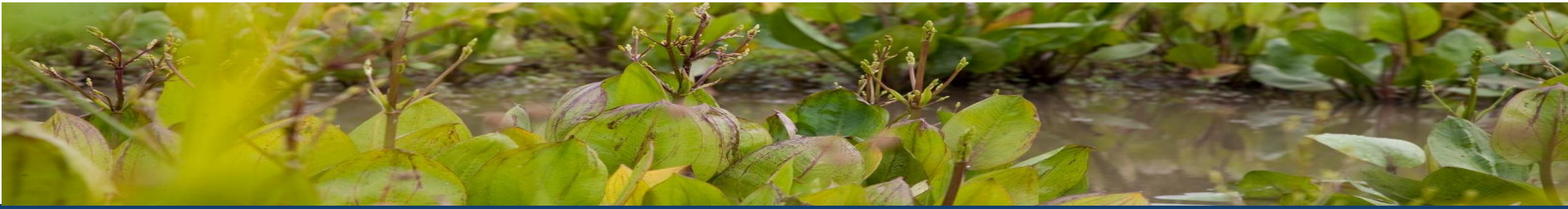
FY22 Rollout Training

Michigan CREP
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Michigan CREP Focal Conservation Practices

Only 8 out of 43 conservation practices are available under MI CREP:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses & Legumes
- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP5A, Field Windbreak
- CP21, Filter Strips
- CP22, Riparian Buffer
- CP23, Wetland Restoration- Floodplain
- CP23A, Wetland Restoration- Non-Floodplain
- CP26, Sediment Control Basin



CREP CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes

Practice Requirements

- acreage must have an Erodibility Index of 8 or greater
- **cropland must be immediately adjacent to an eligible waterbody, as determined by USDA, and not exceed a maximum average width of 1,000 feet from the edge of the eligible waterbody, unless documented according to the FOTG**
- be comprised of 5 species total. Minimum of 3 species of introduced grasses and at least 2 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area

CREP CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses

Practice Requirements

- acreage must have an Erodibility Index of 8 or greater, wind or water, but **NOT** both combined.

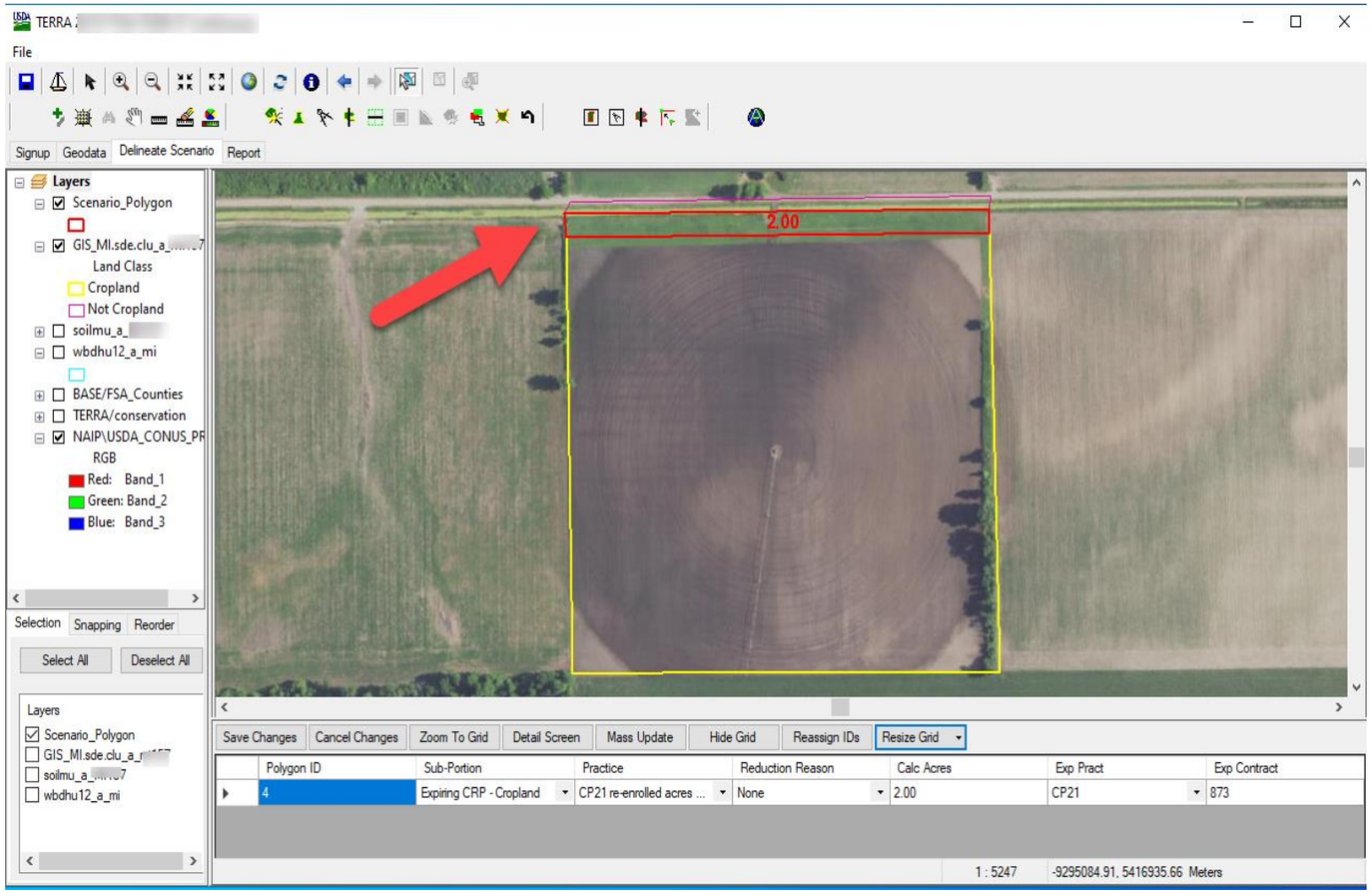
- **cropland must be immediately adjacent to an eligible waterbody, as determined by USDA, and not exceed a maximum average width of 1,000 feet from the edge of the eligible waterbody, unless documented according to the FOTG**

- be comprised of at least 3 native grasses and 6 forb/wildflower species. At least 2 species must have their primary onset of blooming during each period of early, mid, and late season from approximately March through October. In addition to the 9 species of grasses and forbs, an optional native shrub beneficial to local wildlife may be included in the conservation cover.

CREP CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes and CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses

All cropland offered to be enrolled as CP1 and CP2 under the Michigan CREP, per field, must have a weighted minimum average Erodibility Index (wind or water) equal to or greater than 8, but **NOT** combined, as determined by FSA. The EI requirement must be determined on a field-by-field basis.

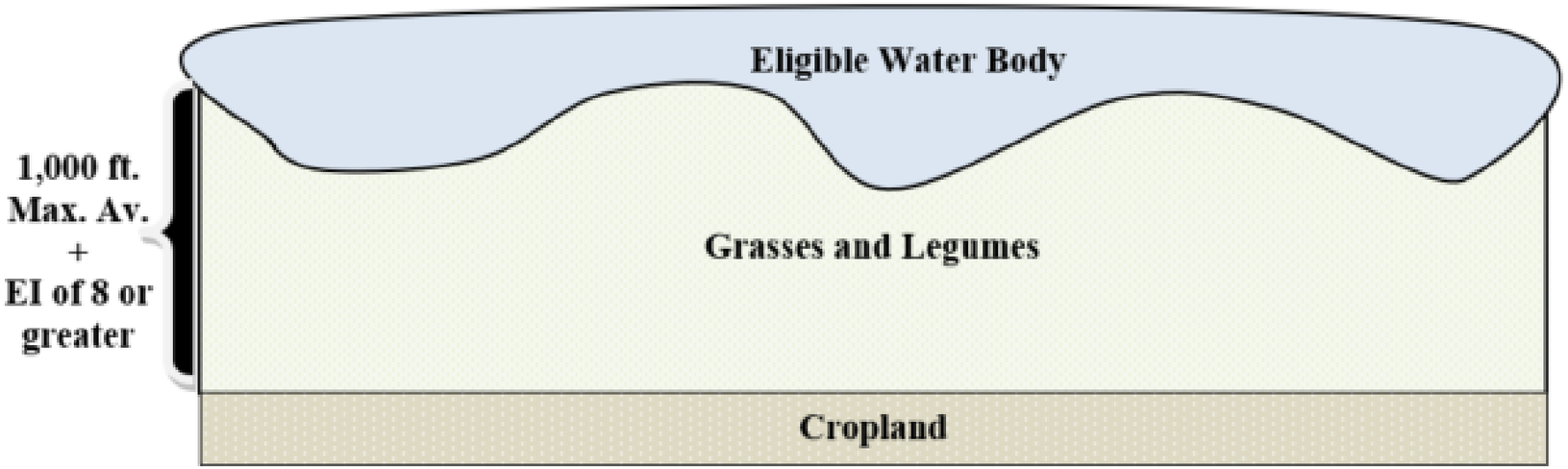
FSA must create a permanent record demonstrating a field meets the minimum EI of 8 or greater requirement for CP1's and CP2's. FSA will create a TERRA scenario for **each field** to demonstrate the field meets this eligibility requirement prior to referring the offer to NRCS,



CREP CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes and CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses

What is a super-buffer?

Cropland must be immediately adjacent to an eligible waterbody, as determined by USDA, and not exceed a maximum average width of 1,000 feet from the edge of the eligible waterbody, except that the average maximum width may exceed 1,000 feet from the edge of the eligible waterbody only when such additional width is required to address the water quality concern of the waterbody in accordance with the NRCS FOTG.



CREP CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes and CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses

Why establish a super-buffer?

- Science-based research clearly shows that wider vegetative buffers along waterways have a positive impact on water quality, flood water storage, and habitat for fish, birds, pollinators and other wildlife.

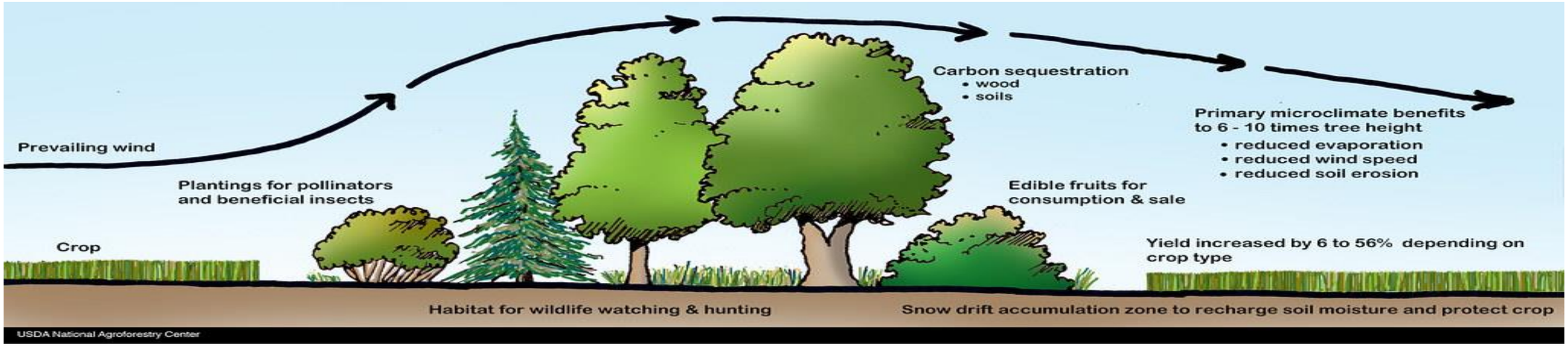
- Straightens irregular fields, keeps farm machinery away from steep banks and avoids the need to plant end-rows where crop yields are often lower due to soil compaction.

Image courtesy of Dayton Media

CREP CP5A, Field Windbreaks

Field windbreaks are linear plantings of trees/shrubs designed to reduce wind speed in open fields, preventing soil erosion and protecting adjacent crops from wind damage.

Field windbreaks are typically planted in multiple rows perpendicular to prevailing winds. On the downwind side of a well-established windbreak, wind is generally slowed for a distance of 10 times the height of the trees. Old field windbreaks may need renovation to function properly, including removal and replacement of selected trees/shrubs.



CREP CP5A, Field Windbreaks

Practice Requirements

The cropland must be devoted to a cover comprised of:

- a minimum of 1 row of trees and 2 rows of shrubs
- a maximum of 2 rows of trees plus 3 rows of shrubs.

Note: Species are limited to those in the FOTG. The maximum width of field windbreaks and the spacing between windbreaks will be the minimum needed to reduce cropland erosion, according to the FOTG, regardless of the purpose of the windbreak (windbreak density of at least 40%).

CREP CP21, Filter Strips

Grass filter strips are planted strategically between fields and surface waters (rivers, streams, lakes and drainage ditches) to protect water quality. They slow runoff from fields, trapping and filtering sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other potential pollutants before they reach surface waters.

CREP CP21, Filter Strips

Example

A field with 5-acres of filter strips

- **Without filter - deposits 6.2 tons of sediment, 9.5 pounds of phosphorus, and 20 pounds of nitrogen**
- **With filter - reduces 4 tons of sediment, 7 pounds of phosphorus, and 14 pounds of nitrogen**

Environmental Impact

Reduces delivery of:

- **Sediment: 65%**
- **Nitrogen: 70%**
- **Phosphorous: 75%**

CREP CP21, Filter Strips

Practice Benefits

- Provides an alternative for marginal, flood-prone cropland along creeks and streams

- Straightens irregular fields, keeps farm machinery away from steep banks and avoids the need to plant end-rows where crop yields are often lower due to soil compaction

CREP CP21, Filter Strips

Practice Requirements

Under CREP, the minimum average width not less than 50 feet, and the **average** maximum width not to exceed 150 feet. The minimum acceptable width of a filter strip is 20 feet.

Depending on site characteristics, landowner goals, applicable regulations and voluntary conservation program requirements. Wider filter strips provide greater wildlife habitat benefits.

CP21, Filter Strips

Ineligible uses:

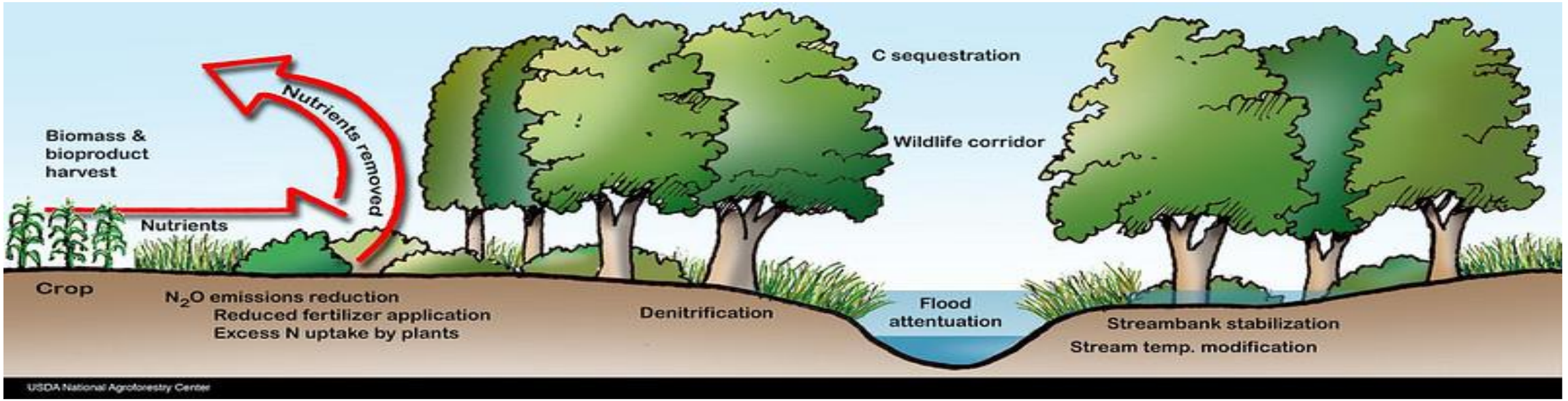
CP21's are not eligible to be used in conjunction with the following practices:

- CP9
- CP22
- CP23
- CP23A
- CP26
  - **Note:** acreage for the practices require an adequate buffer to be established.

- If wildlife habitat is the only resource concern, the site is not eligible for CP21, Filter Strip.

CREP CP22, Riparian Buffers

Riparian buffers are the natural vegetation from the edge of the stream bank out through the riparian zone. The vegetative zone serves as a buffer to pollutants entering a stream from runoff, controls erosion, and provides habitat and nutrient input into the stream.



CREP CP22, Riparian Buffers

Practice Requirements:

Under CREP, the minimum average width not less than 50 feet, and the **average** maximum width not to exceed 180 feet. The minimum acceptable width of a riparian buffer is 35 feet.

Depending on site characteristics, landowner goals, applicable regulations and voluntary conservation program requirements. Wider riparian buffers provide greater water quality and wildlife habitat benefits.

CREP CP23 and CP23A, Wetland Restorations

Wetland Restorations is the manipulation of a former or degraded wetland's physical, chemical, or biological characteristics to return its natural functions. Restoration practices include:

- **Re-establishment**, the rebuilding a former wetland; and
- **Rehabilitation**, repairing the functions of a degraded wetland

CREP CP23, Wetland Restoration

Practice Requirements

Total eligible cropland for wetland restorations is limited to cropland:

- according to paragraph 151
- within the 100-year floodplain of a permanent river or stream
- that includes a minimum of 51 percent hydric soils for the acreage offered (nonbuffer areas).

Notes: The purpose of this practice is to restore the natural hydrology, NOT to create a wetland.

An offer that includes a buffer outside the 100-year floodplain may be enrolled if otherwise eligible, needed, and feasible for the practice

CREP CP23, Wetland Restoration

Practice Requirements

The amount of adjacent upland acreage to be enrolled shall be determined by NRCS. The amount of adjacent upland acres:

- is limited to the minimum number of acres to provide a protective buffer to the cropped wetland and to enhance wildlife habitat
- may be less than the 3 to 1 ratio
- shall not exceed the 3 to 1 ratio

CREP CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

Practice Requirements

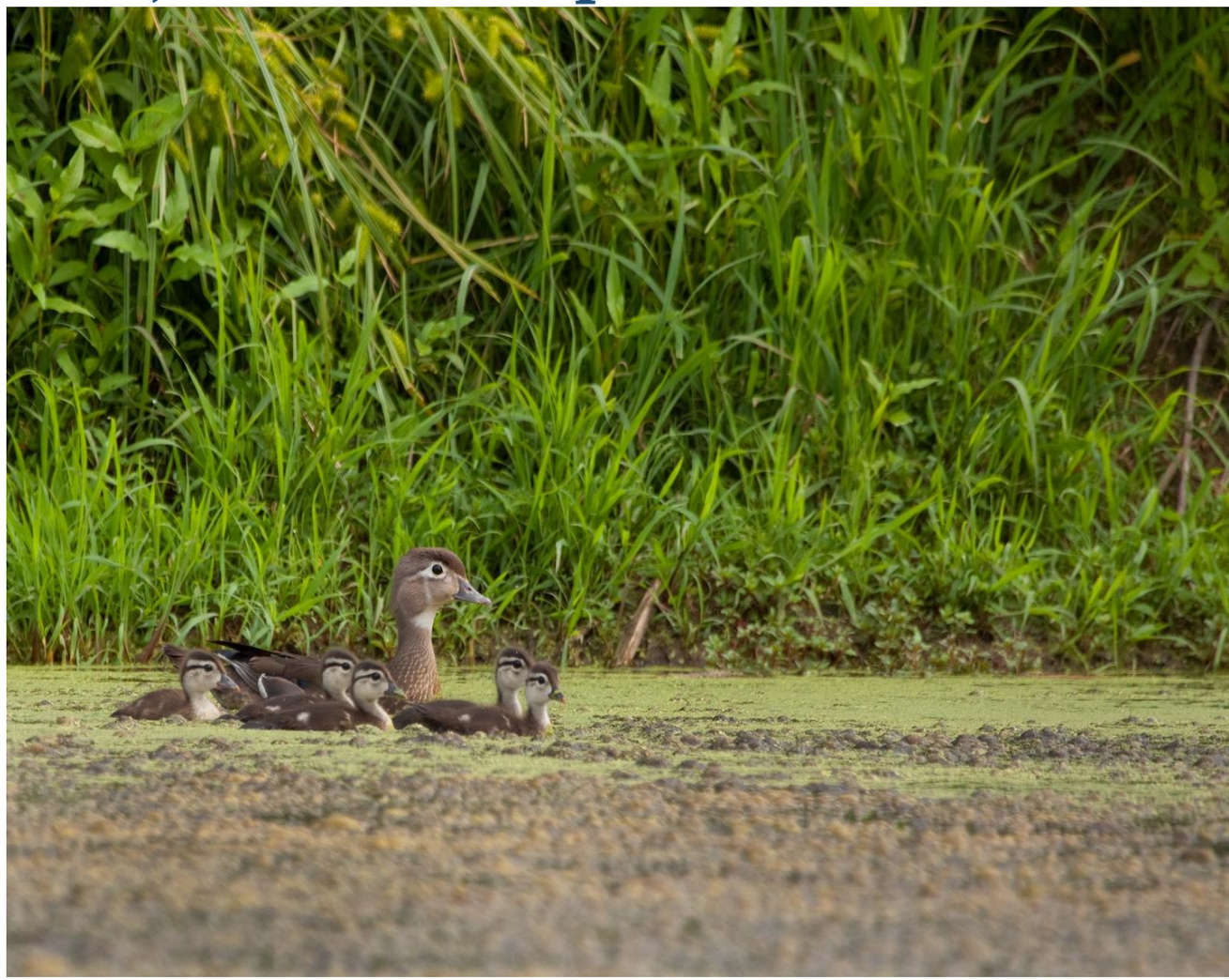
This practice must be:

- located outside the 100-year floodplain
- playa lakes

Eligible cropland must meet the requirements in subparagraph 181 A.

Notes: Cottonwoods may be planted to enhance the viability of other hardwood trees (oaks, etc.).

The purpose of this practice is to restore the natural hydrology, NOT to create a wetland.



CREP CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

Practice Requirements

The amount of adjacent upland acreage to be enrolled shall be determined by NRCS. The amount of adjacent upland acres:

- is limited to the minimum number of acres to provide a protective buffer to the cropped wetland and to enhance wildlife habitat
- may be less than the 4 to 1 ratio
- shall not exceed the 4 to 1 ratio

CREP CP26, Sediment Retention Control Structure

A **water sediment retention control structure** is a small earthen ridge-and-channel or embankment built across (perpendicular to) a small watercourse or area of concentrated flow within a field. They are commonly built in a parallel series with the first ridge crossing the top of the watercourse and the last ridge crossing the bottom, or nearly so. They are designed to trap agricultural runoff water and sediment as it flows down the watercourse; this keeps the watercourse from becoming a field gully and reduces the amount of runoff and sediment leaving the field.

CREP CP26, Sediment Retention Control Structure

Practice Requirements

Sediment retention control structures shall be designed and installed to meet the minimum criteria to trap a significant portion of sediment and other pollutants from incoming runoff.

- the structure shall be designed to control runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour duration storm
- the basin shall have the capacity to store an anticipated 10-year sediment accumulation
- the basin shall have a maximum of 1 foot of freeboard to provide for an emergency spillway around one or both ends of the embankment
- the maximum settled height of the structure shall be 15 feet measured from the natural ground at the centerline of the embankment to the top of the fill material

CREP CP26, Sediment Retention Control Structure

Practice Requirements

The following are requirements for this practice:

- the design height of the structure shall not exceed 15 feet
- the maximum inundated area shall not exceed 1 acre per structure
- the COC cost-share portion of each structure (not including the buffer area) shall not exceed $6,000.
- all portions of the sediment retention control structure (embankment, buffer, inundated area) will be seeded to an approved cover consistent with the soil type and intended purpose

the practice, including the buffer area, shall not exceed 10 acres per tract. Multiple structures may be enrolled per tract, but the total areas enrolled in CRP devoted to CREP CP26 shall not exceed 10 acres per tract.

Maintenance Activities

Cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility after NRCS completes a site visit to determine that the approved permanent cover is fully established. Participants must maintain practices, **according to the conservation plan**, without additional C/S assistance.

Maintenance activities are conducted for weed and/or insect control, to prevent undesirable species from adversely impacting the approved established cover. Activities include mowing, spraying, or prescribed burning in a logical and practical manner. ***Mowing for cosmetic purposes or generic weed control is prohibited and will result in financial penalties.*** Maintenance activities shall be conducted outside the primary nesting season, unless a written request has been submitted to the COC and approval for such activities has been provided (COC's shall consult NRCS or TSP).

Cover	Recommended Maintenance Activities
Grass Plantings	Mowing , herbicide, prescribed burning
Tree Plantings	Herbicides or mechanical methods for weed control immediately around each tree. Mowing is typically ineffective and not allowed for weed control with tree plantings.

Management Activities

All CRP participants with CRP-1's effective beginning June 3, 2019, are required to perform at least 1 required management activity. DAFP approved Michigan practice specific management activities are listed in MI Exhibit 5 to 2-CRP (Rev.6).

Management activities are designed to ensure plant diversity and wildlife benefits while ensuring protection of the soil and water resources. Management activities are site specific and are used to enhance the wildlife benefits for the site. Management activities must be completed before the end of year 6 for CRP-1's with a 10-year CRP-1 period, or before the end of year 9 for CRP-1's with a 15-year CRP-1 period.

In no case should the 1 required management activity occur during the last 3 years of the CRP-1 period. However, additional management activities may occur up to year:

- 8 for 10-year CRP-1's
- 13 for 15-year CRP-1's

Cover	Recommended Maintenance Activities
Grass Plantings	Grass specific herbicide, prescribed burning, light disking, and interseeding
Tree Plantings	Tree thinning and/or pruning


ASK
BECAUSE YOUR QUESTIONS MATTER