

4.4 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!**

Help can come in a number of different forms. Free technical assistance is offered through both USDA programs and through the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Financial assistance for implementing erosion control measures is generally based on the severity of the problem and can be limited in availability. Most of these programs require a long-term commitment by the landowner and adherence to certain guidelines. Long-term protection for property could also be obtained through setting up a trust or conservation easement, or donation of some or all of the property to a Land Trust. Visit www.ArkansasHabitat.org for an extensive list of financial and technical resources.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Farm Service Agency

The CRP offers technical assistance, annual rental payments, and cost-share for implementation of conservation practices. There are many eligible conservation practices, including riparian zone restoration. Interested landowners will work with Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service 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

Contact Information:

Carroll County - Freeman Switch Road, Berryville Phone: 870-423-2767 ext. 2
Madison County – Hwy 23 N and Hwy 412 E, Huntsville Phone: 479-738-6321

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.

Contact Information: Ozarks Highlands/Boston Mountains Region 870-743-4374

Arkansas Forestry Commission

This Commission provides low cost trees to users in Arkansas to encourage reforestation. Hardwoods are sold at \$30.00 for the minimum order of 25 bare-root trees. Pines are also sold for similar pricing.

Contact Information: 479-253-5005 or 479-738-2037

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) Natural Resources Conservation Service

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 and shoreline protection. 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.

- Maximum cost share rate of 75%, but limited resource producers and beginning farmers and ranchers could be eligible for up to 90% cost share
- 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
- Competitive selection process

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Natural Resources Conservation Service

WHIP is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Selected projects have improved upland wildlife habitat such as native prairie, as well as riparian and aquatic areas. Landowners do not have to be an agricultural producer in order to enroll in this program. Funding for this program is generally very competitive and is awarded according to State wildlife priorities. Priorities tend to focus on promoting the restoration of declining or important native wildlife habitats, reducing the impacts of invasive species on wildlife habitats, or enhancing important aquatic wildlife species' habitats. This program can be used to fund the establishment of riparian buffers and streambank restoration.

- Up to 75% cost share available for establishment and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat
- No rental payments available
- Typical contracts of 5 to 10 years after implementation of project
- Continuous sign-up
- Competitive selection process

Contact Information:

Carroll County – 909 A Freeman Switch Road, Berryville Phone: 870-423-2638
Madison County – Hwy 23 N & Hwy 412 E, Huntsville Phone: 479-738-6321