

Reducing nonpoint source pollution in the State of Oklahoma through planning, implementation, education, and monitoring.

CREP

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Oklahoma's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a partnership between local, state, and federal partners that improves and protects water quality through voluntary retirement of environmentally sensitive land for up to fifteen years. Riparian area, or that land adjacent to streams, is the focus of Oklahoma's program.

OKLAHOMA'S CREP

Officially authorized in 2007, Oklahoma's CREP builds upon the **nationally recognized success** of implementation projects in Beaty Creek and Peacheater Creek, subwatersheds of Spavinaw Creek and the Illinois River, respectively. With over \$4 million of their own matching funds, Oklahoma and its partners **leveraged over \$16 million in federal funding** through this USDA Farm Services Agency program. Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) staff in cooperation with program partners are **now implementing a total program of over \$20 million** to enhance, establish, and protect riparian area in the Eucha/Spavinaw and Illinois River watersheds.



Illinois River

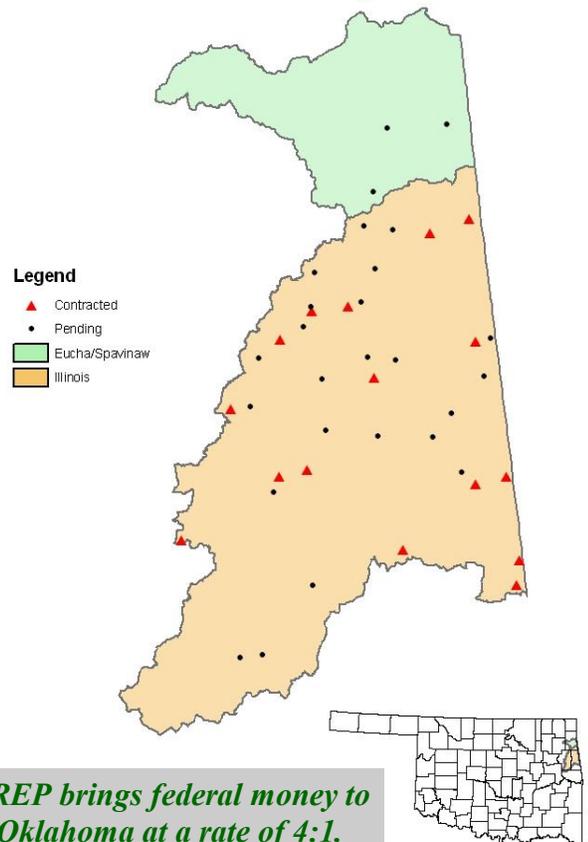
WHAT DOES IT DO?

Research has shown that maintenance of a natural buffer or riparian zone between agricultural or developed land and a stream can reduce pollution to that stream by up to 90%. Through CREP, Oklahoma and its partners are **working to protect over 9000 acres of streamside land in the Illinois River and Eucha/Spavinaw watersheds.**

To accomplish this, **the Oklahoma CREP provides meaningful incentives to farmers and ranchers** to remove streamside pasture or cropland from production activities for fifteen years. Participants receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance for installing conservation practices such as fencing, tree planting, stream crossings, alternative watering facilities for livestock, and winter feeding facilities. In addition, landowners receive a sign-up incentive payment and an annual practice maintenance payment.

In addition to protecting water quality in these important watersheds, **Oklahoma's CREP will put at least \$17.6 million into local economies.** This money allows farms to remain profitable while meeting environmental goals for the state and nation.

CREP Contracted and Pending Landowners



CREP brings federal money to Oklahoma at a rate of 4:1.

CREP FUNDING

- \$234,515 has been spent on installing practices

This total includes:

- \$206,325 from Farm Service Agency (USDA).
- \$ 10,473 from the State of Oklahoma
- \$ 17,716 from landowners

Remaining Funds from FSA: \$19,893,674

Match Monies for the State:

Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission \$777,551
 City of Tulsa and Land Legacy \$318,045



CREP fences livestock out of riparian areas and provides alternative water supplies and winter feeding facilities in upland areas.

CREP IMPLEMENTATION— WHAT'S BEEN DONE SO FAR?

Eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs) include:

- Riparian area establishment and management
- Fencing
- Tree planting
- Stream crossings
- Alternative water supplies
- Heavy use areas / winter feeding facilities



BMPs Completed :

- 19,530 feet of linear fencing
- 2,383 seedling trees planted
- 1 pond and 1 heavy use area

BMPs Scheduled:

- 7,646 linear feet of fencing
- 18,935 seedling trees
- 1 stream crossing
- 2 heavy use areas



- **Thirty-year riparian easements have been established on 416 acres** in the Illinois River Watershed with funding from the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission.
- In addition, money from the City of Tulsa and the Land Legacy has funded **permanent easements on an additional 437 acres in the watershed.**
- A total of 65 applications have been received for the CREP. The CREP currently has **135 acres enrolled** (15 contracts), while **1,363 acres are pending approval** (21 contracts).



Through the partnerships of all of these agencies, a total of 2,351 acres will soon be contracted for protection. This represents 26% of the 9,000 acre goal.

FUTURE PLANS TO EXPAND CREP:

The OCC has requested \$10 million in State funds to secure **an additional \$40 million in Federal funds to expand the program** to the Cobb and Sugar Creek Watersheds in Caddo, Canadian, Custer, and Washita Counties.



For additional information, contact:
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