



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### **Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA) Properties**

**Description:** Owners of agricultural land, timberland and environmentally sensitive lands that meet the conservation use assessment criteria and provide on-site stormwater management may be eligible for credit.

*Agricultural / Timber Land:* Property must be devoted to farming or commercial production of agricultural products or timber. No portion of the property may be used for any other business purpose nor for residence.

*Environmentally Sensitive Land:* Wetland areas as determined by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, as amended, or wetlands that are shown as such on maps compiled by the Department of Natural Resources and US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service. Significant ground-water recharges areas shown as such on maps or data compiled by the Department of Natural Resources. Habitats certified by the Department of Natural Resources that contain endangered or threatened species as listed under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. River corridors that are within the 100 year flood plain as shown on official maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. All blue line streams on a topographic map and/or named tributaries. All drainage ways conveying water from farming or other operations are considered environmentally sensitive for NRCS planning purposes. Sinkholes, springs, and other karst features also apply to this category.

Properties with environmentally sensitive areas must provide on-site stormwater management that effectively protects the sensitive resource to qualify for credit. A status report is required to be submitted in the fifth year in order to continue receiving credit.

**To receive this Credit:** Bring in a site map showing the size and location of the CUVA area. Statement certifying that the property meets the criteria for agricultural / timber land area and

will continue to meet this criteria for the full credit term. Documentation supporting environmentally sensitive area, description of method(s) used to manage stormwater on-site, and statement certifying that the method(s) will be maintained for the full credit term.

**Percent Off Bill:** Each 33,300 square feet (9 ERUs) of complying land will offset 3,700 square feet (1 ERU) of impervious surface

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up.



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### Stream Buffers

**Description** Stream buffers are naturally vegetated areas along the stream's banks. Landowners with buffers exceeding 25 feet from the top of the bank may be eligible for credit. Only the buffer width exceeding 25 feet beyond the bank may be claimed. No credit will be granted for buffers in the first 25 feet from the top of the stream or conveyance bank.

Only undisturbed, natural areas with no impervious surfaces in the area will be considered for preservation credit. Areas already required as a part of open space requirement may not be included in the preservation area.

Areas used for preservation must be contiguous at all points along the existing stream buffer and the length of the preservation area as measured parallel to the stream must be equal to or greater than the width as measured perpendicular to the stream (e.g., only rectangular areas parallel to the stream for protection of the stream corridor will be considered; flag shapes are not acceptable). The maximum width of the buffer from the stream bank is 300 feet.

**To receive this Credit:** The easement must be properly recorded with the Floyd County Recorder. A map of the buffer as to location on property and a Deed. A statement letter acknowledging that property owner will not disturb this easement.

**Percent Off Bill:** 10%

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up.



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### Conservation Easements

**Description:** Land may be permanently protected for conservation by means of a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a binding legal contract between a landowner and a qualified entity to ensure that the lands are maintained in a conservation use state. The easement assures the protection of the conservation values of a property while the owner retains ownership and use. Property owners who have permanently protected land in a predominately natural state by means of a conservation easement donated to a land trust or a government entity may be eligible for credit. These easements are recorded with the deed to the property. In order to be recorded as a conservation easement, the land must:

Protect a relatively natural habitat of fish, wildlife, plants, or similar ecosystem. Preserve open space including farmland or forest land that provides scenic enjoyment to the general public or is pursuant to a clearly delineated federal, state, or local governmental conservation policy; or preserve a historically significant land area or a certified historic structure. Preserve a historically significant land area or a certified historic structure.

Such lands should protect water quality, wetlands, riparian buffers, agricultural / forestry lands, cultural sites, or archeological / historic resources; provide protection from flooding; reduce erosion. Connection with other existing or planned conservation easements is ideal.

**To receive this Credit:** The easement must be properly recorded with the Floyd County Recorder and a copy of this attach to the application. Site map showing the size and location of the easement area.

**Percent Off Bill:** 10%

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up.





## Stormwater Credit Overview



### Riparian Reforestation

**Description:** The contribution of trees and woody understory vegetation to the maintenance of stream health cannot be overstated. Streamside forested areas not only provide habitat, shade, and food sources for both aquatic and land-based species, but their ability to filter pollutants and rainfall provides a buffer, a last line of defense, from watershed runoff. Though most revegetation efforts focus on streambanks, the hydrologic characteristics of the watershed can be improved by upland reforestation as well. Landowners who replant stream buffer areas with native trees and shrubs may be eligible for credit.

The site must contain prior impacted riparian corridor that is devoid of forest cover for more than 50% of the length along the subject property within the 50 feet nearest the stream, river, or shoreline. Reforestation must achieve a vegetative tree/shrub or wetland community with native species over 90% of the credit area within two growing seasons. Minimum reforestation width of 100 feet is required for credit; maximum reforestation width of 300 feet may be applied to credit. The reforestation area must be protected with a permanent conservation easement, and the easement must be properly recorded with the Floyd County Recorder; also qualifies for Credit **Error! Reference source not found.** *It is recommended that the property owner contact the District Forester from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry for forest management advice and recommendations.*

**To receive this Credit:** Site map showing the size and location of the easement area. Copy of the recorded conservation easement. Supporting documentation including receipts, photographs, etc. After the initial credit term, a status report is required to be submitted every second year in order to continue receiving credit.

**Percent Off Bill:** 10%

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up.



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### **Stream Restoration / Streambank Stabilization**

**Description:** Stream restoration is the redesigning and associated construction of a stream section to make it more stable and to re-establish the stream's hydraulics and habitat conditions. Streambank stabilization is the repair of an unstable streambank utilizing bioengineering practices. Practices that improve the physical condition of streams may be eligible for credit.

Approval prior to construction is necessary, including permit approval by Floyd County Stormwater Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources as applicable.

Each 3,700 square feet (1 ERU) of streambank that is repaired will offset 3,700 square feet (1 ERU) of impervious surface.

**To receive this Credit:** Designs must be prepared by a licensed professional engineer or licensed landscape architect. Local offices such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service may be able to provide technical assistance and guidance in initiating and investigating suitability of the credit. Site map showing area to be repaired and repair design.

Approved engineering plans. Documentation of permit approval. Supporting documentation including receipts, photographs, etc

Level of restoration affects credit benefit: Major stream restoration and major streambank stabilization-30% credit. Minor stream restoration and major streambank stabilization-maximum 20% credit. Minor stream restoration and minor streambank stabilization or streambank stabilization only-maximum 10% credit.

**Percent Off Bill:** 30% to 10%.

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up. Maximum 10 years (2 terms).





## Stormwater Credit Overview



### **Watershed Improvement Project Participation**

**Description:** The Floyd County Stormwater Board may identify projects including stream restoration / streambank stabilization projects (Credit 1.9) or channel protection projects (Credit 2). Property owners who donate easements for construction and access for these projects constructed by Floyd County may be eligible for credit.

A status report must be submitted as required for the practice constructed on the property in order to continue receiving credit.

**To receive this Credit:** Contact the Floyd County Stormwater Board if interested in determining if a project has been identified for any particular property. Property owners must agree to maintain the project in order to continue receiving the credit beyond one year. Site map showing the entire property and location of practice. Approved engineering plans. Documentation of permit approval, as applicable. Supporting documentation including receipts, photographs, etc.

**Percent Off Bill:** 10%

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up. Credit is limited to the same term and the same credit that the project provides under Credit 1.9 or Credit 2



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### **Direct Discharge**

**Description:** Property owners who live on or near the county border whose stormwater runoff does not flow through any stream, stormwater pipe or facility owned, operated or maintained by Floyd County may be eligible for credit.

**To receive this Credit:** Property owner must show that no stormwater runoff flows through any facility or structure that is owned, operated, or maintained by Floyd County. Site map showing the location of the property and drainage patterns. Any other supporting documentation, including photographs, etc.

**Percent Off Bill:** 40%

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up.



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### Septic Tank Maintenance

**Description:** Property owners who have their septic tanks pumped out may be eligible for credit.

**To receive this Credit:** Receipt from a licensed septic hauler must be provided and it must show that the tank was maintained within the 5 year period.

**Percent Off Bill:** 10%

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up.



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### Connection to Sanitary Sewers

**Description:** Property owners who currently utilize septic tanks (or other on-site systems) may be eligible for credit after they connect to a sanitary sewer.

**To receive this Credit:** Documentation from a licensed plumber that the on-site system(s) has been decommissioned. Connection to Sanitary Sewers

**Percent Off Bill:** 40%

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up.



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### **Educational Outreach**

**Description:** The Floyd County Stormwater Board is required by permit to educate the public about the effects of urbanization on stream water quality. Working with schools and businesses that teach stormwater management issues will help the Board meet these goals. Schools, daycare centers, preschools, businesses, churches, and post-secondary educational institutions located in non-residential facilities that provide and/or promote educational activities that support and complement the County's stormwater goals may be eligible for credit. Two methods are available for obtaining a stormwater fee credit, including Watershed Education Curriculum and Watershed Education Stewardship Activities.

*Water Education Curriculum:* Watershed Education Curriculum may include but is not limited to Project WET, Project WET Urban Watershed, Wonder of Wetlands, Go Fish IN, Hoosier Riverwatch, Healthy Water/Healthy People, GLOBE Program, and Project WILD Aquatic. Schools must attach a list of appropriate Indiana Academic Standards or objectives for the lessons that were taught using watershed curriculum. The credit will be issued if the principal, headmaster, dean, school director, or other authorized representative for curriculum implementation documents and submits applicable curriculum standards and verifies by signature the percentage of the student population receive at least a unit of study on identified standards per school year.

*Watershed Education Stewardship Activities:* Watershed Education Stewardship activities may be integrated into a school curriculum, business operation, church community activities, or any non-residential activity that educates or promotes our program. Suggested activities may include but are not limited to Earth Week celebrations, Environmental Science Nights, Water Festivals, Great American Clean-Up, Adopt-A-Stream, Ohio River Sweep, and / or Indiana Wildlife

Federation events. Additional County-approved events may be appropriate. The number of participants, name and date of the activity will be accepted as evidence of participation in a Watershed Education Stewardship activity if signed by an administrator of the facility.

**To receive this Credit:** If you enter into project wet a copy of your curriculum and participating schools must submitted. If you plan on entering a stewardship event submit to our office advertising material and dates and times event will take place and any other material supporting your cause.

**Percent Off Bill:** Maximum 40% credit for 1-year term. Maximum 20% credit for Water Education Curriculum; maximum 20% credit for Watershed Stewardship Activities. This credit shall be applied using a tier system based on percentage of enrollment participating in the education curriculum, as follows:

50% of enrollment = 20% credit

40% of enrollment = 15% credit

30% of enrollment = 10% credit

20% of enrollment = 5% credit

Any other supporting material you feel is necessary

**Term:** 5-year term. A new application must be submitted to continue receiving credit when 5-year term is up.



## Stormwater Credit Overview



### **Active Farming Affidavit Credit**

**Description:** This credit is available to real property owners of land that is actively farmed meeting the requirements in the Active Farming Affidavit Credit.

**To receive this Credit:** The real property owner must sign an affidavit certifying that the real property owner is actively farming or leases the land to an active farmer. In addition, has an active farm identification number on file at the Farm Services Agency; files an annual Schedule F with the Internal Revenue Service. If the property is leased to an Active Farmer, a copy of the executed lease agreement must be submitted.

**Percent off Bill:** If the requirements for this credit are met, the ERUs will be reduced to one ERU.

**Term:** 5-year term. A new affidavit along with supporting documentation must be submitted each term to continue receiving credit when the 5-year term is up. If it is determined that the requirements of this Affidavit are not met, the Assessor's Office/Floyd County Stormwater Department Board can seek retroactive user fees based on the ERUs for up to three years.

**Instructions for completing the affidavit:** Please complete all fields within the affidavit to the best of your ability including all parcels of actively farmed property, either leased or sold.

For owned properties, provide your Active Farmer identification number as well as a copy of Schedule F from your most recent IRS tax filing.

For leased properties, provide a copy of the signed written lease for each parcel.

Once completed, please sign and have the document notarized.

Instructions for how to submit the document can be found on page two of the affidavit.

Please see page 3 for information regarding the Farm Services Agency.