

# Financial & Technical Resources

There are a number of agencies that deal with streambank erosion and riparian buffers in Arkansas. **It is much cheaper to prevent streambank erosion than it is to fix!** Contact information on page 41.

## Arkansas Stream Team Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

The Stream Team program offers technical assistance for people interested in controlling litter, streambank stabilization projects, improving fish habitat, and monitoring water quality. AGFC also offers grants, \$5,000 or less, for large projects.

## Arkansas Forestry Commission

This Commission provides low cost trees to users in Arkansas to encourage reforestation. They offer many trees that are appropriate for planting next to a stream in addition to pines and other hardwoods.

## Conservation Easements—NW AR Land Trust, U.S. Dept. of Ag, Ozark Regional Land Trust

A conservation easement is a legal means by which a landowner can voluntarily set permanent limitations on the future use of the land, thus protecting the land's natural qualities. Through an easement, the owner conveys to a land trust or government agency the right to prevent certain uses of the land in the future or to use it for specific purposes. Conservation easements allow the land to remain in private ownership and can offer deductions in income and property taxes, estate and inheritance taxes.

## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Farm Service Agency

The CRP is the largest private-lands conservation program in the U.S. It offers technical assistance, annual rental payments, and cost-share for implementation of practices that will improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Eligible practices include fencing, alternative watering (ponds, etc), seed preparation, tree plantings, and many more. Landowners will work with FSA and NRCS staff to create a management plan for the section of property. If a riparian buffer is being established, the program will set minimum width restrictions and recommendations for vegetation plantings.

- Up to 50% cost share available for implementation of selected practices
- Contracts between 10 and 15 years – contract attached to deed of property
- Monthly rental payments including sign up incentives and practice incentives
- Continuous sign-up. No competitive selection process – all eligible producers accepted

## Environmental Quality Incentives NRCS (EQIP)

This program is designed to give financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns. Like the CRP program, many conservation practices qualify – including streambank protection, erosion control, reduction of nutrient run-off, and even transition to organic farming. This program could be used for serious streambank erosion problems. Unlike the CRP program, there are typically many more applicants than there is funding. Funding is approved according to expected environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the project.

- Payment rate set at regional level. Payments made after practice is implemented.
- No rental payments available
- Typical contracts of 1 to 10 years after implementation of project
- Annual sign-up deadline which is advertised in local papers (around Oct. 1 yearly)
- Competitive selection process