

§ 1410.3

Act of 1970, as amended, in which eligible persons enter into 10-year agreements to preserve, restore, and improve wetlands.

Water cover means flooding of land by water either to develop or restore shallow water areas for wildlife or wetlands, or as a result of a natural disaster.

Wellhead protection area means the area designated by the appropriate State agency with an Environmental Protection Agency approved Wellhead Protection Program for water being drawn for public use, as defined for public use by the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended.

Wetland means land defined as wetland in accordance with provisions of part 12 of this title.

Wetlands farmed under natural conditions means land defined as wetlands farmed under natural conditions in accordance with provisions of part 12 of this title.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) means the program authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, in which eligible persons enter into long-term agreements to restore and protect wetlands.

§ 1410.3 General description.

(a) Under the CRP, CCC will enter into contracts with eligible participants to convert eligible land to a conserving use for a period of time of not less than 10 nor more than 15 years in return for financial and technical assistance.

(b) A conservation plan for eligible acreage must be obtained by a participant which must be approved by the conservation district in which the lands are located unless the conservation district declines to review the plan in which case NRCS may take such further action as is needed to account for lack of such review.

(c) The objectives of the CRP are to cost-effectively reduce water and wind erosion, protect the Nation's long-term capability to produce food and fiber, reduce sedimentation, improve water quality, create and enhance wildlife habitat, and other objectives including encouraging more permanent conservation practices and tree planting.

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(d) Except as otherwise provided, a participant may, in addition to any payment under this part, receive cost-share assistance, rental or easement payments, or tax benefits from a State, subdivision of such State, or a private organization in return for enrolling lands in CRP. However, a participant may not receive or retain CRP cost-share assistance if other Federal cost-share assistance is provided for such acreage under any other provision of law, as determined by the Deputy Administrator. Further, under no circumstances may the cost-share payments received under this part, or otherwise, exceed the cost of the practice, as determined by CCC.

§ 1410.4 Maximum county acreage.

The maximum acreage which may be placed in the CRP and the WRP may not exceed 25 percent of the total cropland in the county of which no more than 10 percent of the cropland in the county may be subject, in the aggregate, to a CRP or WRP easement, unless CCC determines that such action would not adversely affect the local economy of the county. This restriction on participation shall be in addition to any other restriction imposed by law.

§ 1410.5 Eligible persons.

(a) In order to be eligible to enter into a CRP contract in accordance with this part, a person must be an owner, operator, or tenant of eligible land and:

(1) If an operator of eligible land, seeking to participate without the owner, must have operated such land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the applicable signup period and must provide satisfactory evidence that such operator will be in control of such eligible land for the full term of the CRP contract period;

(2) If an owner of eligible land, must have owned such land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the applicable signup period, unless:

(i) The new owner acquired such land by will or succession as a result of the death of the previous owner;

(ii) The only ownership change in the 12 month period occurred due to foreclosure on the land and the owner of