

N714

rec'd
OCT - 5 2004

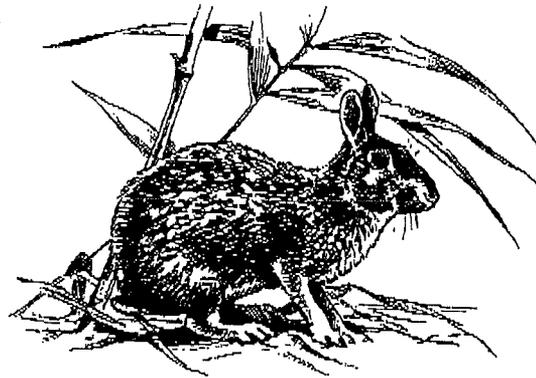
**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES
SMALL GAME PROJECT**

CAET RECEIVED

OCT 08 2004

FAX

TO: Natural Resources Conservation Service
From: Judy Barnes
Date: October 5, 2004
Subject: Conservation Security Program Interim Final Rule



Number of pages including cover sheet 3

Our server is down and we are not able to utilize our email system. Attached are comments from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources regarding CSP Interim Final Rule. The original letter will be mailed today (October 5, 2004). If you have questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Judy Barnes, Certified Wildlife Biologist
Farm Bill/Ag Liaison
Small Game Project

P.O. BOX 167 * COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-4306 * FACSIMILE: (803) 734-6020
Email: barnesj@dnr.sc.gov



OCT 03 '03 09:43AM

P.2

N714

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



John E. Frampton
Director

October 4, 2004

Financial Assistance Programs Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service
P. O. Box 2890
Washington, DC 20013-2890

To Whom It May Concern:

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the public agency charged with the protection and management of natural resources in the state. Our agency has been a partner with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a number of years. DNR recognizes the contribution to our nation's resources provided through farm bill programs and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Security Program (CSP) Interim Final Rule 7 CFR Part 1469.

DNR acknowledges the importance and the opportunity of CSP and that it is a unique opportunity to connect agriculture programs with conservation thereby benefiting everyone through environmental enhancement. DNR supports the CSP's broad conservation approach and that all natural resource concerns must be considered of equal importance in national rules set forth by NRCS.

DNR still supports that all resource concerns should be addressed for Tier I and Tier II. If all resource concerns were met at minimum levels, then we are truly rewarding the very best landowners who are presently meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management. DNR recommends adding all resource concerns listed in the law (air, energy, wildlife, plant) on parts(s) of the agricultural operation for Tier I. We further recommend adding all resource concerns to a minimum level of treatment for an entire agricultural operation for Tier II. For Tier III, we concur that all resource concerns be treated to a sustainable level on all parts of the operation.

N714

Financial Assistance Programs Division

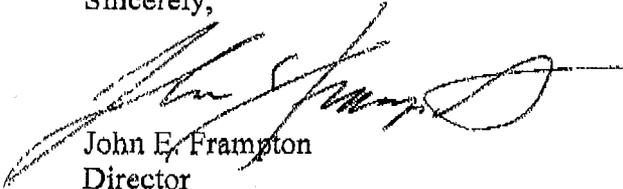
October 4, 2004

Page 2

DNR is concerned that the proposed rule does not require consensus with state fish and wildlife agencies, state environmental and soil agencies especially when they have statutory responsibilities for fish, forest, wildlife, plant and water quality resources. We would like to see collaborative efforts with these agencies as stated in the proposed rule.

In summary, we believe that wildlife should be considered as a coequal objective of conservation enhancement along with water, soil, air and plants. DNR also strongly believes that state fish and wildlife agencies should be allowed to build a collaborative relationship with NRCS and provide input prior to the State Technical Committee meetings.

Sincerely,



John E. Frampton
Director

cc: Breck Carmichael
Judy Barnes