

Conservation Reserve Program

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LANDS INITIATIVE

Filter RunOff | Improve Water Quality | Enhance Wildlife Habitat



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

The Highly Erodible Lands Initiative offers a practical solution to create wildlife habitat while protecting cropland highly susceptible to erosion. 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 Highly Erodible Lands?

And why are they important?

Highly erodible lands are fragile and vulnerable to erosion. For farmers and landowners with cropland exceeding an Erosion Index >20, establishing grass or tree cover will help maintain the long-term health of the land. In addition, this type of cover will provide habitat for numerous mammal and bird species and serve as a resource for shelter, nesting, and food. Enrolling these lands also makes economic sense, as they often fall short as productive crop growing areas.

Affiliated Practices:

- CP-1 Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses
- CP-2 Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP-3 Tree Planting
- CP-3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP-4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP-25 Rare and Declining Habitat

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



Highly Erodible Lands Initiative Benefits

Planting wildlife-friendly, long-term cover on highly erodible cropland is a smart stewardship choice. It protects soil health, contributes to healthier water and air quality, and establishes vital habitat for game as well as a number of rare and endangered species. Farmers and landowners that convert highly erodible lands will yield significant reductions in soil erosion, enhancing the overall productivity of cropland while also improving the surrounding ecosystem.

Financial Benefits

- 10 years of annual rental payments
- 50% Cost-Share payment for establishing the practice

Impact

- Reduces runoff and erosion, retaining productive topsoil
- Improves air and water quality
- Enhances wildlife habitat for game, grassland birds, and other wildlife populations
- Promotes carbon sequestration
- Mitigates risk and severity of dust storms

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