

Wetlands Reserve Program



NOTIFICATION TO LANDOWNER

FY 2013

Applicant Name: _____ **County:** _____

LENGTH OF ENROLLMENT: _____ Permanent or _____ 30-year

PROPOSED WRP ACREAGE: _____ **Hydric Soils:** _____ **Upland Soils:** _____

NRCS is hereby providing notification to landowners who apply for WRP:

1. You have been provided copies of the Agreement for Purchase of a Conservation Easement, the WRP Warranty Easement deed and Compatible Use policy outlined in the application checklist. It is your responsibility to review these documents and ask questions in relation to restrictions and prohibited activities. These documents are not for signature; these are copies of documents that will be signed IF your application is selected for funding.
2. You, as fee title owner of proposed property for enrollment in WRP, must provide clear title to the property. This will include clearing the title from any defects identified through a preliminary title search. Also, any outstanding liens/mortgages must either be subordinated to the United States, or satisfied before closing. All title clearance will be at the expense of the landowner (WRP Manual 514.34.) Landowner must provide access from the nearest county road to NRCS through ingress/egress. These acres in the ingress/egress are not compensated for in the easement acreages; Ingress/egress is at the expense of the landowner.
3. WRP is a state-wide program where demand often exceeds capacity to full fill. Therefore, program policy requires all properties submitted for application will be ranked through a competitive ranking process. NRCS has a WRP ranking team, compiled of multiple NRCS personnel and our partners. Each property is ranked through a site visit (or if a site visit is not possible, through maps and consultation with the local NRCS) and the highest ranking properties are selected for funding (WRP Manual 514 Subpart C.)
4. WRP easements are valued through the Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC). You will be provided a map of Georgia showing what the GARC is for your county. You have the option to accept an amount less than the proposed GARC to receive ranking points (see GARC waiver form and WRP Manual 514.32.)

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5. Under a WRP Warranty Easement Deed, you reserve certain rights to the property, which include the right to hold/transfer/convey title, quiet enjoyment, control of access, and undeveloped recreation. Certain activities, however, are restricted by the deed and may require a Compatible Use Authorization (CUA). Compatible Use is an option for landowners to perform activities on the property that may be prohibited in the deed but will have a direct benefit to the resource concerns being addressed through the WRP Easement and Restoration Plan (i.e. timber harvesting and burning in upland pines). In order for a Compatible Use to be approved, the landowner must request a CUA in writing and prove the benefit to wildlife habitat or wetland resources. All CUA's are processed through the State Conservationist (WRP Manual 514.62 and NRCS-Georgia CUA Policy.) There is no guarantee that a CUA will be approved, or if approved for a 5-year term, that it will be approved again for another 5-year term.

6. WRP is designed not only as an easement program, but as a wetland restoration program. All landowners who enroll in WRP agree to implement WRP restoration according to the Wetlands Reserve Plan of Operations (WRPO) (WRP Manual Subpart E.) As a part of WRP restoration, you, as the fee title landowner, **will be responsible for any permitting needed from the US Army Corps of Engineers or the State of Georgia.** This may include requesting a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) from the US Army Corps of Engineers, filed under Nationwide Permits (NWP) – most likely NWP 27. **This may include hiring an appropriate contractor to work with you on the PCN.** NRCS can provide limited Technical Assistance in the PCN process. **This is not cost-shared** and is the responsibility of the landowner. NRCS cannot request a PCN on your behalf.

I acknowledge that I have received information and understand the 6 items above.

Landowner Signature: _____ Date: _____

NRCS Rep Signature: _____ Date: _____

Received by State Office _____ Initials _____ Date _____