

You are cordially invited to a CRP and Ecosystem Services Webinar

The Webinar will be held Thursday May 16th at 2:00 pm Eastern time. Dr. Loren Smith – Oklahoma State University will be presenting “***CRP and Land Use Effects on Ecosystem Services in the High Plains***”.

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the 27.1 million acre Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a program that improves water quality, enhances wildlife populations, sequesters carbon, reduces erosion, and provides other environmental benefits. The CRP does this by working with producers and landowners to identify and protect fragile croplands by placing them into conserving covers. The highest density of CRP land in the nation occurs in the High Plains. FSA’s Economic and Policy Analysis Staff (EPAS) has established a Monitoring, Assessment, and Evaluation project to quantify and document the multiple benefits generated when lands are placed into the CRP, and to identify successful innovative practices.

EPAS, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and our partners are collaborating to present a series of webinars. The series will highlight the monitoring and assessment activities of FSA and how partnerships within and outside USDA are working together to fill critical gaps and develop tools to better inform policy and management decisions. You are cordially invited to the webinar, ***CRP and Land Use Effects on Ecosystem Services in the High Plains***, which will be presented by OSU Scientist, Dr. Loren Smith, on May 16, 2012 at 2:00 PM (Eastern Time). Most of the CRP occurs in the Great Plains and the studies being conducted in the High Plains along with those in the Northern Great Plains will therefore provide key information to drive conservation and policy decisions.

The monthly webinars are designed to present the results of the projects that identify and quantify the environmental services generated by CRP. The webinars provide conservationists, decision makers, scientists, and policy analysts with the

opportunity to review preliminary results and talk with the scientists conducting the monitoring and assessments. EPAS's goal is to engage in an open dialogue on how to measure benefits from the CRP and to better administer the program.