

Broadway, Salina, KS 67401, (785) 823-4522.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 210, Lexington, KY 40503, (859) 224-7401.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71303, (318) 473-7769.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002-2955, (413) 253-4353.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Hanson Business Center, 339 Busch's Frontage Road, Suite 301, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 757-2926.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite #3, Bangor, ME 04401, (207) 990-9100, ext. 501.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 324-5134.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 375 Jackson Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55101, (651) 602-7855.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Suite 1321, Federal Bldg., 100 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269-1399, (601) 965-4549.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Parkade Center, Suite 250, Business Loop 70 West, Columbia, MO 65203-2536, (573) 876-0904.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Bldg., Room 443, 10 East Babcock Street, Bozeman, MT 59715-4704, (406) 587-6937.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 4405 Bland Road, Suite 205, Raleigh, NC 27609-6293, (919) 873-2108.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 220 E. Rosser Avenue, Room 278, P.O. Box 1458, Bismarck, ND 58502-1458, (701) 530-2008.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Bldg., Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508-3866, (402) 437-4057.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Bldg., 2 Madbury Road, Durham, NH 03824-2043, (603) 868-7581.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 220 Davidson Avenue, 4th Floor, Somerset, NJ 08873, (732) 537-6081.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 6200

Jefferson Street, NE., Suite 305, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3734, (505) 761-4409.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 5301 Longley Lane, Bldg. F, Suite 201, Reno, NV 89511-1805, (775) 784-5868, ext. 172.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 441 South Salina Street, Suite 354, Room 520, Syracuse, NY 13202-2450, (315) 477-6512.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 200 North High Street, Room 522, Columbus, OH 43215-2478, (614) 255-2509.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 100 USDA, Suite 206, Stillwater, OK 74074-2655, (405) 742-1209.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 101 SW Main Street, Suite 1300, Portland, OR 97204-3221, (503) 414-3223.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1 Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993, (717) 237-2229.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, IBM Bldg., Suite 604, 654 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Hato Rey, PR 00918-4123 (787) 766-5206, ext. 228.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46, Warwick, RI 02886-0111, (401) 828-1300.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Strom Thurmond Federal Bldg., 1835 Assembly Street, Room 950, Columbia, SC 29201-2489, (803) 253-3920.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Bldg., 200 Fourth Street SW., Huron, SD 57350-2475, (605) 352-1224.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 675 U.S. Courthouse, 801 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203-3878, (615) 277-2541.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, W.R. Poage Federal Bldg., 101 South Main Street, Temple, TX 76501-7602, (254) 742-9931.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, W.F. Bennett Federal Bldg., 125 South State Street, Room 4402, Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100, (801) 524-4576.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105, Colchester, VT 05446, (802) 951-6796.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Culpeper Bldg., Suite 209, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229-5014, (804) 287-1666.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rock Point Tower II, W. 316 Boone Avenue, Suite 450, Spokane, WA 99201-2348, (509) 323-2931.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 75 High Street, Room 301, Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 284-7599.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53717, (608) 662-4430.

Human Resources Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 33124, Casper, WY 82602, (307) 233-6794.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* January 11, 2005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Shelli Moore, Human Resources Specialist, (605) 352-1287.

**Karen W. Karlinchak,**

*Director, Human Resources Management Division.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Availability of Finding of No Significant Impact for the Conservation Security Program

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and an Environmental Assessment (EA) consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, to implement the Conservation Security Program, which is authorized by title XII, chapter 2, subchapter A, of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Upon review of the analysis of potential environmental impacts from a national perspective, the Chief of NRCS found that the program would not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, particularly when focusing on the significant adverse impacts that NEPA is intended to help decisionmakers avoid and mitigate against. Therefore, a FONSI was issued, and no environmental

impact statement is required for national implementation of the program.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments on the EA and FONSI must be postmarked on or before February 10, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be sent to the Director of the Financial Assistance Programs Division, NRCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2890, Room 5241-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Copies of the FONSI, the Final EA, or additional information on matters related to this **Federal Register** Notice can be obtained by contacting one of the following individuals at the addresses and telephone numbers shown below:

Mr. Craig Derickson, Conservation Security Program Branch Chief, Financial Assistance Programs Division, NRCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2890, Room 5233-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890, Telephone: (202) 720-3524.

Ms. Andrée DuVarney, National Environmental Specialist, Ecological Sciences Division, NRCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2890, Room 6158-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890, Telephone: (202) 720-4925.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Description of the Proposed Action**

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary program providing both technical and financial assistance to producers of agricultural operations for the conservation and improvement of the quality of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life on working lands. The intent of the program is to recognize producers financially for the significant environmental goods and services they provide to the public through their annual and ongoing conservation stewardship efforts, to motivate other agricultural producers to do the same, and to secure the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber. The need to which NRCS is responding by proposing action is the need to implement CSP in a manner that achieves the purposes for which Congress authorized it, including providing payments to producers who practice good conservation stewardship on their agriculture operations, providing payments to producers to maintain conservation practices they have implemented, to provide financial assistance to producers to implement new conservation practices, and to provide payments to producers as incentives to enhance their conservation achievements. Participation in the CSP requires that a Conservation Security

Program Plan be developed which includes an inventory of the agricultural operation to identify existing resource concerns and benchmark conditions of the land as well as determining the extent of existing conservation treatment. Annual payments made under CSP contracts may include a stewardship payment for existing conservation treatments, cost-share and maintenance payments, and an enhancement payment for exceptional conservation effort. A three tiered approach is used to determine the level and limitations of all payments.

The Chief of NRCS has authority under CSP to assist producers who participate in the CSP to develop a comprehensive, long term strategy for improving and maintaining all natural resources of the producer's agricultural operation. All participants must meet the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended.

The CSP authorizes activities that reward agricultural producers for actions they have already taken to improve the quality and quantity of natural resources, and to implement new conservation measures that will also do so. NRCS has in the past and will continue to document the results of an environmental evaluation on a site-specific level consistent with NRCS policy and, as stated in the Environmental Assessment, will consult with the appropriate organizations to avoid, reduce or mitigate adverse impacts on protected resources. NRCS will comply with requirements protecting unique geographic features and other resources, as well as NRCS policies protecting natural and cultural resources. Thus, any adverse effects that may result from this program will occur at a much lower threshold than the Environmental Impact Statement threshold. Because the purpose of the program is to improve the quality of natural resources and because of the steps NRCS will take to work with other agencies as necessary on a site-specific basis to avoid, mitigate and reduce any potential collateral adverse effects, there is no threat of a violation of any Federal, State or local law or other requirements for the protection of the environment resulting from the proposed rule to implement the CSP. There is no impact on public health or safety identified in this EA or otherwise expected.

Implementation of the CSP rule is not sufficiently related to other actions that either individually or cumulatively is likely to result in the type of significant impacts that NEPA is intended to address. Based on the information in the EA for the CSP, the Chief of the NRCS

finds that the proposed actions are not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment that requires preparation of an EIS.

Copies of the EA and FONSI may be reviewed at the following location: Financial Assistance Programs Division, NRCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5241-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890. The documents may also be accessed on the Internet, at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/Env\\_Assess/CSP/CSP.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/Env_Assess/CSP/CSP.html).

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 20, 2004.

**Bruce I. Knight,**

*Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Lower Payette River Ditch Diversion, Replacement Payette County, ID**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that a draft environmental assessment has been prepared for a federally assisted proposed project by the Lower Payette Ditch Company, Payette County, Idaho.

**DATES:** Comments will be received for a 45 day period commencing with this date of publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Sims, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, Idaho, 83709-1574, telephone: (208) 378-5700.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The preliminary information of this federally assisted proposed action indicates that the proposed action will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Richard Sims, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an