

I would like to comment on Docket # NRCS-IFR-08005
Concerning:

RECEIVED MAR 17 2009

384

Subject: FW: EQIP Interim Final Rule

Farm Bill that pertains to public lands (its from section 1466.8 on page 20 of the attachment).

If EQUIP can't get involved in any public land that is leased by public auction to a rancher, there will be very few if any public lands improved. Most public land that goes up for auction are lands that are in somewhat bad shape. They may have no water, access, or covered with brush and weeds. A rancher can come in and make that land better with the help of the government. After all it is the governments land. When the term of the lease is over it gets turned back in a lot better shape then when the rancher got it. I myself was personally involved with a parcel of government land. When I took it over I knew that I would get the help of EQUIP. I dug a well, put up fences, cleared brush, stopped erosion, all with the guidance of the EQUIP program. I would never have been able to do this, with my financial status. The person who would introduce a bill to prevent EQUIP from assisting anyone who leases government land, should not be in government. To say that EQUIP can participate in private land and not public is nuts. Private land, after the EQUIP term, can be sold or developed, when all the brush is gone and water is established. The government land can't. It will always belong to the government. So shouldn't their money, and employees, help take care of there land? I hope there are more people in government with good sound logical, common sense then those who don't have any and never even been near a farm or cattle. Please don't let this happen. It will be a deterrent to any one who would want to consider leasing public land. Or even worst, those who would lease it will return the property in the same or worst shape then when the take it over. Thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts on this important issue.

Brendan Balthazar Diamond B Ranch

