

CREP Conservation Practices

eligible for Bayfield County

Grassed Waterways

- stabilize erosion and trap sediment in concentrated flow areas
- can extend up to 1000' ft in length; must connect to Filter Strips or Riparian Buffers
- eligible on *cropland only*

Filter Strips

- habitat for ground-nesting birds; remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, and pesticides from runoff
- minimum 200' wide; maximum 300' wide
- eligible on *cropland* adjacent to wetlands, streams, or lakes (including seasonally wet areas)

Forested Riparian Buffers

- similar to Filter Strips, planted with trees/shrubs
- supply leaf litter and woody debris for aquatic insects (an important food source for fish); provide shade for fish spawning areas
- eligible on *cropland* or *pasture*

Wetland Restoration

- attracts waterfowl, songbirds, and other wildlife
- recharges groundwater, traps sediment, and filters pollutants from runoff
- eligible on *cropland only*

Marginal Pasture Wildlife Habitat Buffer

- remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, and pesticides from seasonal/perennial streams
- minimum of 50% trees and shrubs
- minimum 200' wide; maximum 300' wide
- eligible on *pasture only*

Marginal Pasture Wetland Buffer

- similar to Wildlife Habitat Buffer, planted adjacent to wetlands
- eligible on *pasture only*

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I enroll in CREP?

CREP offers a way for agricultural landowners to generate revenue from marginal lands, while helping to protect wildlife habitat and water quality. Participants receive a significant signing payment, as well as additional payments.

Will I still own my land if I enroll?

Yes, you will own your property, and you can use the land for recreation and hunting.

Do I need to allow public access?

No, public access is not required for CREP.

Will my property taxes go up?

No, land enrolled in CREP will be taxed under the same use-value assessment as it was prior to being enrolled.

What if I don't have time to do the work myself?

CREP offers cost-share payments which allow you to hire a contractor for most of the initial work. However, the landowner is responsible for long-term maintenance over the course of the 15-year contract period.



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Bayfield County
Land & Water Conservation Department

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) offers financial incentives for landowners to create natural buffers and restore wetlands on open lands.

How does it work?

Interested landowners work with the Conservation Specialist at the Land and Water Conservation Department to determine if their land is eligible and begin the application process. They choose one or more of the following *conservation practices* to implement:

- Grassed waterways
- Filter strips
- Forested buffer
- Wetland restoration
- Marginal pasture wildlife habitat buffer
- Marginal pasture wetland buffer



The Conservation Specialist will guide them through the application process, which involves other federal and state agencies. Once the application is complete, conservation practices are installed and payments are issued.

Participants enter into a 15-year contract, with the option of a permanent easement. At the end of the contract period, the landowner decides what to do with the site. If a permanent easement has been established, certain restrictions will apply (generally, the site must be maintained as described in the conservation plan, and no structures may be built on lands enrolled).

How does CREP benefit me?

CREP is not just good for wildlife and water, it's good for business. The program provides a way for landowners to obtain revenue from marginal lands, such as seasonally flooded areas, while leaving valuable acres in production.

Participants receive three forms of payment: a signing incentive, annual payments, and cost-share payments.

- **Signing Incentive** — averages \$150-580 per acre enrolled; varies depending on the annual land rental rate, cropland vs. pasture, and whether you choose a 15-year agreement or permanent easement
- **Annual Payment** — averages \$615 per acre enrolled (\$41/acre per year for 15 years); includes nominal amount for site maintenance
- **Cost-share** — CREP offers 110% cost-share funds for eligible costs to install conservation practices (such as site prep, tree planting, etc.); these funds may be used to hire contractors

Is my land eligible for CREP?

In order to qualify for CREP in Bayfield County, land must meet the following criteria:

- located in eligible areas within the county (see map)
- enrolled acres must have a crop history for at least 4 years during the period from 1996-2001, or qualify as marginal pasture
- 200-300' from a stream, lake, or wetland
- soils with high runoff
- landowner must own the property for at least one year prior to enrolling

**additional criteria may apply*

How do I sign up?

There is no waiting period; enrollment and eligibility are determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the Conservation Specialist if you would like more information. They will work with you to determine eligibility, make a site visit, and help you through the application process. The process generally takes 1-3 months, depending on the site.

Eligible Areas in Bayfield County (in green)



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