Great Lakes Region 2011

The Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program



		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Land Enrolled	1,000 acres	613	565	531	507	493
In Buffers	1,000 acres	104	106	103	106	103
In Wetlands	1,000 acres	31	32	34	33	35

Reductions (intercepted by buffers or not leaving field)

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Sediment	million tons	4	4	4	4	4
Nitrogen	million lbs	17	15	15	15	15
Phosphorus	million lbs	3	3	3	3	3
Annual Accumulation						
Carbon Sequestered	million metric tons	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7

CRP buffers intercept sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus from farmed fields:

• In 2011, in the Great Lakes Region 103 thousand acres of CRP grass filters and riparian buffers intercepted 3 million tons of sediment, 10 million pounds of nitrogen, 2 million pounds of phosphorus, and other contaminants before they entered waterways.

Fields enrolled in CRP reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment leaving fields in runoff and percolate:

• CRP reduces the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment leaving a field in runoff and percolate. 95 percent less nitrogen and 86 percent less phosphorus is lost from CRP fields. In 2011, grass and tree plantings reduced nitrate loss by 3 million pounds.

FSA is using CRP enrollment data, the USDA soils and natural resource inventories, and cooperative agreements with Federal, State, and other partners to refine these performance measures and to estimate the benefits from CRP. For more information see http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=nra