

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP and the Continuous Sign-up

NRCS did not have a “regular” CRP sign-up during fiscal year 2002: all enrolled within this past fiscal-year were enrolled under the CRP Continuous Sign-up.

CRP’s continuous sign-up allows the landowner to establish certain conservation buffer practices on cropland and marginal pasture and to enroll the land in CRP at any time without having to go through the process of submitting a competitive offer. Competitive offers are required during “regular” CRP sign-ups.

Conservation buffers help to control potential pollutants and manage other environmental concerns.

- ◆ Filter strips
- ◆ Field borders
- ◆ Grassed waterways
- ◆ Field windbreaks
- ◆ Shelterbelts
- ◆ Contour grass strips
- ◆ Riparian (streamside) buffers



photo: USDA

The **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s single largest environmental improvement program and has proven to be one of the most effective. The program allows landowners and operators to enter into 10-to 15-year contracts with USDA to convert highly erodible cropland and other environmentally sensitive cropland to vegetative cover such as introduced and native grasses, wildlife habitat and food-plot plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. In exchange, landowners receive annual rental payments for the land and cost-share assistance for establishing certain conservation practices.

CRP continues to be a popular conservation program in Colorado and in other Northern Plains states.

CRP Goals

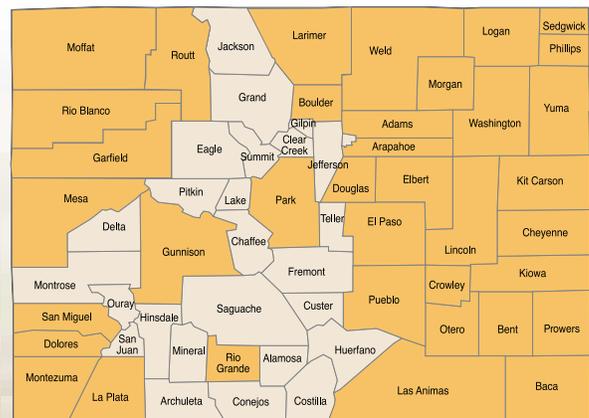
- To reduce erosion
- To improve water quality
- To enhance wildlife habitat

National Totals (as of October 2002)

33.6 million acres enrolled
 \$1,567,370,000 payments to producers

Colorado Totals (as of October 2002)

- 2.2 million acres of cropland enrolled
- 37 out of 63 counties participating
- \$68+ per acre in annual rental payments
- \$31 per acre average rental payment
- 11+ plans written with individual landowners



■ Counties with CRP acres

Total CRP Enrollment

County	Total Number of Contracts	Total Acres (as of Oct 2002)
Adams	198	45,727.6
Arapahoe	127	23,617.0
Baca	1,202	262,197.4
Bent	79	25,511.8
Boulder	14	1014.3
Cheyenne	486	122,716.5
Crowley	87	22,275.4
Dolores	233	26,484.5
Douglas	3	275.5
Elbert	183	41,163.6
El Paso	99	17,231.4
Garfield	18	3,641.7
Gunnison	2	59.5
Kiowa	830	210,133.8
Kit Carson	1,041	208,096.3
La Plata	110	12,065.9
Larimer	5	637.2
Las Animas	108	23,510.5
Lincoln	692	156,212.6
Logan	881	97,447.2
Mesa	1	16.8
Moffat	114	33,284.6
Montezuma	94	14,120.4
Morgan	509	81,159.2
Otero	17	2,661.4
Park	2	7.1
Phillips	451	19,618.3
Prowers	640	172,873.7
Pueblo	87	27,883.6
Rio Blanco	21	2,684.7
Rio Grande	1	0.9
Routt	86	16,378.5
San Miguel	22	3,358.3
Sedgwick	159	6,543.9
Washington	1,224	215,407.9
Weld	1,115	227,590.3
Yuma	688	73,643.7
11,629	2,199,253	

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