

USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

USDA programme paying farmers to convert highly erodible cropland to permanent vegetative cover. 24.8 million acres (~10 Mha) enrolled; \$1.8 billion in annual payments; documented soil erosion reduction, improved water quality and enhanced wildlife habitat across the continental

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	1/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-06-20

[USDA Farm Service Agency](#) — accessed 2026-06-20

[USDA FSA – CRP programme page](#) — accessed 2026-06-20

[US GAO – CRP environmental benefits review \(2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-20

[National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition – CRP overview](#) — accessed 2026-06-20

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