# CSP Eligibility, Qualification & Application Steps

**Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service**
November 2004

*You've been taking care of natural resources on your land for years...*

*...now, you have a chance to be financially rewarded for your work.*

You've decided you want to apply for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Now what? Once you've determined you are interested in CSP, you need to complete a number of steps to determine if you meet the basic eligibility criteria and if you are qualified for the program. Individuals who have an existing resource management system level plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may have already completed a number of these steps. Check with your local NRCS office to determine which steps you need to complete.

**1. Complete the Producer Checklist for initial eligibility.**
This will allow you to determine whether or not you meet the initial eligibility requirements for the program without completing a comprehensive assessment.

**2. Attend an Informational Meeting on the CSP program and the program requirements.**
This will provide you with the information you need to determine if CSP is right for you and your farming/ranching operation.

**3. Attend an NRCS Self-Assessment and Record Keeping workshop.**
This will help you work through the self-assessment process and help you collect and record the documentation needed for making the CSP application.

**4. Get a USDA Identification Number.**
If you have worked with USDA farm programs in the past, you most likely have a USDA Identification Number (also referred to as a SCIMS number). If you do not have a USDA Identification number, the process is very simple. Just contact your local NRCS office to set up a time to receive a number.

**5. Arrange an interview with NRCS to determine the CSP categories, sub-categories and tiers for your operation.**

**6. Apply for CSP and submit your Conservation Stewardship Plan.**
Your plan will be submitted to the NRCS National Headquarters, where funding selections will be made. All applications in Category A will be funded first, followed by categories B, C, etc. until this year's funds for the program are depleted. You will be notified by mail once selections are made.

**7. Complete Your Conservation Stewardship Contract.**
If you are selected, you will also be contacted by your local NRCS office to finalize and sign your Conservation Stewardship Contract.

**Washington**
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

For more information, contact your local NRCS field office

Ephrata Service Center
2145 Basin St. SW, Suite B
Ephrata, WA 98823-9451
(509) 754-2463

or go to...
**www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov**

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).**

**To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**