



2019 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program





OWEB's mission is to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

OREGON'S CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) restores, enhances, and maintains streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners receive annual rental payments and financial incentives to implement approved conservation measures, such as planting trees and shrubs in riparian areas, installing fencing, and developing livestock water facilities.

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The success of Oregon CREP is due to the commitment of the Oregon CREP Partnership. This partnership consists of federal and state agencies and local and regional organizations, including soil and water conservation districts and watershed councils.

CREP is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA), with support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and other regional partnership organizations.

Technical Assistance

Fostering effective technical assistance, coordination, and communication among partners is essential to the success of Oregon CREP. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funds and supports CREP technical assistance positions around the state and provides programmatic coordination and training on behalf of the State of Oregon. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) works with local CREP technicians to provide technical review and development of planting plans when needed. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) contributes staff time and expertise to the program in their analysis of instream water rights. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) contributes staff resources to the selection and evaluation of technical assistance (TA) programs.

In FFY 2019, OWEB managed 12 CREP TA grants, covering 20 counties. These grants are 2 years in duration and provide staffing, training, and outreach support for local CREP technicians. These local, on-the-ground experts are a key element to implementing successful CREP projects. OWEB, ODF, ODA, FSA, and NRCS all contribute staff resources to the selection and evaluation of TA programs, while OWEB provides additional staff resources in partner coordination, grant management, and program oversight.

Promotion and Outreach

The state's CREP technicians provide the program with a local outreach presence that fuels landowner interest, builds trust, and promotes program participation. CREP technicians participate in regional events, organize direct mailings, and initiate contact with landowners. In FFY 2019, OWEB-funded CREP technicians met with more than 850 landowners across the state to discuss the CREP Program.

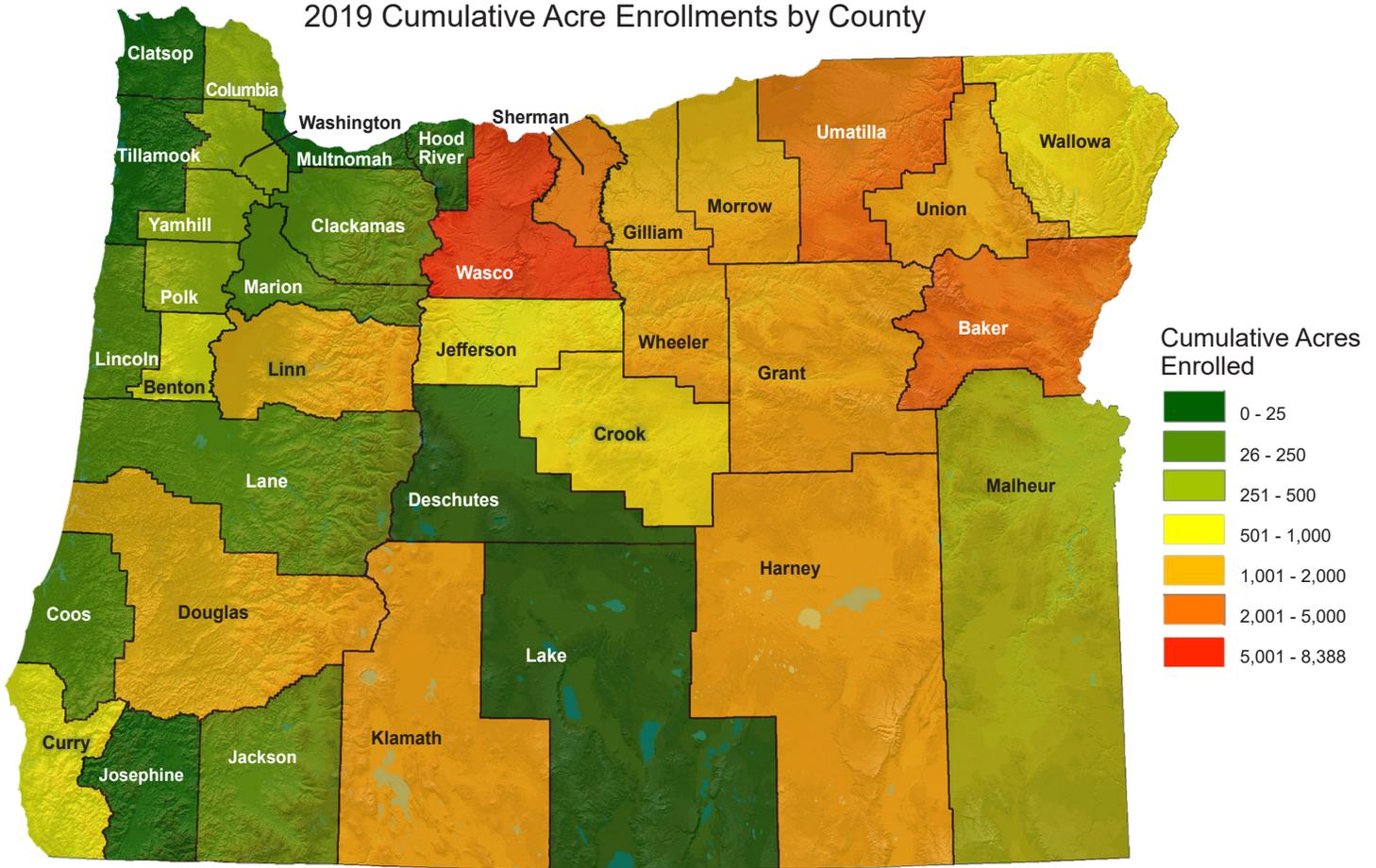
Effectiveness Monitoring

In 2019, OWEB worked with 5 CREP technicians in Oregon to pilot a monitoring approach to track contract performance and inform management of CREP buffers. This monitoring approach, developed in coordination with OWEB-funded CREP technicians, includes completion of a CREP monitoring checklist and repeating the Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) on a subset of active contracts. OWEB elected to pilot the approach before implementing it statewide. The technicians will report their findings in early 2020, and OWEB will incorporate lessons learned from this pilot monitoring effort into a refined monitoring approach in 2020 and 2021.

In addition, OWEB partnered with the Gilliam SWCD and the Institute of Natural Resources to assess the utility of using remotely sensed images to track vegetation changes from 2009 to 2016 in perennial streams in Gilliam County. This project was completed at the watershed scale in order to protect landowner privacy. The results provide great insight into the resolution-based limitations of remotely sensed imagery and how to best automate the process to report vegetation changes. OWEB will continue to consider using this technology in the future to better understand how conservation practices have improved vegetation conditions across Oregon.



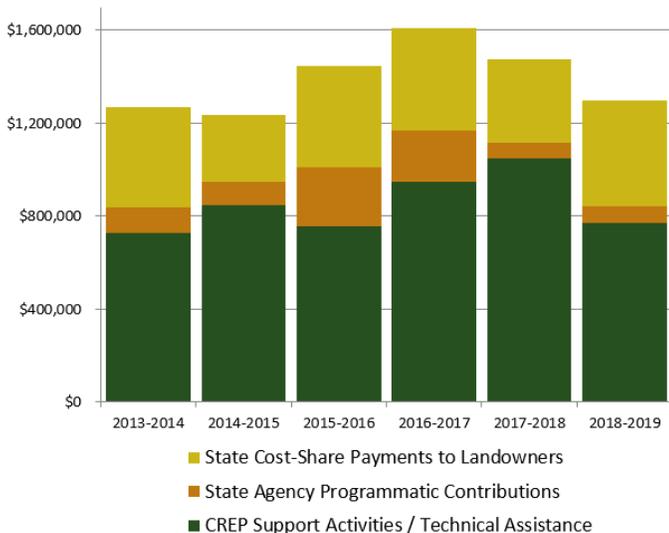
2019 Cumulative Acre Enrollments by County



FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In partnership with Oregon's agricultural landowners, the State of Oregon and FSA have contributed significant resources toward riparian restoration through CREP. The approximate federal cost share for conservation practices in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 was \$845,595. Approximate annual rental payments were just over \$4 million and incentive payments were \$206,787 in FFY 2019. For the same time period, the State of Oregon's cost share contribution was \$453,472, and its total CREP expenditures were approximately \$1.3 million. The State has invested approximately \$26.7 million in CREP since 1999.

State of Oregon CREP Expenditures



Contribution Type	Agency/Activity	FFY 2019	1999 to Date
Cost Share	State	\$453,472	\$13,114,177
Programmatic	OWEB	\$55,072	\$1,111,135
Programmatic	ODF	\$11,742	\$748,260
Programmatic	OWRD	\$3,731	\$85,353
Programmatic	ODA	\$0	\$216,811
Support Activities/TA	CREP TA Grants and Trainings	\$517,419	\$5,510,229
Support Activities/TA	Local Match for CREP TA Grants	\$254,995	\$5,865,046
	TOTAL	\$1,296,430	\$26,669,010

2019 ENROLLMENTS

Oregon added 124 new and 77 re-enrolled CREP contracts in FFY 2019. This resulted in 2,843.06 acres re-enrolled and 6,181.82 new acres enrolled in the program, bringing the cumulative total to 43,010.77 acres.

County	FFY19 New Contracts	FFY19 New Contract Acres	FFY19 Re-enrollments	FFY19 Re-enrolled Acres	FFY19 Total Acres	Cumulative Contracts	Cumulative Acres
Baker	2	534.75	3	273.60	808.35	76	4848.59
Benton						36	785.96
Clackamas						11	51.43
Clatsop	1	4.61	1	9.43	14.04	3	20.26
Columbia						7	305
Coos			3	31.92	31.92	13	77.20
Crook			1	38.40	38.40	20	708.44
Curry			4	89.51	89.51	26	593.20
Deschutes	1	17.57			17.57	1	17.57
Douglas	1	4.87	2	114.60	119.47	73	1190.85
Gilliam	18	543.42	1	23.45	566.87	82	2004.62
Grant	4	61.94	1	15.10	77.04	42	1360.87
Harney	2	172.75	5	247.60	420.35	24	1806.74
Hood River							
Jackson						1	73.70
Jefferson						12	540.20
Josephine							
Klamath						24	1174.24
Lake			2	71.13	71.13	2	71.13
Lane	1	2.21			2.21	35	154.17
Lincoln						5	157.56
Linn	7	124.83	4	104.57	229.40	75	1067.61
Malheur						6	381.30
Marion						15	111.34
Morrow	2	56.73	12	373.64	430.37	81	1728.19
Multnomah						2	9.20
Polk	5	63.07	1	16.08	79.15	38	350.92
Sherman	48	3775.69			3775.69	118	8142.42
Tillamook							
Umatilla	10	137.94	1	38.81	176.75	191	2616.85
Union	3	134.15	6	118.01	252.16	47	1322.45
Wallowa			3	143.33	143.33	31	888.58
Wasco	9	408.49	23	1072.15	1480.64	246	8423.41
Washington	4	34.83			34.83	78	479.74
Wheeler	5	96.48	1	43.66	140.14	46	1141.13
Yamhill	1	7.49	3	18.1	25.59	66	451.27
Totals	124	6181.82	77	2843.09	9024.91	1533	43056.14



PROTECTION OF INSTREAM WATER

A unique element of the Oregon CREP program is its ability to link the conservation of irrigated land with the legal protection of instream water by offering irrigated rental rates for landowners that lease water associated with the enrolled acres to instream uses. This benefits the landowner through higher annual payments, and benefits the public through incremental increases in instream flow to address critical aquatic resource limitations. In FFY19, landowners leased 3.524 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 932.6 acre-feet for instream flow benefits from new or renewed leases. Total instream water leases associated with CREP enrolled acres in FFY19 was 50.851 cfs, which is equivalent to 13,896.04 acre-feet of water. The majority of these instream flow benefits have occurred in Klamath, Crook, Curry, and Umatilla Counties.



County	FFY19 Instream Leases associated with CREP Contracts	FFY19 Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)	FFY19 Acres-Foot	Total Instream Leases associated with CREP	Total Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)	Total Acre-Foot
Benton	2	0.27	79.3	4	0.460	172.30
Crook				11	3.785	1196.80
Curry				5	5.290	1101.50
Douglas				5	1.198	295.21
Klamath	1	1.78	445.5	18	25.528	7329.29
Linn				1	0.020	6.25
Morrow				4	1.142	232.26
Polk				16	4.184	915.90
Umatilla	1	0.59	270	6	5.300	1793.40
Union				2	1.418	391.60
Wasco	2	0.67	60	3	0.710	69.90
Washington				29	1.603	313.83
Wheeler	1	0.214	77.8	1	0.214	77.80
Totals	7	3.524	932.6	105	50.851	13896.04