

Originating Committee: Grasslands and Prairie
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Intended Recipients: Missourians for Monarchs Collaborative

Incentive Program to Maintain Privately-Owned Pollinator Habitat

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a federal cost-share and rental payment program funded by tax dollars offered to landowners with the intent to have them remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant those areas with species that will improve site conditions for various reasons and be essential for maintaining high quality habitat for wildlife in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, CRP is essential in maintaining high quality habitat and natural communities in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, with the CRP acreage cap at 27 million acres nationally by 2023, with approximately 1 million of those acres in Missouri, many contracts enrolled in CRP are expiring and may continue to expire without re-enrollment in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, once these acres are expired, they are often converted back into row crops or pasture in order for landowners to maintain an income from these acres; and

WHEREAS, CP42 is a practice offered by the CRP program in which landowners establish plots of wildflowers and legumes that are beneficial toward various pollinator species; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40,000 acres are enrolled in CP42 in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, pollinators are essential for healthy and productive agricultural and natural systems in Missouri, are critical for one third of the food consumed and pollinate 85% of plants in nature; and

WHEREAS, scientists have documented declines in pollinator populations nationwide; and

WHEREAS, pollinators require a diverse array of pollen and nectar to survive and reproduce; and

WHEREAS, the long-term survival of pollinators is achievable only by establishing and maintaining high quality pollinator habitat; and

WHEREAS, the CP42 practice requires a large investment of time, effort, and money to plant, establish, and maintain; and

WHEREAS, the long-term benefit of establishing pollinator habitat and input of tax dollars is lost if the contract expires and the land is converted back into agriculture production; and

WHEREAS, an incentive program would encourage private landowners to maintain their established pollinator habitat after the expiration of their CP42 contract; and

WHEREAS, public agencies and/or nonprofit groups with agriculture and conservation interests may find their long-term objectives fulfilled by directing funding to a program that would encourage landowners to continue conservation practices after expiration of CP42 contracts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 10th day of March, 2019, encourages the establishment of a landowner incentive program to retain expiring CP42 acreage in pollinator habitat and requests that the Missourians for Monarchs Collaborative convene to seek funding that would encourage private landowners to maintain their established pollinator habitat.

Keywords: CRP, CP42, pollinator habitat, pollinator, incentive program, monarchs, landowner

Expires: March 10th, 2024