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Date: August 17, 2007

WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA300-7-19

SUBJECT: LTP - Second Signup for EQIP FY 2007 Fire Recovery Initiative

Purpose. This bulletin transmits the requirements for a second FY 2007 Statewide EQIP Fire Recovery Initiative.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007

Washington NRCS has established a second special statewide initiative under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to assist eligible producers who had grazing lands that were burned by wildfire in 2007. The following information is to be used in the implementation of this special initiative.

Producer and Land Eligibility - Applicants and land must meet basic EQIP eligibility criteria. In addition, producers must have grazing lands that were burned by wildfire in 2007.

Application Period - NRCS will accept applications for this funding through August 29, 2007.

Ranking and Contracting Timeline - Applications will be ranked using the statewide EQIP Wildfire ranking tool in ProTracts. Ranking deadline will be August 31, 2007. Approved applications will be obligated no later than close of business on September 14th. The ranking questions are available on the Washington NRCS website. Please note that the dates and fund allocation contained in the ranking description apply to our original signup and should be disregarded for this second signup.

Eligible Practices and Cost-share Rates - NRCS Practice 472, Use Exclusion, will be the only eligible practice. An incentive payment of \$4.00/acre will be paid on contracted acres. Payment will be authorized for one or two years. There will be a cost-share cap of \$20,000. Producers may only have one contract. The practice list and eligible cost list is available on the Washington NRCS website.

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Practice Requirements - To be eligible for the first year incentive payment, participants must exclude all livestock grazing from the date a contract is obligated through September 30, 2008. To be eligible for a second-year payment, participants must exclude livestock grazing through July 15, 2009. Producers must enroll land for a first year payment in order to be eligible for a second year payment.

Participants can receive the incentive payment on an entire grazing unit even though only a portion was burned as long as the burned portion is at least 20% of the grazing unit. Existing cross fence will be utilized to limit payment on unburned acres. Participants may also use temporary fence, at their own expense, to limit the extent of unburned acres included for payment.

Participation in Other Programs - Participants who receive this incentive payment are not eligible to receive grazing incentive payments for 472 Use Exclusion or 528 Prescribed Grazing under any other NRCS program during the same years. Participants are eligible to receive cost-share payments for structural or vegetative practices on these acres under other programs.

Payments for Practice Code 472, Use Exclusion contracted under the FY 2007 EQIP Wildfire Initiative (only), will be approved and processed as soon as practical after the obligation of the contract. It is understood that the participant will continue to exclude livestock from the contracted area for the agreed-to duration.

The participant will be required to sign the attached statement, acknowledging their requirement to continue excluding livestock and the possibility of repayment and liquidated damages if they fail to meet these requirements. A signed copy of this statement must be obtained prior to payment approval.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Area Program Liaison.

R. L. "GUS" HUGHBANKS
State Conservationist

Attachment: