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Department of
Agriculture

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DATE: Sept. 2, 2010

TO: OTAC Members

From: LYNN E. VOIGT, SED
Oregon State FSA Office

Subject: Request for Concurrence-Routine Grazing and Managed Harvesting

National policy on approved use of acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program has changed due to provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill. The frequency and duration of both Routine Grazing and Managed Harvesting for contracts approved after July 28, 2010 must be approved by the FSA State Committee with a concurrence from OTAC. The Primary Nesting Season is also to be reviewed and acted upon by the same members.

The process in several of the Western States is impacted by the settlement with the National Wildlife Federation and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that came as a result of the Environmental Assessment (EA) completed for that settlement. The settlement included provisions for the Managed Haying and Grazing use of CRP. The primary nesting season set by that EA and FONSI is March 1-July 15 and the frequency is 1 in 3 years on the West side and 1 in 4 years on the East side. The duration is one 120 day period or two 60 day periods. All prescribed grazing during this period of time must meet NRCS specifications.

For the new Routine Grazing and Managed Harvesting a new EA must be completed unless the same PNS, frequency and duration are adopted as were used for Managed Haying and Grazing. The FSA State Committee is charged with making that determination but must obtain concurrence from OTAC. The State Committee will make that determination on Sept. 1 and the decision will be presented to the membership of OTAC at their meeting on Sept. 2 for discussion and requested concurrence.