

Conservation Reserve Program

CP-31

BOTTOMLAND TIMBER ESTABLISHMENT ON WETLANDS

Improve Water Quality | Enhance Wildlife Habitat | Sequester Carbon



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

Bottomland timber improves water quality while providing vital habitat to numerous wildlife species. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices 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.

Why Bottomland Timber?

Establishing bottomland hardwood tree forests on wetlands will yield significant and multipurpose land and wildlife benefits. Bottomland timber supports a diverse ecosystem, providing shelter for vulnerable and valuable waterfowl and wildlife as well as controlling flooding, soil erosion and pollution. Trees established and managed in a bottomland timber planting can also provide timber or wood fiber products after the CRP contract expires. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-31:

- Reduces downstream flood levels
- Improves water quality
- Restores and enhances the natural wetland functions

Financial Benefits

CP-31 participants are guaranteed:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments with an additional 20% Rental Rate Incentive
- Payments covering up to 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 \$100/acre
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

Practice Requirements

- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled
- The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-share payments
- Tree thinning may be permitted after year 9 of the contract as determined by the State Forester

Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 12 months prior to program sign-up
- Be in control of the land for the length of the contract
- Meet USDA payment eligibility provisions

Obligations

Participants will:

- Not harvest or graze the practice area
- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete seeding and installation of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

Proven Conservation Benefits

- Between 2005 and 2011, CRP contributed to an estimated net increase of 1.5 million additional ducks per year
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2014 by an estimated 542 million pounds of nitrogen and 108 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO₂ - the same benefit as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>

Photos provided by USFWS and NRCS, Lynn Betts respectively