

Conservation Reserve Program

Enhancing Wildlife



Why Choose CRP? You Benefit Land, Water, and Wildlife.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a proven land performance and management solution. Whatever the challenge—soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement—CRP provides a range of opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and landowners.

Administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency, CRP provides financial and technical assistance to remove environmentally sensitive farmland from production and convert it to conservation cover for a 10- to 15-year contract period.

Why Enhance Wildlife Habitat?

Large wildlife populations can be a sign of a thriving ecosystem. Wildlife plays an important ecological function, helping to regulate and stabilize the environment through their interactions with one another and with native plant species.

In addition to the environmental benefits, wildlife areas provide recreational and aesthetic benefits. These are a boon to rural economies, which can benefit from the attraction of hunters, birdwatchers, and others. Income from these activities supports both local community needs and broader conservation efforts.



Photos Courtesy of MO Dept. of Conservation and Peter Berthelsen respectively



Restoring Wildlife Habitat

A vast part of the United States is privately owned farm, ranch, or forest land, making the landowner the single most important factor in the future of all species of wildlife. Conservation practices implemented by landowners can be the deciding factor in whether or not wildlife is able to thrive.

Simple practices such as planting native vegetation in buffers around crop fields gives upland birds and other important farm wildlife additional cover that is especially critical during nesting and brood rearing. Leaving pivot corners and unproductive fields idle creates habitat patches and corridors to facilitate wildlife movement across agricultural landscapes.

These practices are of benefit to the farmer, too. The same buffers that assist wildlife also benefit the farmer by providing wintering shelter for crops once they have been harvested. And the presence of wildlife serves important ecosystem functions that improves overall farm productivity and sustainability.

CRP Wildlife Practices

- Permanent Wildlife Habitat (CP-4D)
- Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife (CP-9)
- Wildlife Food Plots (CP-12)
- Wildlife Habitat Buffer (CP-29)
- Bottomland Hardwood Timber (CP-31)
- Upland Bird Habitat Buffer (CP-33)
- Longleaf Pine Establishment (CP-36)
- Duck Nesting Habitat (CP-37)
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (CP-38)
- Pollinator Habitat (CP-42)

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

Photo Courtesy of Lynn Betts, NRCS