvements, nutrient management, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian habitat, biodiversity, soil quality, and carbon sequestration.

What do I have to do to be eligible to participate in the program?

In order to participate in the program, you must own or lease land within the EIWD. If you are unsure if you are within this boundary, contact the EIWD. You must also submit an Expression of Interest form to the EIWD to be eligible for funding.

Am I still eligible to participate if I am leasing land?

Yes, landowners and lessee can both participate in establishing Better Management Practice (BMP) and receive Protection Payments (GROW payment).

What if I have more than one parcel of land that I want to enter a bid for?

If you would like to submit more than one parcel of land into the program, you may submit a bid for each parcel of land separately, submit one large bid, or both. Each bid will be treated independently. If you submit a large bid, the bid price will be for all actions on all parcels of land, and you will be obligated to fulfill the contractual management agreements for all lands.

How will I know what management actions to undertake?

The EIWD will create a custom management plan that will meet your needs and goals as well as fulfill the EGS goals of the program. This will be done through a meeting with EIWD where you can sit down and determine what is best for the proposed site.

How long is the contract for?

The contract length depends on the type of project you wish to implement but is typically 10 years.

**For detailed description of
the eligible projects, see Information Sheet #7.**

FAQ & A

What if I am unable to fulfill the contractual agreement?

If you are unable to fulfill an BMP agreement with the EIWD you will then be ineligible to participate in any further programming or membership with the EIWD. The EIWD executive board may, however, unanimously agree that because of other mitigating circumstances (eg. a natural disaster) the agreement could not be fulfilled and the landowner is not liable. A Conservation Contract can only be terminated with written agreement between the landowner and holder, or by an order of the court.

Who will know the contents of my application/bid and management agreement?

Bids will remain confidential between the landowner, the EIWD and funding partners. Bids will not be shared publicly.

Can I change the proposed management actions once I have signed the agreement?

Monitoring and flexibility to change actions will be determined in the development of the management plan with EIWD.

How will the agreements be monitored?

Annual site visits will be completed by partners.

Can I withdraw my application from the program?

You may withdraw at any time without penalty until you have signed the management plan and you have submitted your bid. If you wish to withdraw from the process after this time you must contact the EIWD to discuss the option.

How much money can I apply for?

There is no fixed limit on the amount of money that you can apply for, however bidding will be competitive. The EIWD will weigh the benefit of cost of each management plan and bid and will allocate funds based on the value for money.

How will I be paid?

Protection payments (GROW payments) will be paid annually.

To implement a BMP, the timing of the payment will be up to you. If you, as the landowner, are building an exclusion fence, planting a shelterbelt, or sowing permanent cover, you may decide to be payed after completion of the project. Alternatively, you may opt for partial payment up front to cover some initial expenses.



DEVELOPING YOUR MANAGEMENT PLAN

Developing a Management Plan

The management plan for your site will be developed during the meeting you have with the EIWD. Only those who have submitted an **Expression of Interest** are eligible to meet with the EIWD.

The management plan will outline the agreed commitments and activities for the proposed site(s) for the Enhancement Protection Program. You will be contractually obligated to complete the terms of the management plan if your bid is successful.

During the meeting

- You will be provided with an aerial photo of your property
- An EIWD staff member will assess the land that you would like to submit into the program, and:
 - Identify vegetation communities
 - Identify watercourses, water bodies, and wetlands
 - Identify appropriate changes in practice that are eligible for funding under the Enhancement Protection Program
- The management plan will be developed based on the practices being implemented and the current management of the parcel

The most appropriate practices that will meet your goals and maximize your EGS contribution will then be selected and developed into a management plan.

The management plan

The management plan will include:

- Minimum standards to ensure the extraction of the highest benefits from your project
- Site management requirements
- Monitoring and reporting procedures

The management plan will be delivered to you in a timely fashion after your meeting. You will be provided an opportunity to comment and provide alternative suggestions if you feel they are necessary.



If you agree to the terms of the management plan, you may submit an application by completing the application form provided with the final management plan.

More details on application (bid development) are provided on Information Sheet #5

You are not obligated to submit an application, and you may drop out of the program at any time before your bid is submitted.

DEVELOPING YOUR APPLICATION/BID

This Application/Bid Information Sheet provides guidance for what should be considered when you are developing your bid for the program. Ultimately, the final price that you choose to bid is up to you.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Your bid should cover your costs

It is recommended that a bid price should be high enough to cover the costs of the eligible action you choose to do (e.g. Protection Payment or BMP). This will ensure that ecological goods and services are secured and your goals are achieved.

Additional factors to consider

Some of the factors that should be considered when developing a bid price would be to include the value of the site, the costs and benefits you might expect from participation in the program, and your ability to implement the management plan.

What is the value of my site?

The value of a site is based on the current levels of Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) and the level of commitment to protect and improve EGS relative to other sites within the EIWD. For example, sites with attributes like intact tree stands, water courses, or wetlands will be considered to have a higher level of EGS. More details on site valuation are provided in Information Sheet #6.

Do you have an environmental farm plan?

Landowners are encouraged to develop an environmental farm plan as it will make your bid more competitive.

What costs should I consider?

Some of the costs involved in undertaking the proposed management actions and fulfilling long-term protection commitments include:

- Loss of income resulting from reducing the amount of land dedicated to production
- Labour costs for implementing the proposed activities (e.g. site maintenance, installation)
- Material costs (e.g. fencing)
- Any changes in taxes associated with the contract
- Changes/increase in price of materials and labour over duration of contract
- Risk of major natural event such as drought, flooding, or fire over duration of contract
- The time and cost of developing the bid
- The time and cost of monitoring and reporting
- Protection Payment Costs associated with permanently protecting the site, including future lost income opportunities. This includes the cost of management into the future, potential loss of income from having the site permanently out of production, and potential changes in market value.

What costs could EIWD take care of?

Some costs may be covered by EIWD, and your agreement will state that in the plan.

- Engineering and licencing costs for wetland and water storage projects
- Contactor costs towards wetland and water storage projects

Your bid should be competitive

The success of your bid will depend on everyone else's bid. The EIWD will not know what a successful bid price will be until all of the bids are submitted.

DEVELOPING YOUR APPLICATION/BID

What benefits should I consider?

- Improved general condition of the property, such as improved biodiversity, soil and water quality, and increased wildlife and native vegetation
- Protection of property and improved herd health
- Erosion control
- Increase aesthetic value of property
- Personal satisfaction of making a positive impact on the environment and community
- Personal enjoyment of wildlife and native vegetation
- Increased knowledge of farm and business planning
- Public acknowledgement of your contribution to the environment



Establishing final price

When developing the bid price, it is important to consider how the EGS benefits of your proposed project and the price places you with respect to other bidders.

You will want to consider the true cost of the undertakings in light of the benefits of participating in the program. The bid price is the amount required to complete the commitments for the duration of the contract, therefore it is important to consider the future.

Most importantly, you should consider what bid price you will need to meet all of your commitments and management actions agreed to in the contract. It is important that you do not underestimate your needs or you may have to use funds out of pocket to complete the agreement.



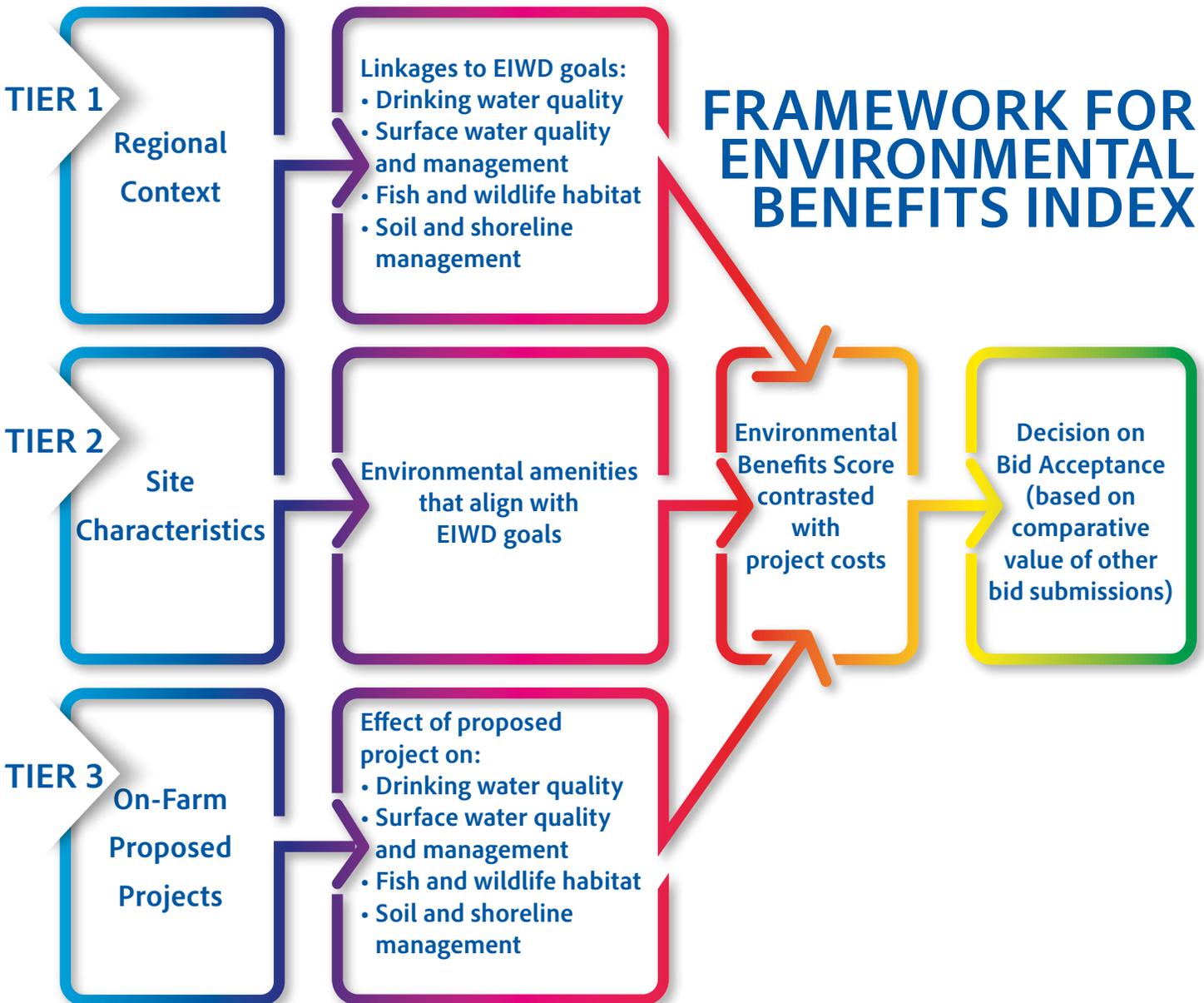
By submitting a bid, you are agreeing that this is the final price that you are willing to accept. Consultation will be available to those who would like external advice when developing their bid price.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS INDEX

This information sheet provides information on the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that will be used to evaluate the bids submitted into the Enhancement Protection Program (GROW). The EBI is a step-by-step scoring process that provides an objective assessment of the environmental contribution of a project and offers the ability to target projects in the EIWD with the highest overall value for money spent by the EIWD.

The EBI compares the submitted projects based on a set of criteria which encompass the goals of the EIWD and their Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMP):

- Drinking water quality
- Surface water quality and management
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Soil and shoreline management



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS INDEX

The EBI is based on a 3-Tier process which address each of the Enhancement Protection Program goals. It considers the baseline condition of the land, current management practices, and the potential effect of the proposed projects.

Each Tier is based on a set of indicators. Some details about the score may be shared with you during the site visit. However, to keep the program competitive, you will not know the details of the score. Any important changes in information will be provided to you in the future.

TIER 1:

Regional Context

Provides score details on EIWD Integrated Watershed Management Plan:

- Drinking water quality
- Surface water quality and management
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Soil and shoreline management

The scoring scheme assigns scores from 1 to 5 for each goal, where a score of 5 indicates the greatest, and 1 the lowest.

The scores are averaged for each policy goal to give the final score.

TIER 2:

Site Characteristics

Provides a detailed assessment of the on-farm baseline ecological conditions. These elements are influenced by past and current management practices. Score is based on the presence and location of water, wetlands, riparian vegetation, intact habitat, soil class, erosion risk, etc.

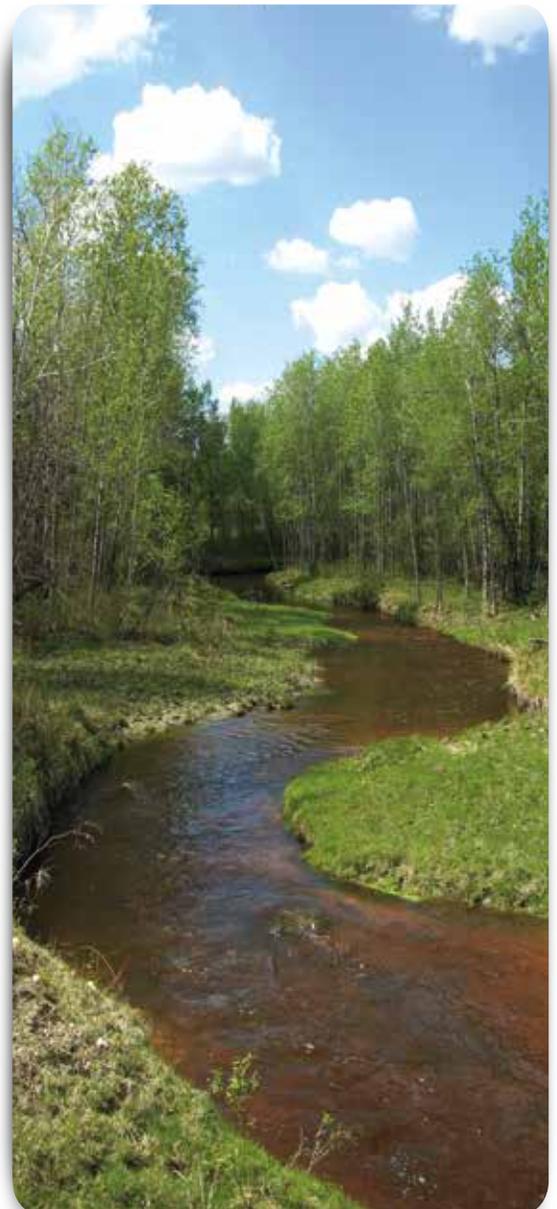
TIER 3:

On-Farm Proposed Projects

Scores are based on proposed on-farm projects (e.g. Conservation Contract or BMP) against current management practices.

Additional Criteria:

There are opportunities to gain bonus points to supplement your EBI. More details will be available when you meet with the EIWD to develop your management plan.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS INDEX EXAMPLE

Example of EBI in use

How are two different projects assessed?

What is the difference between the same project but on different sites?



The EBI will target the project that will have a larger impact on the goals of the EIWD.

For example:

Two landowners are both considering establishing a buffer strip around a watercourse that goes through their property.

Details on Site A:

- Land is habitually flooded with periodic cultivation
- Low slope, low risk of soil erosion
- Not close to waterfowl breeding habitat

Details on Site B:

- Has 200 head of cattle
- High slope, high risk of soil erosion
- Close to waterfowl breeding habitat

Based on the details provided in the table, Site B would receive a higher EBI score than Site A because establishing a buffer strip would have a higher environmental impact than a buffer strip on Site A. Site A may be suitable for Conservation Agreement with a site management plan.

ELIBIBLE PROJECT OPTIONS

Project	Activities/Description	Goals	Standards	Contract Length
Protection Payment (GROW Payment)	A Protection Payment will be made after agreement between the landowner and the East Interlake Watershed District (EIWD) is made.	The Protection Payment agreement controls certain land management actions, such as drainage, in order to protect the Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) capacity of the land.	Specific management practices may be prescribed and may include restrictions on draining, grazing, or cultivation. Landowners will work with EIWD and other conservation staff to develop the agreement.	10 Year contract (with EIWD)
Shelter Belt/Tree Establishment	Shelterbelts are usually made up of one or more rows of trees or shrubs planted in such a manner as to provide shelter from the wind and to protect soil from erosion.	Shelterbelts assist with runoff control and soil erosion, reduce impacts of snow and wind on livestock, improve air quality, and enhance habitat for wildlife.	Design of the shelterbelt/tree establishment will be agreed upon by the EIWD and landowner.	10 Year contract (with EIWD)
Native Rangeland/Permanent Cover Restoration/Establishment	Planting or restoring native species of grasslands, shrub-lands, or woodlands.	Rangelands/permanent cover are important element of grazing and livestock management. They assist in maintaining healthy riparian areas, providing wildlife habitat and aesthetic values.	Design of the Native Rangeland/Permanent Cover will be agreed upon by the EIWD and landowner.	10 Year contract (with EIWD)
Exclusion Fencing	The use of fencing to prevent livestock from accessing riparian areas and water bodies.	Exclusion fencing and offsite watering improve riparian condition and fish and wildlife habitat by reducing overgrazing, and enhancing plant cover which increases bank stability and decreases soil erosion.	Exclusion fencing is intended for the exclusion of livestock from riparian areas only and does not cover peripheral fencing. Exclusion fences must be installed a minimum of 10 m (33 ft) from the body of water.	10 Year contract (with EIWD)

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ENHANCEMENT PROTECTION PROGRAM | Information Sheet #7

ELIBIBLE PROJECT OPTIONS

Project	Activities/Description	Goals	Standards	Contract Length
Offsite Watering	The use of alternate watering systems to eliminate the need for cattle to pass through riparian areas and drink directly from a water body.	Offsite watering provides reliable good quality water that is easily accessible and improves livestock health and growth.	In order to qualify for funding for offsite watering, livestock must currently be watering at a waterway. The project must include livestock exclusion from the riparian area. This program is not intended for system upgrades or renewal. The EIWD will only pay for a new system.	10 Year contract (with EIWD)
Buffer Strips	The establishment of a vegetated strip along a waterway or water body that would serve to function as a riparian area.	Buffer strips stabilize shoreline soil, preventing shoreline erosion and downstream sedimentation. They trap snow, reduce peak flows during spring runoff, recharge groundwater, and cause a slower snowmelt. They filter surface water by removing nutrients, bacteria, sediment, provide shade, limit water temperature changes, and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife.	Buffer strips will be designed following Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Field Manual on Buffer Design for the Canadian Prairies. If applicable, the project must include a livestock exclusion fence.	10 Year contract (with EIWD)
Wetland Restoration/ Enhancement or Onsite Water Retention	The re-establishment of a wetland where there was previous drainage. Onsite water retention involves the installation of storage systems in appropriate areas on the site.	Wetlands and onsite water retention perform many important functions, including: carbon sequestration, surface and groundwater storage, nutrient retention, pesticide adsorption, and provide habitat for wildlife.	Design of wetland/onsite water storage will be agreed upon by the EIWD and the landowner.	10 Year contract (with EIWD)



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