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STATE OF WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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September 20, 2004

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Conservation Security Program
farbillrules@usda.gov

Subject: Comments on the Conservation Security Program Interim Final Rule

The Washington State Conservation Commission would like to thank you for the opportunity for us to comment on the CSP Interim Final Rule.

We ask that state lands be allowed participation in the CSP Program. Currently, the rule does not include the ability for state lands that are leased under contract, for farming and grazing operations, to participate in the CSP Program. It is important for the final rule to reflect the importance of decisions being made at the contract-operator level. This allows the operators more control which will result in a greater number of eligible participants.

WSCC asks that you consider that tribal land criteria be the same for state-owned land.

Again, thank you for the ability to provide feedback. WSCC values our partnership with NRCS.

Sincerely,

Tracy Eriksen
Chair

cc: WSCC Commission Members