



Washington State Conservation Commission

Policy #	09-01 CREP Maintenance Funding Policy
Applies to:	All Conservation Districts
Effective Date:	May 29, 2009

PURPOSE

To set a uniform CREP Maintenance Funding Policy for all CREP projects located in the State of Washington.

BACKGROUND

Maintenance is required for the life of the CREP contract. Washington State provides funding for maintenance activities for a maintenance period of no more than five years. Maintenance activities are necessary for riparian enhancement, which includes establishment of new plantings of native trees and shrubs, control of competing weeds, livestock management and control of wildlife predation.

The State of Washington will authorize maintenance funding for CREP projects for five years, in accordance with the following policy:

- The cost per acre will be the lesser of either the formula cost or the following total cap over the five-year maintenance period: \$2,700/acre for contracts 2 acres or less in size, \$2,350/acre for contracts between 2-9 acres, and \$2,000/acre for contracts 9 acres or larger.
- CREP Districts can adopt a maintenance policy including hold-downs that reflect local conditions with maximums not to exceed state hold-downs defined in Tables 1 and 2.
- The maintenance plan and associated costs will be developed by a CREP technician reflective of the conservation plan in accordance with this policy. The plan will deal with the survival and establishment of seedlings by addressing the invasion of competing vegetation and livestock management.
- Maintenance will consist of maintenance applications spread out over the five-year period. Maintenance applications will be limited to the practices listed in Table 1 and Table 2.
- Maintenance costs will not exceed the component cost caps identified in Table 1 (east side) and Table 2 (west side), without local board approval.
- Additional funding beyond the maintenance activities (Tables 1 and 2) may be approved by the local conservation district board on a case-by-case basis when recommended by the CREP technician. The Conservation Commission will hold contingency funds for use in special or unique circumstances (Table 1 and 2). The CREP Program Manager will have final approval of any allocation for special or unique circumstances.
- Landowners who object to the use of herbicides, or where herbicides are prohibited, may choose another approved maintenance practice identified by NRCS. If costs exceed those identified in Table 1 and Table 2 (by the CREP technician) the landowner will make up the difference in costs.

- Ineligible costs are those practice components, which are not identified in the maintenance plan or within this policy. i.e., equipment purchase, livestock purchase, equipment repair.
- This CREP Maintenance Policy will be effective upon approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Table 1. District Hold Downs (East-side of Cascades)

Component	Hold Down	Narrative
Fence Maintenance/Repair	Not to exceed the local county rate	Not to exceed 5 years
Tree planting	Use FSA hold-down rates for each of the needed components for the replant, regardless of funding source that will be used.	50% of trees planted eligible for replant. Eligible expenses include plant materials, planting, deer guards, sleeves
Tree release	Average of \$0.50/tree	Tarp repair, tube removal, and other activities associated with tree release.
Weed Control	Not to exceed average of \$250/ac/yr	Includes ATV spraying, spot spraying, mechanical control and hand weeding. Any combination of these items will not exceed the maximum. District should evaluate whether a hold down should be established for each category.
Mowing	\$40/acre	
Water Developments	20% of total cost of installation	5 year total
Tree Watering, Irrigation	\$1.50/tree/year	Not to exceed 3 years
Livestock Crossings	Actual Cost	Not to exceed 1 repair
Conservation Cover	Actual Cost not to exceed FSA rates	Not to exceed 1 reseeding
Beaver Trapping ¹	\$100/beaver	Includes animal removal, fencing, and tubes
Special or Unique Circumstances	Local Board Determination	Includes, for e.g., flood repair and other circumstances beyond the control of the landowner and not anticipated by the technician and that the board feels warrants attention.

¹ In project areas that are prone to beaver activity, the CREP resource specialist should develop a beaver control plan. The plan will: identify control measures; include a budget for installation and maintenance; and discuss how and why the recommendation was formulated. The plan will be submitted for Board approval, and if approved, submitted to the Commission CREP project manager for concurrence.

Table 2. District Hold Downs (West-side of Cascades)

Activity	Cost Cap per acre Application	Narrative
Spraying (tractor-strip spraying)	\$200.00	Cost range from \$100 to \$200 per acre depending on site access, cropland, pasture, existing vegetation and soils.
Backpack spraying	\$250.00	Cost range from \$150 to \$250 per acre depending on site access, existing vegetation, soils, herbicide used and invasives present.
Tractor mowing	\$200.00	Cost range from \$75.00 to \$200.00 per acre depending on site access, cropland, pasture, existing vegetation and soils.
Mechanical (hand clearing)	\$250.00	Cost range from \$150 to \$250 per acre depending on site access, existing vegetation, soils and invasives present.
Tube Maintenance & Removal	\$0.50/tube	This price covers general weeding, maintenance and removal of tubes and is not intended to cover the cost of flood repair which can be billed under unique circumstances.
Replanting (FSA rates)	Use FSA hold-down rates for each of the needed components for the replant, regardless of funding source that will be used.	1-time replanting based on FSA rates and cost sharing with FSA at 50% not to replant more than 50% of the original stocking levels
Fencing Maintenance/Repair	Not to exceed the local county rate	
Beaver (fencing and cages) ¹	\$3.50/foot	Based on a 3' woven wire fence, with 5' T-posts every 12'. The bottom foot of the fence is buried in the ground 1' or bent and secured with rebar.
Beaver (trapping) ¹	\$100/beaver	
Elk/Deer Overstock	Overstock	Project initially to compensate for anticipated browsing.
Special or Unique circumstances	Local Board Determination	Includes flood repair and irrigation. Elk damage not compensated by overstocking.