

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

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April 20, 2009

NRCS ANNOUNCES WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM SIGNUP

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) administered by NRCS is now accepting applications for funding on a continuous basis. NRCS State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen noted that the 2008 Farm Bill provided for a continuous signup to allow eligible entities more opportunities to sign up eligible parcels. However, eligible entities must submit applications on or before June 1, 2009 to receive consideration for funding in fiscal year 2009. Funds must be obligated by August 28, 2009.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. The program offers three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements without easements placed on the enrolled land. Land proposed for funding in WRP must be privately owned or Tribal lands and must not have changed ownership in the past 7 years if an easement option is chosen.

To apply, complete the Application Form AD -1153 and submit with a copy of the deed to the land being offered to the NRCS Field Office in the County where the offered land is located. The ranking and selection of parcels for FY 2009 will take place immediately after June 1, 2009. For further information, contact Karen Fullen, State Program Manager, at 801-524-4566, karen.fullen@ut.usda.gov; or Chet Fitzgerald, NRCS Program Specialist, at 801-629-0580 x12, chet.fitzgerald@ut.usda.gov.

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Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

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