

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Promoting Allocative Goals in U.S. Conservation Programs: Impacts of the Regional Equity Provision

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

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

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Subject of Review: Most conservation programs seek to provide environmental benefits in cost-effective ways. Along with these economic goals, conservation dollars are also allocated with distributional goals in mind. In working lands programs, these economic and distributional equity goals are accomplished through a decentralized process that allocates conservation program funds and enrollment decisions to state program offices. The 2002 Farm Act included a provision requiring that working land conservation program funds be redirected to States that have historically tended to receive limited conservation funding. This 'Regional Equity' provision serves as a useful example because it collectively applies to four conservation programs, and allows additional insights into tradeoffs that can occur across programs. Because overall program budgets did not change to accommodate the minimum allocation requirement, this provision has resulted in conservation funding being shifted away from States that exceeded the threshold to those that did not. This report provides insights into the tradeoffs that can occur when both efficiency and distributional goals are established for 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: 06/24/09 End: 08/12/09 Completed: 10/29/09

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

