



2010 Annual Report Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)

This report contains fiscal year activity for the state of Colorado from the time period of October 2009 to September 2010.

Who We Are

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

“The GRP program was reauthorized by the 2008 Farm Bill and emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grasslands under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development, and other activities.”

GRP Program Manager



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Fiscal Year 2010 Grasslands Reserve Program

Statewide Activities

Rental Contracts

Number of Applications Funded.....8
Dollar Amount Approved.....\$3 Million
Acres Enrolled25,315

Easements

Number of Applications Funded.....5
Dollar Amount Approved.....\$3.2 Million
Acres Enrolled35,138

The Program

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) helps landowners and operators voluntarily protect and restore grasslands, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands.

The GRP helps prevent conversion of grazing lands to cropland, development, or other uses.

The GRP program priorities include protection from threat of conversion, maintaining working agricultural lands and biodiversity.

The Benefits

Protecting and restoring grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and improves environmental quality.

Enrollment Options

The GRP program offers several enrollment options:

Easements:

- Permanent conservation easements; payment based on fair market value of the easement less grazing value.

Rental Contracts:

10-, 15-, 20-, and 30-year rental contracts administered by the Farm Service Agency will provide annual payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land.

Restoration agreements:

Will be incorporated within the rental contract or easement project if restoration is deemed necessary by NRCS.

All Enrollment Options Permit:

- Common grazing practices that maintain the viability of the grassland;
- Haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production, subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season, as determined by NRCS; and
- Fire rehabilitation and the construction of fire breaks and fences.

For More Information

Visit our web site at www.co.nrcs.usda.gov.