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3/15/09

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USDA  
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Re: Comments pertaining to: Federal Register Vol.74, No.10/Thurs.,  
June 15,2009/Rules & Regulations, Pgs. 2293-2317

Specifically pg. 2312, section 1466.8 Program Requirements,  
Part(C) Eligible Land, Part (2), Publicly owned land, part (iii)

**"The conservation practices to be implemented on the public land are necessary and will contribute to an improvement in the identified resource concern that is on private land;"...**

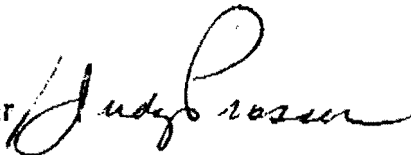
In the state of Arizona, where private land is less than 15% of the total land base, and intermingled public and private lands are the norm, this change in wording would make it almost impossible to obtain funding. Most of the time, the "identified resource concerns" are not on private land, but on public land that is utilized for agriculture production, and for which there is no funding for projects, and little incentive for a private landowner to pay for such projects. It would also imply that we could no longer use NRCS *expertise* on inter-mingled land ownership.

We have a collaborative land management group, "The Diablo Trust" which has utilized thousands of EQIP and WHIP funds on landscape scale resource improvements within our ranch boundaries: state, federal and private. Had this language been included before, we would not have been able to make most of the improvements that we have made.

This will cause a huge problem for western public land ranches and could completely bring range improvements to a standstill. We will appreciate your review of the wording and the removal of the wording, "...that is on private land". Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob and Judy Prosser



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posted  
3/18/09  
JWD