

Maryland USDA Conservation Programs that Provide Support for T&E and Declining Species

Program	Practices and Management	Sign-up	Eligible Land	Funding Assistance	Contract Length
CREP ¹	<p>Habitat for Declining Species (CP-25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eligible Habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shallow Emergent Freshwater Wetlands – Bog Turtle, Sedge Wren, Baltimore Checkerspot, Eastern Mud Salamander – Riverine Systems – Deciduous tree planting in uplands – Dwarf Wedge Mussel, Glassy Darter, etc. – Grassland for Nesting Birds – Delmarva Bays – Restore to forested condition and can include forested corridors to connect Delmarva Bays ● Management plan must be developed by DNR or USFWS 	Continuous through September 30 th , 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cropland ● Enrollment cap of 500 acres on the Eastern Shore (including Cecil) and 1,500 acres on the Western Shore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual payment of SRR + \$50/ac ● 50% federal cost-share 	10 – 15 years
CRP ¹	<p>Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (CP-33)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Field borders 35 – 120 feet wide along cropland perimeter ● Geared towards quail habitat ● NRCS to consult with DNR on design 	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cropland ● Available on Eastern Shore (Kent Co. & South) and Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Co.'s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual payment of SRR ● 50% federal cost-share ● 40% PIP bonus ● SIP bonus 	10 years
CSP ²	<p>Management Plans for Specific T&E or Declining Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grassland Habitat in 10 to 20 acre blocks ● Delmarva Bays ● Requires management plan development by DNR, USFWS, or other appropriate organization 	Annually in specific watersheds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working agricultural lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual payment of \$50 per acre ● Cost-share must be obtained through WHIP or other programs 	5 – 10 years
EQIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conservation Cover ● Fence ● Field Border ● Filter Strip ● Forest Stand Improvement ● Hedgerow ● Riparian Forest Buffer ● Shallow Water Area ● Streambank and Shoreline Protection ● Tree and Shrub Establishment ● Wetland Restoration ● Windbreak/Shelterbelt 	Annually, usually in winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working agricultural lands ● Privately-owned forest or woodland ● Must be an agricultural producer or forest product producer 	50% cost-share on all practices except Conservation Cover and Wetland Restoration, which are 75%	2 – 10 years

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WHIP ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassland Habitat • Riparian Corridor Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Filter Strips – Forested Buffers – Streambank and Shoreline Stabilization (vegetative) • Shallow Water Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shallow Water Areas (could be plant and flood) – Wetland Restoration and Creation • Invasive Species Control 	Annually – usually in winter	Generally, any land that is suitable for establishing the proposed practice	75% cost-share	5 – 10 years
WRP	<p>Wetland Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On agricultural lands (cropland, pasture, hayland), can consist of hydrology and/or vegetative restoration • In woodland, the site must have significantly altered hydrology to be eligible • Restore to original wetland type, but up to 30% can be restored to a type that is different from original 	Annually – usually in winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cropland • Pasture • Hayland • Woodland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-year Agreement: 75% cost-share • 30-year Easement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 75% cost-share – One-time payment of 75% of appraised easement value • Permanent Easement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 100% cost-share – One-time payment of appraised easement value 	

Notes

1. CREP and CRP have many other practices that can be used for, but are not limited to T&E and declining species. CREP and CRP are FSA programs, but technical assistance is provided by NRCS.
PIP – Practice Incentive Payment – one-time bonus payment of 40% of the eligible cost of practice installation
SIP – Signing Incentive Payment – one-time bonus payment of (\$10 per acre) x (number of full contract years)
2. In CSP the participant is asked during their interview if they are interested in the practice. If they are, they will be referred to the appropriate organization.
3. In WHIP T&E and declining species generally receive priority.
4. CSP, EQIP, WHIP, and WRP are NRCS programs.
5. All practices must meet Maryland NRCS standards and specifications AND specific program requirements.
6. Applications are made at the local conservation district field office. Participants must meet certain eligibility requirements.

Acronyms

CREP – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CRP – Conservation Reserve Program
CSP – Conservation Security Program
DNR – Maryland Department of Natural Resources
FSA – Farm Service Agency
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WRP – Wetland Reserve Program

More information on programs can be found at: <http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

Maryland NRCS practice standards can be found at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>