

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Program Review for Landowner Participants

Washington State
Conservation Commission



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What is CREP?

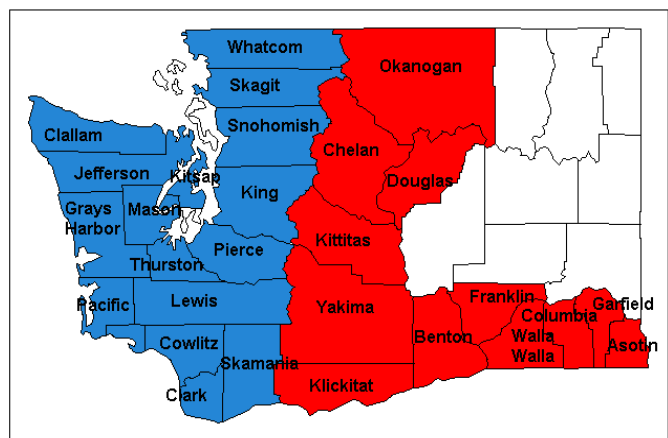
The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a joint partnership between the State of Washington and USDA, and is administered by the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Farm Services Agency (FSA). The agreement was signed in 1998 and provides incentives to restore and improve salmon and steelhead habitat on private land.



The program is voluntary for landowners, the land enrolled in CREP is removed from production and grazing under 10 or 15 year contracts. In return, landowners plant trees and shrubs to stabilize the streambank and to provide a number of additional ecological functions.

Landowners receive annual rent, incentive and maintenance payments and cost share for practice installations. These payments made by FSA and the Conservation Commission, can result in no cost to the landowner for participation.

Currently, more than 8,400 stream miles are eligible in agricultural areas in the State of Washington. Many of these stream miles comprise major river systems and tributaries important to the salmon lifecycle. Twenty-seven counties in Washington contain CREP eligible lands and streams.



FSA Program Payments

Soil Rental Rate

200% x Soil Rental Rate x per acre
Paid Annually

Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)

40% of eligible costs
Issued after buffer installation is completed

Ag land of statewide significance

10% x Soil Rental Rate x per acre
Paid Annually

Signing Incentive Payment (SIP)

\$10.00 per acre, per full Contract Year
Paid after Contract Approved

Cost Share

50% of eligible costs
Issued after each phase is completed

Maintenance

\$7, \$9 & \$10 per acre
Based upon—No Fence, Fence only, Fence & Watering

Tree Protectors

50% of hardwood seedling protectors—0% for conifers

Washington State Payments

Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)

40% of eligible costs to establish
Advanced by State to Districts with Loan agreement at 0% interest and reimbursed by FSA PIP

Cost Share

10% of eligible costs
Paid by Districts after each phase is complete

Tree Protectors

100% of cost
Cost Share for hardwood seedling protectors is 10% State.
Rate for conifer seedling protectors is 100% State.

Maintenance

100% of eligible costs for 5 years
Paid by District based upon receipts

Additional Information Regarding CREP

- ☑ If a landowner who holds a CREP contract dies, the heirs will have the choice to continue the contract or cancel.
- ☑ If a landowner who holds a CREP contract sells the property during the Contract period the buyer must succeed to the contract. Participants should be strongly encouraged to discuss the contract with FSA prior to the sale and to cover the contract in their sales agreement.
- ☑ Enrollment in CREP does not void or compromise the land's enrollment in the County's Open Space Program.
- ☑ Fencing that was previously installed under a cost share program can be moved to comply with the CREP requirements. It is recommended that as much of the current fencing material be salvaged and used when fencing under the CREP program.
- ☑ The general rule is to plant within 12 months of the contract effective date. The technical agency can grant a second 12 months, with FSA County Committee concurrence, if materials are not available, costs are prohibitive, or there are environmental considerations (i.e., need more time for site prep). The County Committee can grant a third 12 months. After 36 months however, we either have to terminate the contract or get a waiver from the national FSA Office.



- ☑ It may take as long as 3-6 months to complete the contract process.
- ☑ Contact your local Conservation District for more information.