

Continuous CRP Riparian Buffer, Stream Restoration Program



USDA's continuous CRP program allows producers to enroll seasonal or perennial streams into riparian buffer strips that are highly beneficial in protecting water quality, preventing soil erosion and improving wildlife habitat.

Land is eligible if:

- It has been planted to an agricultural commodity or grazed in two of the past 5 years
- It is located on or adjacent to perennial or seasonal streams, seasonal streams (excluding gullies), or permanent bodies of water including wetlands
- The land has been under private ownership for at least one year

Specifics:

- Riparian Buffers are between 35 and 180 ft wide
- Effort is made to recover native vegetation especially woody plants. Cost share is available for planting of native trees and shrubs.
- Livestock must be excluded, cost-share is available for fencing and water development.
- Contracts last 10 or 15 years

Monetary Benefits to producers

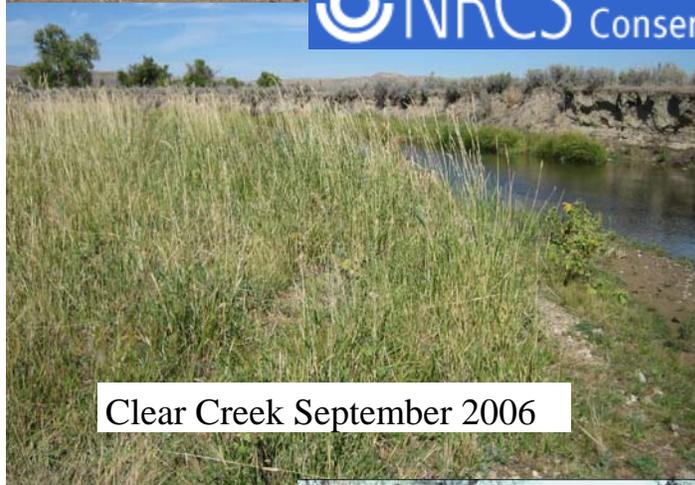
Rental rates are \$32/acre for perennial water sources and \$20/acre seasonal water sources. There is between a \$4-9/acre maintenance payment. Currently there is an additional 20% rental rate incentive payment. There is an upfront signing incentive payment of \$100/acre. All fencing, tree planting, water developments, water gaps, and weed maintenance can be completed with 90% cost share. Therefore the producer is responsible for 10% of the costs for these practices.

Example:

\$32/acre rental rate x 20% incentive + \$8/acre maintenance payment = \$46.40 /acre annual rental rate. If 50 acres were enrolled there would be a \$5000 signing bonus and a rental payment of \$2,320/year, in addition the producer would only be responsible for 10% of the cost of improvements.



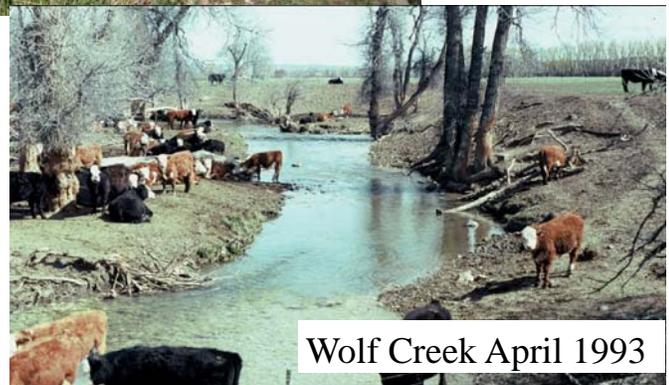
Clear Creek September 2000



Clear Creek September 2006



Helping people help the land



Wolf Creek April 1993



Wolf Creek April 2006

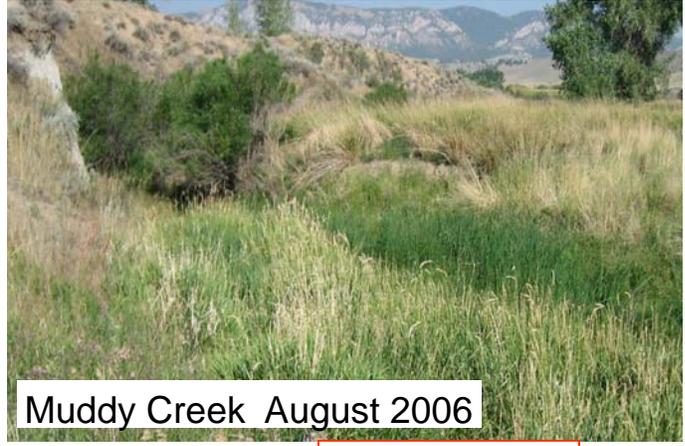
Ecological Benefits:

- Increased plant cover
 - Improved habitat for big game, game birds, small mammals, songbirds and fish.
- Increased filtering of sediment and nutrients. Decreased Erosion
 - Decreased stream sedimentation (siltation).
 - Decreased fecal contamination.

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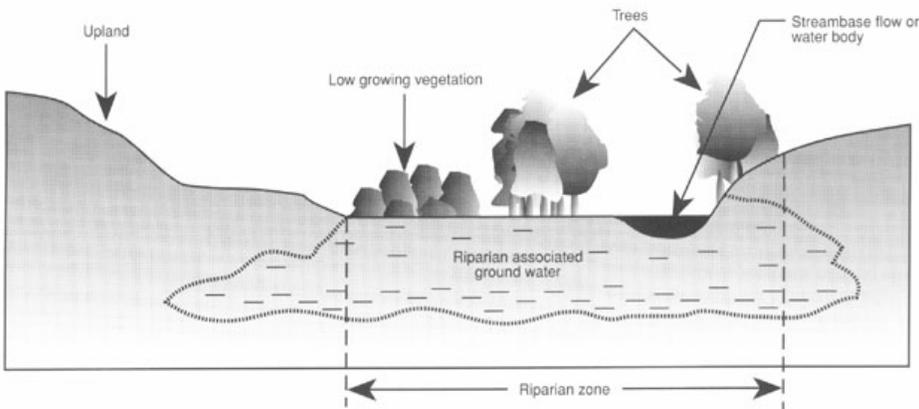


Muddy Creek March 2001

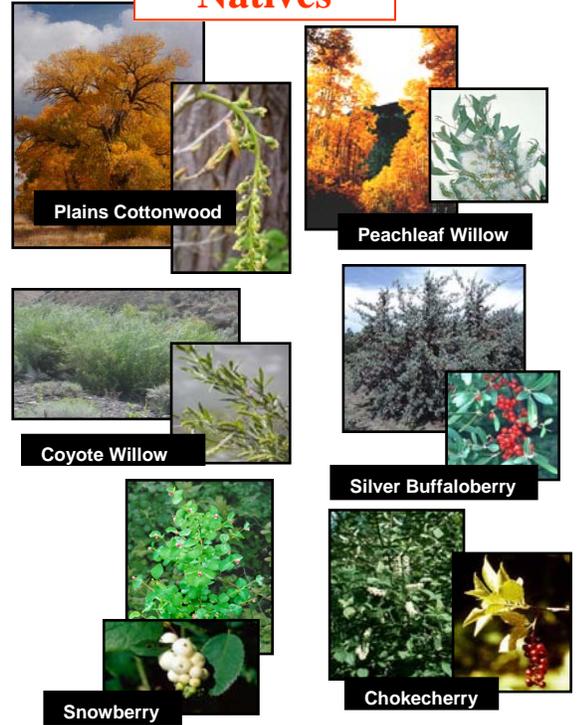


Muddy Creek August 2006

Major components of a stream or water body riparian area—Riparian areas can be symmetrical or asymmetrical in shape. The topography and hydrogeology determine the plant and animal communities associated with the width or meandering riparian area configurations.



Natives



INVASIVE



INVASIVE



If you are interested in establishing a riparian buffer on your property contact: your local NRCS, FSA, or WGFD office.

Are You Eligible for Farm Bill Programs?

Eligibility requirements for Farm Bill conservation programs vary depending on which program you are considering. The working lands programs like Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) require that you are an agricultural producer. Other programs such as Continuous CRP, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) do not have this requirement and most people with rural land are eligible to apply. All of the programs require that you are in control of the land, in compliance with the Sodbuster and Swampbuster provisions and the land is not encumbered with other easements or restrictions. Contact your local USDA Service Center if you are interested in applying for a conservation program.