



Quick Sheet

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

(Technical and Financial Assistance)

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary USDA Farm Bill program offering private landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. Wetlands can provide habitat for fish and wildlife, improve water quality by filtering sediments and processing nutrients, reduce the negative impacts of flooding by providing water storage, and provide opportunities for educational and recreational activities.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners plan and construct their wetland restoration project. BluAcres, LLC is currently working with NRCS in Pennsylvania to help landowner's discuss their wetland restoration options including enrollment in WRP and assist with planning, survey, design, and construction of eligible WRP projects.

Eligible Land

- Private and Tribal lands with clear title and legal access to the project area.
(7-yr ownership required for easement eligibility)
- Land that is considered restorable and suitable for providing wildlife benefits
- Current land use can be:
 - Farmed wetlands and wetland pasture;
 - Prior converted cropland (wetlands converted to cropland before December 23, 1985);
 - Land adjacent to or connecting restored wetlands;
 - Previously restored wetlands;
 - Farmland that has become wetland due to flooding

Program Options

- **Permanent Easement:** A conservation easement in perpetuity;
USDA pays 100% of the easement value and up to 100% of the restoration costs.
- **30-YR Easement:** A conservation easement that expires after 30 years;
USDA pays up to 75% of the easement value and up to 75% of the restoration costs.

Note: Easement value is based on fair market value, geographic rate caps, or the landowner's offer. Easement programs allow the landowner to retain private ownership and control access to the site, while voluntarily limiting the future use of the land. USDA pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

- **10-YR Restoration Cost Share Agreement:** Restoration and/or enhancement of wetland functions and values without a conservation easement;
USDA pays up to 75% of the restoration costs

Additional incentive programs may be available to fund restoration efforts or provide incentive payments.

