

Decker, Denise - Washington, DC

From: Kit Veerkamp [kitzkamp@pacbell.net]

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 12:38 PM

To: RA.dcwashing2.frpp

Subject: Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program: Docket Number NRCS-IFR-08006

249

As a citizen concerned with preserving working farms and ranches, I believe USDA must address the following five issues to improve the FRPP program's flexibility for state and local partners:

- Make it clear that the federal government is not purchasing a federal property interest, but rather the right to enforce the terms of an easement when and if necessary;
- USDA should establish a meaningful certification process to reduce cumbersome and unneeded program requirements for experienced entities; the Land Trust Alliance has done this successfully for land trusts.
- While well-intentioned, the new forest management plan requirement is burdensome and should be eliminated or significantly revised;
- The rule should follow Congressional intent and give program partners the flexibility to design and implement their own impervious surfaces standards to meet established standards; and,
- The new national ranking criteria do not adequately recognize state and local farmland protection goals; entities that become certified should be allowed to use their own criteria for ranking farmland protection projects that are consistent with state and local goals.

Marie 'Kit' Veerkamp
American Mustang Foundation
3636 Overton Road
Cool, CA
Home: (530) 885-4959
Cell: (530) 305-1130