



Farm Service Agency

Conservation Reserve Program

STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) INITIATIVE - MISSOURI
SAND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

FACT SHEET
JUNE 2021

Why Choose CRP SAFE?

Owners and operators of certain cropland in designated geographic areas in Missouri may enroll eligible land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as CP38. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct sign-up for SAFE on a continuous basis. Continuous CRP practices are offered on an ongoing basis and applications are non-competitive. USDA accepts offers, provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Producers can offer land for enrollment in SAFE and other CRP at their local FSA office.

SAFE Practices (Continuous):

- CP2 Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat
- CP42 Pollinator Habitat
- CP12 Food Plots
- CP43 Prairie Strips
- CP23 Wetland Restoration
- CP23A Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)
- CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat
- CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds

SAFE Initiative Impacts

USDA has approved this SAFE proposal to address high priority wildlife needs in Southeast Missouri through habitat protection and restoration on eligible cropland acreage in approved designated SAFE project areas. This project, developed by the Missouri State FSA Office and the Missouri Department of Conservation in consultation with Missouri’s State Technical Committee, will be used to restore sand prairie, sand woodland, sand savannas, and sand upland/wetland complexes.

Species targeted by SAFE include those designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered including the Illinois Chorus Frog, Eastern Spadefoot, Barn Owl, and the Grasshopper sparrow.

SAFE also provides habitat for other wildlife, including deer, game birds such as pheasants, waterfowl, and pollinators that have significant social and economic value.

Acreage Eligibility

Eligible acreage must lie in the Mississippi River Alluvial Basin Section within the following 10 counties in Missouri:

- Eligible Missouri Counties:**
- Bollinger
 - Butler
 - Cape Girardeau
 - Dunklin
 - Mississippi
 - New Madrid
 - Pemiscot
 - Ripley
 - Scott
 - Stoddard

At least 50% of the enrolled field must be of a sandy soil type. A list of suitable soils will be maintained by the Missouri Department of Conservation and USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

In addition, the applicant must satisfy the basic eligibility and cropping history criteria for CRP on the acreage enrolled. Some practices have limits on the size of eligible fields.



USDA photo



CRP SAFE – MISSOURI SAND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION – JUNE 2021

CRP SAFE Contract Specifications

CRP SAFE projects require a minimum 10-year contract for all practices, with some practices eligible for 15-year enrollment. FSA payments authorized under SAFE include annual rental payments, incentive payments on select practices, and 50% cost-share for installation. The annual rental payment is based on the average of the three predominate soils in the offer. A one-time signup incentive payment (SIP) and a practice incentive payment (PIP) may also be offered to allow additional cost share for establishment for some continuous CRP practices.

All CRP SAFE practices require periodic management to be performed. Additionally, CRP SAFE acreage must be maintained throughout the life of the contract. Management and maintenance guidelines will be outlined during the planning process and included in the conservation plan. These activities will be applied based on location and specific practice needs.

CRP SAFE Acreage Management and Maintenance

Local FSA County Committees must approve any management or maintenance activities on CRP SAFE acreage prior to the action being performed. Producers should contact their local FSA office before starting any management or maintenance activities.

More Information

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) pays a yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental quality.

For more information about CRP or the SAFE initiative in Missouri, contact your local USDA Service Center: farmers.gov/service-locator.