

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Participation in Conservation Programs by Beginning, Limited Resource, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information  
USDA [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Some Federal conservation programs contain provisions aimed at encouraging participation of farmers traditionally underserved by Government agricultural programs. Beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers – three groups that are included in most definitions of traditionally underserved – operate about 40% of U.S. farms, but the manner in which they participate in conservation programs and the implications of that participation on program performance are unclear. This report examines the landscape characteristics, the resource issues addressed and conservation treatment costs of participants in the largest U.S. working lands and land retirement conservation programs.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers  
[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 01/08/09 End: 03/20/09 Completed: 05/28/09

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization  
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [ ] Yes [X] No  
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:  
How:  
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [ ] Yes [X] No  
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [ ] Yes [X] No