



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Options for Expiring CRP

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service — Colorado

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Between the years 2009 and 2013, approximately 2 million acres of CRP contracts will expire in Colorado. This mass contract expiration has the potential to impact soil erosion, wildlife habitat, water quality, farm incomes and rural economies. However, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance and financial incentives to producers and landowners as they chose to transition these lands to other uses.

Grazing Management

Through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the NRCS offers technical and financial assistance for producers with expiring CRP who want to transition into a grazing management system. The NRCS can provide financial assistance for installing necessary infrastructure such as fences, livestock pipeline and tanks. The NRCS also provides management incentive payments for grazing management, weed control and wildlife habitat management. Additionally, NRCS Field Office staff, Range Conservationists and Wildlife Biologists are available to offer technical advice on implementing or expanding a grazing system onto CRP ground.



Carbon Sequestration Credits

Carbon sequestration credits are an emerging market commodity that can pay landowners to plant or keep their ground in permanent grass cover. The theory behind these markets is that landowners can, through different vegetation management practices, store carbon in the ground. Companies that produce carbon can then buy the “credits” of a landowner’s sequestered carbon. Several organizations facilitate the purchase and sell of these credits. For more information, visit the Rocky Mountain Farmer’s Union Carbon Credit website: <http://www.rmfu.org/co-op/renewable-energy/carbon-credits/>.

Continuous CRP

Many acres of CRP are environmentally sensitive and not suited to annual crop production. If these sensitive areas are managed for permanent cover, they can protect water quality, prevent soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat while reducing inputs on poorly producing land. The Continuous CRP program (CCRP), a subset of the Conservation Reserve Program, offers year round enrollment and increased incentives to keep these small sensitive areas in permanent cover.



For More Information

For more information on options for expiring CRP, contact your local NRCS Field Office.