



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES 2005 CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM CONTRACTS**

THE DALLES, July 26, 2005 – USDA Undersecretary Mark Rey announced today that USDA will offer over 12,700 Conservation Security Program (CSP) contracts across the nation. These 2005 contracts being offered translate into more than a \$1 billion long-term commitment to conservation over the next ten years.

In Oregon, contracts were awarded to 719 conservation stewards in 10 watersheds, with first-year payments totaling over \$15.75 million. In Washington's 10 watersheds, over 250 conservation stewards received CSP contracts, totaling approximately \$4.5 million in first-year payments. Contracts range in length from 5 to 10 years.

“CSP participants are conservation innovators. What they do today will lead to additional environmental benefits for the nation as they share their knowledge of conservation with others,” said Rey at a CSP signing event at the Omeg Farm in The Dalles, OR. “The program is offered nationally on working lands rewarding the nation's leading conservationists and providing incentives for them and others to do more.”

Combined, the 2005 CSP contracts awarded in Washington and Oregon represent seven percent of the nation's total contracts and 14 percent of the total dollars invested nationwide.

“Pacific Northwest farmers and ranchers are outstanding conservation stewards, as shown by the high number of CSP contract recipients and dollars awarded,” says Bob Graham, state conservationist with Oregon's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The CSP contracts offered cover about 9 million acres of private land in the 220 watersheds nationwide. USDA expects to fully invest the \$202 million provided by Congress for this fiscal year. Environmental enhancement activities offered by applicants include improving soil quality, water quality, wildlife habitat management, nutrient and pest management, air quality management and on-farm energy management.

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Following the process outlined in the CSP sign-up notice published in the Federal Register on March 25, 2005, applications will be offered according to the published enrollment categories, in order, until the funding is exhausted. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will offer contracts to applications in enrollment categories A and B and subcategory C-1.

The number of applications accepted by state for each tier of conservation accomplishments is as follows:

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Applications Approved</b>	<b>Total Projected Contract Cost</b>
AK	2	\$11,776
AL	56	\$910,540
AR	594	\$12,173,668
AZ	21	\$194,497
CA	386	\$6,350,389
CO	141	\$2,157,850
CT	4	\$6,500
DE	25	\$403,073
FL	38	\$543,562
GA	107	\$2,880,048
HI	7	\$90,540
IA	1,973	\$14,368,789
ID	337	\$4,265,921
IL	466	\$4,302,350
IN	454	\$5,171,533
KS	691	\$9,166,907
KY	47	\$481,084
LA	40	\$357,185
MA	11	\$36,546
MD	362	\$4,422,814
ME	8	\$41,118
MI	336	\$5,368,693
MN	564	\$4,223,010
MO	1,133	\$11,963,823
MS	34	\$548,097
MT	321	\$6,946,314
NC	171	\$1,845,473
ND	287	\$4,727,895
NE	1,033	\$6,479,228
NH	13	\$51,196
NJ	6	\$63,021
NM	83	\$1,384,108
NV	47	\$560,171
NY	77	\$1,009,337
OH	451	\$5,168,159

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OK	155	\$728,775
<b>OR</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>\$15,751,383.43</b>
PA	234	\$1,065,490
PR	29	\$104,737
RI	3	\$13,023
SC	154	\$1,947,895
SD	108	\$719,564
TN	24	\$137,717
TX	84	\$1,963,637
UT	86	\$1,226,152
VA	166	\$1,385,924
VT	11	\$103,076.00
<b>WA</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>\$4,508,593</b>
WI	269	\$1,945,679
WV	12	\$19,627
WY	70	\$805,943

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