

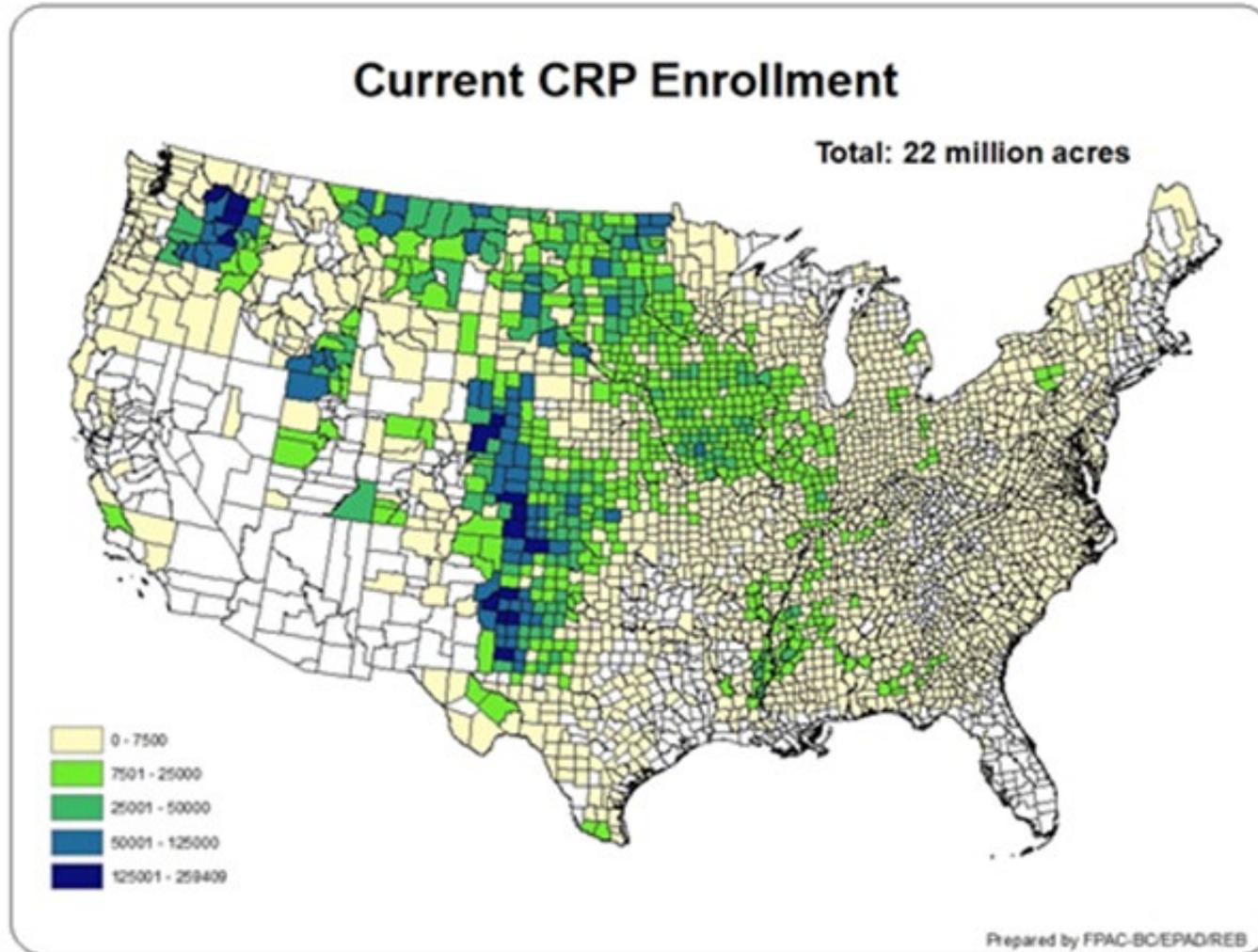


United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Reserve Program and Sage Grouse

**Bonda Habets,
WA CRP Program Manager**

CRP National CRP Enrollment



Current CRP enrollment is at 22 million acres

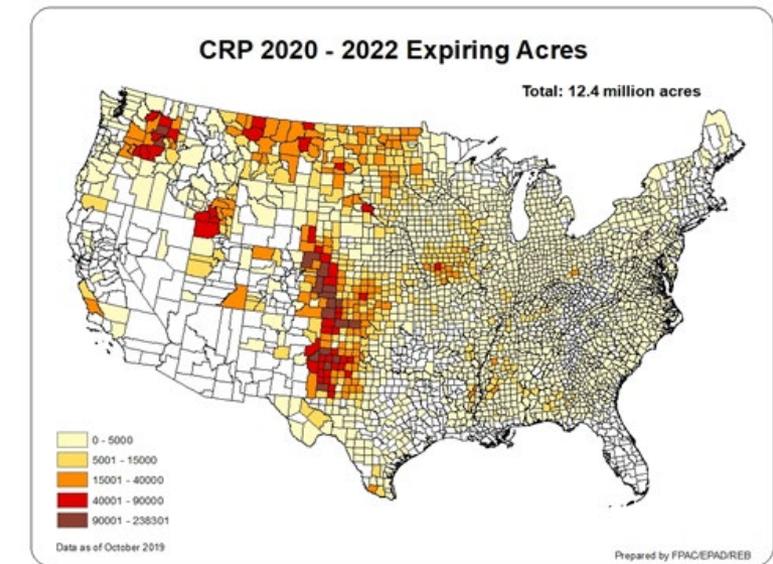
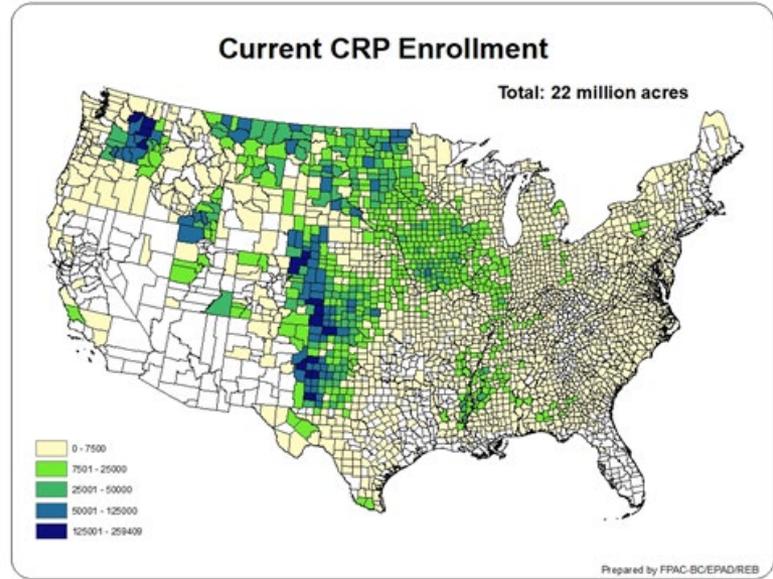
Expiring CRP Acres

5.36 million acres in FY 2020

3.01 million acres in FY 2021

4.01 million acres in FY 2022

Expirations (Million Acres)



CRP - Farm Bill 2018

Enrollment Authority – extended to 2023 with an increase from 24 million acres in 2019 to 27 million acres in 2023



Authority for all CRP types :

- ❖ **General CRP –**
 - * **SAFE, State Acres For Wildlife, grassland practices**
 - * **HELI, Highly Erodible Land Initiative**
- ❖ **Grasslands**
- ❖ **Continuous CRP**
 - ❖ **CREP – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**
 - ❖ **SAFE – Buffer and wetland practices**

FSA CRP Practices*

Practice	Title
CP8A	Grass Waterways, Non-easement
CP9	Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
CP15A	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)
CP21	Filter Strips
CP21B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips
CP21S	Saturated Filter Strips
CP22	Riparian Buffer
CP22B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers
CP22S	Saturated Riparian Buffer
CP23	Wetland Restoration on Floodplain
CP23A	Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
CP27	Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland
CP28	Farmable Wetland Pilot Buffer
CP30	Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
CP37	Duck Nesting Habitat
CP39	FWP Constructed Wetland
CP40	FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
CP41	FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland

***All must meet NRCS Standards**

CRP Requirements

- ❖ **Management Activities are still required but no cost share to conduct the management activities**
- ❖ **Permissive Uses – Haying and Grazing – permitted on land under contract unless the haying and grazing would cause long term damage to vegetative cover**
- ❖ **Cost share is limited to 50% of actual cost of practice establishment**
- ❖ **Seed Costs – shall not exceed 50% of the actual cost of the seed mixture**

Soil Rental Rates - SRR

- ❖ **SRR based on NASS, National Agricultural Statistics Service, annual survey rates**
 - ❖ **For general signup enrollments, not more than 85 percent of the estimated rental rate**
 - ❖ **For continuous signup enrollments, not more than 90 percent of the estimated rental rate.**

CRP vs EQIP & CSP

Participants will not be in violation of the CRP contract if :

- ❖ During the final year of the CRP contract period the land is enrolled in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP, or Conservation Stewardship Program, CSP, ...and the participant begins establishment of a practice under such programs; or
- ❖ During the 3 years prior to the end of the CRP contract period, the participant begins the certification process under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.

TIP -Transition Incentive Program

- ❖ **Removed requirement for transition from a retired or retiring owner or operator; may now be from any owner or operator on the CRP contract.**
- ❖ **New Provisions under TIP allow Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged or Veteran Farmer or Rancher:**
 - ❖ **a lease less than 5 years and option to purchase as an eligible lease**
 - ❖ **2 years before the end of the CRP contract to make conservation and land improvements**

25 Percent Cropland Limitation

- ❖ **Maintains the acreage limitation that not more than 25 percent of the cropland in the county may be enrolled in CRP and ACEP-WRE**
- ❖ **Increases the percent of the cropland in a county that may be subject to a wetland easement from not more than 10 percent to not more than 15 percent**

New Practice – CP43 Prairie Strip Practice

- ❖ Establishes diverse perennial vegetation, oriented linearly within row crop fields
- ❖ May not exceed 25% of the cropland area per field
- ❖ Range from 30-120 feet in width
- ❖ Machinery traffic is allowed on locations that replace turn rows on the perimeter of the field
- ❖ Reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat

Resources

USDA FSA website for CRP Statistics - <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/reports-and-statistics/conservation-reserve-program-statistics/index>

USDA FSA Handbooks – Conservation and Production section – 2CRP Handbook

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=empl&topic=hbk>

USDA FSA Notices –

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/notices>

CRP Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between FSA and NRCS

- **On-site Status reviews on all General CRP, Continuous CRP, CREP CRP within 24 months of expiration more than doubles the previous NRCS role.**
- **On-site reviews per contract: Conservation Plan on new contracts, CPA 52, maps, landowner/producer signatures.**
- **On-site review to verify all conservation practices are installed according to NRCS specifications.**
- **On-site review per grazing request to develop a modified grazing plan.**

WA Highest impacted counties - 375,000 acres expiring:

**2020 – Adams, Benton, Franklin, Grant, Klickitat,
Walla Walla, Whitman, Yakima**

2021 – Adams, Lincoln, Whitman

2022 – Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln, Whitman

2023- Adams, Benton, Douglas, Franklin, Lincoln

WA Expiring CRP:

2020 – 2,327 contracts

1,390 farms

371,615 acres

2021 – 1,032 contracts

762 farms

94,750 acres

2022 – 1,727 contracts

1,143 farms

213, 430 acres

WA NRCS CRP Strategy:

NRCS CRP Committee with Team Point of Contacts

**Securing conservation partners for labor- focused
10 FTE to assist April 1 to August 1:**

- *Status reviews of 3,500 contracts in 2020.**
- *Verify conservation practices installed.**
- *On-site visits for newly awarded contracts.**
- *Locate special areas; pollinator habitat.**
- *Develop conservation plan and maps.**
- *Get conservation plan signatures.**

CRP and Sage Grouse

***Due to Douglas County having > 25% of county cropland acres in CRP they are not eligible to enroll in new contracts when they expire.**

***Since most of these acres are also in the State Sage Grouse Initiative; millions of federal dollars have been spent to encourage their habitat.**

***WA NRCS will offer the 645 Upland Habitat Management practice to counter the expected loss of sage grouse habitat for 5 years or until Congress is able to over-ride the 25% of this targeted area.**