

MRCDC Coordinator's Meeting Report

Who:	Laurie Riley and Karl Christians
What:	Missouri-Madison Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Addendum meeting
Where:	DNRC Building Conference Room, Helena
When:	February 25 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Why:	MRCDC has been spearheading amendments to the \$50,000,000 Missouri-Madison CREP since 2006 in order to make the program more attractive to producers in Blaine, Broadwater, Cascade, Choteau, Fergus, Gallatin, Lewis & Clark, Madison, and Phillips Counties.
Accomplished:	<p>Participants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurie Riley, MRCDC • Karl Christians, DNRC and MRCDC • Rob Hazelwood, PPL Montana • Valeria Bickwermert, FSA • Tim Ouellette, NRCS and MRCDC • Ron Nadwornick, NRCS • Steve Leathe, PPL Montana (Fish Biologist) <p>With representation from FSA, NRCS, State of MT, PPL Montana, and Conservation Districts, we reached agreement on an addendum that makes the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In CP22 (Riparian Buffer) and CP29 (Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer) the maximum buffer width was increased to 1,320 feet from the top of the streambank within the historic floodplain. • In CP 22 practice provisions allow natural regeneration, provided that NRCS or TSP with technical advisory assistance determines that under normal conditions appropriate cover will be established within 5 years of CRP-1 effective date. Provided that all eligibility requirements are met, at the end of and/or during the 5-year establishment period, cost-share will be allowed for practices to restore and enhance missing components of the approved cover objectives, as necessary. At the end of and/or during the 5-year establishment period, cost-share will be allowed for practices to enhance missing components of the approved wildlife habitat. • Short term grazing is allowed as a management activity for marginal pastureland practices. Short term grazing may be allowed at most 2 to 3 times during a 15 year contract. There is no cost-share for grazing. • For marginal pastureland within the flood plain area adjacent to seasonal streams where natural vegetation is primarily a mixture of grasses, shrubs, and forbs and is otherwise eligible according to Farm Service Agency Handbook 2-CRP, the base soil rental rate shall be the posted marginal pastureland rates • For marginal pastureland within the flood plain area adjacent to perennial stream or permanent water body where natural vegetation is primarily a mixture of grasses, shrubs, and forbs and is otherwise eligible according to Farm Service Agency Handbook 2-CRP, the base soil rental rate shall be \$50 per acre. • For marginal pastureland within the flood plain area adjacent to both seasonal

	<p>and perennial streams or permanent water body where natural vegetation is primarily a mixture of grasses, shrubs, and forbs and is otherwise eligible according to Farm Service Agency Handbook 2-CRP, the rate is 40 percent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a one-time Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) for land enrolled in practices consistent with continuous CRP enrollments, under the terms of the Farm Service Agency Handbook 2-CRP. This payment will be considered to be, and treated as, a rental payment for payment limitation purposes and all other purposes. • Make a one-time Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) for practices consistent with continuous CRP enrollments under the terms of the Farm Service Agency Handbook 2-CRP. This payment will be considered to be, and treated as, a rental payment for payment limitation purposes and all other purposes.
Follow Up:	<p>The Council will write a letter of support to Bruce Nelson, Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, Bozeman.</p> <p>The meeting participants will cooperate in making presentations of the CREP to the conservation districts in the counties involved in a coordinated effort to solicit more producer participation.</p>