

Morrow County Riparian Buffers

**Annual Report
2003**



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Annual Report
Morrow County Riparian Buffers
Intergovernmental Contract No. 9569
Project No. 2002-026-00
January 2003 – December 2003

During calendar year 2003, technician has contacted 129 landowners by mail, in Morrow County. Of the 129 contacts 44 have discussed the program in depth, while the other 85 landowners have not responded. Of the 44 landowners who have discussed the Continuous CRP and CREP programs 15 of them requested a second meeting and have continued interest in doing a project.

The number of contracts negotiated in the contract year totaled 17. There were 4 separate negotiated contracts in 2002 but were signed in 2003, thus needing to be included in the 2003 calendar year. There were a grand total of 21 signed contracts. The information regarding these contracts follows, listed by stream. Miles are calculated on actual stream miles. If project is both sides of the stream, an asterisk will be placed next to the mileage figure.

Willow Creek: Continuous CRP

Project 1-TH

Total Stream Miles: 1.98 miles*

Acreage: 38.4 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

of Contracts- 1

Willow Creek: Continuous CRP

Project 2-BB

Total Stream Miles: .37 miles*

Acreage: 4.0 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

of Contracts- 1

Willow Creek: Continuous CRP

Project 3-JM

Total Stream Miles: .24 miles*

Acreage: 5.4 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

of Contracts- 1

Willow Creek: Continuous CRP

Project 4-GC

Total Stream Miles: .88 miles*

Total acreage: 26.7 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

[# of Contracts- 2](#)

Jones Hill: Continuous CRP

Project 5-GH

Total Stream Miles: 4.3 miles*

Total acreage: 53.3 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

[# of Contracts- 2](#)

Hinton Creek: CCRP

Project 6-KR

Total Stream Miles: 1.47 miles*

Acreage: 12.1 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

[# of Contracts- 1](#)

Hinton Creek: CCRP

Project 7-MA

Total Stream Miles: 1.38 miles*

Acreage: 6.8 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

[# of Contracts- 1](#)

Rhea Creek: Continuous CRP

Project 8-CC

Total Stream Miles: .92 miles*

Acreage: 17.2 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

[# of Contracts- 1](#)

Balm Fork: Continuous CRP

Project 9-AO

Total Stream Miles: .98 miles*

Acreage: 7.5 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

of Contracts- 1

Blackhorse Canyon: Continuous CRP

Project 10-CH

Total Stream Miles: .9 miles*

Acreage: 11.8 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

of Contracts- 1

Clarks Canyon: Continuous CRP

Project 11-SM

Total Stream Miles: 1.34 miles*

Acreage: 19.6 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

of Contracts- 1

Sand Hollow Canyon: Continuous CRP

Project 12-KR

Total Stream Miles: .71 miles*

Total acreage: 6.6 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

of Contracts- 2

Kilkenny Fork: Continuous CRP

Project 13-JK

Total Stream Miles: 1.28 miles*

Total acreage: 18 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

of Contracts- 2

Number of Contracts Signed in Contract Year: 1/1/2003 – 12/31/2003

The number of contracts signed in 2003 was 21.

Total acres was 227.4

Total Stream miles enrolled was 16.75, counting both sides of stream was 33.5

List of Threatened or Endangered, Species by Project

Project 1- No listed endangered species are found on this project area.

Project 2- only species listed is **LAURENCE'S MILK VETCH (ASTRAGALUS COLLINUS VAR LAURENTII)**. **Federal Status- SOC, Species of Concern**
State Status- LT, Listed Threatened

Project 3- only species listed is **LAURENCE'S MILK VETCH (ASTRAGALUS COLLINUS VAR LAURENTII)**. **Federal Status- SOC, Species of Concern**
State Status- LT, Listed Threatened

Project 4- only species listed is **Washington Ground Squirrel (SPERMOPHILIS WASHINGTONI)**. **Federal Status- C, Candidate Species** **State Status- LE, Listed Endangered.** *Note- Specie not found by BETTS, only spotted by resident.

Project 5- only species listed is **LAURENCE'S MILK VETCH (ASTRAGALUS COLLINUS VAR LAURENTII)**. **Federal Status- SOC, Species of Concern**
State Status- LT, Listed Threatened

Project 6- No listed endangered species are found on this project area.

Project 7- No listed endangered species are found on this project area.

Project 8- No listed endangered species are found on this project area.

Project 9- No listed endangered species are found on this project area.

Project 10- No listed endangered species are found on this project area.

Project 11- No listed endangered species are found on this project area.

Project 12- No listed endangered species are found on this project area.

Project 13- only species listed is **LAURENCE'S MILK VETCH (ASTRAGALUS COLLINUS VAR LAURENTII)**. **Federal Status- SOC, Species of Concern**
State Status- LT, Listed Threatened

Problems Encountered During Contract Year

In the past, awareness of program was a big hindrance to program success. As of now, awareness of program is increasing regularly due to continual outreach methods and word of mouth has contributed to the further success of the programs. CREP and Continuous CRP have been available for numerous years but have not been utilized. In 1999 there were 7 contracts negotiated and approved in the **Continuous CRP program**, 3 contracts in 2000 and 1 contract in 2001. There had been zero **CREP** contracts completed prior to Contract No.9569 in Morrow County. The number of CREP contracts completed as of 12/31/03 is two. Prior to Contract No.9569 there were a total of 11 CCRP contracts. The number of new CCRP contracts in the county as of December 31st 2003 is 21. The total number of CCRP contracts in the county now stands at 32. These programs started in 1998. The numbers will only increase in the next few years. CREP contracts are foreseen in the near future contributing to higher cfs flows available for irrigation purposes by landowners not enrolled into the program. Two of the three listed CREP eligible streams in Morrow County do not contribute to the Columbia River by stream flow but only subsurface.

A problem I have encountered both years is the lack of response and/or promptness by landowners to return phone calls and the infinitesimal amount of time the landowners have to schedule meetings to learn about these programs. This has slowed the time on receiving contracts.

Morrow County is lacking in CREP eligible streams causing most of my contracts to be Continuous CRP. CCRP does not have the economic monetary incentives that the CREP program contains. The 25% cost share from the state and the cumulative impact bonus are lacking. These would likely increase the number of contracts in this county. In retrospect, since awareness of programs is increasing, the factors that still remain which hinder program success are; contact response, comfort level of entering into a contract and monetary issues. The continuous CRP and CREP programs demand a substantial up-front cost to landowners, which hinder the number of contracts.

Outlook for Contract Year 3

I will continue mailing new landowners as the initial contact, and follow up with a back up letter to remind landowners of the benefits that lie within the programs. I will continue to provide written paper articles and information workshops for landowners to attend for increasing program knowledge. Word of mouth should continue to increase awareness of these programs tremendously for Morrow County. Having said this, year three should be another significant improvement over year one and comparable if not improved over year two. There are already 13 projects proposed that have CRP 2 pre-contracts signatures and seven signed CCRP contracts. There are approximately 324 acres of land that have been proposed in either CREP or CCRP, which would include a total of 17.8 miles of stream buffered or 35.6 miles of stream bank if you count both sides of the stream.

Summary Of Accomplishments

Total number of new landowners contacted: 129

Total number of interested landowners with pending plans: 13

Contracts negotiated in contract year: 21

Acreage enrolled in contract year: 227.4

Stream miles enrolled in contract year: 16.75

Completed NRCS planning course

Purchased needed field and office supplies/equipment

Attended necessary Monthly SWCD meetings