Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Started: 1999 On-going Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a tool the Walla Walla County Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency and landowners can use to improve a long-neglected conservation issue—degraded riparian zones along the many streams in Walla Walla County. Walla Walla County landowners embraced CREP with enthusiasm and this buffer program quickly became one of the cornerstones of ESA recovery efforts and TMDL improvement in the County.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Just under 1.5 million native trees & shrubs have been planted in addition to grass stands
- Over 190 contracts on ~3600 acres
- Buffer widths range from 50 to 180 feet
- 196.9 miles of stream bank protected with buffers

PARTNERS

Land Owners

Natural Resources Conservation Service

FUNDING SOURCES

Farm Services Agency

WA State Conservation Commission

WA Dept. of Ecology

JOBS CREATED BY CREP

District Technical Assistance
State Program Administration
District Financial Administration
Private Installation Contractors
Private Maintenance Contractors
Plant Materials Suppliers (Nurseries)
Cultural Resource Specialists
AutoCAD Technician
Bio-fabric supplier

CRITICAL AREAS IMPACTED

Wetlands
Frequently Flooded Areas
Critical Aquifer Recharge areas: water quality
Geologically Hazardous Areas: erosion of soil
Fish & Wildlife Habitat including:
ESA listed steelhead and bull trout, hawks, owls, deer, moose, & more

CREP reduces soil erosion, reduces pollution to streams, provides habitat for wildlife and fish, and provides a sense of protection for farmers and ranchers from regulatory action.