



Washington State Fact Sheet

August 2010

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Overview

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is part of FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The Washington CREP provides incentives to restore and improve salmon and steelhead habitat on private land. It is a Federal-State partnership, based on an Agreement signed by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and Washington Governor Gary Locke on October 19, 1998.

CREP is a voluntary program to establish forested buffers along streams where riparian habitat is a significant limiting factor for salmonids. The buffers also improve water quality and increase stream stability. CREP land is removed from active use, under 10-15 year contracts. In return landowners receive annual rental, incentive, maintenance and cost share payments.

Program Flexibility

CREP recognizes site variability. Buffer widths vary based on local site conditions. The buffer boundary can be moved toward or away from the stream at different locations to meet landowner needs, as long as the buffer standard's requirements are met.

Recent Improvements

Improvements to CREP approved in 2010 provided flexibility in buffer designs and reduced the minimum width in some cases. It also added eligibility for perennial fruit crops. There are now five types of approved buffers including: Grass Filter strips, riparian buffers, hedgerows, wetland restorations and marginal pastureland buffers. For more information, see the chart on the back of this fact sheet.

Eligible Participants

The operator of record and landowner(s) are eligible to participate on the contract. The land must have been owned or operated for at least 12 months prior to offering it for CREP.

Eligible Streams

There are 10,000 miles of streams designated as eligible for CREP enrollment in the state. These streams were designated using several criteria, and target streams where riparian habitat is a significant limiting factor for salmon and/or steelhead species.

Eligible Land

Eligible land must have the required cropping history and the required vegetation.

For the cropping history requirement, the land must meet one of the following:

- planted to annual crops or used as summer fallow, four of the six years 2002-2007.
- planted to orchard, vineyard or berry crops in four of the six years 2002-2007.
- planted to perennial grasses or legumes but only under certain conditions.
- capable as functioning as pasture.

There is no minimum or maximum acreage to enroll, but the enrolled acreage must meet the technical size specifications.

Maintenance Payments

After establishing the CREP practice, Washington State will pay maintenance payments equal to 100 percent of the eligible costs of maintaining the cover for up to five years. Participants must submit receipts of cost documents to support their claim. These payments will be issued by the local Conservation District.

Contract Start Date

CREP contracts begin the first of the month following FSA approval of the contract. For example, a contract approved March 15 will become effective, and accrue annual payments, starting April 1. The participant may delay the effective date up to six months.

- CRP contract
- conservation plan
- landlord/tenant certification
- payment limitation forms
- conservation compliance form
- DCP contract acreage reduction, if applicable
- an FSA acreage measurement (a small fee applies).

submitted, a no-obligation eligibility review will be conducted, and you will be provided a final opportunity to decide if you want to enroll the land.

Also visit our website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/CREP53b.htm>

The CREP contract can not be approved until all required documents are completed and signed, including:

- CRP worksheet

For More Information

For more information about CREP, contact your local USDA Service Center or Conservation District. After an application is

This Fact Sheet is not intended to cover all situations. Contact your local USDA Service Center or Conservation District office for specific questions about your land.

CRP Practices, Signup Types, Contract Lengths and Incentives

	Grass Filter Strip	Riparian Buffer	Hedgerow	Wetland Restoration, Floodplain	Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain	Marginal Pastureland, Wetland
Eligible Land	Cropland	Cropland Marginal pasture land	Cropland Marginal pasture land	Cropland	Cropland	Marginal pastureland
Eligible Location	8-digit HUC with designated stream	CREP designated stream	CREP designated stream/ 10 miles upstream ¹	wetland hydrologically connected to designated stream	wetland hydrologically connected to designated stream	wetland hydrologically connected to designated stream
Length	10-15 years	10-15 years	10-15 years	10-15 years	10-15 years	10-15 years
Buffer width	20-120 feet	35-180 feet	15 feet	Footnote 4	Footnote 4	20-120 feet
Rental Rate Incentive ²	50 percent	100 percent	75 percent	100 percent	100 percent	100 percent
Maintenance ³	\$2, \$6, or \$7	\$4, \$6 or \$7	\$4, \$6 or \$7	\$2	\$2	\$2, \$6, or \$7

1: Hedgerow is limited to streams with bank full width of 15 feet or less, or in the case of incised channels, where the stream width at the ordinary high water mark is 15 feet or less.

2: All CREP practices are also eligible for an additional 10 percent incentive on land designated under the State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.170) as “agicultural land of State Significance.”

3: See your local FSA office for specifics on applicable maintenance rates.

4: Wetland restoration buffer widths are determined on a case-by-case basis dependent on several criteria.

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