



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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DATE: April 14, 2009

WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA300-9-9

SUBJECT: WHIP Special Projects

Purpose. To provide the process for submittal of requests for WHIP special projects

Expiration Date. September 30, 2009

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides the opportunity for the state conservationist to consider and approve requests for special projects outside the regular ranking and selection process. Projects must meet all WHIP land and producer eligibility and will be subject to the state WHIP eligible practice list. Practice hold-downs may be waived for special projects.

Washington NRCS will consider special project requests on a case-by-case basis. Projects that meet the following criteria will have a higher likelihood of approval.

1. Projects that would not be selected for funding through the regular area ranking process.
2. Projects that would not be feasible due to practice hold-down rates at the area approval level.
3. Projects that provide substantial wildlife habitat benefits.
4. Projects that target state or federal listed threatened and endangered species.
5. Projects that have partner involvement that will reduce the technical assistance demands on NRCS staff.
6. Projects that have completed designs and permits and can be implemented in a short timeframe.
7. Projects that leverage funds from other sources.

To initiate a request for special project consideration, landowners must first complete a WHIP application at their local NRCS office and submit documentation necessary to determine basic program eligibility. If the project would not receive any ranking points or would not be financially feasible due to hold-down rates, it can be forwarded for special project consideration. Projects that do score ranking points and are financially feasible given practice hold-downs will first be evaluated through the normal area ranking process. If the application is not selected for funding, a request for special project consideration can be made.

The landowner will develop and submit the request for special project consideration. If other conservation partners are involved, they may assist in the development of the request. NRCS employees are under no obligation to assist with the request, other than to provide a copy of

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this bulletin as directions for the applicant. The request should provide a description of the conservation practices to be installed, the merits of the project, including items 1-7 above and a location map. Requests will be submitted to Dave Brown, ASTC-Programs, 316 W. Boone Ave., Ste 450, Spokane, WA 99201.

Requests can be submitted at any time but are subject to funding availability and approval by the State Conservationist. Funding decisions on special projects submitted prior to May 1, 2009 will be coordinated with area WHIP ranking and selection.

/s/ Roylene Rides at the Door

ROYLENE RIDES AT THE DOOR
State Conservationist