



Program Overview

The Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)

April 2018

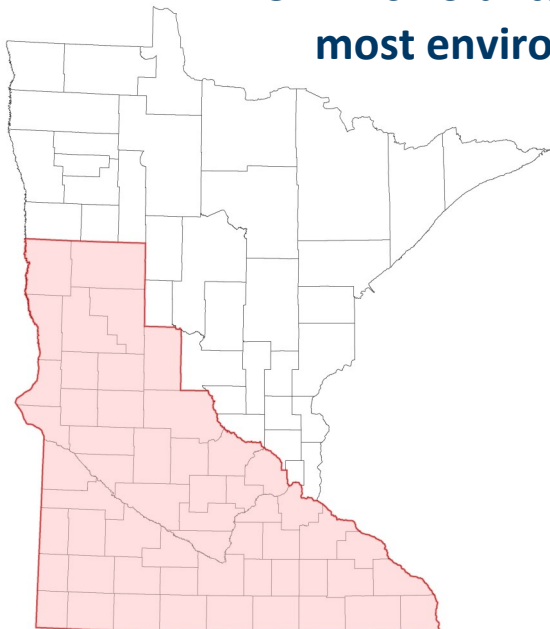
What is MN CREP?

MN CREP is a voluntary, federal-state funded natural resource conservation program that uses a science-based approach to target environmentally sensitive land. **Here's how it works:**

- Landowners enroll in the federally-funded Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 14-15 years.
- CRP is administered by the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA). It uses agricultural land for conservation benefits, rather than farming or ranching.
- The same land is also enrolled into a state-funded perpetual conservation easement through the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program, administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).
- Private ownership continues and the land is permanently restored and enhanced for conservation benefits.
- MN CREP is a \$500 million program, that includes \$350 million in federal dollars and \$150 million in state dollars.



MN CREP is voluntary, locally driven and targets the most environmentally sensitive acres.



MN CREP Objectives

MN CREP will protect 60,000 acres of the highest priority areas across 54 counties. It will:

- Target riparian areas and marginal agricultural land
- Restore hydrology, increase infiltration and provide flood mitigation
- Provide habitat for wildlife, non-game species and pollinators
- Reduce nitrate loading in drinking supplies

Why now?

Minnesota is at a critical juncture in addressing our state's serious water quality challenges. In addition, the state stands to lose nearly 550,000 acres of critical grassland acres over the next 5 years from CRP. Although MN CREP won't fix these problems, it is part of the solution.

Five Minnesota state agencies came together to support MN CREP, including Board of Water and Soil Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources and Pollution Control Agency.

Enrollment for MN CREP began in May 2017 and will continue until funds are exhausted or the 60,000 acre goal is reached.



How will the land be restored and protected?



MN CREP will focus on four main Conservation Practices (CPs) that have been identified through the federal CRP:

1. Grass Filter Strips (CRP CP 21)
2. Wetland Restoration - Non Floodplain (CRP CP 23a)
3. Wetland Restoration – Floodplain (CRP CP 23)
4. Wellhead Protection Areas (CRP CP 2)

Many choices for landowners

MN CREP is just one option for landowners who wish to install conservation practices on their land. The local FSA/Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil and Water Conservation District office can provide numerous strategic, voluntary, long-term solutions to directly address resource problems. Contact them directly for more information.



www.bwsr.state.mn.us/crep