

# Cost Share Program Guidelines

## Plummer Creek Watershed Project

**1. *Executive Document Summary Number:***

A-305-6-226

**2. *Name of Watershed Management Plan to be implemented with Cost-Share funds:***

Watershed Management Plan for Plummer Creek Watershed, approved March 2016

**3. *Watershed(s) to be targeted:***

The following HUC12 subwatersheds will be included in the Cost-Share Program, provided that the specific land use meets the critical area criteria as outlined in the Plummer Creek Watershed Management Plan.

- *Little Richland Creek (Richland Creek) - 051202020301*
- *Blakeman Hollow (Richland Creek) – 051202020302*
- *Bridge Creek – 051202020303*
- *Beech Creek - 051202020304*
- *Dry Branch (Richland Creek) - 051202020305*
- *Clifty Branch – 051202020306*
- *Black Ankle Creek – 051202020307*
- *Ore-Branch (Richland Creek) – 051202020308*
- *Burcham Branch - 051202020309*

**4. *Critical areas of the watershed and page numbers in the watershed management plan where this information may be found:***

Information regarding the identification and prioritization of parameters considered critical can be found on pages 135-139 of the Plummer Creek Watershed Management Plan. Criteria for determining critical areas was based on monitoring data, windshield surveys, pollutant load calculations, land use classifications, and Plummer Creek Advisory Committee prioritization. Critical Areas were defined as being “anywhere in the Plummer Creek watershed where agricultural land is present and significantly contributing to nutrient, sediment, and/or E.coli problems.” Livestock and row-cropping practices (represented as Tier 1 on the map featured in Figure 1 below) will be the main target for BMP implementation in critical areas and will be eligible to receive cost-share.

**Figure 1 – Critical Areas**

## Critical Areas



**5. Decision-making process for determining where BMPs will be targeted within critical areas:**

The Plummer Creek Advisory Committee chose applicable BMPs for the critical areas based on cross-referencing the collected water monitoring data alongside the compiled Stakeholder Concerns and load reduction goals outlined in the Watershed Management Plan (pgs. 131-135). The BMPs outlined on Table 1 below were chosen based on their applicability to the current land uses and farming practices throughout the Plummer Creek watershed.

**6. Eligible BMPs and pollutants to be addressed:**

**Table 1 – Eligible Practice Information**

<b>Conservation Practice</b>	<b>NRCS Code</b>	<b>Cost-Share Rate</b>	<b>WMP pages</b>	<b>Pollutant(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Access Control/Fence (linear ft.)	472, 382	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, E.coli, Habitat/Bio	Must be associated with a Grazing Plan; must restrict access to streams
Animal Trails and Walkways, Stream Crossing (linear ft.)	575, 578	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, E.coli, Habitat/Bio	Must be associated with a Grazing Plan and exclusion efforts
Compost and Waste Storage Facilities (single structure)	317, 367	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, E.coli, Habitat/Bio	Waste Storage Facility intended for manure
Conservation Cover/Cover Crops (acre)	327, 340	75% seed and labor	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Includes aerial seeding, excludes fertilizer; single year practice
Critical Area Planting/Mulching (acre)	342, 484	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Diversion (linear ft.)	362, 606	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Field Border/Filter Strip (linear ft.)	386, 393	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Forage and Biomass Planting (acre)	512	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, E.coli, Habitat/Bio	No Annuals; must be associated with Prescribed Grazing; not intended to be sold as hay crop

<b>Conservation Practice</b>	<b>NRCS Code</b>	<b>Cost-Share Rate</b>	<b>WMP pgs.</b>	<b>Pollutant(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Grade Stabilization Structure (linear ft.)	410	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Grassed Waterway/Lined Waterway or Outlet (linear ft.)	412, 468	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP)/Access Road (square ft.)	561, 560	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Intended primarily for livestock traffic
Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, Precision Ag. Upgrades (single plan, per acre)	590, 595	75%	pgs. 147-153	Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Includes AutoSteer, AutoSwath, Variable Rate Controllers; Pest Management not intended for invasive species
Open Channel (linear ft.)	582	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Corresponds to 'Two-Stage Ditch' engineering design
Prescribed Grazing, Pasture Seeding (acre)	528, 512	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, E.coli	Must be associated with a Grazing Plan and exclusion efforts
Residue and Tillage Management (Mulch-Till, No-Till, Strip-Till) (acre)	345, 329	75% up to \$1,000/row unit	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Includes planter components/modifications
Riparian Buffer (Forest/Herbaceous) (linear ft.)	391, 390	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Roof and Stormwater Runoff Structures (linear ft.)	558, 570	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Intended for barn lots with livestock present
Terrace (linear ft.)	600, 606, 620	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Tree and Shrub Establishment (acre)	612, 338	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Intended for establishing permanent vegetation on land going out of production

Conservation Practice	NRCS Code	Cost-Share Rate	WMP pgs.	Pollutant(s) Addressed	Notes
WASCOB (Water and Sediment Control Basin) (linear ft.)	638, 606, 620	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Habitat/Bio	
Watering Facility, Spring Development (single structure and necessary components)	614, 516, 533, 574	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, E.coli, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Must be associated with a Grazing Plan and exclusion efforts
Wetland Creation, Enhancement, Restoration (acre)	656, 587	75%	pgs. 147-153	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Intended for reduction of pollutants
<p>*Livestock must be present on-site to qualify for livestock conservation practices</p> <p>* Structural practices must remain in place for a minimum of 10 years</p> <p>*Biomass and Forage Planting/Pasture Seeding must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years</p> <p>*Engineering practices must follow approved standards and specifications (NRCS or other approved design)</p> <p>*Equipment upgrades must remain in place for a minimum of 5 years</p> <p>*Precision Ag equipment must be new to the operation</p> <p>*Tillage system upgrades require movement from a lower to higher residue system</p> <p>*No 319 practices may be used in conjunction with NRCS program payments</p> <p>*NRCS definitions for reduced tillage and no-till will be considered</p> <p>*WASCOBs require proof of a Nutrient Management Plan upon request</p> <p>*Cover Crops not intended to be used exclusively for food plot purposes</p>					

### **7. Target Audience of Cost-Share Program:**

The primary audience will consist of interested and eligible landowners and operators within the critical watershed boundaries, particularly those with agricultural lands including row crops and/or livestock.

### **8. Percentage of Cost-Share to be Provided:**

See Table 1 – Eligible Practice Information

## **9. *Cost-Share Advertising and Promotion:***

A variety of advertising and promotional outlets will be utilized including:

- Word-of-mouth promotion through SWCD Board members, Plummer Creek Advisory Committee, conservation staff partners (i.e. NRCS, ISDA, Purdue Extension, neighboring SWCDs), and one-on-one conversations with local producers who frequent the USDA office
- Ads and articles featured in the Greene County Daily World, The Shopper, and other available media resources
- Announcements and updates sent to the Plummer Creek Watershed Project group email list for wide distribution
- Updates provided in PCWP newsletters and inserts in Greene SWCD mailings
- Social media updates via WCIWA Twitter and Greene SWCD Facebook page
- Information dispersed to neighboring SWCDs and partner agencies to be forwarded on to eligible clients and producers
- Contact local implement dealerships, contractors, feed supply stores, and seed sales personnel to notify them of cost-share programs and critical areas where producers may be eligible
- Promotional booths and announcements at popular local events such as the Greene County 4-H Fair, Ag Day, local Farmer's Markets, Marsh Madness, and other applicable occasions where a large number of producers may be reached
- Develop and distribute a comprehensive brochure outlining eligible practices, the application process, and percent cost-share available
- Presentations at various events and meetings including (but not limited to) field days, PARP workshops, Purdue Extension events, SWCD Annual Meetings, INField Advantage group meetings, local drainage boards, County Council and Commissioner meetings, neighboring SWCD Board meetings
- Keep up-to-date information available on the website [www.watershed-alliance.org](http://www.watershed-alliance.org)
- Cross-promotion with other federal, state, and local programs such as EQIP, CRP, CREP, CWI (if available), LARE (if available), and others
- Develop and distribute promotional materials such as meeting invites, flyers, business cards, and brochures; post in local feed stores, hardware stores, farm supply stores, small community restaurants and gas stations, and other public sites

These outreach activities will be conducted as frequently as budget and time allow.

Funding for paid advertising is limited so new outlets for promotion will always be sought.

## **10. *Cost-Share Application Review:***

The Watershed Coordinator will be the primary reviewer of cost-share applications for proposed projects and/or practices. The Watershed Coordinator will determine eligibility with the consensus of NRCS staff and Greene County SWCD Board, as necessary. NRCS Consensus will be indicated by NRCS Conservation Plan signatures on file for the applicant.

Applications for which no precedent has been set or are unclear as to compliance with the cost-share program shall be reviewed by the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and/or the Plummer Creek Advisory Committee. An application for Cost-Share Funding can be viewed below on Figure 2, page 10.

**11. *Criteria to be used when reviewing cost-share applications:***

The following criteria will be considered when reviewing cost-share applications and eligibility for each producer and project:

- Location within a critical area as defined by the Plummer Creek WMP
- Inclusion of the BMP(s) in the Cost-Share Program
- Compliance with rules set forth in this Cost-Share Program
- Compliance with accepted standards outlined in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide or other IDEM-approved standards.

As a reminder, additional guidelines for 319 projects can be referenced below:

**Section 319 Cannot Fund:**

- ✗ Purchase of large agricultural equipment or other large pieces of equipment – (equipment modifications and leasing are allowable)
- ✗ Purchase of land or land easements, including conservation easements – (costs associated with land/conservation easements may be used as match in cases where the sponsor can remain responsible for the continuance of the easement until its conclusion, and where the purpose is to restore vegetation, hydrologic function, or some other characteristic which will have a positive effect on water quality)
- ✗ Projects directed at water *quantity* rather than water *quality*, such as drainage/flood control or channelization
- ✗ Dredging
- ✗ Any practices, equipment, or supplies used to fulfill the requirements of a Federal permit, such as a NPDES permit, or to comply with a State rule or permit, or to meet enforcement requirements
- ✗ Practices at a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)
- ✗ Wetland mitigation sites
- ✗ Incentive payments of any kind
- ✗ Yield losses
- ✗ Practices not sanctioned by IDEM or a partner agency of IDEM
- ✗ Practices not installed in accordance with standards and specifications developed by NRCS, IDNR, or other recognized standards
- ✗ Sales tax
- ✗ Log jam removal

**12. Administration Responsibility:**

The Watershed Coordinator shall be responsible for the administrative tasks of the cost-share program with the exception of the disbursement of funds. The Greene County SWCD Coordinator shall be responsible for disbursing funds and tracking reimbursement of funds by IDEM. The Watershed Coordinator shall be responsible for compiling Section 319 Match Documentation and Section 319 Itemization of Invoice Expenditures as required by IDEM.

**13. Cost-Share Cap per Applicant:**

There is a \$50,000 cap per customer. No single customer shall receive more than \$50,000 in cost-share funding during the timeline of this 319 Implementation grant.

**14. Cost-Share Cap per BMP:**

Cost-Share caps per BMP will apply for precision agriculture and planter upgrades. The following caps will apply:

- Precision Agriculture Upgrades: \$10,000 cap
- Planter Upgrades: \$1,000 per row unit cap

**15. Equipment Modification Cost-Share:**

Planter modifications and precision agriculture modifications may be eligible for cost-share under this program. Stipulations for these modifications require that equipment upgrades generate a measurable pollutant load reduction (i.e. reduce overlap, increase surface residue, decrease fertilizer inputs) and be new to the operation.

**16. BMP installation review and approval:**

BMPs will be reviewed by one or more of the following: qualified Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District staff or contract employee (i.e. Watershed Coordinator), Natural Resources Conservation Service staff members, or a Technical Service Provider approved by NRCS.

**17. Permit Requirements:**

Permits may be required for BMPs such as streambank stabilization, wetland restoration, or any project being installed in a county right-of-way. In this case, local Drainage Boards, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may need to be contacted prior to construction. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain all necessary permits and pay for any applicable fees prior to the project.

**18. BMP Geolocation:**

The latitude/longitude location of each BMP will be documented on the 319A form as required by IDEM for each producer payment. This information will be recorded by IDEM



in a statewide geodatabase of 319 projects. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator will maintain a constantly updated shapefile in ArcMap (or other applicable mapping program) to catalog BMPs as they are completed throughout the watershed. Each producer will have a conservation plan on file which will also contain location information for each BMP completed.

**19. Pollutant load reduction models/tools to be used for installed BMPs:**

The Region5 and StepL pollutant load reduction models will primarily be used to estimate pollutant load reductions as a result of installed BMPs. However, for BMPs that aren't featured in the aforementioned models (Example: precision agriculture upgrades), a local agronomist or conservationist may be consulted to provide an applicable pollutant load reduction estimate to be used with IDEM approval. No model for E.coli pollutant load reduction has been approved to date.

**20. *BMP Maintenance:***

The applicant shall be responsible for properly maintaining all BMPs for the specified duration. With the exception of cover crops, all vegetative and land management BMPs must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years. Cover crops shall have a single year maintenance period. All structural practices must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Figure 2 – Customer Application for Cost-Share Funding**



**319 Cost-Share Application**  
**Plummer Creek Watershed Project**



Producer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to receive our E-Newsletter?

Watershed(s), if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Tract/Farm #'s and/or location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Landowner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Conservation Practices/Resource Concerns:

Engineering Plan Required? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ To Be Determined

Livestock Type and Approximate #: \_\_\_\_\_

***I hereby certify that statements regarding farm operations and management are correct and can be verified during an on-site visit or through an evaluation of current records, if requested.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Producer signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*