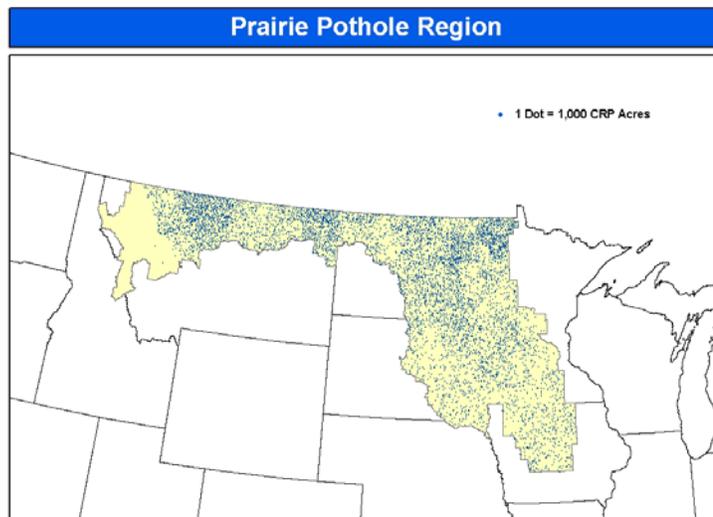


Prairie Pothole Region 2011

The Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program



		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Land Enrolled	million acres	8.5	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.1
In Wetlands	1,000 acres	1,661	1,567	1,558	1,581	1,686
In Buffers	1,000 acres	314	316	321	321	320
Reductions (intercepted by buffers or not leaving field)						
Sediment	million tons	23	23	23	23	24
Nitrogen	million lbs	116	113	113	113	117
Phosphorus	million lbs	12	12	11	11	12
Annual Accumulation						
Carbon Sequestered	million metric tons	10	9	9	9	9

- CRP buffers intercept sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus from farmed fields in the Prairie Pothole Region. In 2011, 320 thousand acres of CRP grass filters and riparian buffers intercepted 21 million tons of sediment in the Prairie Pothole Region, 74 million pounds of nitrogen, and 10 million pounds of phosphorus.
- The CRP was identified as a ‘Reason for Hope’ for grassland birds in the ‘*State of the Birds*’ report (FWS, 2009).
- CRP increased Prairie Pothole duck populations by an average of 2 million ducks per year between 1992 and 2004 (FWS).
- CRP reduces nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment leaving fields. In 2011, grass and tree plantings reduced nitrate loss by 31 million pounds.
- CRP restores Prairie Pothole floodwater storage function – In 2008, USGS estimated that CRP wetland catchments could store approximately 458,000 acre-feet of water annually.

FSA is using CRP enrollment data, the USDA soils and natural resource inventories, and cooperative agreements with Federal, State, and other partners to refine these performance measures and to estimate the benefits from CRP. For more information see

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=nra>