

CREP 2024

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

On Marginal Pastureland in Coos and Curry Counties



Purpose of the Program:

To restore riparian habitat and to protect surface water quality on agricultural lands.

The Oregon CREP is a USDA Farm Bill program that pays landowners to create and maintain conservation buffers on *eligible marginal pastureland or cropland for 10 to 15-year Farm Service Agency contracts. Oregon CREP Marginal Pastureland options include forested **Riparian Buffers** (CP-22), herbaceous **Wildlife Habitat Buffers** (CP-29), and **Wetland Buffers** (CP-30).

Cost share and incentive payments are available for approved work to restore buffer function, improve habitat, and reduce agricultural impacts to streams and wetlands.

NRCS practice standards apply to all cost-shared work.

75% Cost Share on Approved Practices

50% cost share from the Federal Government and 25% cost share from the State

Typical CREP practices

Riparian Fences	Planting trees and shrubs
Livestock watering	Brush management
Site prep	Upland wildlife habitat improvement

Annual Rental Payments to landowner

Federal “base rental rate” plus a 50% incentive gives the total annual rental rate below

Annual payments based on stream type

- \$112** per acre for buffers on a seasonal stream
- \$126** per acre for buffers on a perennial stream
- \$181** (Coos) or **\$294** (Curry) per acre for buffers on irrigated pasture, if the appurtenant water right is preserved by leasing back to the State for instream use.

PLUS: Annual Maintenance payments to landowner

Annual maintenance payments based on practice type

Wildlife (CP-29) or wetland (CP-30) herbaceous buffers:

- \$0 per acre with no fencing or watering facilities
- \$5 per acre with fencing
- \$10 per acre with watering facility and fencing

Riparian (CP-22) forested buffers

- \$2 per acre with no fence or watering
- \$5 per acre with fencing
- \$10 per acre with fencing and watering facilities

PLUS: One-Time Incentive Payments**1. Signup Incentive Payment (SIP)**

\$100 for each acre enrolled in the program

2. Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)40% of eligible costs – As each practice is completed a PIP will be paid based on *eligible installed costs*.

Example: (\$500 paid for fencing installation X 40% = \$200 PIP payment).

3. Cumulative Incentive Bonus (CIB)

- When 50% of 5 miles of streambank is enrolled (one or more participants, separately or at the same time)
- Each participant receives a one-time payment of 4 times the annual *base rental rate* (Item 31 form CRP-2) for each acre enrolled, paid as each segment qualifies

***Eligible land**

Most streamside pasture in our area qualifies. Parallel and adjacent to water within an Ag Water Quality Management Plan Area, Tribal lands, or targeted species (list available).

Marginal pastureland must be restored to wetland, wildlife, or forested buffers to address water quality problems. Designated cropland may be eligible for Filter Strips (CP21) or Wetland Restoration (CP23)

Restrictions

- Land enrolled in CREP may not be grazed, hayed, or harvested during the contract period.
- Maintenance and weed control are required, outside primary nesting season (March 1-July 15).
- No in-stream work, except to establish livestock crossings and/or livestock watering facilities.
- Cost shares are based on eligible (not-to-exceed) costs, and all USDA payments are reported to the IRS as income.
- Restoration vegetation must be appropriate for soils and planned purposes.

CALL OR WALK IN FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Coquille USDA Service Center: 376 N Central Blvd., Coquille, OR 97423

Call: 541-396-2841 CREP Technician: Option 5 or Farm Service Agency: Option 2

See the FSA website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Oregon's Riparian Enhancement Initiative

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Oregon are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 100,000 acres of agricultural land, located along any of the following: streams inhabited by fish listed under Federal law as threatened or endangered species; streams where Agricultural Water Quality Management Plans have been developed, or streams on reservation or tribal lands. The purpose of Oregon's Riparian Enhancement Initiative CREP is to restore 100 percent of the area enrolled for the riparian forest buffer practice to a properly functioning condition in terms of distribution and growth of woody plant species, filtration of nutrients and sediment from agricultural runoff, shade, and stabilization of stream banks under normal non-flood conditions. In addition, Oregon's Riparian Enhancement CREP provides a way for farmers and ranchers to voluntarily meet the water quality requirements established under federal law and under Oregon's agricultural water quality laws.

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

Goals

The goals of Oregon's Riparian Enhancement CREP include:

- Enrollment of 100,000 acres in the Oregon CREP.
- Restoration of up to 5,000 acres of wetlands on cropland or marginal pastureland, which are either hydrologically connected to eligible streams or located in coastal estuaries.
- Targeted annual enrollment in Coastal Basins, Columbia Basin, and Interior Drainages.

Eligible Conservation Practices

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available:

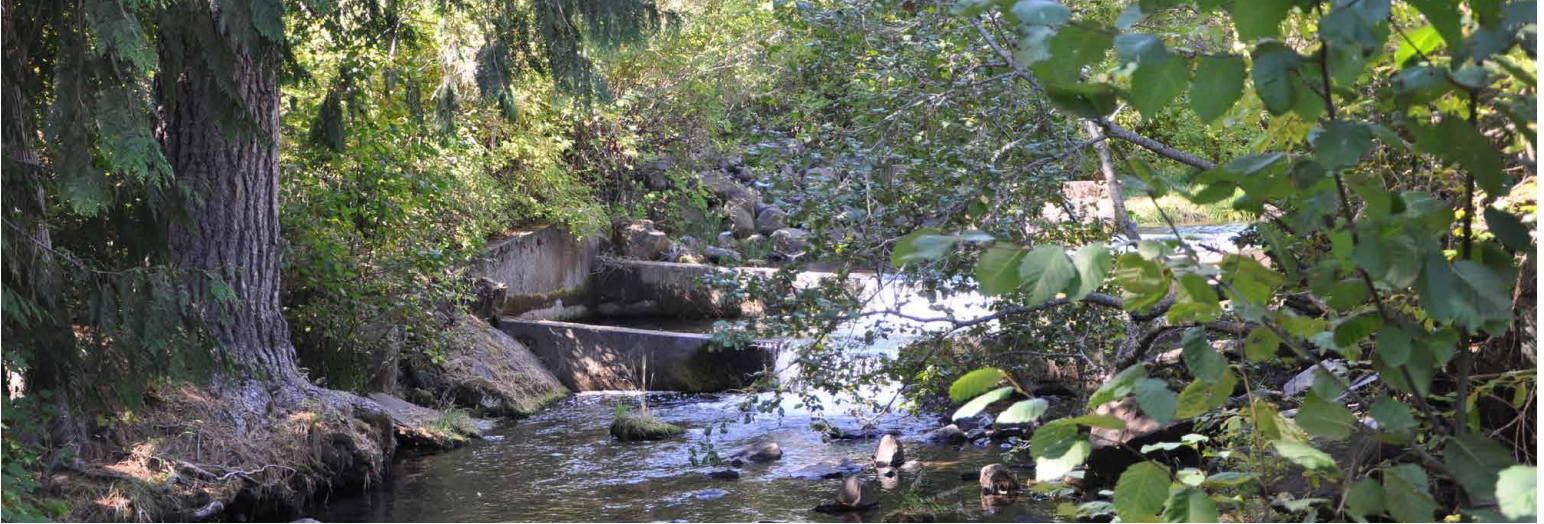
- CP21, Filter Strips
- CP22, Riparian Buffer Strips
- CP23, Wetland Restoration
- CP29, Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer
- CP30, Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer

For More Information

For more information on this project, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.

**Oregon State Office
Farm Service Agency**
7620 SW Mohawk
Tualatin, OR 97062
(503) 692-3688
(855) 824-6185 fax

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



Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through Oregon's Riparian Enhancement CREP is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, land must be located in Oregon. Land must be either cropland or marginal pastureland and must be located along an eligible stream that contains either fish listed as threatened or endangered under federal law, be located along streams where Agricultural Water Quality Management Plans have been development pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 568.930 to 568.933, or be streams on reservation or tribal trust lands. Cropland must meet cropping history criteria according to current FSA National CRP Directives and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Payments

Under Oregon's Riparian Enhancement CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) is paid for land as follows: \$10 times the number of contract acres times 10 for CP21, CP22, CP23, CP29, and CP30 practices.
- A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of eligible reimbursable costs incurred for installation of CP21, CP22, CP23, CP29, and CP30 practices.
- An annual rental payment consisting of:
 - ◊ A base soil rental rate, determined by the soils of the land offered
 - ◊ An incentive payment as a percentage of the base soil rental rate as follows, except for land enrolled or re-enrolled under infeasible-to-farm provisions:
 - » 50 percent for land established as CP22, CP23, CP29, and CP30
 - » 25 percent for land established as CP21
 - ◊ A maintenance incentive payment for CP21, CP22, CP23, CP29, and 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.
- A Cumulative Impact Bonus (CIB) incentive payment where a total of 50 percent of the stream bank within a 5-mile stream segment is enrolled in CRP under CREP.

The payment will be a one-time incentive payment and shall equal four times the applicable base year rental rate for each acre enrolled.

In addition, the State of Oregon will provide eligible participants a cost-share payment of up to 25 percent of the practice installation cost and will provide both technical assistance and conservation planning assistance for Oregon's Riparian Enhancement CREP.

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 Oregon's Riparian Enhancement CREP provides additional benefits not available through general and/or continuous signup. Under the Oregon's Riparian Enhancement CREP, producers receive higher incentive payments and longer contract lengths that increase the total amount of rental payments received.

Haying and Grazing

Contact your local FSA office for more information about authorized haying and grazing activities.