



Conservation Reserve Program - Oregon State Enhancement Program

Background

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), and the State of Oregon have agreed to implement a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to improve the water quality of streams providing habitat for nine salmon and two trout species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

The project area includes all streams in Oregon providing habitat for the endangered salmon and trout species **that cross agricultural lands.**

Program Goals

Goals of the Oregon Enhancement Program include:

- Reducing water temperature to natural levels;
- Reducing by 50 percent the sediment and nutrient pollution from agricultural lands adjacent to streams;
- Stabilizing streambanks along critical salmon and trout streams;
- Restoring natural hydraulic and stream channel conditions on 2,000 miles of streams.

Program Authorities

The Oregon Enhancement Program is authorized to enroll up to 95,000 acres of riparian buffers and filter strips, plus 5,000 acres of wetlands, for a total maximum acreage of 100,000.

Program Responsibilities

The total program cost is estimated at \$250 million. Of this, CCC will provide 80 percent and the State of Oregon or other non-Federal sources will provide 20 percent of the total cost.

CCC will pay applicable land rental costs, 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices, an annual maintenance incentive, and a portion of the costs of providing technical assistance.

The State of Oregon will pay 25 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices, all the costs of the annual monitoring program, and a portion of the technical assistance costs.

Payments and Incentives

Annual rental payments will be based on the soil rental rate, as calculated by FSA. Rates for irrigated cropland may be paid on the condition that the participant also signs an agreement with the State to lease irrigation water for instream use.

In addition to annual rental rates and maintenance incentive payments under the CRP contract, CCC will make an annual incentive payment at the following rates:

- For filter strips: 25 percent of the normal rental rate;
- For riparian buffers: 35 percent;
- For wetland restoration: 50 percent;

Through the year 2001, in any case in which more than 50 percent of the land along a 5-mile stream segment is enrolled, producers will receive a one-time cumulative impact incentive payment of 4 times the annual rental rate.

planted to trees.

Eligible Practices

Eligible CRP practices will be:

- CP 21 (Filter Strip)
- CP 22 (Riparian Buffer)
- CP 23 (Wetland Restoration)

Producers are eligible if the land has been owned or operated for at least one year prior to enrollment. Land with an existing CRP contract or an approved offer with a contract pending are not eligible for CREP until that contract expires.

Producers may also offer eligible acreage for general or continuous CRP sign-up.

CREP enrollment will be on a continuous basis beginning in late October 1998. Producers can sign up at the local USDA Service Center.

Eligibility

In addition to offering acreage along salmon and trout streams, the applicant must satisfy the basic eligibility criteria for CRP.

Information about CREP is available at State FSA offices and the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crpinfo.htm

Land must be cropland that has been cropped two out of the past five years that is physically and legally capable of being cropped. Marginal pastureland is also eligible to be enrolled provided that it is suitable for use as a riparian buffer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.