



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLUTION

SHORT TITLE: CREP Contract Communication and Payment Inconsistency

SPONSOR CD: Columbia Conservation District

AREA: NW SW NC SC NE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STATE AGENCY _____
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER USDA Farm Service Agency

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. With the help of USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil & Water Conservation Districts, CREP has been a valuable and successful program.

In recent years, USDA FSA has proven to be progressively inconsistent and unresponsive in communication and payments to landowners under CREP contracts. Also, FSA has not been timely in issuing payments due to landowners, especially following the initial installation of a BMP(s) installed under a CREP contract. Local producers commonly wait 6-12 months or longer for payment to occur. These issues, among others, have caused hardship for many landowners, damaging FSA's credibility in their administration of the CREP program. Consequently, many landowners are choosing not to participate in the CREP program or renew their contracts as they see FSA as being unreliable and unaccountable for their actions.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

Request WACD work with USDA FSA to review and revise communication and payment policies, to reinforce quality and punctuality of communication and timely payments to landowners.



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TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION (check all boxes that apply):

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

ARE WACD RESOURCES (FUNDING, STAFF CAPACITY, ETC.) REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?

- NO**
- YES** (briefly explain): This resolution will need to go through NACD to impose change.