

Conservation Security Program



*You've been
taking care
of natural
resources
on your
land for
years...

...now,
you have a
chance to be
financially
rewarded
for your
work.*

Conservation Security Program Overview

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers who are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

CSP rounds out a portfolio of conservation for America's farmers and ranchers. CSP is helping producers improve management of private lands through NRCS conservation services and programs to sustain past environmental gains, address current resource problems, and provide for regulatory relief.

The Watershed Approach

To provide the best service possible to producers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis. Focusing on high priority watersheds allows NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program were implemented nationwide because of limits on both program and technical assistance funding in Fiscal Year 2005.

CSP is being offered in watersheds across the country. The Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed has been chosen as a CSP priority watershed for 2005.

Signing up for CSP

Applicants will be selected at the national level for the 2005 sign-up. The fact sheet entitled "CSP Eligibility, Qualification and Application Steps" contains detailed information about applying for CSP. Generally, to apply, land managers will need to complete the following steps:

1. Attend an informational meeting and self-assessment workshop to learn more about CSP and receive assistance in finalizing your self-assessment workbook.
2. Complete a self-assessment workbook.
3. Gather appropriate records and documentation.
4. Contact your local Farm Service Agency to receive a USDA (also called SCIMS) Identification Number.
5. Set up an appointment with your Local NRCS staff to confirm your eligibility, documentation and determine your enrollment category.
6. Submit your Conservation Stewardship Plan.
7. If you are selected for funding, complete your Conservation Stewardship Contract.

For additional information on the Conservation Security Program in Oregon, go to www.or.nrcs.usda.gov.

Conservation Security Program in Middle Columbia-Hood



Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed

Watershed Acres:

- Total - 1,380,200
- Tribal Land - 3,300

Private Land:

- Oregon - 497,300
- Washington - 223,200

Land Use Acres:

- Cropland - 151,127
- Pastureland - 75,507
- Orchards/Vineyards - 46,097
- Rangeland - 129,492
- Forestland - 311,598

875 Working Farms

Major Commodities:

- Wheat & Barley
- Cattle & Hay
- Pears, Apples, Cherries

For More Information Contact the Local NRCS Field Office:

- Hood River 541-386-2815
- The Dalles 541-298-8559
- Moro 541-565-3551
- Goldendale 509-773-5823

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CSP 2005 in the Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed

The Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed includes land in Oregon and Washington that drains directly into the Columbia River beginning generally at the Bonneville Dam and moving eastwards to the John Day Dam.

The Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed was created near the end of the Ice Age when Lake Missoula's glacial dam broke, creating flooding and sediment deposits from Montana to the Pacific Ocean. As a result, the watershed is made up of shallow to very deep well-drained silt loam soils creating an environment that is prone to wind and water soil erosion.

The Hood River and several streams flow through the watershed and into the Columbia River providing habitat and food sources for ESA-listed species including salmon, steelhead and bald eagles. Much of the western portion is forested public lands, while the remainder is rangelands, irrigated orchards or pastures and dryland wheat. Irrigated orchards and pastures are predominately located in the Hood River Valley and The Dalles area adjacent to the Columbia River.

The Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed also includes ceded lands of the Yakama and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Nations.

