



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**Farm Service Agency**

January, 2007

**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 assists 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 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 began January 2, 2003 and is on a continuous basis.

**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 is eligible. 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 \$126. (\$90 per acre plus a 40% incentive (\$90 X 40%=\$36. \$90 + \$36=\$126).
  - 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 \$119. (\$85 per acre plus a 40% incentive (\$85 X 40%=\$34. \$85 + 34=\$119).

### ***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>.

- **Annual Maintenance Payment** – Depending on the practice installed, the maintenance rate will be between \$4.00 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. PIP partial payments are not allowed.

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