

Conservation Reserve Program

BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD TREES INITIATIVE

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement | Carbon Sequestration | Flood Control



Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

The Bottomland Hardwood Tree initiative improves the environment by restoring hardwood forests within floodplains. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with initiatives like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

What are Bottomland Hardwood Trees?

And why are they important?

Bottomland hardwoods are streamside forest trees – such as oak, maple, ash, cypress, and tupelo – that typically grow on lands prone to flooding. Placing cropland into ecologically diverse bottomland forests helps restore wetlands. By enrolling in the Bottomland Hardwood Tree practice, landowners and farmers provide public benefits from improved recreational and environmental value. In addition, the bottomland forests will produce valuable timber, providing an investment for future years.

Affiliated Practice:

CP-31 Bottomland Timber Establishment

For more information about this individual practice, visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>



Bottomland Hardwood Trees Initiative Benefits

Bottomland hardwood forests are a streamside ecosystem that provides many critical services. Bottomland forests reduce the risk and severity of downstream flooding by providing areas to store floodwater. These wetlands also improve water quality by filtering and flushing nutrients, processing nitrates and organic wastes, and reducing sediment before it reaches open water. Bottomland forests store large amounts of carbon in trees and the soil, and provide critical habitat for waterfowl, migratory birds, wild turkey, and other wildlife.

Financial Benefits

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments with an additional 20% Rental Rate Incentive
- Payments covering 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the wetland restoration practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
 - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$150/acre
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Impact

- Restores and enhances the natural and beneficial functions of bottomland wetlands
- Creates, restores, and enhances wildlife habitat
- Provides a corridor to connect habitat for wildlife and migratory species
- Improves water quality by removing nitrogen and phosphorus
- Stores flood waters and reduces downstream flooding
- Intercepts and traps sediment
- Promotes carbon sequestration

For more information, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency: <http://offices.usda.gov>

Photos courtesy of USFWS, Eugene Hester and Mark Musselman respectively