

RED RIVER BASIN WILDLIFE AND WATER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PILOT PROGRAM



Overview

New for 2021, seven Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) in the Red River Basin are coordinating with the ND Game and Fish Department and ND Department of Environmental Quality to initiate the Red River Basin Wildlife and Water Quality Enhancement Pilot Program (Program). Specific counties where the Program will be available include; Cass, Grand Forks, Griggs, Ransom, Richland, Sargent and Walsh. The Program will be active from 2021 - 2025.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Program are to increase wildlife habitat and improve water quality in the Red River Valley. Marginally productive croplands (e.g., saline areas, flood prone sites, etc.) in the uplands and along riparian corridors are the primary focus of the Program.

Practices

Participating SCDs and their staff will deliver the Program locally to assist producers in evaluating management options on marginally productive croplands and providing cost share assistance for the implementation of eligible conservation practices.

Eligible practices include:

- Conservation Cover
- Critical Area Planting
- Filter Strip
- Grassed Waterway
- Pollinator Habitat
- Range Planting
- Forage and Biomass Planting
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Riparian Herbaceous Buffer

Payments

Sixty percent (60%) of eligible practice costs will be supported with Outdoor Heritage funds and the balance of costs (i.e., 40%) will be the responsibility of the producer.

In addition to the practice cost share, producers are also eligible to receive payments for the management and maintenance of select practices, including Conservation Cover, Pollinator Habitat, Riparian



Forest Buffer and Riparian Herbaceous Cover. These payments will be issued through management agreements established between the participating producer and SCD.

Management agreements can be up to 5 years in length and the payments will be based on local county rental rates. Payments to the producers can be provided as an annual or lump-sum payment and cannot exceed fifty percent (50%) of the county rental rate.

For more information on the Program contact your local Soil Conservation District.

Cass County SCD

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Grand Forks SCD

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Griggs County SCD

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Ransom County SCD

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Richland County SCD

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Wild Rice (Sargent County) SCD

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Walsh County -Three Rivers SCD

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