

Stewardship Pays!



CREP

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Good Stewardship Has Its Rewards

Receive Payments for Buffers on Agricultural & Rural Lands.

CREP is a voluntary program that pays landowners rent, a signing bonus and the costs for establishing buffers along creeks, ditches & wetlands. Participants will receive annual rental payments in return for land that is removed from production and grazing, under a 10 or 15 year agreement.

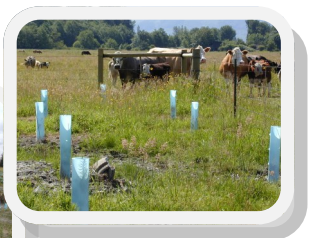


Overview



The CREP program pays for wooded buffers and/or a combination of hedgerows, filter strips, and wetland restoration. Native plant buffers improve fish and wildlife habitat, increase stream stability, and contribute to improved water quality.

In addition, the program may pay for livestock exclusion fencing, livestock watering facilities, and in the case of small streams, livestock crossings.



Buffer Design & Program Flexibility

The boundary of CREP buffers is flexible and can be configured to meet landowner needs. Producers can enroll all or a portion of eligible streams, ditches and wetlands on their land.

Site Improvement

Sites are prepared by treating invasive non-native plants such as Himalayan blackberries and reed canarygrass. A mix of native trees and shrubs that are well-adapted to the local conditions and site are planted.

Buffer Development



Buffer Maintenance

Conservation District technicians will monitor the buffer & develop maintenance plans. CREP covers the maintenance costs necessary to ensure the successful establishment of the planted stock for the first 5 years after planting. Most projects are well established after that time period. Further maintenance through the length of the contract should be minimal.

Program Options

Riparian Forest Buffers: 35'-180' wide. Eligible on rivers and streams that provide habitat for salmonid fish that migrate to the ocean.

Hedgerows: 15' wide. Eligible on streams and drainages with a channel less than 15' wide. Can reduce ditch maintenance and improve channel conditions. Mostly planted with shrubs.

Wetland Buffers: 20'-120' wide. Protect wetland functions.

Wetland Restoration: Includes surrounding wetland buffers. May include herbaceous plants as well as native trees, and shrubs. Provides floodwater storage and attenuation. Helps maintain surface base flows in streams. This practice is eligible on cropland only.

How Can We Help?

Whatcom Conservation District Staff will provide the technical assistance to design, install, and maintain the buffer. Please contact WCD with questions or to schedule a meeting with a resource specialist to discuss your restoration options.



www.whatcomcd.org (360)-354-2035 ext. 3

Wayne Chaudiere
chaudiere@whatcomcd.org
360-354-2035 ext. 116



Emily Hirsch
ehirsch@whatcomcd.org
360-354-2035 ext. 114



Frank Corey
fcorey@whatcomcd.org
360-354-2035 ext. 131