

## **Delivery of other NRCS Financial Assistance Conservation Programs (AMA, WHIP, WRP)**

### **Application Acceptance:**

- Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis.
- For each funding cycle a cutoff date for accepting applications will be established to provide the maximum amount of time for screening and ranking. Applications received after that date will be considered for the next funding cycle.

### **Application Ranking:**

- All applications received prior to the application cutoff date will be ranked based on an on-site resource inventory and assessment.
- Planners will develop alternatives based on their assessment and work with the applicant to get decisions for practice application.
- Environmental compliance elements of the planning process (NEPA, ESA, EFH, Cultural Resources, etc) will not be required for ranking purposes but must be completed prior to contract obligation.

### **Contract Development:**

- Applications will be selected for funding based on the availability of funds and their rank at the close of business of the established ranking deadline.
- Conservation plans, including all environmental compliance requirements, will be developed for applications that are selected for funding.
- Contract obligations will be approved only after a conservation plan and environmental compliance activities are completed for the selected applications.

### **Timeline: FY 2010 and beyond (AMA, WHIP, WRP)**

- Sign-up cutoff - March 1, 2010
- Ranking and Evaluation deadline for all applications – April 30, 2010
- Contract Obligation Deadline - July 1, 2010