Wetland Reserve Program at Pearson Eddy, Snohomish County, WA

A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT SITE
TWO Wetland Reserve Program easements totaling 266.68 acres

Purchased from the De Jong and Rupard families in July 2004
Purpose of the Wetland Reserve Program (now part of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - ACEP) is to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands on eligible private or Tribal lands while maximizing wildlife habitat benefits.
Location of WRP easements in lower Snoqualmie River Valley
WRP Easements

Authority for purchase of easements under Title XII, Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. sec. 3837)

- Eligible Land
- Eligible Private Land Owner
- **Voluntary** offer to sell a permanent conservation easement to the USA
- Sale and recording of executed warranty easement deed
WRP Easements

- Land
- Title
- Restoration
- Management and Enforcement

- Land is formerly wetlands converted prior to December 23, 1985 for agricultural purposes
- High likelihood of restoring hydrology and vegetation
- Title is vested in landowner and free of unacceptable encumbrances
- Legal boundary survey
- Managed in perpetuity for wetland functions and values
WRP Easements

- NRCS purchased all surface rights except those reserved to landowner in the deed

Reserved Rights to Landowner:
- Fee Title
- Quiet Enjoyment
- Control of Access
- Recreational Uses
- Subsurface Resources
WRP Easements

NRCS develops contract with landowner

Contractor follows NRCS design

NRCS oversees construction and final completion

NRCS reimburses landowner for cost

NRCS pays for cost of planned restoration

- Either landowner contract, or
- Federal Contract
WRP Easements

Long Term Management

- Operation and maintenance of structures (or O&M agreement with landowner)
- Vegetation management to achieve desired outcomes
  - By NRCS contract, or
  - Through Compatible Use Authorization with landowner
WRP Easements

- Site is former wetland converted for agricultural purposes
- Land voluntarily enrolled into WRP program in 2004
- Purpose of WRP is to restore and protect the land for wetland functions and values and wildlife habitat
- NRCS has authority to do the project and current landowner support

Summary
Thank you for your time and attention

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