



*Re-enroll in*

# CREP

Washington's **C**onservation **R**eserve  
**E**nhancement **P**rogram

## *What is CREP?*

Washington's CREP is a voluntary incentive program that pays farmers for growing a different crop in riparian (streamside) areas of their property. That crop is salmon habitat.

### *How it works:*

- Landowners plant native trees and shrubs to form a "buffer" between farmland and eligible reaches of a river or stream, and receive rental payments for the acreage they restore.
- CREP buffers function as a natural "water treatment plant" that keeps water clean and provides salmon habitat.
- In watersheds with high landowner participation, CREP practices have resulted in increased salmon returns, cooler water temperatures, greater stream access for juvenile salmon, and more.

## *How to Re-enroll*

CREP re-enrollment is open until habitat goals for Washington are met. Your local conservation district and Farm Service Agency (FSA) office will help you through the re-enrollment process.

For a conservation district directory, visit the Washington State Conservation Commission website ([www.scc.wa.gov](http://www.scc.wa.gov)). Or, visit the FSA website ([www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa)) to find a local service center.



**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
OF WASHINGTON STATE  
*your window to healthy lands*



## *Conservation you can rely on...*

- *Long-term, consistent rental payments*
- *Healthy natural resources for future generations*

*There's good news for existing CREP participants whose contract is about to expire — CREP offers easy re-enrollment of existing practices at attractive land rental rates.*



## Frequently Asked Questions About CREP Re-enrollment...

**Q** *My CREP contract is about to expire — can I apply to re-enroll my existing CREP practices?*

**A** Yes, as long as you apply early enough to allow time for approval of the new contract before the current one expires. Your re-enrolled contract must be in place with all required supporting documents and signatures — and approval by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) — before September 30 of the year your current contract expires.

**Q** *I have multiple buffers enrolled under contracts with different expiration dates. The contract for the first buffer is about to expire. Can I re-enroll all the buffers at once?*

**A** No, each buffer must be re-enrolled separately. However, when your other buffers come up for re-enrollment, you may request a shorter contract length so all re-enrolled contracts expire at the same time in the future.

**Q** *I have riparian buffers that are wider than the 180' maximum average width or ditch buffers wider than the 15' maximum width — can I re-enroll the original widths?*

**A** You may re-enroll the entire acreage previously under contract.

**Q** *What if my buffer isn't growing well or has complications, such as noxious weeds, that I haven't been able to take care of?*

**A** When you apply to re-enroll, a technician will evaluate your project and determine if the buffer meets functional criteria. If it doesn't, a CREP technician will develop a cost-estimate for the FSA County Committee, who will decide if your project is economically feasible to re-enroll. If it is, a CREP technician will prescribe additional plantings or other practices. FSA and the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) will provide cost-share to help cover the expense. The SCC will pay for maintenance on the new practices, just as they did when you implemented practices under your original CREP contract.

**Q** *If I re-enroll in CREP, can I change the current conservation practice?*

**A** Yes. You may change the current conservation practice, but only if it results in a higher natural resource benefit as determined by FSA or your local conservation district.

**Q** *Can I enroll my Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices in CREP?*

**A** The same parcel of land may not be enrolled in CRP and CREP at the same time. If your CRP contract is expiring, you may sign up for CREP and qualify for the higher CREP rental rate if eligibility requirements are met.

### Contacts:

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Farm Service Agency local offices may be found at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa)