

Snohomish Conservation District
**CONSERVATION RESERVE
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
(CREP)**



Washington's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary program designed to benefit both farms and fish. Farmers are compensated for nurturing a different kind of crop on their property: salmon habitat.

CREP Basics

- CREP encourages landowners to voluntarily establish forested riparian buffers on private agricultural lands adjacent to salmon streams.
- Land is enrolled in a 10 or 15-year contract.
- CREP is funded jointly by the State of Washington and the US Department of Agriculture.
- The Snohomish Conservation District provides technical staff to implement CREP.

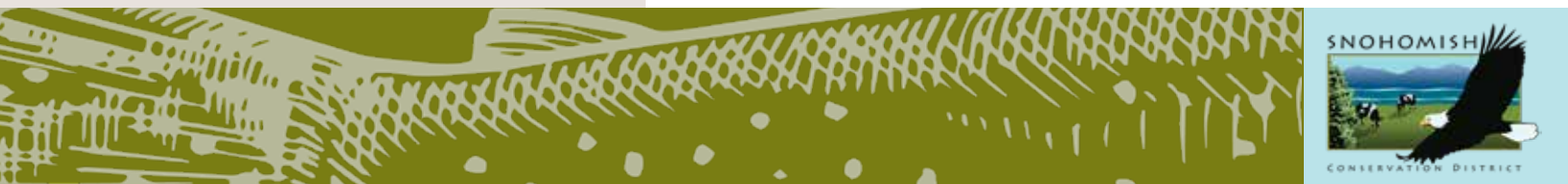
HOW IT WORKS

Landowners voluntarily sign up to plant native trees and shrubs that form a "buffer" between farmland and eligible waterways. A local CREP technician will work with you to design a plan for the buffer and plant the vegetation.

Once the planting is complete, landowners receive annual rental payments for the acreage they restore for the duration of their CREP contract (10-15 years). The program also assists the landowner with oversight and maintenance for about five years after planting to assure success. After five years, maintenance is no longer covered by the program and is the responsibility of the landowner.

What is a RIPARIAN BUFFER?

A riparian buffer is a vegetated area along a waterbody that filters pollutants from runoff, stabilizes banks, reduces flooding, shades water, improves wildlife habitat, and provides other conservation benefits.





ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Land must be adjacent to a salmon-bearing, CREP-eligible stream.
- Land must not be currently functioning as a forested riparian buffer as determined by the SCD technician.
- Land must be able to support eligible native trees and shrubs.

ENROLLMENT INCENTIVES

- Annual rental payments depend upon your soil type(s).
- Signing incentive payment of \$100/acre for 10-year and 15-year contracts.
- Reimbursement of 100% of eligible implementation costs up to the program maximum.
- Reimbursement of 100% of eligible maintenance costs up to the program maximum for up to five years.

BUFFER WIDTHS

- The minimum buffer width is 50 feet and the maximum buffer width is 180 feet.
- Buffer averaging can be used in areas where the minimum width cannot be met (i.e. around buildings).
- Landowners can enroll all or part of a stream length, and one or both sides of a stream.



ALLOWABLE COSTS

- Site preparation
- Herbicide applications
- Native trees and shrubs
- Seedling protectors
- Fencing
- Off-Channel watering

HOW TO ENROLL

CREP enrollment is open until habitat goals for Washington are met. Your local conservation district and FSA office will help you through the enrollment process. Visit the Washington State Conservation Commission website at (www.scc.wa.gov) for a conservation district directory, or visit the FSA website at (www.fsa.usda.gov) to find a local service center.

LEARN MORE

Visit snohomishcd.org/crep or email a technical staff member at assistance@snohomishcd.org.

MEET YOUR CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation districts partner with residents to steward land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources. To learn more about how your local conservation district can work with you, visit our website at snohomishcd.org.