

Decker, Denise - Washington, DC

From: DONNA CLARK [key4skip@sbcglobal.net]
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- The Interim Final Rule should be changed to reflect Congressional intent and to work more effectively for farmers and state and local program partners.
- 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
- 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 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.

Thank you.

Donna Clark
2220 Westmont Dr.
Alhambra, CA 91803