



United States
Department of
Agriculture

March 2004

Farm Service Agency

Fact Sheet

Missouri/Madison Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Montana State Producer Handbook



Authorization

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is authorized to enter into agreements with States by using the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to target specific resource concerns of the State through a flexible and cost-effective program.

Background

The Missouri/Madison CREP is the first CREP project in Montana. The project will assist farmers and ranchers in improving the water quality of a two-mile wide corridor along the Missouri and Madison River systems. The total project area reaches more than 500 hundred miles from Hebgen Dam to the Fred Robinson Bridge encompassing over 338,000 private land acres.

Purpose

The goal of the Missouri/Madison CREP project is to improve water quality along the Missouri and Madison River corridor. It is designed to maximize the opportunity for Federal, State, and private funding to improve riparian, in-stream and upland habitat restoration and enhancement within the corridor areas.

Project Area

The project area includes nine counties along the Missouri and

Madison River corridors. Producers within Blaine, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Madison and Phillips counties may contact the local USDA Service Center for specific information concerning CREP eligibility.

Signup

Signup will be on a continuous basis beginning January 2, 2003.

Land Eligibility

Cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 out of the 6 crop years from 1996 through 2001 (including field margins) and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Marginal pastureland must lie adjacent or parallel to a perennial or seasonal stream and must be planted to trees. Producers must commit to keeping lands out of agricultural production for between 10 and 15 years. Applications may be submitted to the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance and develops conservation plans.

Practices

Eligible practices to be installed within the project area are:

- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses

- CP9, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP10, Vegetative Cover, Grass, Already Established
- CP21, Filter Strips
- CP22, Riparian Buffer
- CP23, Wetland Restoration
- CP25, Rare and Declining Habitat

Payments

Participants are eligible for the following types of financial assistance:

- **Annual Rental Payment (*with incentive*) for the life of the contract** –
 - The payment rate for dry land cropland is the average of the Soil Rental Rates for the 3 predominant soils on the eligible acreage offered plus a 20% incentive.
 - The payment rate for irrigated cropland is \$90 per acre plus a 40% incentive (\$90 X 40%=\$36).
 - The payment rate for marginal pastureland is: 1) acreage within the flood plain adjacent to seasonal streams which would support woody riparian vegetation, the base soil rate will be the local posted marginal pastureland rate plus a 40% incentive; and 2) Acreage within the flood plain adjacent to

perennial streams or permanent water bodies which would support woody riparian vegetation, the base soil rate will be \$85 per acre plus a 40% incentive (\$85 X 40%=\$34).

- **Annual Maintenance Payment** – Depending on the practice installed, the maintenance rate will be between \$5.00 and \$10.00 per acre per year.
- **Cost-Share Assistance** – Assistance up to 50% for the installation of the eligible conservation practices on enrolled land.
- **Signing Incentive Payment (SIP)** – A one-time payment of \$100 to \$150 per acre for land enrolled in a riparian forest buffer or grass filter strip practice.

- **Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)** – A one-time payment equal to:
 - About 40% of the total eligible cost for establishing the practice.

For More Information

Contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), one of the ten conservation districts located within the project area or visit the Montana FSA Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> to obtain further information regarding the Missouri/Madison Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) project.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.