

WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS IN MISSISSIPPI

Natural Resources Conservation Service



"When land floods on a regular basis, reforestation is the highest and best use for that land. Taking marginal cropland out of production and returning it to bottomland hardwood forest makes wonderful hunting. Habitat for white-tailed deer, waterfowl, turkey, squirrels and rabbits is just incredible. My experience with the WRE program has been very, very positive."

-- Hunter Fordice, owner of WRE acreage in Mississippi

With the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program, you can:

- Receive up to \$2,900/acre for enrolling in WRE (payment rates vary by region & land use).
- Reduce risk of farming flood-prone land.
- Develop highly productive wildlife habitat.
- Retain ownership of your property, as well as access control, hunting and fishing rights, and the ability to sell the property.
- Incur little or no out of pocket cost for habitat restoration such as tree planting and wetland development.
- Enjoy improved opportunities to observe wildlife as well as increase hunting opportunities for waterfowl and deer.
- Create potential income from leased hunting.
- Make great memories with family and friends.
- Leave a lasting legacy for your children and grandchildren.
- Contribute to wildlife and ecosystem health regionally.



Photos: top Mallard closeup by Fyn Kynd Photography, Flickr CC 2.0; Hunter and dog courtesy of Bob Bush; Spring green-up on Wetland Reserve acreage in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley by NRCS

APPLYING FOR WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS



WRE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSISSIPPI

Eligible land types

- farmed wetlands or prior converted croplands
- former or degraded wetlands
- lands substantially altered by flooding
- riparian (stream-side) areas
- some CRP lands

Easement options

- **Permanent easement: 100% of payment rate and 100% of restoration costs covered**
- **30-year easement: 75% of payment rate, 75% of restoration costs covered with 25% match provided by landowner**

Mississippi Area	Cropland	Aquaculture	Pasture land	CRP	Woodlands
Delta	\$2,900	\$2,300	\$1,600	\$2,150	\$1,850
Coastal	Based on Appraisal	Based on Appraisal	\$2,700	Based on Appraisal	\$1,550
Rest of State	\$2,200	\$2,100	\$1,850	\$1,600	\$1,700
All payment rates listed above are per acre					

How to apply

- **Applications to WRE may be submitted at your local NRCS Service Center at any time.**
- **Application *deadline* to be considered for current funding is February 24, 2017.**
- **Applications submitted after Feb 24 are strongly encouraged and will be considered with additional anticipated funding.**



“Wetland Reserve Easements also meet the criteria for developing the kind of land that adds value to our environment, such as wildlife habitat, beauty, recharge of aquifers, prevention of soil erosion, take up of carbon, recreation and other benefits.”

- Jack Branning, owner of WRE acreage in Mississippi



Photos: top Mallard closeup by Fyn Kynd Photography, Flickr CC 2.0; Permanent Wetland Reserve Easement in Sunflower County, MS by NRCS; Wetland Reserve easement in Mississippi by NRCS