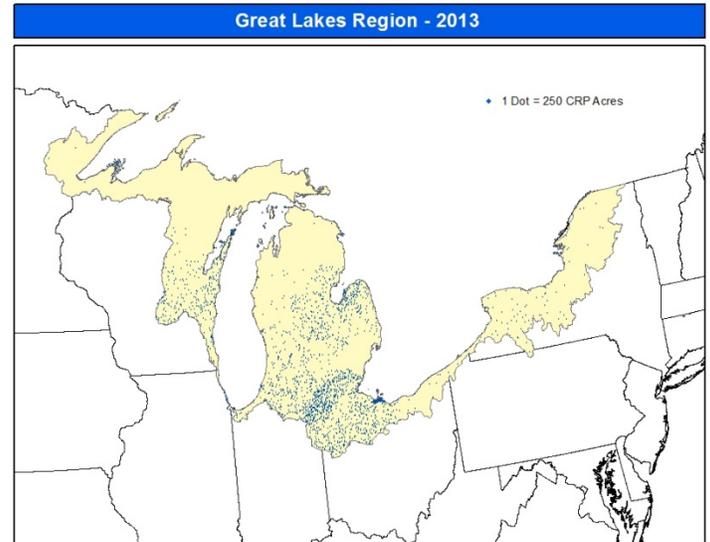


Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program

2013 Great Lakes Region



		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Land Enrolled*							
	1,000 acres	565	531	507	493	479	450
In Buffers	1,000 acres	106	103	106	103	103	102
In Wetlands	1,000 acres	32	34	33	35	25	25
Reductions (intercepted by buffers or not leaving field) **							
Sediment	million tons	4	4	4	4	4	4
Nitrogen	million lbs	15	15	15	15	15	14
Phosphorus	million lbs	3	3	3	3	3	3
Greenhouse Gas Reduction **	Mil. metric tons CO2 equivalent/yr.	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8

*Cumulative acres. ** Annual estimate, see Estimation Methodology.

- CRP reduces the nitrogen, and phosphorus leaving a field in runoff and percolate. Nitrogen and phosphorus leaving CRP fields are 95 and 86 percent less, respectively, compared to land that is cropped.
- Grass filter strips and riparian buffers intercept sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, and other contaminants, before they enter waterways. Because buffers both reduce contaminants on the land they occupy and intercept contaminants from other lands they have disproportionate water quality benefits.
- Using models developed by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2013, by an estimated 14 million pounds of nitrogen and 3 million pounds of phosphorus, compared to land that is cropped. Sediment losses were reduced by an estimated 4 million tons.
- Upstream CRP lands reduce downstream flood damage. Peak flows are reduced by slowing, storing, and infiltrating storm water runoff.