

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

State of Washington



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Washington are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 100,000 acres of agricultural land along eligible streams or waterways. The purpose of the Washington CREP is to assist in the recovery of salmon species that have been listed as threatened or endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Background

CREP is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish permanent, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

With CREP, high-priority conservation goals are identified by the state, and then federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to achieve those goals.

Through the Washington CREP, federal and state resources are made available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for 10- to 15-year contracts. Participants remove cropland and marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to grasses, trees, or other approved vegetation, such as filter strips, riparian buffers and wetland areas.

This will improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients, nitrogen and other pollutants from entering streams and rivers, and enhance wildlife habitat in the area.

Goals

The goals of the Washington CREP include:

- ◆ To reduce sediment and nutrient pollution from agricultural lands adjacent to the riparian buffers by more than 50 percent.
- ◆ To assist farms and ranches to meet the water quality requirements established under federal law and under Washington’s water quality laws.
- ◆ To establish riparian buffers on 2,700 stream miles to permit natural restoration of stream hydraulic and geomorphic characteristics which meet habitat requirements of salmonoids.

Eligible Conservation Practices

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available:

- ◆ CP21, Filter Strips
- ◆ CP22, Riparian Buffer Hedgerow
- ◆ CP22, Riparian Buffer
- ◆ CP23, Wetland Restoration
- ◆ CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain
- ◆ CP30, Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer

For More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply.

Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator).



Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through the Washington CREP is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, land must be located in Washington. Land must be cropland or marginal pastureland that meets CRP land eligibility requirements. For CP22 it must be along an eligible stream or within 10 stream miles for CP22 Hedgerow. For CP21 cropland must be in a Water Resource Inventory Area that contains eligible streams. For the wetland practices, the wetland must be hydrologically connected to designated streams.

Payments

Under the Washington CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- ◆ A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) is paid in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives for land as follows:
 - \$100 per acre for CP21, and CP22;
 - \$150 per acre for CP23, CP23A, CP30.
- ◆ A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of eligible reimbursable costs incurred for installation of CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A, and CP30.

- ◆ An annual rental payment consisting of:
 - A base soil rental rate, determined by the soils of the land offered
 - An incentive payment as follows, except for land enrolled or re-enrolled under infeasible-to-farm provisions
 - 10 percent for all practices established on land designated as Agricultural Lands of State Significance;
 - 50 percent for land established as CP21;
 - 75 percent for land established as CP22 Hedgerow;
 - 100 percent for land established as CP22, CP23, CP23A and CP30
 - A maintenance incentive payment for CP21, CP22 and the CP30 practices in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives
- ◆ A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the eligible cost to install the approved practice.

In addition, the State of Washington will provide eligible participants a cost-share payment of up to 10 percent of the practice installation, and 100 percent of the eligible costs for annual maintenance of riparian buffers for up to 5 years from the establishment date.

Enrollment Options

CREP is another option under CRP that farmers and ranchers may select to enhance their land. Eligible producers may still enroll land in CRP through general or continuous signup; however, the Washington CREP provides additional benefits not available through general and/or continuous signup. Under the Washington CREP, producers receive higher incentive payments and longer contract lengths that increase the total amount of rental payments received.

Haying and Grazing

Haying and grazing is not allowed on acreage enrolled in the Washington CREP.