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Date: April 15, 2009

WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA300-9-10

SUBJECT: LTP - EQIP Fiscal Year 2009 Wildfire Special Initiative

Purpose. Transmit requirements for FY 2009 Statewide EQIP Wildfire Special Initiative.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2009

Washington NRCS will accept FY 09 applications for the statewide Wildfire Special Initiative under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist eligible producers who had grazing lands that were burned by wildfire in 2008. The following information is to be used in 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 2008.

Application Period - NRCS will accept applications for this funding through May 15, 2009.

Ranking and Contracting Timeline - Applications will be ranked using the statewide EQIP Wildfire ranking tool in ProTracts. Ranking deadline will be May 29, 2009. Approved applications will be obligated no later than close of business on July 1, 2009. Ranking questions are available on the Washington NRCS website.

Eligible Practices and Cost-share Rates - NRCS Practice 472, Access Control, will be the only eligible practice. An incentive payment of \$4.00/acre/year (\$6.00 for HU) will be paid on contracted acres. Payment will be authorized for one or two years. There will be a cost-share cap of \$25,000. Producers may only have one contract. The eligible practice list and payment schedule is available on the Washington NRCS website.

Practice Requirements - To be eligible for the first year payment, participants must exclude all livestock grazing from the date of application through September 30, 2009. To be eligible for a second-year payment, participants must exclude livestock grazing through July 15, 2010. Producers must enroll land for a first year payment in order to be eligible for a second year payment.

Participants can receive payment on an entire grazing unit even though only a portion was burned as long as the burned portion is at least 20 percent 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.

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

Payment Processing - Payments for practice code 472, Access Control, contracted under the FY 09 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.

/s/ Roylene Rides at the Door

ROYLENE RIDES AT THE DOOR
State Conservationist

Attachment