

Financial Assistance

For Developing Wildlife Habitat in Southern Michigan

The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI) is a grass-roots conservation initiative to restore pheasant populations and habitat in Michigan's traditional pheasant range. A variety of MPRI partners provide technical and financial assistance to help landowners enhance their lands for pheasants and other wildlife. Below is a summary of programs MPRI partners offer to assist private landowners. For more information about MPRI visit: www.michigan.gov/pheasant.

Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative

RESTORING HABITAT TOGETHER



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): Farm Bill Programs

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

A voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP provides financial assistance to plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns to improve wildlife habitat, soil, water, and air quality. Priorities include habitat restoration for at-risk wildlife species, reduction of nonpoint source pollution (i.e. sediments, nutrients) entering surface and groundwater, and carbon storage and sequestration. For additional information, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Program	Eligible Land	Length of Agreement	Annual Payments	Easements	Program Payments	Conservation Practices
EQIP	Private, public, and tribal lands in agricultural production including cropland, grassland, and non-industrial private forest land. Does not include land enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program.	1-10 year	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 75 percent of calculated costs• 90 percent for Historically Underserved participants	Grassland, tree/shrub planting, filter strips, forest management plans

Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE)

Natural Resource Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. Eligible land includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. Applications are prioritized based on the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. For additional information, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Program	Eligible Land	Length of Agreement	Annual Payments	Easements	Program Payments	Conservation Practices
WRE	Private or tribal farmed wetlands or wetlands converted prior to Dec. 23, 1985 and adjacent lands that maximize wildlife habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30-year or permanent easements,• 30-year contracts, or cost-share restoration agreements	N/A	One time, up-front payment or up to 30 annual payments for either easement option or 30-year contract	Up to 75% for restoration cost-share agreements, 30-year contracts, and 30-year easements; 100% for permanent easements	Wetland restoration and adjacent upland buffer

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

A land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In exchange for a yearly rental payment, landowners enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. For additional information, visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mi/programs, and search the programs tab.

Program	Eligibility	Location	Enrollment Period	Contract Length	Annual Payment	Incentive Payment	Cost-share Plus Incentives	Habitat Types
General CRP	Cropping history 4 out of 6 years from 2008-2013	Statewide	During sign-up periods only	10 years	Varies based on soil types	Changes per sign-up regulations	50%	Grassland, trees, wetlands, windbreaks
CREP	Cropping history 4 out of 6 years from 2008-2013	Saginaw Bay, Lake Macatawa and River Raisin Watersheds <i>See figure 1</i>	Continual	10-15 years	Varies based on soil types	Sign-on bonus and practice installation	100% + incentives	Grassland, filterstrips, trees, wetlands, windbreaks
SAFE Diverse Grassland	Cropping history 4 out of 6 years from 2008-2013, at least 30 acres or 10 acre corridor	Central and Eastern Michigan <i>See figure 2</i>	Continual	10-15 years	Varies based on soil types	Yes, unless re-enrolling	90%	Oak Savanna/ Grassland
SAFE Pollinator	Cropping history 4 out of 6 years from 2008-2013	Western Michigan <i>See figure 2</i>	Continual	10-15 years	Varies based on soil types	Yes, unless re-enrolling	90%	Wildflower prairie with shrubs
Continuous CRP	Cropping history 4 out of 6 years from 2008-2013	Statewide	Continual	10 years	Varies based on soil types	Yes, unless re-enrolling	90%	Grassland, buffers, trees, wetlands, windbreaks

Figure 1: Eligible CREP areas

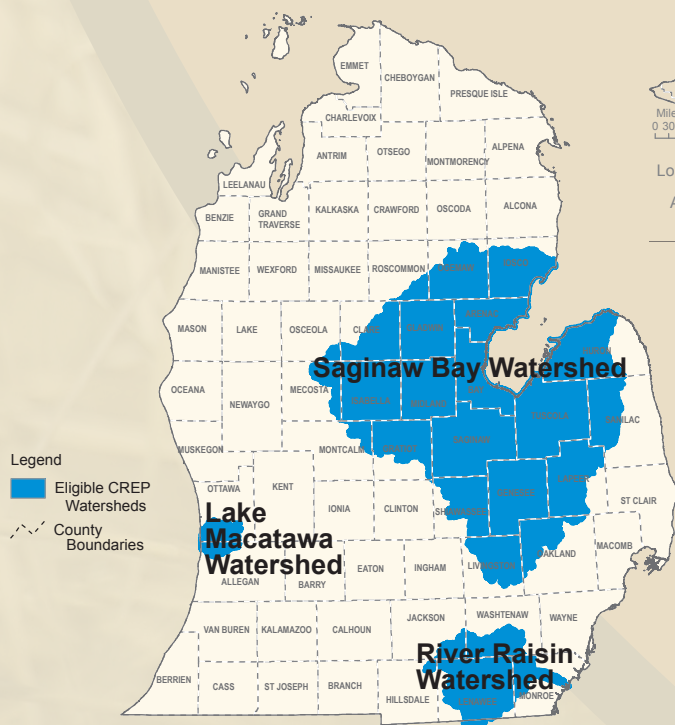
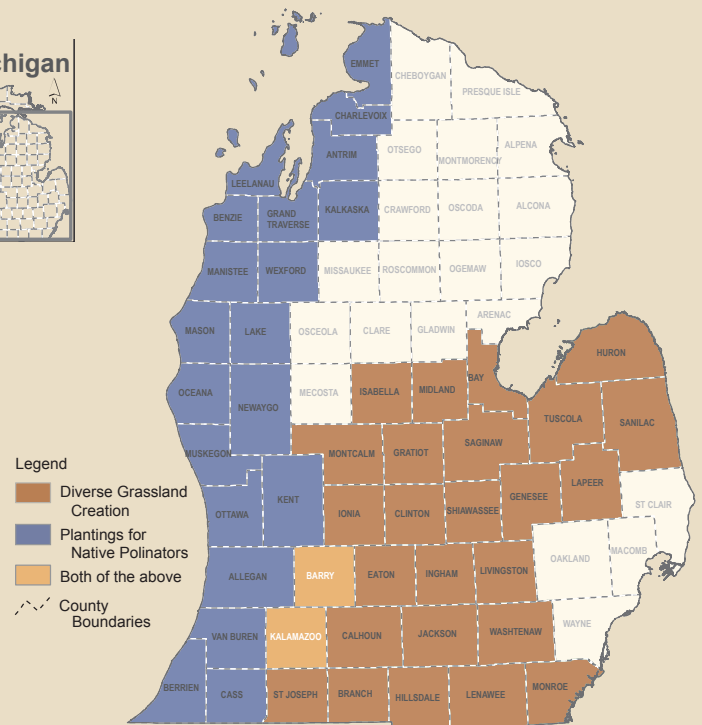


Figure 2: Eligible CRP SAFE counties



US Fish & Wildlife Service

Partners for Wildlife Program (PWP)

Focuses on improving habitat for federal trust resources: migratory birds, federally-listed endangered or threatened species, and interjurisdictional fish. In Michigan, restoration of wetlands has been, and remains, the primary focus for the Partners Program. PWP also includes restoration of grasslands, streams (both in the channel and within the riparian corridor), and specific habitats used by federally-listed endangered or threatened species. PWP encourages working together in a voluntary manner with private landowners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Many landowners contribute funds for permits or construction and in-kind services such as labor to prepare seed beds and seed disturbed areas. Landowners are required to sign an agreement to leave the project in place on their property a minimum of 10 years. Landowners are responsible for project maintenance. For additional information, visit: www.fws.gov/midwest/partners.

	Eligibility	Location	Enrollment Period	Contract Length	Annual Payment	Incentive Payment	Cost-share Percent	Habitat Types
Wildlife Ponds	Agriculture & Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 years	None	None	20%-50% cost share based on project type and size	Wetlands
Grassland Planting	Agriculture & Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 years	None	None	20%-50% cost share based on project type and size	Grasslands
Cold Water Stream	Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 years	None	None	20%-50% cost share based on project type and size	Trout Streams
Young Forest	Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 years	None	None	20%-50% cost share based on project type and size	Young Forests

Conservation Districts

Conservation districts can act as hubs of information and tools for your conservation needs. Michigan's 79 Conservation Districts provide natural resource management services to help citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan. Districts provide quality and cost effective conservation technical assistance and information to landowners and citizens to provide conservation improvement to the land and foster understanding and wise management of our natural resources. Districts provide a number of assistance programs, including tree sales, no-till drill rental for native grasses and/or food plots, hand-held broadcast seeders for native seed, tree planter rental, technical habitat assistance, and educational presentations. For more information on conservation districts and to find services provided by your local district, visit www.macd.org/local-districts.

Conservation Organizations

There are a variety of conservation organizations that can help private landowners establish wildlife habitat. Potential assistance includes technical assistance, equipment for planting and managing habitat, and seed for wildlife plantings. Contact local chapters of conservation organizations in your area to determine what assistance may be available.

- Pheasants Forever www.pheasantsforever.org
- National Wild Turkey Federation www.nwtf.org
- Quality Deer Management Association www.qdma.com
- Ruffed Grouse Society www.ruffedgrousesociety.org
- Ducks Unlimited www.ducks.org



Michigan DNR Wildlife Division:

Private Lands Program (PLP)

Focuses on providing private landowners with resources to create and manage habitat to benefit a variety of wildlife. With additional funding from the hunting license restructuring, the DNR is expanding efforts to assist hunters and wildlife on private lands. PLP staff provide technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners for habitat improvements for targeted species and habitats in priority areas. PLP priorities include assisting landowners implement habitat restoration activities recommended by the Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative and other DNR Wildlife Division priorities.

In Southern Michigan, a primary focus of the Private Lands Program is providing technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in establishing and managing grasslands for pheasants, migratory birds and other grassland wildlife. Grassland projects must be adjacent to, or in close proximity of hay-lands, CRP fields, and other large grassland habitats. Technical and financial assistance may be available for restoration activities include planting large blocks of native prairie or management of established grasslands with appropriate practices such as prescribed fire, herbicides, disking or inter-seeding. Qualifying landowners may not be currently enrolled in any federal programs, such as CRP or other Farm Bill program. Priority is given to landowners interested in enhancing 25 or more acres or smaller sites that are part of, or adjacent to, larger grasslands or sites of high ecological value including prairie fen, oak savanna and oak barrens. See Figure 3 for PLP priority grassland restoration counties. Landowners are required to sign an agreement to leave the project in place on their property a minimum of 10 years.

Additional technical assistance may be available for landowners interested in improving habitat for deer, wild turkey and small game species. For contact and additional information please see the Private Lands Habitat section on the DNR website: www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Figure 3: DNR PLP Priority Grassland Areas

