

Oregon's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



**2008 Program Status and Monitoring Report
April 30, 2009**

Executive Summary

Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with support from local soil and water conservation districts. The purpose of the program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and financial incentives (cost share) to install conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs, installing fencing, livestock watering facilities, and other approved conservation measures.

Created in 1998, Revised in 2000 and 2004

Oregon and the USDA signed an agreement to create the Oregon CREP in 1998. Oregon and the USDA revised the agreement in 2000 and again in 2004 to make more streams eligible for the program, allow additional streamside restoration practices, and formalize an innovative partnership in the Tualatin watershed that provides additional incentives for restoration on high value farmland.

Enrollment Maintains Pace

The revised agreement has greatly increased enrollment in Oregon. As of September 30, 2008, Oregon added 220 contracts to enroll 5,195.8 acres, bringing the cumulative total to nearly 34,000 acres. The continued growth in the program has required significant additional cost share payments.

Federal and State Contributions

Along with Oregon's agricultural landowners, the State of Oregon and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have contributed significant resources toward riparian restoration through CREP. For 2008, Oregon's CREP expenditures were \$2,215,994; the estimated Federal costs of the contracts entered in Oregon CREP were over \$5,514,031.

Oregon has invested more than \$11.5 million in CREP since its inception.

Cover photo: Daly Creek, Spring 2008. The site was enrolled in CREP in 2002. This photograph shows a variety of native shrubs and trees. Prior to CREP enrollment, livestock use, flood damage and lack of stabilizing vegetation degraded the streambanks. "Before" pictures can be found on page 7 of this report.

Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley SWCD.

I. Background

Incentives to Restore Agricultural Lands

The goal of the Oregon CREP is to enhance riparian and instream habitat and water quality in streams along agricultural lands. Through CREP, agricultural landowners receive financial incentives to restore riparian forested buffers to streamside areas, benefitting fish, wildlife and water quality.

In 1998, the State of Oregon submitted a proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). On October 17, 1998, Governor John Kitzhaber and USDA Secretary Dan Glickman signed an agreement to implement the Oregon CREP. The agreement was amended on June 12, 2000 to include Signing and Practice Incentive Payments (SIP and PIP), revised rental rates for marginal pasturelands, and eligibility for streams that contain resident ESA-listed fish species.

In December 2004, the state and the USDA completed a revised Oregon CREP agreement that broadened stream eligibility, included new practices already available through the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, added state financial commitments, and involved a new partner, Clean Water Services, in funding CREP in the Tualatin River Watershed.

In the CREP agreement, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) committed to submit an annual report to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to summarize the accomplishments of the Oregon CREP.

This is the ninth annual report to satisfy the agreement provision.

Joint USDA-State Administration

USDA Administration

USDA, through FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS),

- Administers the federal contracts, incentives and annual rental payments
- Develops conservation plans
- Provides information to prospective enrollees
- Pays 50 percent of eligible practice costs
- Conducts annual site reviews

The State of Oregon

The state, through OWEB, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), watershed councils, and the Oregon Departments of Forestry (ODF), Agriculture (ODA), Water Resources (WRD) and Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), cooperates with USDA agencies to

- Provide technical assistance
- Public outreach
- Financial assistance

OWEB administers contracts for the state portion of the cost-share for the conservation practices. OWEB pays 25% of eligible practice costs and pays for technical assistance through ODA. The state and USDA are also responsible to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of CREP in restoring watershed conditions.

Other specific state and federal commitments in the Oregon CREP agreement are listed in Attachment C.

I. Background, *continued*

Federal Consultation—The Biological Opinion

Farm Service Agency completed a Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA) in December 1998, concluding that many Oregon CREP practices would not adversely affect Threatened and endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (jointly, the Services) completed a Biological Opinion (BiOp) of the Oregon CREP on June 2, 1999. The Services concluded that CREP should not result in long-term adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species, and that the program is an important tool for threatened and endangered species recovery in Oregon.

To minimize the potential aspects of CREP to threatened and endangered species, the Services identified Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be used during CREP practice implementation. BMPs include:

- Minimizing the effects of vehicular access ways on riparian corridor.
- Conducting no instream work except installation of livestock crossings and offstream watering facilities.
- Planting vegetation to minimize disturbance to soils and slopes.

The Services also issued Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs) requiring FSA to ensure the development and implementation of a monitoring program, avoid take of listed fish during CREP wetland restoration activities, and other actions.

The Biological Opinion for the 2004 amendments has not been completed to date.

Ecological and Economical Foundation

Dr. Bill Boggess, chair of the Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics at the time, was intimately involved in the development of the state's program.

“Development of the Oregon CREP program was a fascinating challenge to recognize the diversity of agriculture in the state and create an ecological meaningful and economically realistic incentive program” said Bill. “The underlying theory and conceptual work has been published in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* (1999) and the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (2000). When working with the state and the Farm Service Agency we used a graduate student to conduct a “willingness to participate” survey to help gauge landowner interest.” This link between ecology and economics is now being tested in the implementation of the Oregon CREP in the mid-Columbia region where it can help to address recovery of threatened steelhead populations.

II. Accomplishments

State Leadership and Coordination

Again for 2008, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board funded a part time coordinator that worked for the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). The coordinator worked closely with partner agencies to:

- Conduct outreach about the program.
- Set up grant agreements and process payments with SWCDs receiving technical assistance funding.
- Work with local Service Centers to improve and streamline enrollment and implementation process.
- Assist with training efforts.
- Track and monitor progress of technical assistance providers and reporting to partners.
- Evaluate needs or opportunities for expanding or relocating technical assistance.

Diversity of Technical Assistance Funding Sources

This year, significant funding for CREP technical assistance was provided by OWEB to a number of SWCDs through the ODA. Additionally, the Columbia basin has several CREP technicians funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in addition to OWEB funds. SWCDs in Multnomah, Marion, and Clackamas counties financed their own CREP technical assistance.

The unique relationship between the municipal sewer and water provider Clean Water Services and the Tualatin SWCD has provide technical assistance in Washington County.

II. Accomplishments, success stories

Success Story—Yamhill County

Brey Riparian Restoration Project

Just south of Carlton along nearly one mile of the North Yamhill River, the 36 acre Brey Riparian Restoration project is well on its way to becoming a valuable forested riparian buffer in Yamhill county.

Dense Weeds After 1990's Logging Replant

The property is currently owned by James and Teresa Brey who purchased it five years ago from Teresa's mother who had owned it for a number of years. The forested acreage was selectively logged for Douglas fir in the early 1990s. The replant, which was required under the Oregon Forest Practices Act, was not very successful, with new plantings being outcompeted by Invasive species including Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) and reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). These and other weeds occupied most of the newly opened areas which were abandoned except for some livestock grazing. Even cattle were unable to access the areas due to the dense weed growth which towered in excess of 12 feet in some areas.

Restoration Plan Budget in Excess of \$75,000

In 2005, the Breys requested assistance from Yamhill SWCD to develop a conservation plan for their property. In designing the plan, it was assumed they would enroll in CREP. However, funds would fall well short of the \$75,719 restoration budget. SWCD staff successfully applied for an OWEB grant for \$43,760 and were able to begin work preparing the site in October 2007.

These photographs, taken prior to the site preparation efforts, illustrate the extent and density of invasives. In some areas, the growth towered in excess of 12 feet.

Photos: Courtesy of Yamhill SWCD

Preparing the site involved:

- Using specialized equipment to mow the dense blackberry (which towered, in places, over 12 feet!) and grass growth.
- Cutting and piling non-native English hawthorn trees
- Partially burning the massive piles (until conditions became too wet to continue)



Record Flood and Persistent Spring Rains

The 2007 site preparation work removing invasive species was extensive. One month after clearing work was completed, a record flood hit. After the water had receded, flood debris was found 12 feet above ground level! The mulched blackberry debris had been washed away, but the slash piles as well as the topsoil remained intact.

Chemical Treatment of the Site

Chemical treatment of the site was delayed by persistent spring rains in 2008 until June. The first treatment was followed by three other spray efforts ending on October 1, 2008. Heavy treatment was necessary to eliminate the “old growth” stands of both blackberry and canarygrass. Both species were kept under 18 inches or less and were not allowed to set seed during the year.

Livestock Exclusion Fencing

A fence was constructed in July 2008 to exclude any livestock use in the area. A four strand barbed wire fence was built according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards along with four gates to access the buffer for future planting and maintenance activities. The remaining slash piles were completely burned in November 2008.

Planting Plan

A planting plan was developed by SWCD staff with input from the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Bveys. It consisted of mainly hardwoods which were flood tolerant as well as some conifer trees for the upland areas and shrubs for the bank areas. Species were selected not only by soil and light preferences, but also for what was onsite already. The new plantings will eventually blend in with existing native species. It will then be a multi-species, multi-storied stand which will support a wide variety of native wildlife species. Many small mammals use the site along with deer and coyotes. A well established great blue heron rookery is located within the buffer and both bald eagles and harlequin ducks have been observed using the site.

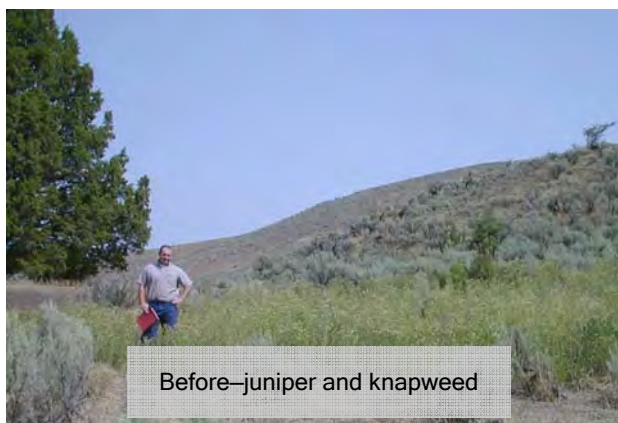


The Brey Riparian Restoration site will serve as a model conservation acreage for the area. Hopefully, the surrounding community will see that full site restoration really is an achievable goal that can be met along with assistance from others such as FSA, NRCS, OWEB, ODF and SWCDs. Above are photos of the site after young seedlings of hardwoods, conifers and native shrubs were planted.

Photos: Courtesy of Yamhill SWCD

Success Story—Baker County

An aggressive stand of Russian Knapweed was spreading along “Low Creek.” The Baker County SWCD worked closely with the County Weed Department in putting together CREP plans. The site was enrolled in CREP in 2006. To prepare the site, the Russian knapweed stand was treated with chemicals and the junipers within the buffers were removed. Then the site was broadcast seeded with a mix of deep rooted perennial bunchgrasses. This project also included fencing, off-stream watering facilities, and tree and shrub planting.



Before—juniper and knapweed



After—juniper and knapweed removed

Left: Before CREP enrollment. Right: 2008 after CREP enrollment. Russian knapweed and juniper removed. The treatment plan immobilized and reduced the spread of an extremely invasive weed.

Success Story—Keating SWCD

The project was enrolled into the program in 2005. Along with the seeding and tree/shrub plantings, this project also included site preparation, off-stream watering facilities, and fencing.



Riparian trees, shrubs and deep rooted perennial bunch grasses re-establishing.

All photos courtesy Burnt River and Keating SWCD.

Success Story—Daly Creek

Before CREP enrollment



Photos of Daly Creek prior to CREP enrollment. Livestock use, uncommon flood damage, and lack of stabilizing vegetation left the streambanks degraded and in need of some re-vegetation efforts.

A few years after the creek was enrolled into the CREP program, the property changed ownership. The new owners placed managing for wildlife habitat as a top priority. Along the creek grew thistle, cheatgrass and whitetop, requiring an aggressive and thorough site preparation treatment. Different sites along the creek received different seed mixes. The mix for drill-seeded areas included: tall wheatgrass; Siberian wheatgrass; and Pubescent wheatgrass. The mix for broadcast seeding consisted of tall wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, and Sherman big bluegrass. Other practices that were implemented in this project were: fencing; development of off-stream water; and hardened livestock crossings.

After CREP enrollment



Photos riparian trees of Daly Creek, spring 2008. The site was enrolled in CREP in 2002. Since then, willow; red-osier dogwood; cottonwood and native rose have thrived.

All photos courtesy Eagle Valley SWCD.

Success Story—Burnt River SWCD

Before—Juniper Encroachment



Photo of a draw prior to the January 2008 CREP enrollment showing juniper encroachment.

After—CREP Buffer



The same draw after the junipers were removed from the CREP buffers. In addition to juniper removal, site preparation included weed control.

Off-stream watering facilities



This large circular concrete trough will provide clean water to the livestock that have been fenced away from the creek. The large circular concrete troughs are the most common installed in Baker County. They are known for their longevity and durability.

All photos courtesy Burnt River SWCD.

Off-stream watering facilities improve water quality by pulling livestock away from the creek to drink. They can also aid in an improved rotational grazing program. Strategic placement of off-stream watering facilities can help to improve livestock distribution and can encourage cattle to utilize forage that otherwise would not be utilized without the presence of water in the vicinity. Off-stream water developments are all installed according to NRCS standards and specifications.

Other practices that were included in this project were: fencing; critical area seeding; and tree/shrub establishment.

Success Story—Keating SWCD

New Cuttings along Ridley Creek

Both photos illustrate newly planted cuttings in the spring of 2008 along Ridley Creek. Plants include: several varieties of local willow cuttings; cottonwood cuttings; red osier dogwood cuttings; ponderosa pine; and elderberry plugs. Other practices included in this project were: fencing, site preparation, critical area seeding, and development of off-stream watering facilities.

Water Jet Planter

In sites that have deeper soils, a water jet planter was used. High pressure water hydrodrills a hole into the ground up to 6 feet deep. Willows in the form of pole trees (cuttings that range from 2-6 inches in diameter and are approximately 9 feet long) are then planted in this hole.

Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon Department of Forestry comes out on site on all of the CREP projects before they are enrolled and works with the CREP Technician to develop a planting plan best suited for the site.

Advantages to Hydrodrilling

- Simple. Little training is required for operation.
- Easy to transport.
- Fast. A large number of cuttings can be planted in a short time.
- Effective. Cuttings can be placed directly into saturated soil conditions.
- Better growth. Air pockets in the rooting zone are minimized when planting in saturated soils.
- Deep start. Trees can be planted farther away from the stream and still tap into the water table.



Newly planted cuttings along Ridley Creek include willows, cottonwood, red osier dogwood, elderberry, and ponderosa pine.

All photos courtesy Keating SWCD.

II. Accomplishments, *continued*

Outreach and Education

Technicians continued their extensive outreach and education efforts regarding CREP in 2008. Funding for these technicians came from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and other sources. Several SWCDs applied successfully to secure grants, or used part of the funding they received from the Department of Agriculture or their local tax base to fund CREP outreach activities.

Staff Time the Limiting Factor

CREP promotion at the local level depends heavily on staff availability and other partners' interest in the program. In areas where technical staff can quickly service new contracts, promotion of the program is generally good. In areas where technical staff will not be able to service new contracts, promotion of the program is reduced. Local staff are committed to responding to customers in a timely manner and are wary of enticing new customers whom they will not be able to serve quickly.

Local Landowners—Effective Promoters

If local landowners enroll in the program and have a positive experience, they are usually the most effective promoters of CREP.

Cumulative Impact Incentive Bonus

Landowners also have a financial incentive to promote the program to their neighbors because of the Cumulative Impact Incentive Bonus, which provides a payment to all enrolled landowners in a 5-mile or greater stretch of stream where over 50% of the streambank is in CREP.

Program Enrollment

In 2008, the Oregon CREP added 220 contracts involving nearly 5,200 acres, bringing the total to date to 1,336 approved contracts involving well over 33,500 acres. Based upon an average buffer width of 100 feet, the approved contracts would benefit almost 1,360 streambank miles. The continued growth in the program has required significant additional cost share payments.

II. Accomplishments, *continued*

Oregon CREP enrollment is greatest in counties where

- Rental rates are perceived adequate.
- There is a history of high participation in USDA programs.
- There is adequate staff to process contracts in a timely manner.
- Technical assistance is available to answer landowner questions.

Factors which prevent landowners from participating include:

- Economic concerns.
- Length of contracts.
- Fear of government.
- Lack of awareness and promotion of the program.
- Ineligibility of certain types of agricultural lands, primarily orchards and vineyards, and other perennial crops.
- The inability to utilize cattle as a tool to freshen up the vegetation after several years of enrollment.



Above: Steve Springston, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and landowner Charlie Ernst (on right) preparing willow cuttings for planting along Dry Creek.

Photos courtesy of Wasco County SWCD



Above: Aerial photos of the riparian buffer along Dry Creek, a tributary of Fifteen Mile Creek in Wasco County. Despite its name, Dry Creek is home to redband trout, Pacific Lamprey, and winter steelhead. The second photo shows evidence that beavers have returned to the creek.

Rancher Charlie Ernst says, "CREP is a good thing. The permanent vegetation helps fish habitat and benefits wildlife." Charlie's efforts were honored at the OWEB 2008 Biennial Conference where he received one of the 10 "Spirit of the Oregon Plan" awards.

II. Accomplishments, *continued*

Financial Incentives

Federal and State Payment Process Working Very Well

Oregon continued to provide its portion of cost-share payments to CREP participants in 2008, while the USDA provided rental payments, 50 percent cost-share, and bonus payments. The federal and state payment process to landowners appears to be working very well, and county Service Centers report they have received positive feedback from landowners on the speed of the payment delivery.

Livestock Watering and Crossings

Oregon has agreed to pay for livestock watering facilities and livestock crossings that are not eligible for cost-share by Farm Service Agency, as long as they are included in the conservation plan and the state cost-share contract. This has been a popular change to the program, and has helped many landowners install the practices needed to successfully participate in CREP while maintaining their grazing operations.

In some areas of the state, there is very positive landowner feedback on the financial incentives CREP provides. Incentives are particularly attractive for marginal pasturelands and most dryland annual crops.

In other areas, landowners perceive rental rates to be much lower than the income they would receive for farming riparian land. These concerns are prevalent in areas with high-value irrigated crops, such as the Willamette Valley and parts of the Columbia Plateau. The proposal to increase rental rates by FSA should enhance enrollment in these high value agricultural areas.

The Enhanced CREP developed in the Tualatin watershed illustrates that improved incentives for high-value agricultural land encourage participation. There were no contracts in the Tualatin watershed before late 2004, when the program became available; now there are 38 contracts representing 235 acres.

CREP Contract Implementation

Oregon has committed significant resources for CREP contract implementation. During fiscal year 2008, OWEB funded grant agreements totaling \$435,000 with soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) in thirteen counties. This is an increase of \$185,000 from 2007 and an additional three counties. These technicians continue to process new signups in a timely manner and promote the program to local landowners. In addition, they work on new plans and monitor the implementation of existing contracts.

Four Oregon SWCDs: Wasco, Sherman, Wheeler, and Gilliam, continued to receive funding in 2008 from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for CREP technical assistance.

State and federal CREP investments have leveraged technical assistance funds from other sources as well. In the Tualatin watershed, as part of the revised CREP agreement, Clean Water Services, a water resource management utility in the Tualatin River Watershed, provides funding for two full-time technicians at the local SWCD to service CREP contracts.

In other counties, CREP contract implementation can be delayed because of inadequate technical staff numbers. Most commonly, NRCS staff workload makes it difficult to determine site eligibility and complete conservation plans in a timely manner. There is a growing awareness and interest in the value of targeted technical assistance funds to move the Oregon CREP program forward.

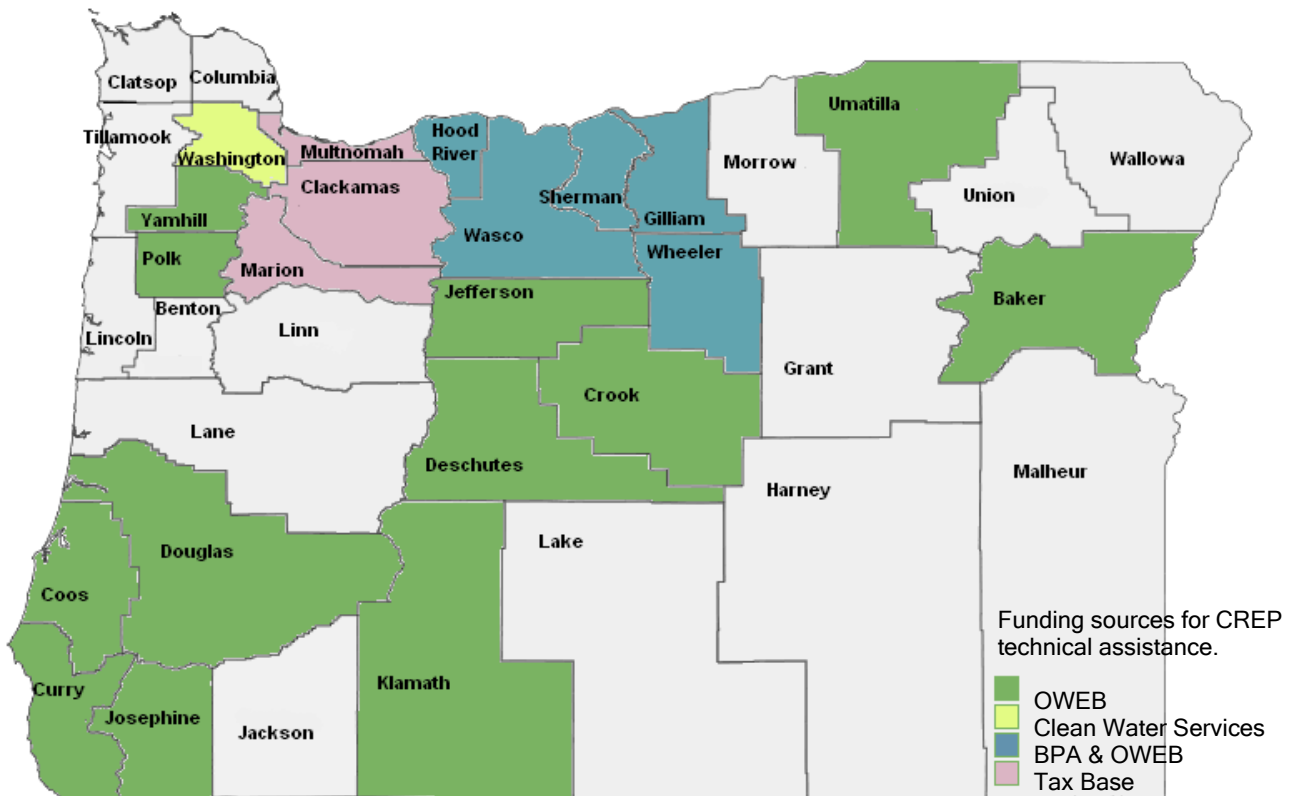


Figure 1. Funding sources by county for CREP technical assistance.

III. Monitoring and Program Evaluation

Monitoring Program

The 1998 agreement with USDA requires annual reports that include, “the results of the annual monitoring program.” In addition, the 1999 BiOp includes a requirement that FSA and OWEB “...Ensure the development of a comprehensive monitoring program to assess the effectiveness of the CREP in meeting its objectiveness.” The BiOp also requires that the report “include implementation and effectiveness monitoring components.”

Implementation Monitoring

Implementation monitoring continues to be a higher priority than effectiveness monitoring in order to focus limited resources to ensure that CREP practices are successfully installed and maintained.

Effectiveness Monitoring

As a requirement of the Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, OWEB is responsible for reporting on the effectiveness of riparian buffers on local stream conditions. In 2007 OWEB funded a research program at Oregon State University to evaluate the implementation of the Oregon CREP and to specifically evaluate the premise of the cumulative impact incentive that is unique to the Oregon CREP. The research has been underway for two years.

The main hypothesis for the research is that larger enrollments will have an increased biological response over the same length of scattered enrollments. The findings will be important in further discussions on the nature of the incentives proposed by the state.

A preliminary report, “An Ecological Assessment of Oregon’s CREP Cumulative Impact Incentive Program” by Bartuszevige et al., of Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, Oregon Department of Agriculture and OSU Hermiston Agricultural and Extension Center, was presented to OWEB in March 2009 and the final report is expected in September 2009.

Preliminary Results –Plant Species

- The same number of species occur on both buffered and unbuffered sites. However, plant composition has not yet been analyzed; and will be done for the final report
- One hundred eighty seven species of plants were found on transects and in the soil samples collected at the 12 sites in Wasco County. Eighty three species were exotics and 11 are classified as noxious weeds in Oregon.

Preliminary Results –Water Quality

Water samples were collected July 22-24, 2008 for total nitrogen and total phosphorus.

- No apparent patterns are clear from the data.
- Statistical analyses have not been completed.

Preliminary Results –Macroinvertebrates

Macroinvertebrates were collected from a total of 51 sites across the study area during the period of July 1 to July23, 2008. These samples have been processed in the laboratory and the macroinvertebrate community data is being analyzed. The sampling design will provide information on changes in stream reach quality with increased buffer length relative to the upstream end of each buffer and non-buffered reaches.

Preliminary Results –Other Environmental Variables

At the time of macroinvertebrate sampling, a suite of environmental variables were measured that will provide information on important correlates of macroinvertebrate community composition. These environmental variables included: water turbidity; pH, and conductivity; substrate size (i.e., pebble counts); wetted width and depth; and continuous water temperature. Continuous water temperature was recorded at each site for five days with temperature readings taken every 30 minutes.

III. Monitoring and Program Evaluation, *continued*

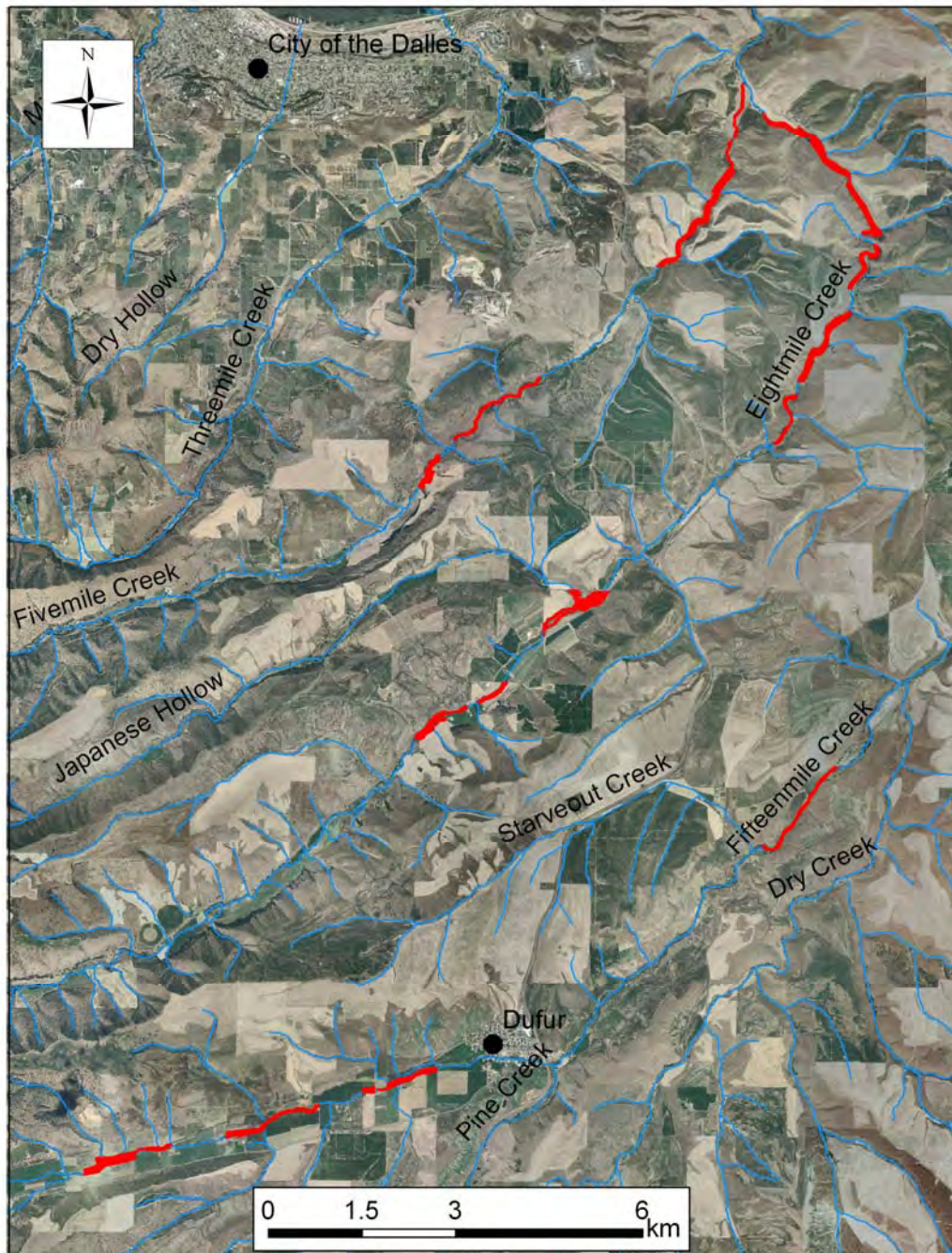


Figure 1: NAIP image of the study area. The red lines are the buffered sites that were sampled in this study. One unbuffered site was located on each stream at the following locations: Fivemile creek - between buffers 2 and 3 (counting left to right); Eightmile creek - upstream of the first buffer; and Fifteenmile creek - upstream of the downstream-most buffer.

IV. Program Evaluation

Strong Participation

CREP participation in Oregon continues to be strong. Word-of-mouth communication between landowners and readily available technical assistance help to address questions about financial incentives, concerns about meeting regulatory requirements, and other factors.

Recommendations for Improving CREP Implementation

In previous annual reports, the state has identified several changes that would positively impact CREP enrollment in Oregon. Many of these recommendations were either addressed through changes to the national CRP rules, through additional funding commitments, or in the revisions to the Oregon CREP agreement. However, there are still many opportunities to further improve the program as a new Farm Bill is adopted and the state agreement is renegotiated.

To Improve Enrollment

In areas where the rates are too low or where the conservation priorities are high, secure support from other funders to increase rental rates or incentive payments to landowners. Accomplishing this requires additional outreach and communication with these potential funding partners.

To Improve the Impact

In many cases, when new fences are installed, the old fences are not removed. Old fences still pose a threat and danger to wildlife moving into these habitat areas. An improvement to the program would be the ability to cost-share the removal of the old fences when putting in new.

To Improve the Incentive

High value cropland in Western Oregon has not been enrolled because of the relatively low base rental rates. Many of the areas of extensive agriculture fail to meet water quality requirements. With increased base rental rates, Oregon CREP may be able to help address agricultural water quality issues in areas of high value crops.

V. Conclusions

Successful Year

With sustained high enrollment and interest from regions that were ineligible before the 2004 amendment, 2008 was a successful year for the Oregon CREP program. At the same time, Oregon CREP partners continue to improve the program. Strategies include ongoing technical and administrative training for staff, an updated programmatic biological opinion, and continued support for additional technical resources to help landowners implement the program.

VI. Oregon CREP Staff Contacts

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VII. Attachments

A: CREP Enrollment by County Fiscal Year 2008 and Cumulatively.

B: State CREP expenditures.

C : State and Federal commitments in the Oregon CREP agreement.

Attachment A. CREP Enrollment

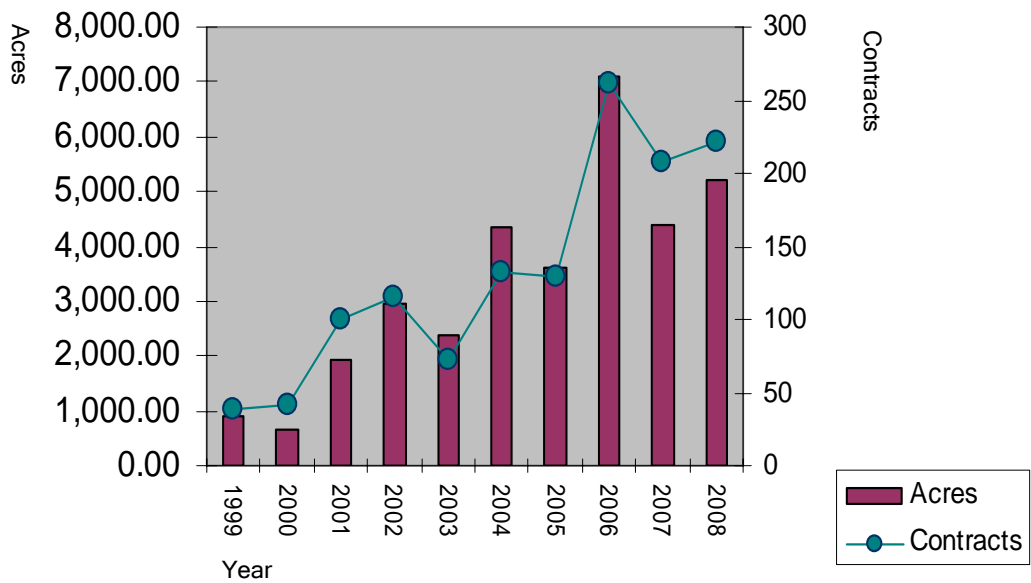
Table 1. Acres Enrolled by County for Fiscal Year 2008 and Cumulatively

County	Fiscal Year 2008 Enrollment (Acres)	Cumulative Enrollment (Acres)
Baker	322.9	1586.2
Benton	•	443.8
Clackamas	22.8	60.7
Clatsop	0	0
Columbia	0	389.9
Coos	•	231.9
Crook	132.8	475.5
Curry	•	617.2
Deschutes	0	0
Douglas	124.5	1132.3
Gilliam	292.8	1652.8
Grant	634.9	1682.8
Harney	743.8	1494.9
Hood River	0	0
Jackson	0	264.8
Jefferson	0	410.3
Josephine	•	0
Klamath	60.6	1637.2
Lake	0	0
Lane	•	173.6
Lincoln	•	173.5
Linn	41.1	333.6
Malheur	•	276.6
Marion	0	193.5
Morrow	109.9	1477.5
Multnomah	•	94.5
Polk	55.1	532.6
Sherman	687	4662.4
Tillamook	0	0
Umatilla	552.3	2140.1
Union	•	1482.9
Wallowa	80.9	1478.6
Wasco	754.3	7589.6
Washington	•	235.5
Wheeler	113.1	661.1
Yamhill	51.9	409.4
TOTAL	5195.8	33995.3

- Data not available due to privacy restrictions required by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Attachment A. CREP Enrollment

Figure 2. CREP Contracts and Acres from 1999 to 2008



Attachment B. State CREP Expenditures

Table 2. Oregon's Annual CREP Expenditures, 1999-2008

Budget Category	Expenses through 12/31/99	Expenses 1/1/00 - 9/30/00	Expenses 10/1/00 - 9/30/01	Expenses 10/1/01 - 9/30/02	Expenses 10/1/02 - 9/30/03	Expenses 10/1/03 - 9/30/04	Expenses 10/1/04 - 9/30/05	Expenses - 10/1/05 - 9/30/06	Expenses 10/1/06 - 9/30/07	Expenses 10/1/07 - 9/30/08
State Cost Share Payments	\$12,369	\$33,598	\$357,741	\$445,925	\$330,695	\$489,366	\$667,728	\$1,811,479	\$1,172,372	\$1,443,771
OWEB Support	\$11,100	\$29,336	\$60,000	\$74,733	\$50,000	\$60,620	\$30,556	\$41,900	\$48,700	\$46,800
Dept. of Forestry Support	0	0	0	\$72,590	\$61,084	\$35,210	\$19,166	\$39,680	\$72,891	\$69,572
Dept. of Agriculture Support	0	0	0	0	\$51,946	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$25,000
Water Resources Dept.	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	\$900	\$7,000	\$4,500	\$4,806
CREP Support Activities- Research, Training, Outside	\$117,716	\$216,088	\$233,056	\$43,639	\$232,319	\$97,035	\$251,468	\$165,514	\$307,412	\$376,045
Watershed Technical Specialists (est.)*	\$62,500	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$203,685	\$529,022	\$900,797	\$886,887	\$976,044	\$947,231	\$1,199,752	\$2,330,573	\$1,870,875	\$2,215,994

Cumulative Total, Oregon \$11,633,490

Attachment C. State and Federal Commitments

Table 3. USDA Commitments and State of Oregon Commitments to CREP Agreement Items

Agreement Item	USDA Commitments	State of Oregon Commitments
Incentive payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay rent for length of contract. • Pay 50% of the costs to install practices. • Pay incentive and bonus payments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay 25% of the costs to install practices. • Pay 75% of the costs of certain off-stream watering developments, pipelines, and livestock crossings not eligible for USDA cost-share. • Pay the fees for instream water right lease applications.
Monitoring/reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct site visits for 3 years to verify that practices are being properly maintained. • Conduct contract spot checks randomly for remainder of the contract. • Share monitoring data with the state to facilitate monitoring efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for costs of all annual monitoring.
Contributions to program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost-share, rent, and bonus payments; staff time to administer program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute no less than 20% of the overall annual program costs.
Outreach/marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information to landowners about CREP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek applicants willing to enroll land in CREP. • Implement a broad campaign for continuous public information and education regarding CREP. • Seek support of CREP from other boards and groups to maximize the Oregon CREP.
Program delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer CREP contracts. • Provide technical assistance for the CREP program in general. • (Agreement does not spell out specific technical assistance responsibilities for USDA. Specific technical assistance duties are listed for the State.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to develop conservation plans and to implement practices, including all riparian forest buffers. Except for riparian forest buffers, the State's level of technical assistance responsibility is not specified. • Obtain and manage the water right leases where irrigated rental rates are provided. • Facilitate technical assistance delivery from multiple organizations to landowners. • Establish Steering Committee to advise OWEB on the implementation of CREP. • Seek to accept permanent easements for CREP lands from willing landowners. • Seek to accept permanent instream water right transfers from willing landowners.