

Riparian Buffer Programs



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Benefits from Buffers....



Water Quality

Wildlife Habitat



Riparian Buffers

■ Herbaceous (grassed*) Vegetation

filter strips, field borders,

herbaceous riparian buffer

* *native warm season grasses (switchgrass, little bluestem, big bluestem, indiagrass....)*

■ Forested Vegetation

tree planting, riparian forested buffer, hedgerow planting







Conservation Buffer “Toolbox”



EQIP



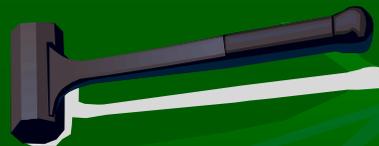
WHIP



CREP



WRP



CRP



Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- Applications are ranked and accepted year round
- Eligible Lands: private and state / local government lands on a limited basis
- 5-10 year agreements
- Practices: *filter strips, field buffers, tree/shrub planting, riparian forested buffer, riparian herbaceous buffer, hedgerow planting, pest management...*
- Cost Share Rate: **75%**

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- **Continuous signup...**no ranking
- **Eligible lands:** cropland or pasture
- **Goal:** to install buffers adjacent wetland features
- **Practices:** *filter strips, riparian forested buffers, wetland restoration*
- **Contract Duration:** 10 or 15 years

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Payments:

1. Signup Incentive: *\$10/ac x # of full years under contract*

2. Cost Share: *75% (50% from USDA, 25% from Virginia)*

3. Practice Incentive: *40% of total cost of installing practice (s)*

4. Annual Rental Payment: *up to \$90/ac/yr (\$85 From USDA and \$5 from Virginia)*

- Federal and State Program



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Continuous signup
- Eligible land: cropland
- 10 and 15 year contracts
- Practices: *forested and herbaceous riparian buffers, filter strips, shallow wildlife impoundment....*
- Cost Share: 50%
- Rental Rates: \$35-50/ac based on soil types
- Practice Incentive Payment: 40% installation cost

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- “Fundamental” USDA Conservation Program
 -has a wildlife component
- Competitive application ranking process
 -*wildlife practices improves overall ranking score*
- Practices: field borders, riparian forested buffer, riparian herbaceous buffer
- Cost Share / Incentive Payment:
 - field border...50%
 - herbaceous buffer ...\$50/ac
 - forested buffer...\$100/ac

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

- Purpose: restore and enhance wetlands
- Eligible lands: Cropland, pasture or woodland must have been fully or partially drained and hydrology can be restored. Must own land for at least 12 months.
- Restoration includes restoring hydrology and or planting hard mass trees.
- Easements: Permanent and 30 year
- Long term restoration agreements
- Easement value based on farm value
- Current permanent easement cap: \$3285/ac



Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Easements:

Permanent: *NRCS pays 100% of the permanent easement value and 100% of restoration costs and 100% legal/surveying costs*

30 year: *NRCS pays 75% of perm. easement value and 75% of the restoration costs and 100% of the legal/surveying costs.*

Long term restoration agreements:

Usually a 10 year agreement, no easement, 75% cost share provided





Other Buffer Programs....

- Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District...

.....Roy Flanagan 757-385-4775

- Partners in Wildlife USFWS/DU

.....Will Smith 804-693-6694 x 124

- Virginia Department of Game and inland Fisheries

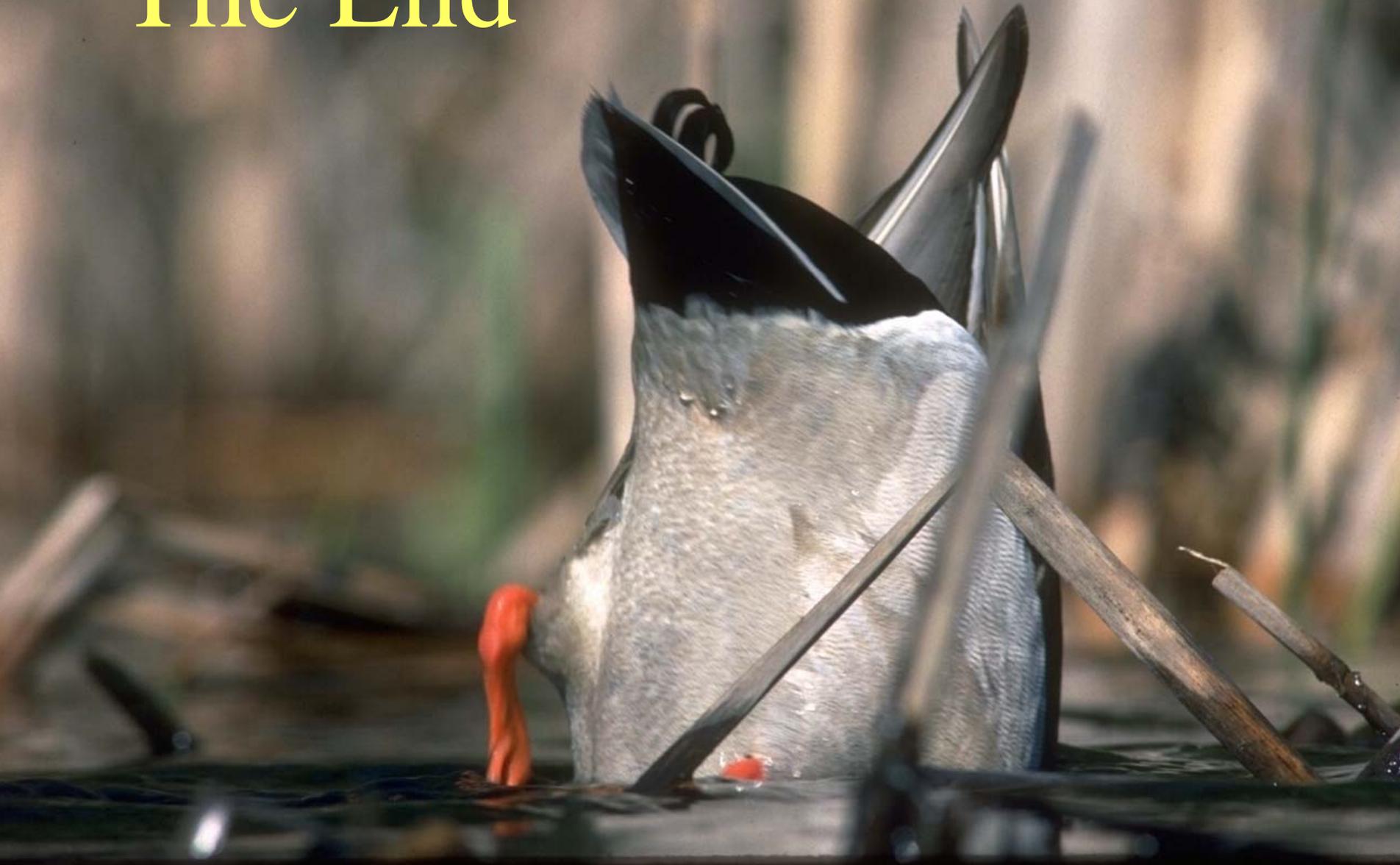
.....David Norris 757-641-6698

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The End



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