



# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

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## Conservation Program Series

Virtual Zoom meeting

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# What is CREP?

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- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a voluntary federal and state natural resource conservation program that aims to improve water quality and address wildlife issues by reducing erosion, sedimentation and nutrient runoff, and enhancing wildlife habitats.
- It is a component of the USDA-FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- Restoring Conservation Buffers, Tree Planting in the Floodplain, and Restoring Wetlands
  - Buffers have to be done along a body of water



# Current CREP Goals

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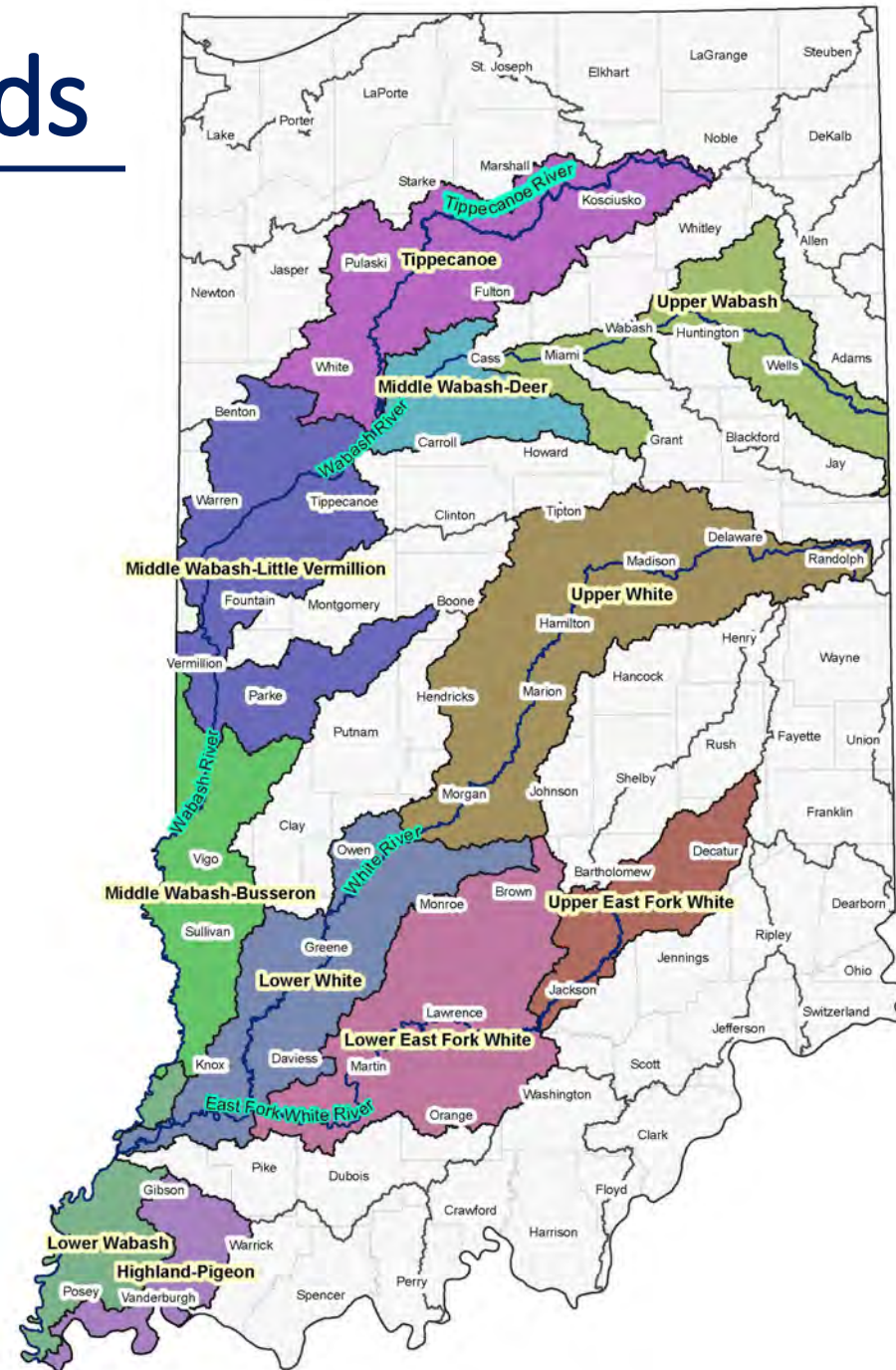


- Seek enrollment of up to 26,250 acres of eligible cropland, including frequently flooded agricultural lands, and restorable wetlands.
- Protect a minimum of 3,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of conservation buffer practices.
- Reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen entering rivers and streams in the designated watersheds by 2,450 tons per year of sediment, 2,400 pounds per year of phosphorus, and 4,700 pounds per year of nitrogen.
- Increase the acres of wetlands in the watersheds for erosion control, sediment reduction, stormwater retention, and nutrient uptake.

# Current CREP Watersheds

There are 11 watersheds in Indiana that are a part of this program, covering 65 Indiana counties.

- Highland-Pigeon
- Lower Wabash
- Lower East Fork White
- Lower White
- Middle Wabash-Busseron
- Middle Wabash-Deer
- Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion
- Tippecanoe
- Upper East Fork White
- Upper Wabash
- Upper White





# Current ISDA and SWCD CREP Staff



\* There are 10 ISDA CREP Leaders, and 10 SWCD CREP Administrating Counties.

## ISDA CREP Leaders

**Highland Pigeon:** Linda Voglund

**Lower Wabash:** Linda Voglund

**Lower East Fork White:** Jennifer Rowland

**Lower White:** Don Ryan

**Middle Wabash-Busseron:** Dale Walker

**Middle Wabash-Deer:** Jessica Hatt

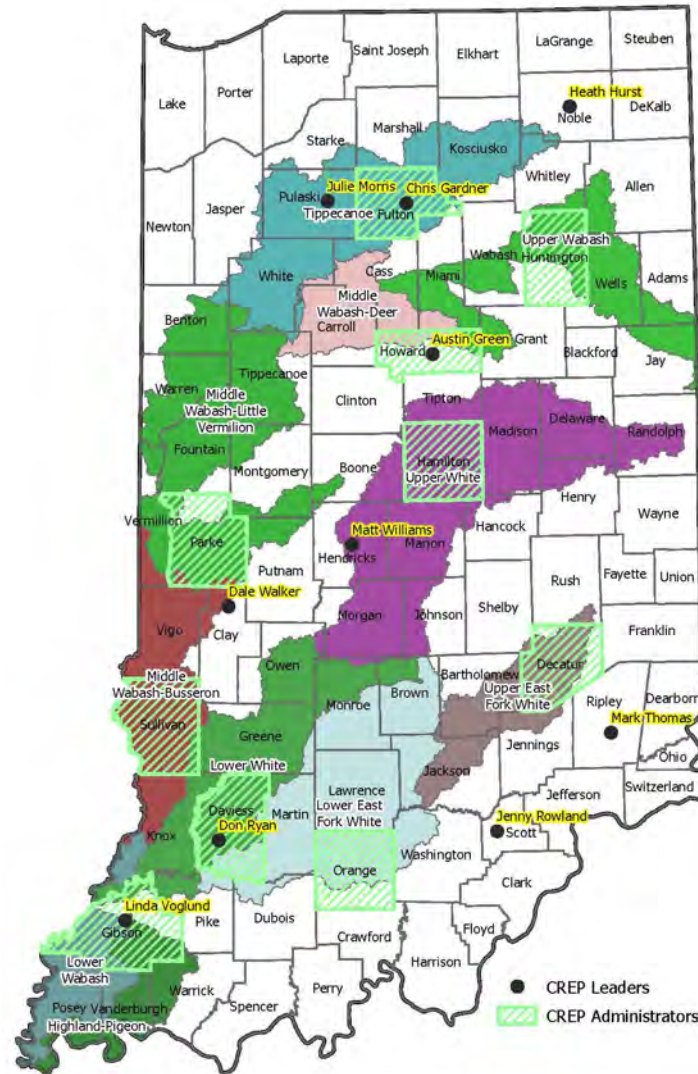
**Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion:** Julie Morris

**Tippecanoe:** Chris Gardner

**Upper East Fork White:** Mark Thomas

**Upper Wabash:** Heath Hurst

**Upper White:** Matt Williams



## SWCD CREP Administrators

**Highland Pigeon:** Gibson - Stephanie Young

**Lower Wabash:** Gibson - Stephanie Young

**Lower East Fork White:** Orange - Michelle (Missy) Elgin

**Lower White:** Daviess - Amber Stevens

**Middle Wabash-Busseron:** Sullivan - Katie Marchino

**Middle Wabash-Deer:** Howard - Rene Weaver

**Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion:** Parke - Lindsey Bishop

**Tippecanoe:** Fulton - Megan Malott

**Upper East Fork White:** Decatur - Jenna Nicholson

**Upper Wabash:** Huntington - Cheryl Jarrett

**Upper White:** Hamilton - Makayla Reel

# Eligible Practices in CREP



- CP2: Native Grasses
- CP4D: Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP21: Filter Strip
- CP22: Riparian Forest Buffer
- CP3A: Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP31: Bottomland Timber Establishment
- CP23: Wetland Restoration
- CP23A: Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

Required to be adjacent to a body of water (Buffer)

Floodplain only

- For the last three practices listed, if 51% of a field is located within the CREP watershed boundary, the whole field may be enrolled.

# CREP Practice requirements



- All CREP buffer practices have minimum and maximum widths

Practices	Minimum Width	Maximum Width	Width in Alluvial Soils
CP2 – Native Grasses	50'	120'	Up to 300'
CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat	35'	180'	Up to 300'
CP21 – Filter Strip	35'	120'	Up to 300'
CP3A – Hardwood Tree Planting	35'	180'	Up to 300'
CP22 – Riparian Buffer	35'	180'	Up to 300'
CP31 – Bottomland Timber Establishment	Floodplain only		/
CP23 – Wetland Restoration	Floodplain only		/
CP23A – Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain	/	/	/

# CREP Practice requirements

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- All CREP contracts are 15-year contracts
- For practice CP4D and for the upland buffer areas for CP23 and CP23A, the IDNR District Wildlife Biologists will develop a wildlife conservation plan.
- For practices CP2 and CP4D, the IN Natural Resources Conservation Service Seeding Tool is used when developing seeding mixes and to determine tree and shrub species.
- For practices CP3A, CP22 and CP31, the IDNR District Foresters will develop a site-specific tree planting plan.



# CREP Practice requirements

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- The wetland practices are required to have an upland buffer area:
  - CP23 – maximum of 3:1 ratio
  - CP23A – maximum of 4:1 ratio
- CP23 – The portion of the site to be restored (excluding the buffer area) must have 51% hydric soils.
- CP23A – The portion of the site to be restored to wetland must have hydric soils that are not located in the 100-yr floodplain.



# CREP Practice requirements

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- Management activities are only required on certain practices or practices components:
  - Not within the first 20 feet of a practice that borders a water body (referred to as environmentally sensitive areas)
  - CP2-only outside of the environmentally sensitive areas
  - CP4D-only on grassland component, not on areas planted to trees/shrubs
  - CP23 and CP23A-only on buffer areas planted to grasses, not on areas planted to trees/shrubs



# CREP Practice requirements



- Each practice is required to be installed according to an IN NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications:

Practices	IN NRCS Cons. Practice Standard and Specification
CP2 – Native Grasses	IN NRCS Seeding Tool will be used when developing seed mixes and to determine tree and shrub species
CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat	IN NRCS Seeding Tool will be used when developing seed mixes and to determine tree and shrub species
CP21 – Filter Strip	Filter Strip (393), Conservation Cover (327) or Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
CP3A – Hardwood Tree Planting	Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
CP22 – Riparian Buffer	Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
CP31 – Bottomland Timber Establishment	Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
CP23 – Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (657) or Wetland Enhancement (659)
CP23A – Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain	Wetland Restoration (657) or Wetland Enhancement (659)



# CREP Practice Job Sheets



## CREP Practice CP21 Filter Strips

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Indiana – August 2020

### Filter Strip Program Specification Sheet



#### WHAT IS A CREP FILTER STRIP?

A narrow band of grasses, legumes, and forbs used to limit sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other contaminants from entering water bodies. In addition, filter strips can provide valuable winter cover, nest sites, nectar and pollen for pollinating insects, and food for wildlife.

Filter strips are typically located on cropland immediately adjacent and parallel to streams, lakes, ponds, ditches, sinkholes, wetlands, or groundwater recharge areas.

#### Where Practice Applies

On fields that meet eligibility requirements for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement program (CREP) as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

#### CREP POLICY

CREP Filter Strips will be installed according to the Filter Strip (393), Conservation Cover (327), or Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390) standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

CREP Filter Strips are only eligible on Cropland that is adjacent and parallel to streams, sinkholes and karst areas, wetlands, and permanent bodies of water such as lakes/ponds.

The minimum width of the filter strip depends upon the slope of the field, the soil type, and the pollutants contained in the runoff. For the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Filter Strips will be a minimum of 35 feet from the edge of the eligible body of water, and a maximum of 120 feet from the edge of the eligible water body. NOTE: An average maximum width of 300 feet is allowed when the area to be enrolled involves a predominance of alluvial soils. If the site already contains existing vegetation, these acres will be included in the calculation of maximum width and included in the CREP Plan, but will not be eligible for payments.

Vegetation for filter strips will generally have stiff, upright growth characteristics, and will be adapted to the site conditions and meet the standards in the local FOTG. Only viable, high quality seed will be used.

*For CREP in Indiana, Native Grasses (Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, Virginia Wild Rye, etc.) & or Non-Native grasses & legumes considered wildlife friendly (timothy, redtop, orchard grass, clover, alfalfa, etc.) will be encouraged.*

#### SITE PREPARATION

Site preparation is the most critical step in the establishment of habitat. Even the most well-planned seed mix will fail if the site preparation is not thorough. A well-prepared planting bed will increase the likelihood of establishment and reduce maintenance and management in the future. Weed control efforts should begin as early as 12 months prior to planting and may require multiple applications over the course of one to two years. Pay attention to sites where noxious and potentially invasive species are likely to occur, or areas of sod, such as old fescue pastures. Many of these species are perennials that spread through seed and roots, and many have rhizomatous root systems that will persist and negatively impact the planting.



## CREP Practice CP31

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Indiana – July 2020 (ver. 1.0)

### Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands Specification Sheet



#### PURPOSE

Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands is used to establish hardwood trees that will control erosion, reduce nutrient and pesticide losses, promote carbon sequestration, and restore and enhance wetlands to provide wildlife habitat.

#### CREP POLICY

To be eligible for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the acreage offered must be land that meets eligibility requirements as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Bottomland Timber Established on Wetlands is eligible on cropland areas that are located within the 100-year

floodplain of a river or stream. Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Forestry or Technical Service Provider (TSP).

This practice will be installed according to Tree Shrub Establishment (612) Standard in the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). No more than 25% of site may be planted to appropriate softwood species.

A minimum of three (3) different species of most producing hardwood trees will be planted and the entire area must be established to trees.

#### PLANTING

Site-specific requirements are listed on the attached Specifications Sheet. Any changes to the planting specifications must be approved by the IDNR, Division of Forestry.

All planting must be completed within 12 months of the effective date of the contract to remain in compliance. If circumstances beyond the landowner's control prohibit completion within the first 12 months, the local FSA County Committee may approve an extension to the next planting season.

It is very important to plant the vegetation into a weed-free seedbed. Weed control efforts should begin prior to planting and may require multiple applications in both the fall and spring prior to planting. Use herbicides, fall tillage, or temporary cover to eliminate competing vegetation. If necessary, for erosion control, seed a temporary cover. As appropriate, eliminate the temporary vegetation for erosion control at planting time with tillage or herbicides.

Bare rooted stock (seedlings) shall not be planted when the soil is frozen or dry and will be planted with the root collars approximately at or slightly below the ground line. Bare rooted stock shall be planted in the spring after the ground thaws, but no later than June 1.

**Weed Control During Establishment Period:** Weed control is important to ensure survival and maximum growth of the trees for three years after they are planted. Nine (9) ft<sup>2</sup> around each tree will remain weed-free during establishment period to maximize tree growth, unless a tree friendly temporary cover is used. Mowing is allowed at any time between tree rows during the establishment period.

# CREP Practice – State Financial Incentives



Practices	One-time State payment
CP2, CP4D, CP21	\$100/acre for new and re-enrolled
CP3A, CP22, CP31	\$400/acre for new and re-enrolled
CP23, CP23A	\$950/acre for new enrollments \$400/acre for re-enrollments

- Note: Re-enrollments are eligible to receive the state incentive for each practice.





# CREP Practice – Federal Cost-Share and Incentives



- Cost Share of Practice Implementation: 50% of eligible cost (not-to-exceed) as determined by FSA for eligible reimbursable practice establishment costs.
- Signing Incentive Payment (SIP):
  - A one-time payment equal to \$100/acre for newly enrolled CP21, CP22, and CP31 and \$150/acre for newly enrolled CP23 and CP23A.
  - Re-enrollments are not eligible for SIP.
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP):
  - A one-time payment equal to 40% of the eligible installation costs for CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A and CP31.
- Annual Rental Payment:
  - Based on three predominate soil types
  - 40% Incentive on the base annual soil rental rate.
  - A maintenance fee equal to the terms of FSA national CRP directives, if applicable.



# CREP Incentive Chart



Practice Code	Practice	State Incentive / acre*	Adjacent to Body of Water	Widths	Width In Alluvial Soils	(through FSA)			Contract Length	
						Cost-share of practice installation	SIP (one-time payment)	PIP (one-time payment)		Soil Rental Rate Incentive
CP-2	Native Grasses***	\$100.00	Yes	50' min. to 120' max.	up to 300'	50% of eligible cost NTE	/	/	40%	15 yrs
CP-4D	Permanent Wildlife Habitat***	\$100.00	Yes	35' min. to 180' max.	up to 300'	50% of eligible cost NTE	/	/	40%	15 yrs
CP-21	Filter Strip**	\$100.00	Yes	35' min. to 120' max.	up to 300'	50% of eligible cost NTE	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes	40%	15 yrs
CP-3A	Hardwood Tree Planting***	\$400.00	Yes	35' min. to 180' max.	up to 300'	50% of eligible cost NTE	/	/	40%	15 yrs
CP-22	Riparian Buffer**	\$400.00	Yes	35' min. to 180' max.	up to 300'	50% of eligible cost NTE	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes	40%	15 yrs
CP-31	Bottomland Timber Establishment**	\$400.00	/	Floodplain only	/	50% of eligible cost NTE	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes	40%	15 yrs
CP-23	Wetland Restoration**	\$950.00 \$400.00 re-enrolled wetlands	/	Floodplain only	/	50% of design estimate	Yes (\$150/acre)	Yes	40%	15 yrs
CP-23A	Wetland Restoration - Non Floodplain**	\$950.00 \$400.00 re-enrolled wetlands	/	/	/	50% of design estimate	Yes (\$150/acre)	Yes	40%	15 yrs

\* State incentive payment is made after practice is installed.

\*\* Available through Continuous CRP also

\*\*\* Available under General CRP also

Note: Re-enrollments are not eligible for SIP payment

<https://www.in.gov/isda/files/CREP-Incentive-Chartjh-revised-Dec2021.pdf>

# CREP Eligibility Requirements

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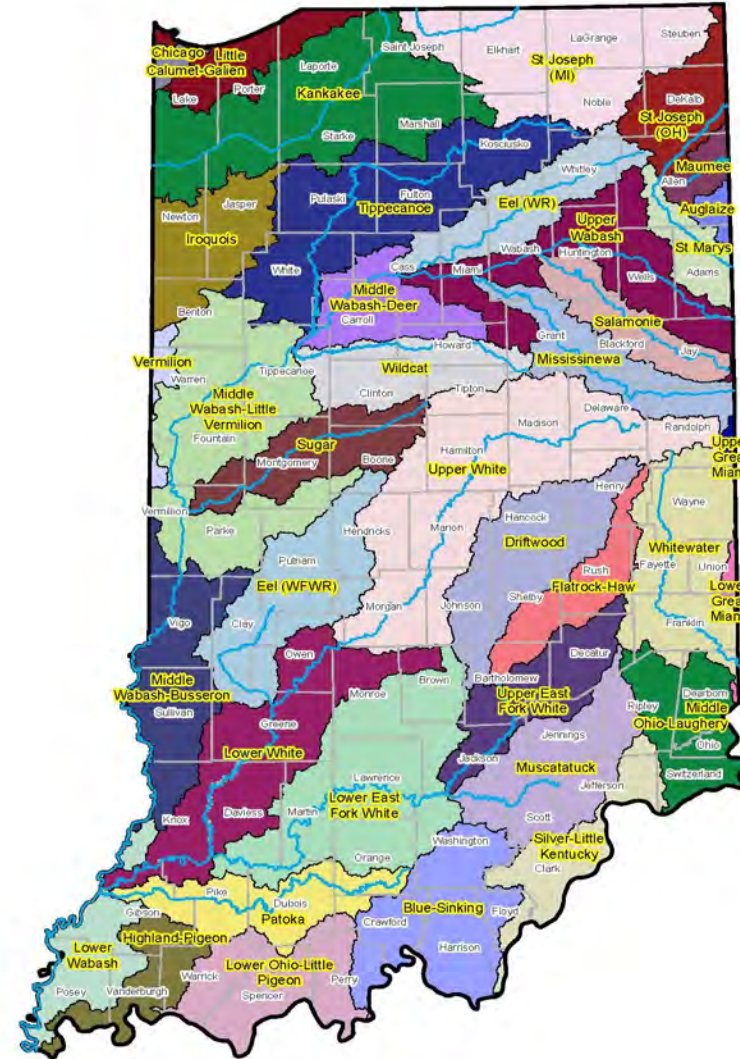
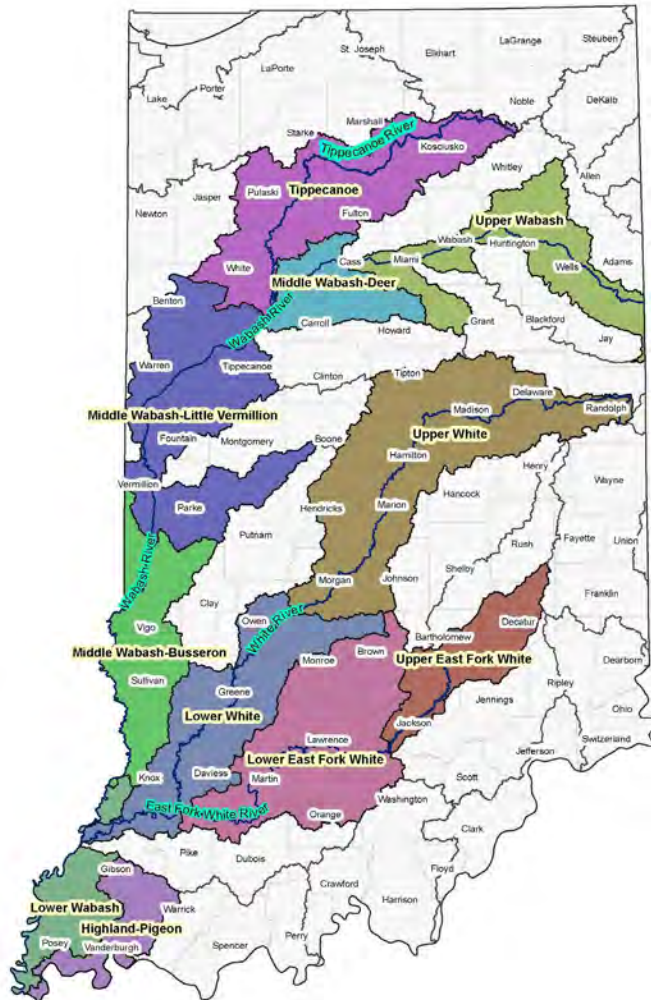
Eligibility

- Eligibility requirements for CREP starts at the local FSA office.
- CREP has the same eligibility requirements as regular CRP.
  - Cropping history of an agricultural commodity for years 2012-2017.
  - One year of ownership required.





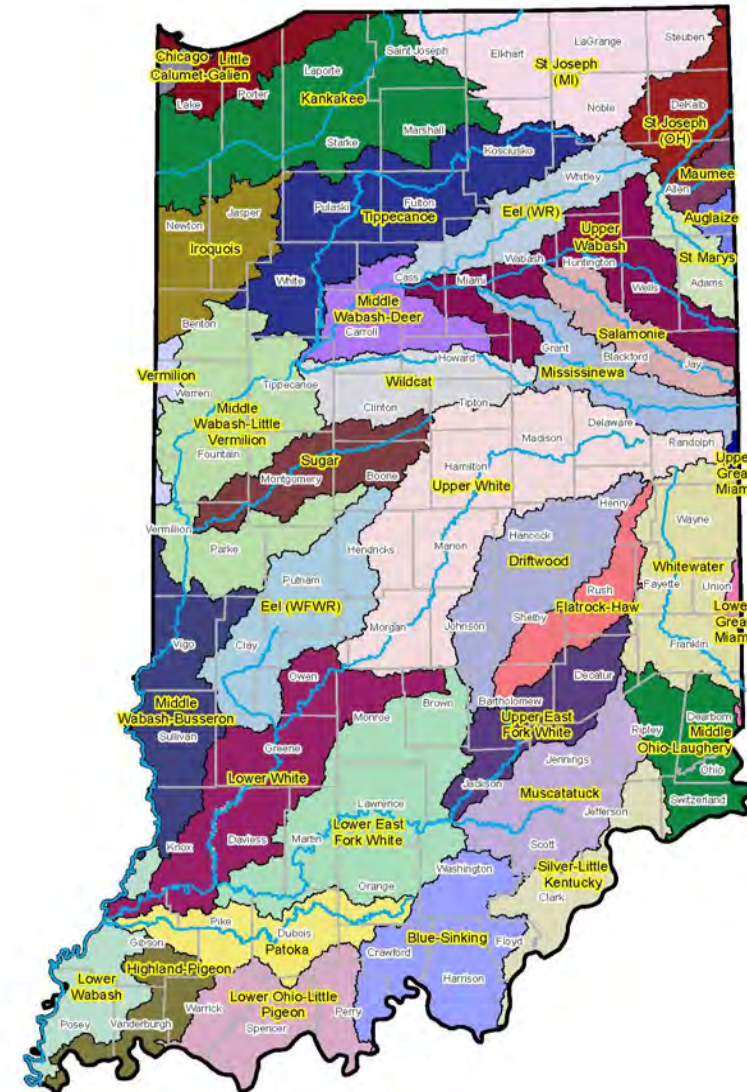
# CREP Expansion - Watershed Map



# CREP Expansion



- Add more acreage to enrollment cap to keep the program going longer.
  - Currently is 26,250 acres, looking to expand to 100,000 acres
- Add watersheds to expand eligible areas.
- Add a wildlife/wetland practice to give landowners another option.





# Eligible Practices in CREP



- Native Grasses (CP2)
- Permanent Wildlife Habitat (CP4D)
- Filter Strip (CP21)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22)
- Hardwood Tree Planting (CP3A)
- Bottomland Timber Establishment (CP31)
- Wetland Restoration (CP23)
- Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain (CP23A)
- **Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife (CP9)**

Required to be adjacent to a body of water

Floodplain only

# CREP Practice requirements



- CP9 – Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
  - Minimum of 6 inches and a maximum of 18 inches average depth of water.
  - Cannot exceed 10 acres in size per tract.
  - An upland buffer at least 20 ft wide and up to 120 ft wide is required



Practices	IN NRCS Cons. Practice Standard and Specification
CP9 – Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife	Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646)

Note: A practice job sheet will be available for this practice as well.

# CREP Practice – State Financial Incentives



Practices	One-time State payment
CP2, CP4D, CP21	\$100/acre for new and re-enrolled
CP3A, CP22, CP31	\$400/acre for new and re-enrolled
CP23, CP23A, CP9	\$950/acre for new enrollments \$400/acre for re-enrollments



# CREP Practice – Federal Cost-Share and Incentives



- Cost Share of Practice Implementation: 50% of eligible cost (not-to-exceed) as determined by FSA for eligible reimbursable practice establishment costs.
- Signing Incentive Payment (SIP):
  - A one-time payment equal to \$100/acre for newly enrolled CP21, CP22, and CP31 and \$150/acre for newly enrolled CP23 and CP23A.
  - With the expansion, CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A, CP31 and CP9 will be according to FSA National CRP Directives.
  - Re-enrollments are not eligible for SIP.
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP):
  - A one-time payment equal to 40% 50% of the eligible installation costs for CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A and CP31, and CP9.
- Annual Rental Payment:
  - Based on three predominate soil types
  - 40% Incentive on the base annual soil rental rate.
  - A maintenance fee equal to the terms of FSA national CRP directives, if applicable.







# QUESTIONS??





# Contacts and Information

## Resources



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### ISDA CREP Website

- <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/conservation-reserve-enhancement-program/>

