

GOALS

Specifically, the Lower Ouachita River Basin CREP will focus on enrolling up to 50,000 acres of land into riparian buffers, bottomland



hardwood, and wetland restoration practices to reduce non-point source pollution delivery to surface waters from agricultural lands. This focus is consistent with “no net-loss” of wetland goals and bottomland hardwood initiatives. Further, the State seeks to improve the quality of surface and ground water and establish, preserve or enhance wildlife habitat leading to an increase in the population and diversity of wildlife.

Reduce nutrient and sediment contribution to streams, bayous, and lakes in the project area by assisting with the installation of conservation measures that reduce erosion rates and reduce off-field transportation rates of herbicides, pesticides, and nutrients.

Provide increased protection of sub-surface water sources.

Establish additional critical habitat for fish and wildlife resources by assisting landowners and operators in developing wildlife wetland habitats and riparian areas.

LOUISIANA CREP CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

- United States Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Black Bear Conservation Committee
- Ducks Unlimited
- LA Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry
- LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
- USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Farm Service Agency



United States
Business Council
For Sustainable
Development



DUCKS UNLIMITED



NRCS
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



Protecting local waterways...

Creating habitat for wildlife



LOUISIANA—CREP “LOWER OUACHITA RIVER BASIN”

Background

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is an initiative established as part of the highly successful Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and is the Federal Government's single largest environmental improvement program. CREP expands CRP's effectiveness by allowing USDA to work in partnership with States and local interests to meet specific conservation objectives. Like CRP, National CREP contracts require a 10–15 year commitment to keep land out of agricultural production, ensuring lasting benefits. CREP is a community-based program, centered around local participation and leadership, with financial incentives and technical assistance provided by the USDA. It is site-specific and addresses high priority conservation issues of State and National significance.



CREP is not just a cost-effective way to address environmental problems and meet regulatory requirements. Participation can increase farm income as well.

Louisiana CREP

The Lower Ouachita River Basin CREP will seek to enroll certain environmentally sensitive acreage within two designated Louisiana watersheds into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), requiring 14–15 year long term contracts. The Louisiana Parishes involved are Caldwell, Catahoula, East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and West Carroll, and the two watersheds are the Bayou Macon Watershed and the Boeuf River Watershed. The State, through the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry, LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, and private organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Black Bear Conservation Committee, and United States Business Council for Sustainable Development will offer incentives to participants for the installation of needed conservation practices, such as filter strips and riparian buffers, among other practices. CREP will consist of a Federal continuous sign-up CRP component and State of Louisiana in-kind assistance and services. To encourage producers to join, the program offers financial incentives in addition to those available with the regular CRP.



Partnerships

An interagency work group comprised of federal, state, and local government entities, and landowners and/or stakeholders from all nine parishes have met and discussed the resource concerns in the project area. Within the project area are sixteen cities and towns that will benefit from this project by the improvement of water quality and the development of the enhancing of wildlife habitat.

Further Information

To learn more about the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, contact any USDA Service Center, or any one of the listed CREP partners. Information may also be found on the FSA website at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crpinfo.htm.

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