

# Wetlands Reserve Program

## Enrollment Options

WRP offers three enrollment options:

1. *Permanent Easement*- USDA pays 100 percent of the easement value up to 100 percent of the restoration costs.
2. *30-Year Easement*- Expires after 30 years. USDA pays up to 75 percent of the easement value and up to 75 percent of the restoration costs.
3. *Restoration Cost Share Agreement*- Ten-year agreements to restore and enhance wetland functions and values without placing an easement on the enrolled acres. USDA pays up to 75 of the restoration cost.

## For More Information

Visit your local NRCS office and complete an application.

- The preliminary restoration plan and cost estimate are developed.
- Applications are ranked for selection.
- Applicants are notified of acceptance.
- The easement or agreement process begins.

*More information is available at:*

*[www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov)*



## Restoring Pennsylvania's Wetlands

United States Department of Agriculture  
 Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## What is WRP?

Reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) was created to offer landowners the means and opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) manages the program and provides technical and financial support to help landowners who participate in WRP.



## Eligibility

### *Landowner Eligibility:*

- Must have owned the land for at least seven years. (Waiver requests considered.)
- Must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.
- Must meet the Adjusted Gross Income Limitations

### *Land Eligibility:*

- Must be privately owned; government owned land is not eligible
- Wetlands cleared and/or drained for farming, pasture, or timber production
- Lands adjacent to restorable wetlands contribute significantly to wetland functions and values
- Land currently enrolled in CRP is eligible
- Previously restored wetlands that need long-term protection
- Drained wooded wetlands where hydrology will be restored
- Existing or restorable riparian habitat corridors that connect protected wetlands
- Lands substantially altered by flooding where there is a likelihood of successful wetland restoration at a reasonable cost.

## Why Wetlands?

Wetlands perform many critical environmental functions, which include providing habitat for fish and wildlife; improving water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reducing flooding; recharging groundwater; and protecting biological diversity. Creating wetlands through WRP can also offer farmers battling marginal land an opportunity to relieve the burden of working that ground and gain economical benefits from a conservation easement.

## How Does WRP Work?

- WRP is a voluntary program offered statewide.
- Easement payments are based on the agricultural value of the land.
- Wetland restoration cost may be reimbursed up to 100 percent depending on enrollment type.
- Landowners retain ownership of the land and control access to the land.
- Landowners retain limited recreational uses of the easement area, including hunting and fishing rights.
- Landowners may sell the land.
- NRCS will perform annual status reviews and easement monitoring of the site.

