

IDAHO

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program *C.R.E.P.*

What is CREP?

A federal-state cooperative conservation program that addresses targeted agricultural-related environmental concerns.

The Program

Participants voluntarily enroll in a 10-year program. Participants receive annual rental payments and cost share assistance in exchange for converting the land into permanent vegetative cover.

The Purpose

To reduce groundwater consumption from irrigated cropland, in turn reducing the demand for water from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) in southern Idaho.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission:

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BENEFITS

of enrolling in CREP

- ✓ **Reduce irrigation groundwater consumption**
Establish permanent vegetative cover on fields to improve wildlife habitat
- ✓ **Land and water rights become active again after the contract period ends**
Reduce the amount of agricultural chemicals and sediment entering water
- ✓ **Voluntarily curtail water rights during the contract period in exchange for the annual rental payment**
- ✓ Help conserve energy

Find your local USDA Farm
Service Agency Office at
www.fsa.usda.gov.

ELIGIBILITY LOCATION



MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

Participants of CREP must agree to **maintain and manage the practice** according to an approved conservation plan for the duration of the CREP contract.

Maintenance includes managing for noxious weeds, pests, or other species.

Participants must agree to not disturb the acreage during the primary nesting season of April 1 thru August 1.

PROGRAM CRITERIA



Cropland must have been irrigated by groundwater sources for four out of the six previous years;

- cropland must be physically and legally capable of being irrigated in a normal manner at the time of offer.*



Land must be owned or leased for at least one year (12 months) prior to enrollment to be eligible.



There is no minimal field size requirement. Some landowners are considering removing end guns, corners, or other marginal land as a feasible option for voluntarily reducing groundwater consumption.

**If a curtailment order is issued before the CREP offer, the land will no longer be eligible. IDWR verifies that the water rights are valid with the offer.*

SIGNUP & ENROLLMENT

Agricultural producers may **sign up for CREP with their county's FSA office during open enrollment.**

Annual rental payments are made each fall.

Under the revised ESPA CREP agreement, eligible participants may receive the following payments:



A **sign-up incentive payment** from the FSA.



An **annual rental payment** based on county per-acre irrigated rental rates, as determined by FSA.



A **cost-share payment** of up to 50% of the eligible cost to install approved conservation practices, such as labor and seed.



In addition, the State of Idaho may make an **annual payment** up to 13% of the FSA per acre annual rental payment.*

**Subject to the availability of funds*

CREP is administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Technical service is provided by the **Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission.**



The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission staff works with the contract participant to develop and apply **conservation and seeding plans** to install during the contract period.



At the end of the participants CREP contract, the water right returns to active status.

