



4549 State Road H, Fulton, MO 65251
Phone: 573-592-1400

February 4, 2009

RECEIVED FEB 10 2009

Easements Programs Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wetlands Reserve Program Comments
P.O. 2890, Room 6819-S
Washington, DC 20013

RE: (NRCS-IFR-08013)

Dear Sir:

We should NOT add maintenance as a cost-share item to WRP easements. Maintenance includes mowing the conservation practices that have been completed, as well as repair muskrat and beaver damage to berms and structures. If we make this a cost-share item, we'll have a high administrative workload for completing contract modifications, long-term agreements, and applications for payment on just about every easement every year or two. Additionally, a lot of landowners are absentee, so they'll want USDA/NRCS to do a federal contract for the maintenance. There will also be a huge increase in field work providing maintenance and repair plans, stake out, design, and inspection of varmint damage. The landowner will have no incentive to maintain his easement; he'll expect NRCS to do everything. Please don't add maintenance as a cost-share item.

Sincerely,



John L. Baker
NRCS Wetland Emphasis Team Leader

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th & Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The NRCS works in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain natural resources on private lands. An Equal Opportunity Employer