

# Conservation Reserve Program

## NON-FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS INITIATIVE

Filter Runoff | Improve Water Quality | Enhance Wildlife Habitat



## Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

The Non-Floodplain Wetlands Initiative provides incentives to landowners and farmers who restore upland wetlands, particularly prairie pothole and playa lake wetlands in the Great Plains. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with initiatives like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

## What are Prairie Pothole and Playa Lake Wetlands?

*And why are they important?*

Prairie Pothole wetlands are dynamic depressional wetlands fed by precipitation and groundwater. These wetlands provide vital habitat for ducks and other wildlife. They also improve the overall environment through carbon sequestration, floodwater storage, erosion control, and agricultural run-off filtration.

Playa lakes are shallow, seasonal wetlands that collect water from the surrounding area. They create temporary wetlands that serve as the primary source of recharge for aquifers, sequester carbon, and create habitat for birds and other wildlife. In some cases, between 10 and 25 percent of annual water applied through irrigation is replaced by groundwater recharge by playa lakes.

### Affiliated Practice:

CP-23A Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

For more information about this individual practice, visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Photos courtesy of Playa Lake Joint Venture, Jerry Holden, Armstrong County, Texas and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, ConocoPhillips Grant Project, Nebraska, respectively



## Non-Floodplain Wetlands Initiative Benefits

The non-floodplain wetlands initiative restores prairie pothole wetlands and playa lakes that lie outside of a 100-year floodplain. It compensates landowners and farmers for taking less productive land susceptible to ponding out of production. Restored wetlands also establish vital habitat for game and native wildlife. It also decreases sediment flow and contaminant runoff, sequesters carbon, and controls erosion.

### Financial Benefits

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments with an additional 20% Rental Rate Incentive
- Payments covering 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the wetland restoration practice
  - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
  - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$150/acre
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

### Impact

- Prairie potholes provide breeding habitat for more than half of North America's waterfowl
- Potholes provide hydrologic storage that can reduce downstream flood damage
- Buffers around depressional wetlands provide habitat for grassland birds - a group of species that are in sharp decline
- Prairie Pothole Region (Northern U.S.) provides refuge for approximately 35 species of migrating and breeding shorebirds, such as the White-rumped Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Dowitchers, and Lesser Yellow Legs.
- Playa lakes serve as the primary source of recharge for aquifers
- Wetlands promote carbon sequestration

For more information, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency: <http://offices.usda.gov>

Photos provided by Iowa Dept. of Agriculture-Div of Soil Conservation, Ron Nichols, NRCS and Lynn Betts, NRCS respectively