

Chapter 10

Voluntary Incentive Programs

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with Federal, State, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing technical land eligibility determinations, conservation planning and practice implementation. For more information about CRP visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crp/>.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

This program addresses locally identified problems with natural resources. High priority is given to assistance where agricultural improvements will help meet water quality objectives. EQIP offers contracts that provide incentive payments and cost sharing for conservation practices, such as manure management systems, pest management, erosion control, and other practices to improve and maintain the health of natural resources. For more information about EQIP visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

Section 382 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127, amended the EWP to provide for the purchase of floodplain easements as an emergency measure. Since 1996, NRCS has purchased floodplain easements on lands that qualify for EWP assistance. Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, ground water recharge, and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion. For more information about EWP visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/>.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration or can enter restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent easement, the landowner receives payment up to the agricultural value of the land and 100 percent of the restoration costs for restoring the wetland. The 30-year easement payment is 75 percent of what would be provided for a permanent easement on the same site and 75 percent of the restoration cost. The voluntary agreements are for a minimum 10-year duration and provide for 75 percent of the cost of restoring the involved wetlands. Easements set limits on how the lands may be used in the future. Restoration cost-share agreements establish wetland protection and restoration as the primary land use for the duration of the agreement. In all instances, landowners continue to control access to their land. For more information about WRP visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/>.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland and improved pasture, as well as, forested

land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation. In 2008, two 8-digit HUC in the state participated in this program one of which is the Little Pee Dee River watershed.

NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation Programs

North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NC ACSP)

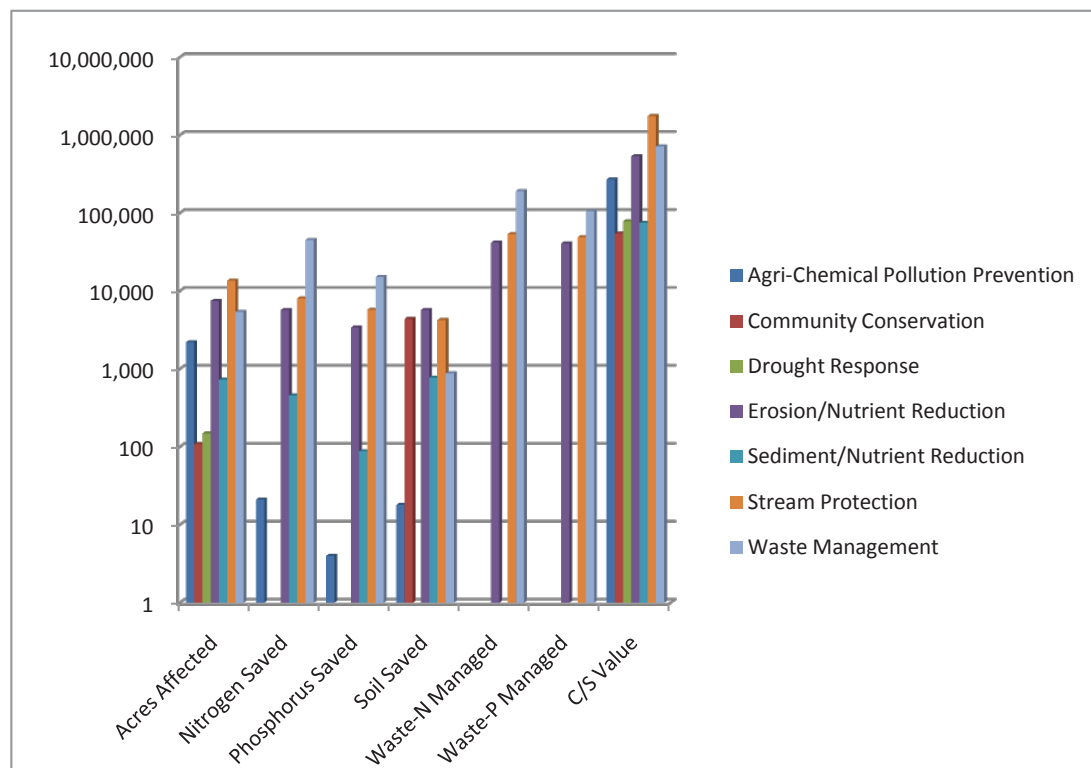
NC ACSP is a voluntary program designed to protect water quality by installing BMPs on agricultural lands. This approach is supported by financial incentives, technical, and educational assistance, research, and regulatory programs provided to farmers by local soil and water conservation districts. The landowner may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the pre-established average cost of the BMP. For more information on this program visit the [North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program website](#).

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

CCAP is designed to improve water quality through the installation of various management measures on urban, suburban and rural lands that are not directly involved in agricultural production. CCAP provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to landowners through the local soil and water conservation districts. This program is open to homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches, and community groups. The landowner may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the pre-established average cost of the management measure. For more information, visit the [Community Conservation Assistance Program website](#).

The following figure summarizes the benefit of each of the two Soil and Water Conservation Programs for the period January 2004 - December 2009.

FIGURE 10-1: SUMMARY OF NCACSP AND CCAP PROGRAMS BENEFITS (2004-2009)



DWQ Water Quality Management Planning Grant 205(j)

The 205(j) Grant Program is a Federally funded program administered by DWQ. Limited competitive funding is available to regional COGs for water quality management planning efforts. Table 10-1 lists all 205(J) funds awarded since 2001. For more information visit the [205\(j\) grant website](#).

TABLE 10-1: 205(J) FUNDING AWARDED IN THE FRENCH BROAD BASIN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2000-2008

YEAR	RECIPIENT	DISCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2000	Land-of-Sky COG	Mud Creek Restoration	35,094
2001	Land-of-Sky COG	Phase II Stormwater Management Education	12,500
2002	Land-of-Sky COG	Voluntary Buffer for French Broad River	32,405
2003	Land-of-Sky COG	Stormwater Planning and Education	18,500
2004	Land-of-Sky COG	Stormwater Planning and Education	25,000
Total			126,499

NC DWQ Construction Grants and Loans (CG&L) Section

CG&L is a non-regulatory section of DWQ that administers several funding programs for publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities. Additionally, the section issues all Authorizations to Construct for the Division and administers the Tax Certification process.

The section administers three major funding programs that assist local governments: the federally funded Clean Water SRF Program (State Revolving Fund), the NC Clean Water Revolving Loan and Grant Program, and a Federal special appropriations program known as the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program. These programs can provide both low interest loan and grant funds for wastewater treatment projects. Table 10-2 lists all grants and loans offered in the French Broad River basin between 2002 and September 2010. Additional information can be found on the [Construction Grants and Loan Section Financial Assistance Programs website](#)

TABLE 10-2: PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE CONSTRUCTION GRANTS AND LOAN SECTION OF DWQ 2002-2010

APPLICANT	AMOUNT OFFERED	PROJECT	8-DIGIT HUC	DATE OFFERED*
GRANT PROJECTS (CLEAN WATER BOND OR SRG)				
Buncombe County	\$433,700	North Swannanoa Inteceptor, Phase II	06010105	11/22/2005
Rosman	\$3,000,000	Replace existing 0.09 MGD WWTP with new 0.25 MGD WWTP	06010105	7/13/2006
Rosman	\$1,367,900	Replace existing 0.09 MGD WWTP with new 0.25 MGD WWTP	06010105	1/16/2007
Burnsville	\$485,000	WWTP expansion, phase II	06010108	6/5/2008
FEDERAL LOAN PROJECTS (SRF)				
Maggie Valley	\$2,617,500	WWTP expansion from 0.75 to 1.0 MGD	06010106	10/15/2007
Buncombe County MSD	\$1,029,600	Lake Julian Sewer Rehabilitation	06010105	5/8/2009
Black Mountain	\$412,840	Tomahawk Stormwater Management	06010105	8/12/2009
Asheville	\$454,500	Stormwater Improvements (Dingle Creek)	06010105	8/12/2009
STATE LOAN PROJECTS (SRL)				
Black Mountain	\$1,396,255	Sanitary Sewer Extension for Avena, McCoy, Cove and Blue Ridge Roads	06010105	6/15/2010

*Date Offered is the date financing is formally committed to the project.

DWQ Nonpoint Source Program (319)

EPA provides funds to state and tribal agencies, which are then allocated via a competitive grant process to organizations to address current or potential NPS concerns. Funds may be used to demonstrate innovative BMPs), support education and outreach programs, establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for a watershed, or to restore impaired streams or other water resources.

Grants are divided into two categories: Base and Incremental. Base Projects are research-oriented, demonstrative, or educational and are targeted at identifying and preventing potential NPS impacted areas in the state where waters may be at risk of becoming Impaired. Incremental projects seek to restore streams or other portions of watersheds that are already Impaired. State and local governments, interstate and intrastate agencies, public and private nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply for Section 319 grants. Table 10-3 lists all 319 grants awarded in the Lumber Basin between 2000 and 2009. For more information about the 319 Grant Program Visit http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/nps/Section_319_Grant_Program.htm.

TABLE 10-3: 319 GRANTS FUNDED IN THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER BASIN FROM 1998-2009

CONTRACT NUMBER	FISCAL YEAR	PROJECT	FUNDING
EW200015	1999	Nature Trail Revitalization	10,281
EW200023	1999	Mountain Nurseries	11,815
EW200041	1999	Upper French Broad Best Management Practices	132,000
EW200044	1999	Little Ivy River Best Management Practices	380,000
EW200062	1999	Newfound Creek	416,250
EW01043	2000	Haywood County NPS Pollution Inventory/Watershed Improvement Project	255,055
EW01044	2000	BMPs Implem of Impaired Streams of the Swannanoa River Watershed	547,563
EW01062	2000	Madison Co Ivy Creek Watershed Best Management Practices Impl Project	175,000
EW03012	2002	Clyde and Junaluska Elementary School Outdoor Classroom	38,609
EW03026	2001	Mills River Watershed Protection	448,000
EW03040	2002	Bent Creek Stream Restoration and Stormwater Best Management Practices	387,200
EW03050	2001	Ivy River Watershed Phase II Best Management Practices Implementation	469,750
EW04063	1998	Low Impact Development Conference	7,000
EW05012	2002	Stormwater Wetlands in Asheville	158,400
EW05013	2004	Asheville Low Impact Development and Stormwater Demonstration	257,565
EW05033	2000	Mud Creek Watershed Restoration Coordinator	65,450
EW06005	2003	Building a New Land Stewardship: Low Impact Development	144,766
EW06027	2005	Lewis Creek Restoration Project	457,533
EW06039	2005	Protectiong Transylvania County Watersheds Through Education About Land Use Change Impacts on Water Quality and Low Impact Development	103,990
EW06067	2005	Hyatt Creek Watershed Restoration Project	296,746
EW07020	2005	Newfound Creek Watershed Project	351,738
EW07052	2006	French Broad Training Center	93,962
EW07019	2006	Ivy River Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices Impl Project	359,606
1559	2008	Newfound Creek Watershed Project	459,201
2842	2009	Ochlawaha Bog Restoration	300,000
2843	2009	Richland, Hyatt, and Raccoon Creek Restoration	226,820
2844	2009	Cochran Farms Stream Restoration	165,235
Total			6,719,535

Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

Created in 1996, CWMTF makes grants to local governments, State agencies, and conservation non-profits to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution problems. These projects include land acquisitions, capital improvements to wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and stream restorations. A list of CWMTF Grants that have been funded through 2009 is provided in Table 10-4.

TABLE 10-4: CWMTF GRANT FUNDED IN THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER BASIN FOR FY 1997 THROUGH 2009

PROJECT ID	APPLICANT	GRANT TYPE	AMOUNT FUNDED	TOTAL COST
1997A-012	Town of Waynesville	Acquisition	500,000	1,300,000
1997A-030	Buncombe County SWCD	Planning	118,866	648,273
1997A-045	RiverLink	Acquisition	250,000	1,100,000
1997A-138	Land-of-Sky COG	Planning	110,000	125,000
1997B-404	NC Council of Trout Unlimited	Restoration	25,000	73,000
1997B-604	Village of Flat Rock	Wastewater	551,695	1,285,400
1997B-613	Madison County	Wastewater	903,000	1,923,444
1998A-201	Conservation Fund	Acquisition	1,148,000	2,038,950
1998A-416	NC State University	Restoration	300,000	547,400
1998A-605	Toe River Health District	Wastewater	791,500	1,803,000
1998B-007	NC Wildlife Resource Commission	Acquisition	3,800,000	7,085,760
1998B-302	Madison County SWCD	Restoration	400,000	653,600
1998B-303	Asheville Reg. Water Authority and Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Acquisition	730,000	848,118
1998B-701	Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society	Stormwater	139,700	212,700
1999A-005	NC Division of Forest Resources	Acquisition	16,600,000	24,600,000
1999A-408	Land-of-Sky COG	Acquisition	605,000	1,624,350
1999B-502	Town of Hendersonville	Wastewater	627,000	19,376,983
2000A-401	Madison County	Restoration	50,000	86,000
2000A-402	Town of Marshall	Restoration	338,598	967,424
2000A-604	Henderson County	Wastewater	500,000	3,832,000
2000B-017	RiverLink	Planning	25,000	80,000
2000B-018	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	333,280	403,750
2000B-402	Southwestern NC RC&D	Restoration	677,555	1,077,810
2000B-411	University Botanical Gardens	Restoration	100,000	140,000
2000B-803	Transylvania County SWCD	Planning	25,000	49,721
2000M-001	Environmental & Conservation Organization	Minigrant	19,600	24,500
2001B-046	Richard L. Hoffman Foundation	Acquisition	94,000	480,000
2001B-405	RiverLink	Restoration	1,508,000	2,017,986
2002A-028	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	689,000	1,586,000
2002B-003	Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust & High Country Conservancy	Acquisition	119,500	1,357,000
2002B-401	Buncombe County SWCD	Restoration	415,000	581,200
2002B-704	UNC - Asheville	Stormwater	70,000	113,170

PROJECT ID	APPLICANT	GRANT TYPE	AMOUNT FUNDED	TOTAL COST
2003A-039	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	3,928,000	7,813,000
2003A-405	Southwestern NC RC&D	Restoration	207,000	264,000
2004A-026	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	4,120,000	10,620,000
2004B-002	City of Brevard	Acquisition	1,037,000	2,086,600
2004B-005	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Acquisition	939,000	1,848,500
2004B-053	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	1,534,000	2,987,500
2004B-403	Southwestern NC RC&D	Restoration	480,000	698,350
2004D-003	Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust	Minigrant	25,000	278,000
2004D-016	Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust	Minigrant	15,000	452,000
2004D-019	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	24,375	159,375
2005A-801	Town of Canton	Planning	35,000	60,000
2005A-808	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Planning	40,000	48,000
2005A-809	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Planning	40,000	48,000
2005B-045	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	1,646,000	3,271,062
2005B-408	RiverLink	Restoration	550,000	1,195,874
2005B-410	Southwestern NC RC&D	Restoration	442,000	795,000
2005B-411	Southwestern NC RC&D	Restoration	145,000	154,160
2005B-701	City of Asheville	Stormwater	133,000	133,000
2005D-005	Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust	Minigrant	25,000	190,000
2005D-010	Conservation Trust for North Carolina	Minigrant	25,000	30,000
2005D-011	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	14,754,000
2006A-011	Conservation Trust for North Carolina	Acquisition	132,000	268,050
2006A-014	Haywood County	Acquisition	1,000,000	8,521,199
2006A-039	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	1,070,000	2,848,850
2006A-041	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	611,000	1,207,000
2008A-818	Southwestern NC RC&D	Planning	17,000	178,450
2006B-001	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Acquisition	50,000	2,898,025
2006B-002	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Acquisition	968,000	2,897,745
2006B-803	City of Brevard	Minigrant	40,000	50,000
2006B-808	Town of Fletcher	Minigrant	40,000	50,000
2006B-815	Town of Spruce Pine	Planning	24,000	30,000
2006D-005	Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust	Minigrant	25,000	177,000
2006D-006	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	24,400	343,148
2006D-010	Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust	Minigrant	25,000	285,000
2006D-011	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	20,100	108,354

PROJECT ID	APPLICANT	GRANT TYPE	AMOUNT FUNDED	TOTAL COST
2006D-016	Buncombe County SWCD	Minigrant	25,000	33,000
2006D-017	Buncombe County SWCD	Minigrant	25,000	33,000
2006D-018	Buncombe County SWCD	Minigrant	25,000	33,000
2006D-019	Buncombe County SWCD	Minigrant	25,000	33,000
2006D-022	Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust	Minigrant	25,000	410,000
2006D-027	Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust	Minigrant	25,000	190,000
2006D-028	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	299,025
2006D-029	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	579,545
2006D-031	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	81,325
2006D-036	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	440,575
2006D-037	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	23,175	55,675
2006S-014	City of Waynesville	Minigrant	50,000	60,000
2006M-001	Mountain Valleys RC&D	Minigrant	25,000	37,100
2006M-010	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	30,200
2007-016	Land-of-Sky COG	Acquisition	139,000	171,964
2007-409	NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation	Restoration	200,000	329,584
2007-419	RiverLink	Restoration	480,000	840,000
2007-420	RiverLink	Restoration	755,000	1,755,000
2007-423	Southwestern NC RC&D	Restoration	498,000	703,235
2007-541	Town of Spruce Pine	Wastewater	76,000	1,900,000
2007-712	Town of Newland	Stormwater	35,000	492,000
2007D-007	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	161,955
2007D-008	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	253,228
2007M-002	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	31,250
2007M-004	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	25,000	31,250
2007M-005	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Minigrant	22,008	31,250
2007S-002	Town of Newland	Minigrant	35,000	38,500
2007S-006	Town of Black Mountain	Minigrant	50,000	55,556
2007S-007	Henderson County	Minigrant	50,000	70,000
2008-003	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Acquisition	523,000	2,103,260
2008-004	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Acquisition	3,422,000	9,629,890
2008-005	Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Acquisition	62,000	109,440
2008-009	Conservation Trust for North Carolina	Acquisition	238,000	615,748
2008-011	Conservation Trust for North Carolina	Acquisition	4,215,000	6,514,440
2008-030	The Nature Conservancy	Acquisition	663,000	1,360,580
2008-036	The Nature Conservancy	Acquisition	3,215,000	5,460,132
2008-060	RiverLink	Acquisition	95,000	416,120
2008-068	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Acquisition	276,000	470,770
2008-079	Trust for Public Land	Acquisition	154,000	306,340
2008-422	RiverLink	Restoration	115,000	235,000
2008-423	Southwestern NC RC&D	Restoration	278,000	738,440