

North Dakota Riparian Project

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of North Dakota are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 20,000 acres of agricultural land in a portion of Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burleigh, Dunn, Emmons, Grant, Golden Valley, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, and Stark counties. The purpose of the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP is to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorous, and other pollutants entering waterbodies and create and improve habitat beneficial to pollinators and other wildlife.

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 the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP, federal and state resources are made available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for a minimum of 10-year, not to exceed 15-year contracts. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to riparian buffers, filter strips, and native grasses and forbs. This will improve water quality by reducing sediment, phosphorous and other pollutants from entering streams and rivers, and improve pollinator and other wildlife habitat in the area.

Goals

The goals of the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP are to:

- Reduce sediment, nutrients, and agricultural chemicals entering watercourses;
- Increase the number of acres enrolled in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department’s Private Land Open to Sportsman program;
- Improve habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife; and
- Create and improve pollinator habitat.

Eligible Conservation Practices

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available:

- CP21, Filter Strips
- CP22, Riparian Buffer
- CP42, Pollinator Habitat
- CP42B, Pollinator Habitat for Honeybees

For More Information

CREP is one option under CRP that farmers and ranchers may select to enhance their land. Eligible producers may also enroll land in CRP through the general, continuous, or grassland signups; however, CREP may provide additional benefits not available through those signup types such as higher incentive payments and longer contract lengths that increase the total amount of rental payments received.

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

North Dakota State Office Farm Service Agency

1025 28th St. South
Fargo, North Dakota 58103
(701) 239-5224

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



Photo: ND Game and Fish Department

Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, at least 51 percent of the cropland must be physically located within the approved project area in North Dakota. Land currently or previously enrolled in CRP and the conservation cover has been maintained, is not eligible for enrollment in the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP. Cropland must meet cropping history criteria and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

At least 50 percent of the total acres enrolled per contract must be devoted to practice CP21 or CP22. The remaining portion of the acres enrolled, not to exceed 50 percent of the total acres enrolled, may be devoted to practice CP42 and/or CP42B.

All land enrolled in a CRP contract under the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP must also be enrolled in the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program. A minimum of 40 acres of land must be enrolled in the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program for the length of the associated CRP contract. If the total acres enrolled in a CRP contract is less than 40 acres, the producer must enroll other land into the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program to meet the 40-acre minimum requirement.

Payments

Under the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) is paid for land as follows:
 - ◇ 32.5 percent of the first full year (12 months) annual rental payment for acreage enrolled in CP21, CP22, and CP42;
 - ◇ \$75 per acre for acreage enrolled in CP42B.
- An annual rental payment consisting of:
 - ◇ A base soil rental rate, determined by the soils of the land offered
 - ◇ An incentive payment as follows, except for land enrolled or re-enrolled under infeasible-to-farm provisions:
 - » 40 percent for land established as practice CP21 and CP22;
 - » 20 percent for land established as practice CP42; and
 - » 10 percent for land established as practice CP42B.
- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the eligible cost to install the approved practice.
- Cost-share payments for certain management activities during the life of the CRP contract, subject to certain limitations.

In addition, the State of North Dakota will provide eligible participants the following payments:

- A one-time incentive payment of \$100 per acre enrolled under the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP;
- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of eligible reimbursable cost to install the approved conservation practice;
- Cost-share payments for certain management activities during the life of the CRP contract, subject to certain limitations; and
- An annual payment for land enrolled in the Private Land Open to Sportsman program. The amount of payment for enrollment in the Private Land Open to Sportsman program will vary depending upon the type of habit being enrolled.

Enrollment Options

CREP is another option under CRP that farmers and ranchers may select to enhance their land. Under the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP, producers receive higher incentive payments 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.