



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.



Livestock Exclusion Fencing

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.

Example

Buffer Development



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.



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.

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.



Nature may seem messy to us, but to fish and wildlife, it can be a beautiful sight. Nature is diverse. Dense brush, shady woods, dead trees, small clearings, or even wetlands are among the habitats that can be found in nature. CREP buffers are meant to be natural and are designed with the intent to mimic this natural mix of environments.

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 x3

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



Stewardship Pays!



Receive Payments
for
Buffers on Agricultural & Rural Lands.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CREP

Good Stewardship Has Its Rewards

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.