



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Date: May 8, 2009

WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA300-9-12

SUBJECT: LTP - EQIP and WHIP Early Start Waivers

Purpose. To delegate authority to the Area Conservationists to grant Early Start Waivers for EQIP and WHIP

Expiration Date. September 30, 2009

The authority for granting waivers to allow practices to be started prior to contract approval is contained in 440-CPM, Part 512.23C. I am delegating to the Area Conservationists the authority to approve early start waivers for meritorious reasons such as:

- To alleviate imminent and significant environmental problems.
- To prevent endangerment to property.
- Weather conditions.

This authority is now applicable to both EQIP and WHIP. To ensure that EQIP and WHIP implementation is commenced in a timely manner, the Area Conservationist will accept and review requests for early implementation. The following steps shall be taken:

1. The applicant shall submit a signed and dated "Request for Waiver to Start EQIP or WHIP Project Early" (attached) to the District Conservationist.
2. The District Conservationist shall submit the request, with their recommendation, to the Area Conservationist. Include status of cultural resources review.
3. The Area Conservationist will review the applicant's request and the District Conservationist's recommendation, consult with the Area Cultural Resources Specialist and check the application status in ProTracts. Only applications with a potential to be funded should be considered for a waiver.

4. The applicant will be notified by the Area Conservationist of approval or denial of their request. A copy of this notification will be sent to the District Conservationist and Tribal Liaison, where appropriate.

Any TSP services provided prior to the obligation of an EQIP or WHIP contract will not be reimbursable with EQIP or WHIP funding, even if an early start waiver is approved.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your Area Program Liaison.

ROYLENE RIDES AT THE DOOR
State Conservationist

Attachment