



NEWS RELEASE

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NRCS ANNOUNCES CSP WATERSHEDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

Portland, September 25, 2006—USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that the McKenzie watershed in Oregon's Willamette Valley was included in the preliminary selection of potential watersheds for a 2007 CSP sign-up. The McKenzie watershed comprises more than 850,000 acres in Linn and Lane Counties in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

CSP is a voluntary program that supports ongoing conservation stewardship on private agricultural working lands and enhances the condition of the nation's natural resources. Under this program, USDA rewards producers who practice good stewardship on agricultural lands and offers incentives to increase the use of conservation practices.

Since the program was first unrolled in fiscal year 2004, CSP has been available to farmers and ranchers in 14 Oregon watersheds.

Based upon President Bush's requested funding level for the program for fiscal year 2007, 51 watersheds in 50 states, the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean Area will be eligible for the 2007 CSP. Eligible watersheds are being announced now to allow farmers and ranchers adequate time to gather resource information on their operations in preparation for a prospective sign-up.

A list of the eligible watersheds can be viewed at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>. USDA offers CSP in new watersheds annually on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows.

For more information about CSP, including a map of the fiscal year 2007 watersheds and eligibility requirements, please visit <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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