Sportsmen’s Priorities for Conservation and Access in the 2018 Farm Bill

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
- Voluntary program for landowners to receive payments for removing highly erodible and environmentally sensitive lands from production.
- 10- to 15-year contracts to implement conservation practices.
- The Farm Service Agency selects from landowner applications based on proposed habitat, air, and water improvements or erosion prevention.
- 2014 Farm Bill reduced acreage cap to 24 million from 32 million.

AWWG Recommendations
- **35-million-acre enrollment cap**
- Support wildlife initiatives (eg. state grants, CREP)
- Boost working lands options in CRP
- Update and enhance mid-contract management
- Enable permanent retirement of long-term CRP acres
- **CRP Grasslands**: Raise to 10% of total acreage under program and maintain proportion going forward
- **Environmental Benefit Index (EBI)**: Amend to reflect regional variations in cost and impacts Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

For more information, please visit www.trcp.org/farmbill or contact Alex Maggos (amaggos@trcp.org)
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**Conservation Reserve Program**

**CRP Acres Enrolled by State (as of September 2017)**

**CRP Targeted Initiatives**

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):** Fed-state partnership to address acute natural resource concerns (1.1 million acres)

- **State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE):** Initiative to improve and create high-quality wildlife habitat (1.9 million acres)

- **Grasslands:** Rental contract program on sensitive grasslands (90,000 acres)

- **Upland bird habitat buffers:** Establishing quail, pheasant habitat along cropland or in pivot corners (250,000 acres)

**Impact**

- Since 1985, CRP has conserved...
  - 170,000 stream miles
  - 300,000 acres of flood-plain wetlands
  - 250,000 acres of duck nesting habitat
  - 250,000 acres of upland bird habitat
  - & prevented erosion of 8 billion tons of soil

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