

Conservation Reserve Program

FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS INITIATIVE

Restore Wildlife Habitat | Improve Water Quality | Flood Control



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

The Floodplain Wetlands Initiative is an innovative approach to flood control and floodplain management. 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 Floodplain Wetlands?

And why are they important?

The Floodplain Wetlands Initiative restores the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use. Wetland restoration reverses degradation of the wetland areas on what is often marginal soil. For farmers and landowners facing crop damage from flooding, restoring wetlands to receive floodwaters can also increase flood storage capacity – while significantly reducing farming risks.

Restored wetlands also provide critical wildlife habitat benefits for waterfowl and other wildlife. For example, restored wetlands can support more than 150 bird species, including 60 that are of high conservation interest and value.

Affiliated Practice:

CP-23 Wetland Restoration

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

Photos provided by Iowa Dept. of Agriculture-Div of Soil Conservation



Floodplain Wetlands Initiative Benefits

Wetlands provide food, breeding habitat, protection from predators, and other vital habitat factors for many fish and wildlife species.

Floodplains store water during floods, reducing flood levels downstream, which reduce flood damage. These ecosystems also have economic value associated with recreational and commercial use of waterfowl and wildlife resources. Furthermore, wetlands improve the environment by removing pollutants, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, from overland flows before they reach lakes, rivers, and bays.

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

- Creates and enhances waterfowl and wetland species habitat
- Improves water quality by removing nitrogen and phosphorus
- Stores flood waters and reduces downstream flooding
- Intercepts and traps sediment
- Promotes carbon sequestration
- Provides a corridor to connect habitat for wildlife and migratory species

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

Photos provided by Iowa Dept of Agriculture-Div of Soil Conservation, NRCS Gary Kramer and USFWS George Gentry, respectively