

NRCS EASEMENT PROGRAMS

WRP, EWPP, GRP, FRPP

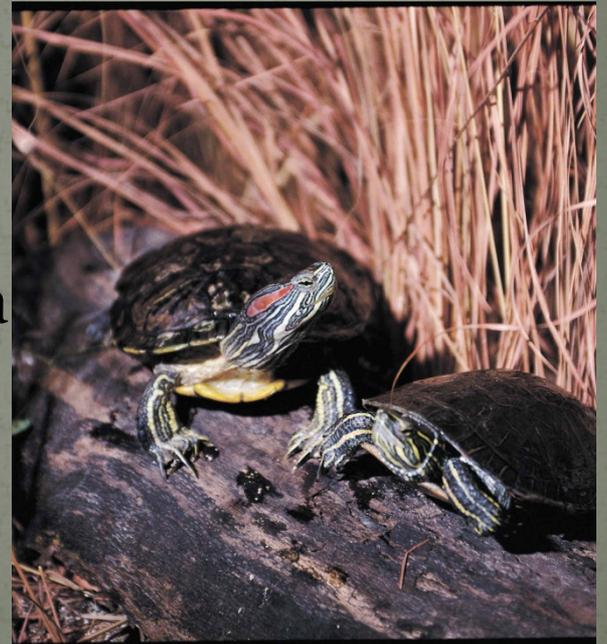


Wetlands Reserve Program Purpose

- Restore, protect, and enhance wetlands on eligible lands
- Habitat improvement for:
 - Migratory birds
 - Wetland dependent wildlife
 - Threatened & Endangered species

WRP Objectives

- Protection and improvement of water quality
- Reduction in floodwater
- Groundwater recharge
- Protection of native flora and fauna



WRP Enrollment Options

- Permanent easement to set aside farmland or pasture (receives highest ranking)
- 30 year easements = 75% of Easement Value and 75% cost share for restoration (ranking reduced by 25%)
- Restoration cost share agreement – restoration timeframe plus 10 years (no easement)

Land Eligibility

- Manipulated farmland or pastureland containing 50% hydric soils
- Land must be restorable
 - 3 criteria to consider:
 - hydric soils,
 - vegetation,
 - hydrology

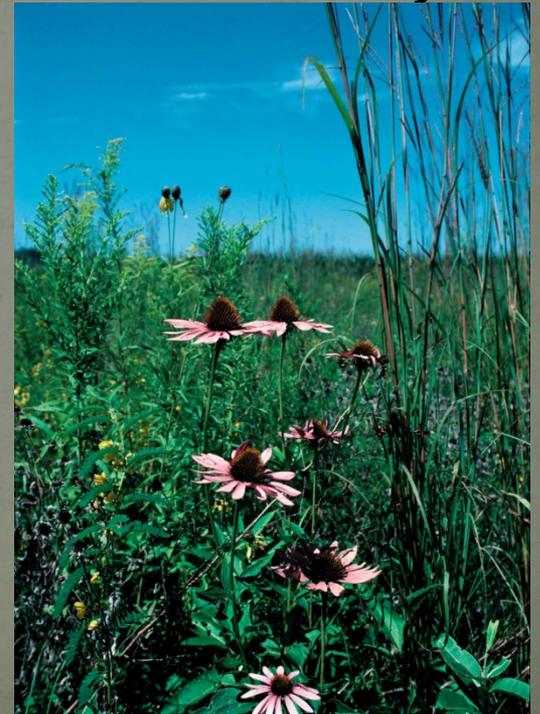


Applicant Eligibility

- Must have legal title to land for at least 7 years and provide deed
- All parties listed on deed must agree to WRP application
- All parties listed on deed must be AGI eligible
- Access rights to application area
- DUNS number required for entities

WRP Benefits

- Payment of easement value based on appraisal, values are increasing with higher farmland values
- All restoration activities administered and funded by NRCS
- All administrative activities arranged and funded by NRCS (legal costs, appraisal, survey).



WRP Process

- Complete an application with NRCS
- Provide:
 1. *Copy of deed*
 2. *Entity paperwork (POA, bylaws, trust documents, DUNS number)*
 3. *Aerial photo with proposed easement area outlined*
- File AGI with FSA
- Provide your wetland restoration objectives

WRP Process

- NRCS ranks the application
- Local NRCS submits application and ranking to NRCS state office
- Purchase offers are made based on budget and ranking list
- Congress allocates funding for WRP.

States use their allocation to fund WRP applications in ranking order.



WRP Summary

- In FY12, Iowa was able to approve applications that have been on the list for several years
- Iowa's vision is to fund the remaining applications that meet minimal eligibility in 2013
- Wetlands have been restored or enhanced on 4136 acres through 42 easements in FY11 (\$15 million value)
- Over 156,000 acres have been or are in process of being restored in Iowa since 1992

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- Based on flood events
- Falls under Floodplain Easement component of EWPP
- Announced specific sign-up periods when funds are available by Congress
- Not a Farm Bill Program



EWPP Land Eligibility

- Located within designated eligible watershed (at least 65% of land)
- At least 50% of application land damaged by flooding at least twice within previous 10 years or at least once in past 12 months (50% hydric soil rule not applicable)
- An additional 50% of land can be included in the application
- Lands that would be inundated or adversely impacted as a result of a dam breach

EWPP Applicant Eligibility

- Must own land and provide deed (no 7 year ownership rule)
- Entity applicant provides documentation to prove a legal and valid entity and which members have authority to sign
- Applicant(s) are not required to meet AGI rules

EWPP Benefits

- Payment of easement value based on appraisal (permanent easement only)
- All restoration activities administered and funded by NRCS
- All administrative activities arranged and funded by NRCS (legal costs, appraisal, survey)



EWPP Process

- Complete an application with NRCS for EWPP during sign up period
- Provide:
 1. *Copy of land deed*
 2. *Entity paperwork*
 3. *Aerial photo with proposed easement area outlined*
- NRCS ranks the application
- Local NRCS submits application and ranking to State Office
- State Conservationist selects applications for funding approval based on budget and ranking

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