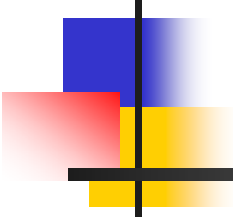


North Carolina Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation



NC CREP Is A State/Federal/Local Partnership

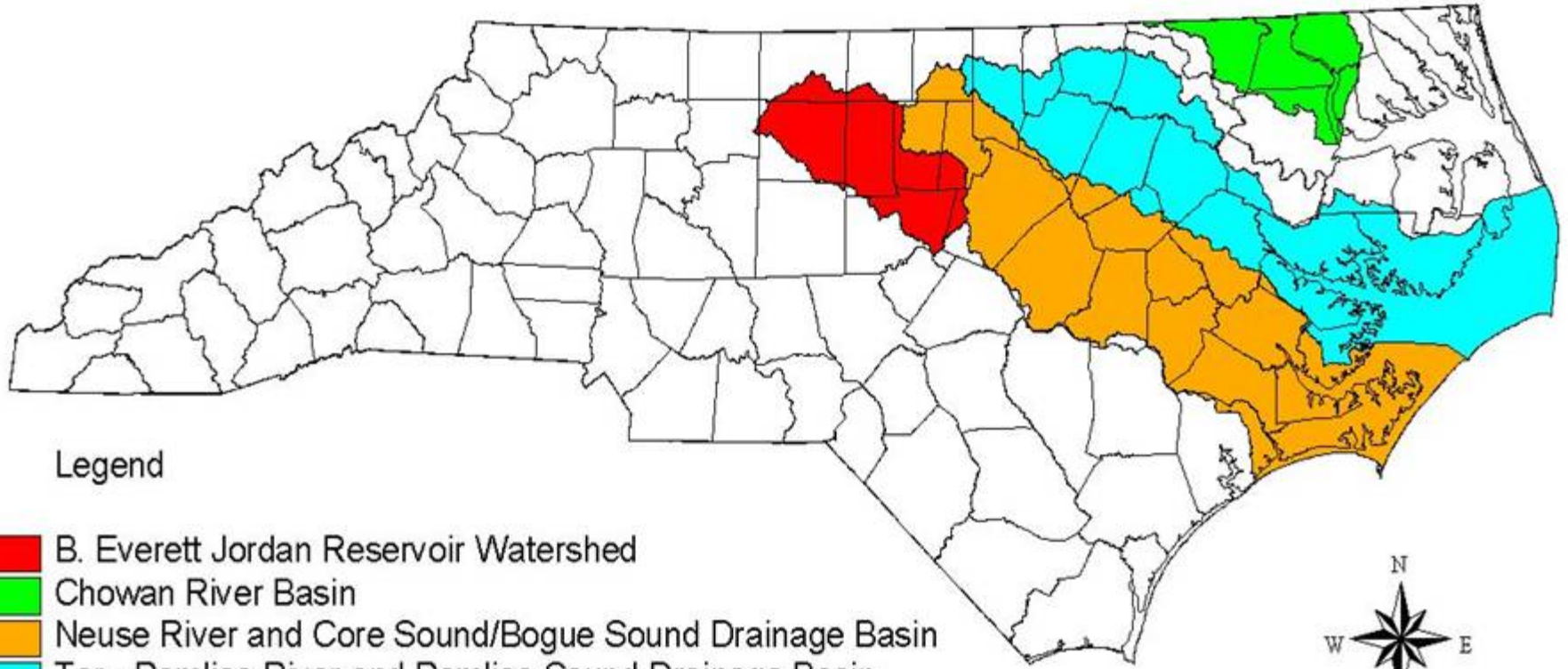
- Combines Existing Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- With Funding From :
 - Clean Water Management Fund
 - Agriculture Cost Share Program
 - N. C. EcoSystem Enhancement Program







Administration and Implementation

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Farm Service Agency
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts

North Carolina CREP Areas



Legend

-  B. Everett Jordan Reservoir Watershed
-  Chowan River Basin
-  Neuse River and Core Sound/Bogue Sound Drainage Basin
-  Tar - Pamlico River and Pamlico Sound Drainage Basin





Why These Targeted Areas

- Each of these areas are designated as nutrient sensitive waters (NSW)
- 42% of the freshwater miles and 8% of the saltwater acres do not fully support designated uses
- Neuse River Basin, Jordan Lake area and Upper Tar-Pamlico river Basin are EQUIP priority areas



Program Objectives

- Protect and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat by enrolling environmentally sensitive land near rivers, streams, drainage ditches, wetlands and Jordan Lake
- Conservation practices aimed at the reduction of sediment and nutrients entering the water systems of the targeted area



Funding for CREP

- USDA - \$221,023,025
- State - \$53,585,160
 - Clean Water Management Trust Fund
 - NC Agricultural Cost Share Program
 - NC Wetlands Restoration Program

Cost Sharing Available For Installation of:

- Riparian Forest Buffers
- Grassed Filter Strips
- Wetland Restoration Practices
- Water Control Structures
- Livestock Exclusion
- Remote Watering Facilities





Federal Cost Share Agreements

- Livestock Exclusion 50%
- Remote Watering 50%
- Water Control Structure 50%
- Forested Buffer 50%
- Grassed Buffer 50%
- Hardwood Tree Planting 50%
- Wetland Planting 50%
- Restore Wetland Hydrology 75%



State Cost Share Agreements

- State Cost Share Percentage is Dependent on the Length of Enrollment and Approval of the Local Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors
 - 10-Year 25%
 - 15-Year 30%
 - 30-Year 40%
 - Permanent 50%

A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a stream flowing through a field of tall, dry grasses and some green shrubs. In the background, there are several trees, some bare and some with green leaves, and a white house with a dark roof. The sky is clear and blue.

Contract options

- Landowners can Voluntarily Enroll Eligible Land In:
 - 10 Year Contract
 - 15-year Contract
 - 30-year Easement
 - Permanent Easement



CREP Objectives

- Reduce Amount of Agricultural Non-point Source Pollution
 - Decreasing Sediment & Nutrient Delivery to Program Watersheds
- Enroll up to 100,000 Acres of Environmentally Sensitive Cropland and Marginal Pastureland
- Original Sign Up Period Began on March 15, 1999



CEEP Objectives

- Develop Riparian Forested Buffers & Grassed Filter Strips Along Waterways
- Establish a Voluntary Plan that will Provide Adequate Incentives to Encourage Sign-Up Under the Program
- Enhance Ecological Aspects of Areas Near Watercourses to Provide Beneficial Habitat to Various Wildlife Species



Goal

- Enroll 100,000 acres
 - 85,000 acres of forested riparian buffers, grassed filter strips, and riparian wetlands.
 - 15,000 acres of non-riparian wetlands.
- Of the 100,000 acres, enroll 65,000 acres of 30-year and permanent easement.

Contracts

- End of June 2004
 - Federal Enrollments
 - 1,767 contracts consisting of 25,287 acres; 695 Stream Miles
 - State Enrollments
 - Permanent – 86 Contracts; 3,857 Acres; 106 Stream Miles
 - 30-Year – 697 Contracts; 15,845 Acres; 436 Steam Miles
 - 15-Year – 345 Contracts; 2,119 Acres; 58 Stream Miles
 - Total 1,128 Contracts; 21,821 Acres; 600 Stream Miles



Practices And Enrollments

- Hardwood Tree Planting (CP3A) – 447 Acres
- Grassed Filter Strip (CP21) – 2,033 Acres
- Riparian Forested Buffer (CP22) – 21,511 Acres
- Wetland Restoration (CP23) – 1,295 Acres

Practice widths

- 20 to 100 ft. for Filter Strips (CP21)
- 35 to 300 ft. for Hardwood Trees (CP3A) and Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22)
- 35 to 750 ft. for Wetland Restoration (CP23)



Annual Rental Payments

- Federal - rental rate plus an incentive
 - 70% for Filter Strips (CP21)
 - 100% for Hardwood Trees (CP3A), Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22), and Wetland Restoration (CP23)
- Federal Payment Formula = Annual Rental Rate + (Annual Rental Rate X ? % Incentive) + \$7
 - $\$48.00 + (\$48.00 \times 100\%) = \$96.00 + 7.00 = \103.00
 - Landowner Receives Payment for 15-Years



State – One Time Bonus for 30-Year & Permanent Easements

- 30-Year = $15 \times \text{Federal Payment} \times 0.125$
- Permanent = $15 \times \text{Federal Payment} \times 0.30$
- \$7 per acre per Year Maintenance Fee
- Example of Permanent Agreement for a County with a \$48 Average Rental Payment = $15 \times \$103.00 \times .30 = \463.50
- \$100 contract bonus for tree practice (15,30, perm.)



Tax Incentives

- Federal & State Governments Allow Tax Incentives for Land Donated for Conservation Purposes
- Some of the Land Enrolled in CREP will be Offered at Less than Market Value, Making them Available for Tax Incentives
- We Advise Landowners to Seek Tax Advise from their Attorneys or Accountants



Eligibility

- Determined by the Local SWCD, FSA, NRCS and NC DENR
- If Eligibility is Determined:
 - Landowner May Enroll in Federal Agreements for 10-year and 15-year
 - State Agreements for 30-year and Permanent Easements
- Any Enrollment for more than 10 Acres Must be enrolled in either a 30-Year or Permanent Easement



Eligible Participants in CREP

- Individuals
- Associations
- Trusts
- Other Legal Entities
- Local Governments
- Indian Tribal Ventures
- Corporations
- Joint Stock Companies
- Estates
- State Governments
- Joint Operations



Eligibility Criteria for Owners

- To be Eligible to Participate in CREP the owner must meet 1 of the following requirements:
 - Owned the Land for 12 Months Immediately Prior to the Enrollment
 - Acquired the Land by Will or Succession as a Result of Death
 - Acquired the Land Under Circumstances Other than for Placement in CREP, as Determined by DAFP



Eligible Land Criteria

- Eligible Cropland is Land that is Both of the Following:
 - Planted, Approved Prevented Planted or Considered Planted to an Agricultural Commodity During any 4 of the Crop Years Between 1996 and 2001
 - Physically & Legally Capable of Being Planted in a Normal Manner to an Agricultural Commodity



Eligible Land Criteria

- Eligible Marginal Pastureland is:
 - Land that has been Grazed any 4 Years Between 1996 And 2001
 - Land Enrolled Under the Marginal Pastureland must be Devoted to a Riparian Forest Buffer or Wetland Restoration



Land Eligibility Criteria

- Land Enrolled in CREP Must Form Part of a Continuous Buffer from the Edge of the Stream, Ditch, River, Estuary or Jordan Lake
- Ditches must be Hydrologically Connected to a Perennial or Intermittent Stream, River, Estuary or Jordan Lake



Conservation Plan

- A Conservation Plan Meeting NRCS FOTG Will be Developed for Each Enrollment
 - Plan Will Address Treatment for Land & Water, and Each Natural Resource and Addresses Economic and Social Considerations
 - Describes the Schedule of Operations and Activities Required to Solve Identified Natural Resource Concerns



Conservation Plan

- All Enrollments Must Maintain a Contiguous Buffer with the Water Course
- No Crops of Any Kind May be Harvested from the Designated CREP Acreage
- No Animal Grazing is Allowed on Grass Filter Strips Enrolled in CREP



Conservation Plan

- On 30-year and Permanent Easements, the Conservation Plan may, as Appropriate, Provide for the Harvest of Forest Products if the Following Conditions are met:
 - Any Thinning or Other Harvest Operations Must be Conducted in Accordance with the Forest Practice Guidelines for Water Quality and/or the Current Regulations in Force at the Time of Harvest and Recommended in a Written Forest Management Plan Approved by a Registered Forester with Concurrence with the NCDRF



Forest Products Harvesting

- No Trees within a 100-Foot Wide Zone Immediately Adjacent to the Qualifying Water Course Shall be Cut
 - Note: Horticultural & Silvicultural Practices Necessary to Maintain the Health of Individual Trees Are Allowed Within the 100-Foot “no cut” Zone



Varying Length Contracts

- Landowners May Choose Varying Contract Lengths for CREP on their property, as Long as the Longer-Term Contract Applies to the Area Nearest to the Point of Qualification



North Carolina
Conservation Reserve
Enhancement Program

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