



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington D.C. 20013

SUBJECT: LTP – Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) -
Geographical Area Rate Cap (GARC)

TO: Don Baloun
State Conservationist
St. Paul, Minnesota

File Code: 300-11

The Market Study and Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) you submitted in response to National Bulletin 300-10-27 for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) in FY 2011 has been reviewed. The Easement Programs Division concurs that your GARCs are lower than the fair market value determined through your market study reflect fair compensation for the value of a WRP easement. Therefore they are approved.

You may provide these numbers to potential participants. Unless the landowner offer is less, the GARC will represent the easement compensation value for WRP easements in FY 2010.

It was noted that some of the GARCs in your state would generate an offer to participants greater than \$5,000 per acre. There was not sufficient documentation provided with your initial GARC submittal to justify the ecological importance of enrolling these high value lands. Therefore your approved GARCs for enrollment in these areas are capped at \$5,000 per acre at this time. If you would like us to reconsider those GARC areas in excess of \$5,000, please submit additional ecological documentation. Otherwise, you may submit this documentation on a geographic basis or on a case-by case basis for review and approval by the Director of EPD, prior to making an offer exceeding \$5,000 per acre.

In order to ensure even greater consistency and transparency, it has been determined that, for FY 2012, all states should acquire an independent market analysis developed in accordance with the Scope of Work provided in the new Wetlands Reserve Program Manual (Subpart J, Exhibit 514.99B). Therefore, you should begin to make plans now to schedule the acquisition of an independent market analysis into your contracting workload. If your state cannot successfully obtain a market analysis, contact the Easement Programs Division for special authorization to conduct a market survey instead.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ken Murray, Easement Specialist, at (202) 720-9482.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andree Duvarney".

ANDREE DUVARNEY
Acting Deputy Chief
Easements and Landscape Planning

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cc:

Leonard Jordan, Regional Conservationist, East, Washington, D.C.

Thomas Christenson, Regional Conservationist, Central, Washington, D.C.

Diane Gelburd, Regional Conservationist, West, Washington, D.C.