

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Easements

Strategies to Implement Permanent Buffers



Funding



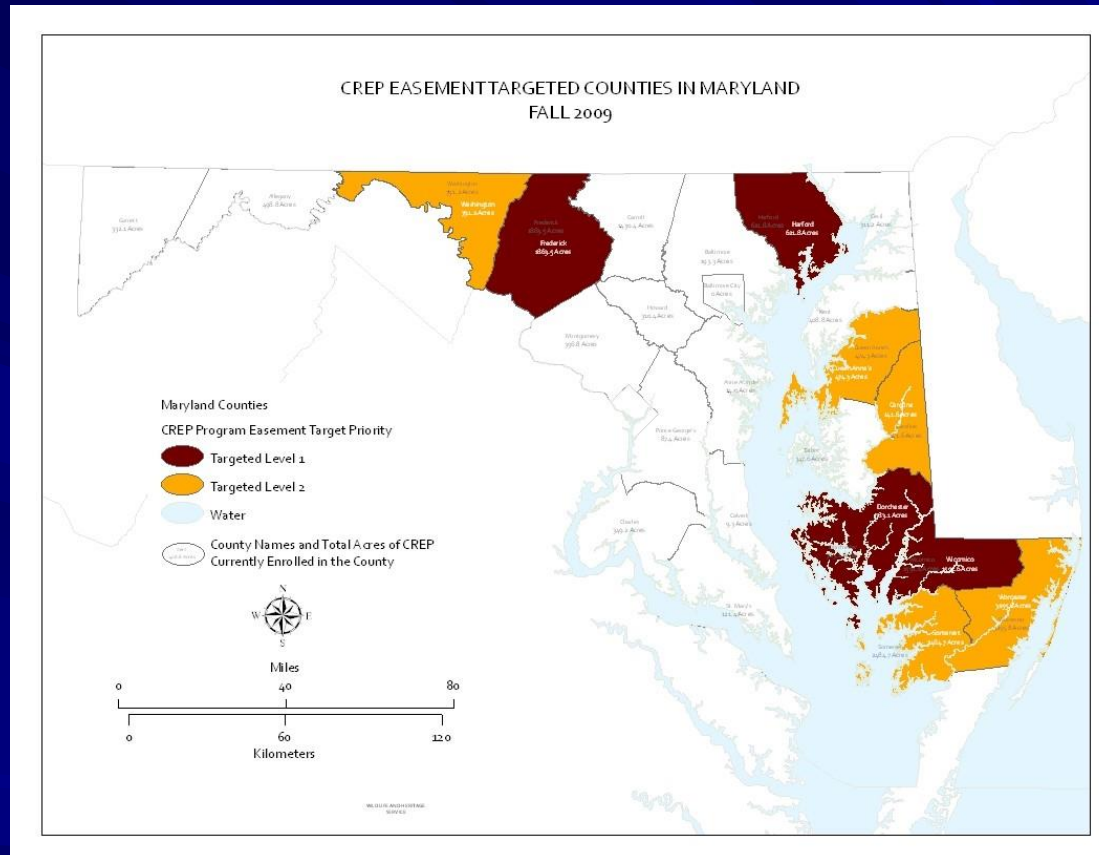
Easements funded with POS funds.

- Lands targeted for CREP easements (particularly riparian forest buffers CP22) have extraordinary ecological value, thereby meeting special bond requirements.
- Approximately \$12.5 million earmarked for easements in 2009 (spent by 2012 as part of State's 20% MOA requirement)
- Since FY2014, \$1.25 million / yr for next five years matched with \$800K RCPP/yr.

Eligibility

- Current CREP Contract
- Must be in targeted county
- Level 1 counties must have current CREP contract
- Level 2 counties must be in RLA
- Only croplands, marginal pasturelands, and forestlands can be used for eligible match (10-1)

CREP Easement Targeted Counties



Frederick, Harford, Dorchester, Wicomico

Washington, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Worcester
(RLA required)



Easement Valuation System

■ The EVS based on:

- Location within a “targeted county,”
- Buffer width,
- Acreage under CREP contract going into easement.

■ Base figures by County from DGS

Approximate Maximum Values for Targeted Level I Counties

- Dorchester: \$3,825/ac
- Frederick: \$6,010/ac
- Harford: \$8,935/ac
- Wicomico: \$3,770/ac



Easement

- Covers the same protections under the CREP contract and incorporates buffer description and conservation cover practice in *Conservation Plan*



Status of Easement Program

- Currently we have over 8600 acres in perpetual CREP easements
- Since 2009, we've added 4,129 acres
- In FFY2015, DNR purchased 877 acres on 14 properties

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