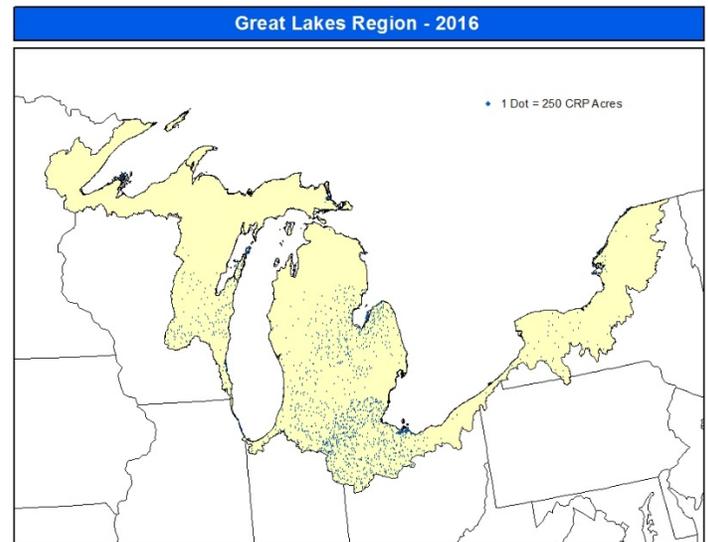


Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program

2016

Great Lakes Region



<u>Fiscal Year</u>		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Land Enrolled*	1,000 acres	493	479	450	388	367	350
In Wetlands	1,000 acres	35	36	37	36	36	36
Buffers	1,000 acres	103	103	102	100	99	96
<u>Reductions (intercepted by buffers or not leaving field) **</u>							
Sediment	million tons	4	4	4	4	4	3
Nitrogen	million lbs	15	14	14	13	13	12
Phosphorus	million lbs	3	3	3	3	2	2
Greenhouse Gas Reduction **	Mil. metric tons CO2 equivalent/yr.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7

*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 2016, by an estimated 12 million pounds of nitrogen and 2 million pounds of phosphorus, compared to land that is cropped. Sediment losses were reduced by an estimated 3 million tons.
- Upstream CRP lands reduce downstream flood damage. Peak flows are reduced by slowing, storing, and infiltrating storm water runoff.