

## Wetland Restoration BMP = Credit Duration is 15 years.

**Reported by every jurisdiction except for DC. Wetlands treat a significant amount of acreage in the Watershed.**

### **Contract Types:**

- Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE): formerly the Wetlands Reserve Program, to be implemented under the 2014 Farm Bill under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program): Under WRE, the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners for voluntary wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement projects on privately owned property. WRE projects require a specific monitoring regime throughout the lifespan of the project, as discussed in more detail in a later section. These projects are either maintained in perpetuity or under **a 30-year easement contract** depending on the selected enrollment option.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): The CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and is a private lands conservation program. Under the CRP, farmers who enroll in the program agree to take environmentally sensitive land out of agricultural production and plant species that support improvement of environmental health and quality. The contracts for agricultural land enrolled in CRP **are 10 to 15 years in length** with the long-term goal of re-establishing valuable land cover to assist in water quality improvement, soil erosion prevention, and reduction of wildlife habitat loss. Wetland buffers and wetland restoration are practices included in the CRP.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): EQIP is a voluntary program providing technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers for planning and implementing conservation practices. This assistance is administered via contracts **with a maximum 10- year term**. The purpose of EQIP differs from other financial assistance programs in that it is typically focused on wildlife habitat benefits.
- • The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture provides grants covering up to 87.5 percent of BMP installation costs for various practices implemented on agricultural land, which include wetland restoration BMPs. Wetland restoration projects implemented via the MACS program must be maintained for **a minimum of 15 years**.
- NRCS wetland restoration projects in Pennsylvania and Virginia are primarily done through the **ACEP program**. The program has opportunities for **30 year easements or permanent easements**. [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/acep/)

### **Inspection, maintenance, monitoring**

Most wetland projects are designed to minimize long-term maintenance and, therefore, **should remain effective indefinitely**. Wetland restoration practices implemented under **CRP/CREP have a fifteen-year contract**; however, in most cases, the wetland **continues to exist and function beyond the contract period**. Wetland projects enrolled in WRE must be maintained for the duration of the easement, **either 30 years or in perpetuity**.

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/Appendix%20B%20Wetlands%20BMP%20verification%20guidance.pdf>