

USDA-Farm Service Agency  
Notice of Availability  
Upper Clark Fork River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program  
Draft Environmental Assessment

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces they have prepared a draft Environmental Assessment to evaluate the Upper Clark Fork River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), located in portions of Lewis and Clark and Missoula Counties and located in all of Deer Lodge, Granite, Powell and Silver Bow Counties. The primary objective of the UCFRB CREP is, to the extent possible, reduce sediment loads and increase infiltration in the adjacent uplands (i.e., improve water quality). The secondary objective is to enhance or maintain wildlife habitat with the watershed, focusing on riparian areas and adjacent uplands. The UCFRB CREP proposes to meet these objectives by establishing 10,300 acres of buffers along riparian areas; restoring and protecting 3,000 acres of degraded wetlands within the project area to support water quality and fish and wildlife habitat restoration; and restoring and enhancing 49,500 acres of grasslands, Sagebrush Steppe rare and declining habitat.

FSA is accepting comments on the potential effects of the proposed project on protected resources and the human environment through January 15, 2017. Information regarding this project can be reviewed either online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement/index> or in person at the FSA office located in Powell County or the NRCS office located in Granite County. Written comments can be submitted to the CREP Program Manager at 6501 Beacon Drive, STOP 8108, Kansas City, MO 64133 or by email at [FSA.EAComments@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:FSA.EAComments@wdc.usda.gov). Comments must be received on or before January 16, 2017.