Summary of Contract Year:  July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

During the contract year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008, the CREP technician contacted 15 new landowners regarding an interest in either the CREP or the Continuous CRP programs. Most landowners requested a second meeting and most sites were visited to discuss possibilities of enrolling in a USDA riparian program.

Description of the Contracts Negotiated:

The number of contracts negotiated and signed in the contract year totaled 9. The information regarding these contracts follows, listed by stream. Miles are calculated on actual stream miles. If a project concerns both sides of a stream, an asterisk (*) is placed next to the mileage figure.

**Project 1 – John Day River**
Total Stream Miles: 1.8 miles*  Acreage: 36.9 acres of Riparian Buffer  Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A  List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.

**Project 2 – Hay Creek**
Total Stream Miles: 1.34 miles*  Acreage: 43.2 acres of Riparian Buffer  Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A  List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.

**Project 3 – Dyer Creek**
Total Stream Miles: .5 miles*  Acreage: 10.5 acres of Riparian Buffer  Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A  List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.
Project 4 – Hay Creek
Total Stream Miles: 2.27 miles* Acreage: 65.5 acres of Riparian Buffer Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A. List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.

Project 5 – Hay Creek
Total Stream Miles: .38 miles* Acreage: 7.1 acres of Riparian Buffer Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A. List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.

Project 6 – Thirtymile/Sniption
Total Stream Miles: 2.6 miles* Acreage: 37 acres of Riparian Buffer Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A. List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.

Project 7 – Patill
Total Stream Miles: 2.3 miles* Acreage: 31.8 acres of Riparian Buffer Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A. List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.

Project 8 – Patill/Deadhorse
Total Stream Miles: 1.32 miles* Acreage: 11.4 acres of Riparian Buffer Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A. List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.

Project 9 – Rock Creek
Total Stream Miles: .55 miles* Acreage: 7 acres of Riparian Buffer Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A. List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Steelhead (Mid-Columbia River Summer Run). Project will have a positive, long-term effect on Steelhead.

(* = both sides of waterway)
Observations Made during the Contract Year:

This year, a considerable amount of time was spent providing technical assistance to prior contracts as the practices are implemented. More time is being spent in planning site preparation so that NRCS and FSAs’ increasing concerns over plant survival are satisfied. A continued concern that the rate paid to the landowner for maintenance is not enough. Controlling competing vegetation is a major factor in increasing plant survival. Increasing costs in the methods used to control unwanted plants has made it difficult for contract holders to perform these methods as effectively as they would like. The projects that have continued maintenance are considerably more successful.

Outlook for Next Year:

The outlook for next year is encouraging as interest in the CREP program continues. We are currently working on three conservation plans for Riparian Forest Buffers. Seven signed contracts should break ground in the spring of 2009. Two planting techniques, new to this area, will be used in the coming planting season to make an attempt at increasing plant survival, as well as plant location. Currently we are working with five landowners interested in the CREP program.