



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLUTION

SHORT TITLE: Cancelling of Farm Service Agency Contracts

SPONSOR CD: Whitman CD

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 _____ FSA _____
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER _____

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program CREP are voluntary land retirement programs that help agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, create, and restore habitat for wildlife and safeguard ground and surface water. With the help of USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS; as a Technical Service Provider) CRP and CREP have been valuable and successful programs. When the FSA makes a mistake (technical or other) on a signed CRP or CREP contract that has been put into practice, they cannot cancel the contract without just compensation or a comparable "fix" for the producer(s) listed on the contract. They also must notify other agencies about the mistake so there are no surprises to any party that may be involved in any manner. These "mistakes" by FSA have created a disconnection between landowners/producers and State and Federal Government. Consequently, many landowners are now choosing not to participate in the CRP and/or CREP program or renew their contracts as they see FSA as being unreliable and unaccountable for their actions. This decreases the amount of environmentally sensitive land available for conservation programs and also decreases critical wildlife habitat, which in turn increases erosion and water quality issues.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:



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When a mistake is made on a signed CRP or CREP contract, and the mistake is due to the FSA's negligence, the FSA must fulfill the contract length or compensate the producer for the value of the contract if the contract is cancelled by the FSA or pay any costs associated with bringing it into program compliance if it is not cancelled and brought into compliance.

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): Possibly utilize WACD staff to help with negotiation of revision to FSA policy.