

101



TO

FROM

Name: Financial Assist. To. Dir, NRCS
Location:
Reason: Comments on Interim Rule
FAX #: 202-720-9689
Date: March 13, 2009
Number of Pages (including this one):

Wild Farm Alliance
FAX #: 831-761-8103
Phone #: 831-761-8408

FAX MESSAGE

Hello,
Please see attached page
Best,
John

PO Box 2570, Watsonville, CA 95077

info@wildfarmalliance.org

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

Dan Imhoff
Watershed Media

Dana Jackson
Land Stewardship Project

Michael DiNunzio
Consulting Ecologist

Dan Kent
Salmon-Safe

BOARD:

John Davis
Adirondack Council

Randall Gray
Wildlife Biologist

Dave Henson
Occidental Arts
& Ecology Center

Paula MacKay
Wildlife Researcher

Jamie Phillips
Eddy Foundation

Vance Russell
Audubon California

Becky Weed
Thirteen Mile Lamb
& Wool Company

ADVISORS:

John Anderson
Hedgerow Farms

Catherine Badgley
University of Michigan

Wendell Berry
Lanes Landing Farm

Robert Bugg
University of California

Dave Foreman
Rewilding Institute

Fred Kirshenmann
Leopold Center

Winona LaDuke
White Earth Land Recovery

Frances Moore Lappé
Small Planet Project

Gary Nabhan
Center for Sustainable Environments

Reed Noss
University of Central Florida

Alice Waters
Chez Patisse

March 14, 2009

Easements Program Division
Grassland Reserve Program Comments
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890, Room 6819-S
Washington, DC 20013
Fax: (202) 720-9689
Email: grp2008@wdc.usda.gov

RE: COMMENTS ON GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

Dear NRCS Easements Programs Division,

Wild Farm Alliance promotes a healthy, viable agriculture that protects and restores wild Nature. Besides providing educational materials and addressing policy issues on a national level, we work with farmers installing conservation practices in California's Central Coast region. The following comments relate to the WRP as described in the Interim Final Rule:

- Limit Wind and Solar Power. Since energy development can have adverse effects on biodiversity, we concur with NRCS about limiting wind power development on GRP easements to on farm use only. Additionally, we suggest that solar energy development be treated the same way.
- Native Grasslands Prioritization. We recommend that native grasslands are given the highest priority for program eligibility.
- Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. We suggest that NRCS use the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies developed for each state in establishing priorities for the Grassland Reserve Program.
- Biological Diversity Definition. We suggest NRCS use the following: The variety and variability among living organisms native to the ecological subregion and ecological complex.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Baumgartner
Director

PO Box 2570, Watsonville, CA 95077

831.761.8408 Fax 831.761.8103 info@wildfarmalliance.org www.wildfarmalliance.org