

LANDOWNERS MATTER



The NEW Big Sioux River Watershed CREP

MARK NORTON | HUNTING ACCESS & FARM BILL COORDINATOR

A new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is now available to landowners and ag producers in the Big Sioux River Watershed of eastern South Dakota to enroll up to 25,000 acres. It is modeled after the successful James River Watershed CREP that has proven since 2009 to be a popular program for landowners to partner with the USDA Farm Service Agency and South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, and provide public hunting and fishing access.

Through the South Dakota Big Sioux River Watershed CREP, federal and state resources are made available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for 10-year to 15-year contracts. Cropland and marginal pastureland are restored to native grasses, shrubs, and wetlands. Participants receive annual rental payments and incentive payments for installing specific conservation practices. CREP adds incentive payments from South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) for public hunting and fishing access and watershed specific conservation benefits.

ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENTS

To be eligible for CREP, the land must be located in the Big Sioux River Watershed boundary of South Dakota and have been farmed 4 out of 6 years from 2012-2017. Pasture and rangeland may also be eligible pending an evaluation of the land. There is a minimum public access area requirement of 40 acres. The minimum can be achieved with just CREP acres or a combination of CREP and GFP's Walk-In Area program.

CREP participants receive annual rental payments from both USDA and GFP that are based on the productivity of the three predominant soils of the enrolled lands. Participants also receive 100 percent cost-share from USDA to restore cropland to wetland and grassland cover for most conservation practices. Payments and incentives can vary depending on the practice the land is enrolled in through CREP.

ELIGIBLE CONSERVATION PRACTICES (CP) FOR CREP

CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat

This practice is for seeding cropland to a combination of grass, flowers, and shrubs for wildlife habitat. Having wetlands or highly erodible soil in the field being enrolled is not a requirement. This practice is great for enrolling large diverse fields.

CP21 Filter Strip

Filter strips are grass buffers planted adjacent to a stream, wetland, or permanent water. They can range from 20 feet to 120 feet in width along the length of the water body.

CP23 Wetland Restoration

This practice is for seeding a grass buffer adjacent to wetlands inside of the 100 year floodplain. The maximum buffer to wetland ratio is 3:1.

CP23A Wetland Restoration

The CP23A is for seeding a grass buffer adjacent to a wetland that is not in the 100 year floodplain. The maximum buffer to wetland ratio is 4:1.

CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat

This practice restores cropland to native prairie with species that are part of the tall grass native prairie.

CP29 Marginal Pastureland-Wildlife Habitat Buffer

The marginal pastureland practice is for restoring a vegetative buffer adjacent to a water body. For CP29 this would be a pasture adjacent to a stream or permanent water.

CP30 Marginal Pastureland-Wetland Buffer

The CP30 is similar to CP29 except that this practice is located adjacent to a wetland.

CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative

This practice is for the establishment of nesting cover adjacent to wetlands. The maximum upland buffer to wetland ratio is 10:1 and minimum is 4:1. The CP37 includes all of the incentive payments and allows landowners to enroll large fields.

CP43 Prairie Strips

CP43 creates strips of diverse, dense, herbaceous, predominately native perennial vegetation designed and positioned on the landscape to most effectively address soil erosion and water quality while providing food and cover for wildlife and beneficial insects.

LANDOWNER PAYMENTS

Federal signing incentive of 32.5% of first full annual CRP rental payment

The signing incentive is an upfront one-time bonus payment for new land being enrolled in CRP that the landowner will receive shortly after contract approval. CRP contracts being reenrolled are not eligible for this payment. This signing incentive payment is available for all practices except CP4D and CP25.

Federal annual per acre rental payment

This is a CRP rental payment to the landowner based on the soil productivity of the three predominant soils in the offered acreage.

Federal Climate Smart Rental Rate Incentive 5% increase to the annual rental payment.

This incentive payment increases the annual rental payment by 5% on all practices.

Federal Water Quality Rental Rate Incentive 20% increase to the annual per acre rental payment

This incentive payment increases the annual rental payment by 20% and is available for all practices except CP4D and CP25.

State 34% increase to the annual per acre rental payment

The 34% incentive payment is from SD Game, Fish, & Parks and is paid to the landowner for watershed specific conservation benefits and the enrolled land being open to public hunting and fishing access. This incentive boosts the annual CRP cash rental payment by 34% and is in addition to all federal payments.

Federal 50% cost-share

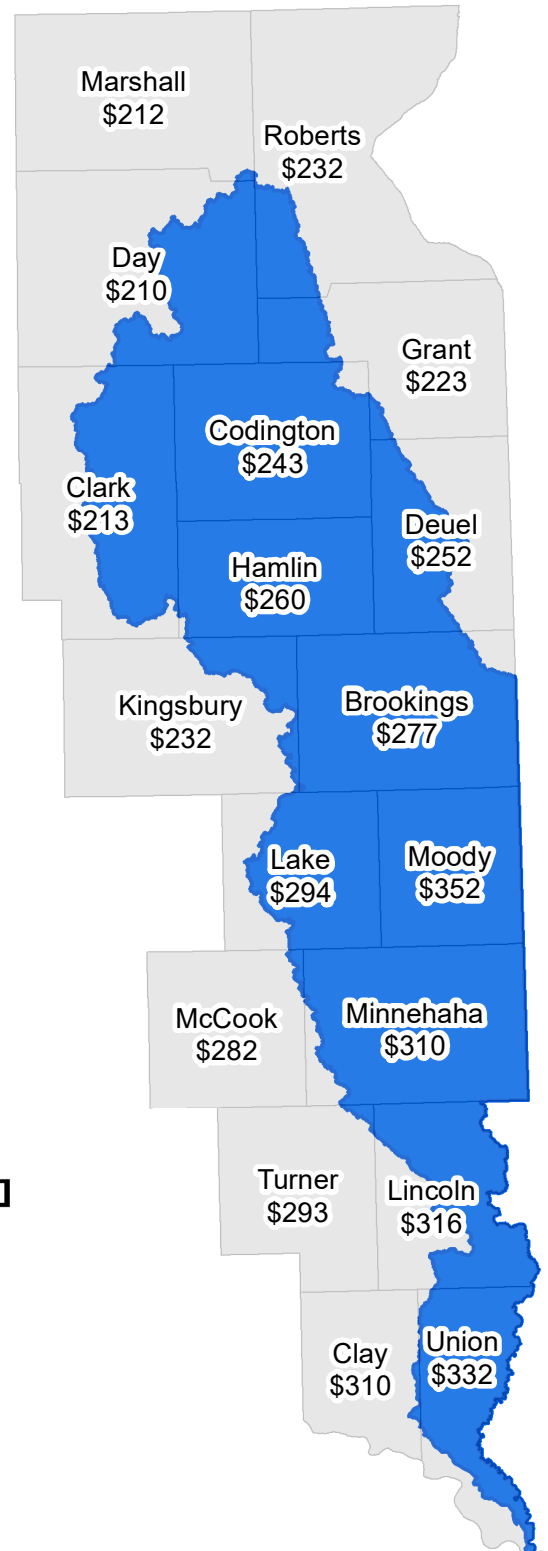
Cost-share for all seeding and restoration costs is 50%. Payment is for all practices.

Federal 40% cost-share practice incentive payment for installation

The 40% cost-share incentive payment is additional to the 50% establishment cost-share. It will come as a separate payment and covers 40% of what the 50% cost-share did not after the cover is seeded. This incentive payment is available for all practices except CP4D and CP25.

Federal 10% cost-share practice incentive payment for establishment

The 10% cost-share practice incentive payment is additional to both the 50% cost-share and the 40% cost-share practice incentive payment for installation. It will come as a separate payment and covers the remaining 10% of the total cost of all seeding and restoration work. This incentive payment is paid once the cover has been certified as established and is available on all practices except CP4D and CP25.



*Rates shown are averages and each offer's rate will be based on the 3 predominant soils on the specific land. These rates may increase or decrease based on the soil productivity of the land offered.

Legend

 SD Big Sioux River Watershed Boundary

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT CREP

Question: Where do I sign up for the CREP?

Answer: Sign up for the CREP will be at your local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) service center Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Question: How can I tell if my land is in the Big Sioux River Watershed?

Answer: The best way is to contact your local USDA service center, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, or GFP Private Land Biologist.

Question: I used to have land enrolled in CRP several years ago and only received \$70-\$100 per acre. At the time this payment was reasonable. When I offered to re-enroll the land, the payment was the same and that was not enough for us to put it back in the program. How is this program any different?

Answer: A lot has changed since the general CRP sign up from years ago. For many years, the rental payments were not adjusted because they reflected the actual cash rent payments. Recent increases in land and crop prices rose too quickly for the CRP rental rates to be adjusted to what cash rent prices were. CREP now offers incentive payments to the base rental payment that will, in most cases, be more comparable to actual cash rent values. The CREP is paying a premium rental rate for the benefit of public hunting and

fishing access and because CREP practices will address public resource concerns in the Big Sioux River Watershed.

Question: How is the CREP different from the GFP Walk-In Area program?

Answer: The South Dakota CREP utilizes CRP practices only and targets land in the Big Sioux River Watershed. The Walk-In Area program is state wide and almost any cover type can be enrolled. CREP provides access for a 10-15 year period, whereas the Walk-In Area program offers access contracts as short as 1 year.

Question: Most of my fields are good crop ground with only a few poor areas. I thought about putting those acres into CRP but the payment was not enough. Why would I want to put those areas into the CREP?

Answer: The poor areas could be enrolled into the CREP and you would receive a 34% higher rental payment than enrolling those areas into CRP. If the total of these acres is less than the 40 acre minimum, the remainder of the field can be enrolled into the Walk-In Area program and the land would still be eligible for the CREP. That means you can still farm the good land while receiving a higher CREP payment on the poor land and receive a Walk-In Area payment on the rest.

Question: What would my rental payment be?

Answer: Rental payments can be estimated by Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists or GFP Private Land Biologists, but official rental payments can only be calculated by FSA.

Question: Can I hay or graze land enrolled in CREP?

Answer: Yes, haying and grazing is allowed at certain times throughout the life of the contract. CREP acres are eligible for emergency haying or grazing in drought years when certain conditions are met without any payment reductions. Haying and grazing can also be done in non-emergency years according to conservation plan with a 25% rental rate reduction on the impacted acres. Contact your local FSA office to learn more about when and how often haying and grazing can be done on your CREP acres.

Question: Why would I want to allow public hunting and fishing access to my land?

Answer: Hunting and fishing are a large part of South Dakota's outdoor heritage and in many ways help define South Dakota. Many landowners who participate in CREP and other public hunting & fishing access programs in South Dakota have fond memories of hunting and fishing. They want



to provide opportunities for others to have those same experiences with their family and friends.

Some landowners will find that, even though they hunt and fish on their land, they might not utilize all of it for these purposes. Some fields may have no wildlife habitat to start with and do not get hunted. The CREP will create wildlife habitat on those acres and provide landowners a new place to hunt while also receiving the CREP payments.

Providing public hunting and fishing access helps put money back into your community. According to the 2017 Survey of Economic Impact of Outdoor Activities Managed by South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, people spent \$954 million in South Dakota while hunting and fishing. The more areas there are to hunt and fish can lead to more people taking up the sport and contributing to our local economies.

The number of youngsters interested in the outdoors is declining. A few of the reasons can be attributed to lack of access and hunting pressure. Opening your land up to public access can help provide more places for youth to hunt and help reduce crowding on all areas open to public hunting and fishing and help raise interest levels in our youth.

Question: I heard that I am liable if someone gets hurt on my land. Is this True?

Answer: This is a common question from landowners who are considering enrolling their land into GFP's popular Walk-In Area program. Like the Walk-In Area program, CREP lands are open to public hunting access, and state statutes provide landowners with immunity from normal, non-negligent, or intentional liability.

How to find out more about the CREP:

There are 12 full time contacts for CREP as seen on the adjacent maps. These contacts are experts with the CREP as well as other conservation programs. Your local USDA service center is another good place to look for information about the program.

Sign up for the CREP starts at your local USDA service center FSA office.

USDA Service Centers

Brookings	605-692-8003
Clark	605-532-3686
Clay	605-624-7060
Codington	605-886-8202
Day	605-345-4661
Deuel	605-874-8225
Grant	605-432-6570
Hamlin	605-783-3642
Kingsbury	605-854-9123
Lake	605-256-6674
Lincoln	605-987-4332
Marshall	605-448-5921
McCook	605-425-2483
Minnehaha	605-330-4515
Moody	605-997-2949
Roberts	605-698-7639
Turner	605-297-5564
Union	605-356-3308



Pheasants Forever Habitat Advisor

- Cody Rolfes (712) 260-8653
- Dan DeBoer (605) 380-3298
- Joe Mayrose (712) 541-9190
- Justin Enfield (605) 770-5026
- Will Gallman (704) 689-9091
- Sydney Settles (402) 853-4297
- Nick Goehring (605) 216-4390

SD Game, Fish and Parks

- Ben Lardy - Webster (605) 461-8249
- Dan Nelson - Watertown (605) 303-4805
- Luke Zilverberg - Brookings (612) 865-9980
- Todd Crownowner - Tyndall (605) 464-0647
- Mark Norton - Pierre (605) 773-3096



STAFF SHOWCASE

NEW HABITAT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

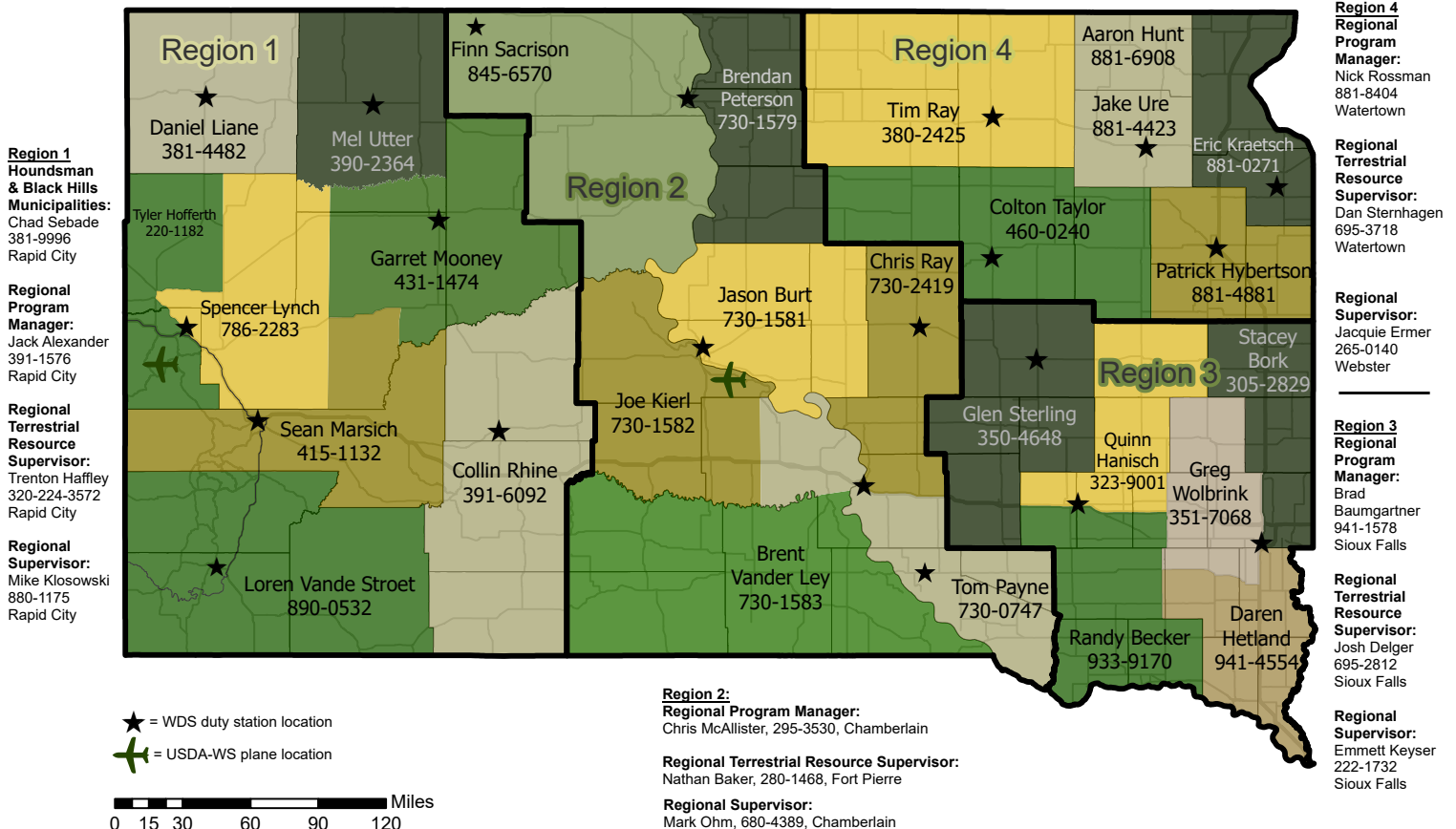


Ryan Wendinger has been selected to fill the vacant Habitat Program Administrator position for the Department. Ryan graduated with a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University in 2007. Following graduation, he was fortunate to be hired full-time to work in the habitat program with South Dakota Game Fish and Parks. His career has spanned the last 14 years working predominantly in habitat management. He has developed a strong passion for habitat and land management. Ryan is excited to work with our many private land partners across the state to improve habitat and access. Starting as a habitat technician Ryan has moved through the ranks to habitat resource biologist, regional habitat program manager and now to the habitat program administrator. Ryan holds many licenses and certifications and graduated from the GFP leadership development program in 2020. He strives to expand his knowledge to help further improve both public and private land habitat. Ryan is originally from southern Minnesota and now lives in Humboldt, SD with his wife and three daughters. As a family they enjoy spending time outdoors fishing, kayaking and hiking. During the fall Ryan enjoys hunting pheasants and deer. Ryan started his duties as administrator on August 24th and has hit the ground running.

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South Dakota GFP Wildlife Damage Management Program



LANDOWNERS MATTER

GAME, FISH AND PARKS | 523 EAST CAPITOL AVE | PIERRE, SD 57501



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks serves and connects people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife resources.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS

Aberdeen	Nick Cochran 605.881.7594 Jakob Heyd 605.237.9878 Tim McCurdy (District CO Supervisor) 605.380.4572	Miller	Jon Dunlap 605.730.1570 Cory Flor (District CO Supervisor) 605.680.0003
Belle Fourche	Jacob Schwint 605.391.6042	Mobridge	Patrick Beffa 605.845.6286
Brookings	Jeff Grendler 605.360.0509	Olivet	Taylor Geerdes 605.941.4735
Canton	Josh VandenBosch 605.940.0222	Onida	Tyler Krekelberg 605.730.1384
Chamberlain	Diana Landegent 605.730.1578 Travis March 605.730.1573	Plankinton	Lynn Geuke 605.220.6943
Clark	Zach Thomsen 605.881.2260	Platte	Eric Brumbaugh 605.295.1966 Jeff Martin (District CO Supervisor) 605.730.1575
Clear Lake	Adam Behnke 605.881.3780	Pierre	Jason Hamil 605.280.7619
Custer	Ron Tietsort 605.431.7048 Jenna Capper 605.391.2132 Jim Ganser 605.431.8099	Rapid City	Chris Dekker 605.390.0923 Ross Fees 605.381.3734 Adam Geigle (District CO Supervisor) 605.390.1230 Jim McCormick (Regional CO Supervisor) 605.381.9500
Elk Point	Tony Stokley 605.677.7814	Redfield	Shane Pedersen 605.460.0450
Flandreau	Trevor Johnson 605.941.4552	Salem	Matt Talbert (District CO Supervisor) 605.360.0491
Fort Pierre	Dylan Peterson 605.730.3774 John Murphy (District CO Supervisor) 605.730.1571 Josh Carr (Regional CO Supervisor) 605.730.1574	Sioux Falls	Craig Fishel 605.201.3001 Justin Harman 605.530.7085 Jared Hill 605.941.0181 Jeremy Rakowicz (District CO Supervisor) 605.941.0074 Jeremy Roe (Regional CO Supervisor) 605.940.3519
Gettysburg	Kendyll DeRouchey 605.730.1568	Sisseton	Dean Shultz 605.881.3773
Hayti	Logan Hammer 605.881.0018	Spearfish	Josh Thompson 605.381.4704 Mike Apland (District CO Supervisor) 605.391.1574
Hill City	Jeff Edwards 605.381.9995	Sturgis	Ryan Pearson 605.391.0836
Hot Springs	D.J. Schroeder 605.381.6438 Seth Lorton 605.880.0009 Brian Meiers (District CO Supervisor) 605.391.6023	Tyndall	Taylor Kirchner 605.360.0497
Ipswich	Eric Voigt 605.380.4376 Joe Galbraith (District CO Supervisor) 605.380.4563	Watertown	Kyle Lenzner 605.881.3777 Kraig Haase (Regional CO Supervisor) 605.881.3774
Lemmon	Edgar Meza 605.415.6462	Webster	Austin Norton 605.881.2177 Calvin Meyer 605.237.3275
Madison	Cody Symens 605.480.3364	Winner	Dillon Bates 605.730.1576
Martin	Tom Beck 605.381.6433	Yankton	Don Allaway 605.350.1669 Dan Altman (District CO Supervisor) 605.941.4549
Milbank	Blake Swanson 605.881.3779 Jamie Pekelder (District CO Supervisor) 605.881.3778		