



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Denver Federal Center
Building 56, Room 2604
P.O. Box 25426
Denver, Colorado 80225

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

**Subject: 2013 Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
Announcement of Application Cut-off Date for Colorado**

To Our Land Conservation Partners:

The next application cut-off date for FRPP will be:

Monday – April 1, 2013 (4:00 PM)

Send or deliver proposals to:

David Colburn, Easements Coordinator
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Denver Federal Center
Building 56, Room 2604
P.O. Box 25426
Denver, CO 80225

Postmarks will not be honored.

Please submit your proposal **electronically to David Colburn: David.Colburn@co.usda.gov**
If you are unable to email your proposal then you can send it to David at the address above.

The FRPP is a voluntary program designed to protect high quality farm and ranch lands from conversion to nonagricultural uses through the use of permanent conservation easements. For general information about the FRPP, check out our national website at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp>. The Colorado NRCS website <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp> will have links to the forms and other information needed for application packages.

Submit a sample of the easement deed you propose to use with your application(s). Please, incorporate language from the attached "FRPP Required Language," which transmits language relating to liability, the environmental warranty, a reserved right of enforcement for the United States of America, and a conservation plan, among other things.



Substitute Property: All substitute properties must be listed on the application. Eligibility on substitute properties must be verified before evaluation of the application will occur or determination of funding.

Subdivision: Cooperating entities should be advised that, if a landowner's intention is to subdivide a parcel in the future, proposals should be submitted for the intended subdivided parcels so ranking will be done on the smaller-sized parcels. If the smaller parcels are ranked high enough to warrant funding, separate conservation easements can be developed on the separate parcels even if the subdivision would not take place for many years.

The "2013 Colorado FRPP Application Guide" contains the elements that must be addressed in your proposal. Please, develop your proposal according to the format in the guide.

We are requiring the use of the "Standard Forms" used in applications for federal financial assistance: SF-424, SF-424A, and SF-424B. Entities receiving federal financial assistance are required to obtain a "DUNS number" and register in the System for Award Management (SAM). This applies to FRPP applicant organizations, as well as to any landowners that happen to be "entities." See item B.3. in the guide.

As a condition of receipt of FRPP funds, landowners must certify that they are in compliance with the highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. This is accomplished by ensuring that form "AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification" is on record at the the local office of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). All persons with an interest in the Property must be on record and in compliance. If the ownership is an entity with members, either the "CCC-901" or "CCC-902E" will need to be completed, as well. The HEL/WC certification applies to all agricultural lands owned or operated by the landowner (and any member), anywhere—not just the land proposed for FRPP funding.

Farm program participants are also subject to a limitation on non-farm average adjusted gross income (AGI). Average AGI cannot exceed \$1.0 M for the previous three tax years, unless 2/3 was derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations. Form "CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification" must be submitted to the local Farm Service Agency office by all persons with an interest in the Property.

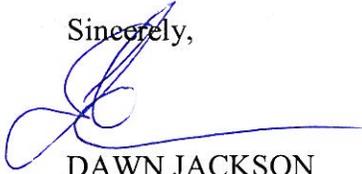
NRCS can verify landowner compliance with the HEL/WC and AGI issues using a secure web-based application, so do not submit the AD-1026, CCC-926, etc. to NRCS. These must be submitted by the landowner(s) directly to FSA. It is important that landowners submit these documents early to allow sufficient time for FSA staff to process the information and get compliance settings set correctly in the system. We cannot award funds to projects without assurance of landowner eligibility.

Tentative award decisions will be announced on or about April 22, 2013. Awards will be based on the ranking of applications by score, with possible exceptions made for projects that are judged not to be in the best interest of the program (because, for example, they are too close to unavoidable growth, the cost is prohibitive, or there are title issues that cannot be satisfactorily resolved).

Projects without the required matching funds are ineligible to receive an FRPP award. We will not be able to amend existing cooperative agreements in 2013; new agreements must be developed.

Contact David Colburn if you have any questions: (720)544-2820 / david.colburn@co.usda.gov
We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



DAWN JACKSON

Assistant State Conservationist - Programs



Enclosures

cc: Phyllis Phillips, State Conservationist, NRCS, Colorado
David Colburn, Easements Coordinator, NRCS, Colorado
Area Conservationists, NRCS, Colorado
District Conservationists, NRCS, Colorado
Area Resource Conservationists (Programs), NRCS, Colorado
Kathleen Staks, Great Outdoors Colorado
Josh Tenneson, Great Outdoors Colorado