

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation  
Service • Denver Federal Center  
Building 56, Room 2604, Denver, CO 80225 • Phone: (720) 544-2863  
Web: <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov>

---

January 7, 2013

**Colorado NRCS Announces \$12 Million in Funding for 2013 Farm and  
Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**  
**Application packages due on Monday, April 1, 2013 by 4:00 p.m. for funding consideration**

**DENVER** – Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Phyllis Ann Philipps announced the availability of \$12 million in funding for landowners to participate in the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) in Colorado. **Application packages are due on Monday, April 1, 2013 by 4:00 p.m. for funding consideration.**

*“NRCS will be targeting \$10 million of the \$12 million received toward easement properties that will protect sage-grouse habitat in Colorado,”* said Philipps. *“This provides a unique opportunity to help private landowners proactively, and voluntarily, work to prevent sage-grouse from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.”*

In addition to the sage-grouse funding, a special funding pool for FRPP will be available to socially disadvantaged producers, as part of a new targeting effort.

To participate in the FRPP program, landowners agree to limit the use of their land for non-agricultural purposes and to develop and implement a conservation plan if they have fields designated as “Highly Erodible Land.” The farm or ranch land must contain productive soils or historic archaeological sites, or support a state or local program policy.

Applicants (eligible entities) must be a federally recognized Indian Tribe, state or local units of government, or a non-governmental organization. Applicants must have an established farmland protection program that purchases agricultural conservation easements for the purpose of protecting agriculture use and related conservation values by limiting conversion to nonagricultural uses of the land.

USDA provides up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement in this voluntary program. The landowner retains ownership and continues to use the land for agricultural purposes.

To be eligible to receive FRPP funding, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to long-term conservation of agricultural lands; a capability to acquire, manage, and enforce easements; a sufficient number of staff dedicated to monitoring and easement stewardship; and the availability of funds.

Completed application packets should be emailed to David Colburn at [david.colburn@co.usda.gov](mailto:david.colburn@co.usda.gov) or mailed to him at the following address: **David Colburn, Easements Coordinator, USDA-NRCS, Denver Federal Center, Building 56, Room 2604, Denver, CO 80225**. The deadline to submit the application packet is **Monday, April 1, 2013 by 4:00 p.m.** Postmarked applications sent via mail **WILL NOT** be accepted.

For more information about FRPP, please contact Colburn at 720-544-2820. You can also visit your local NRCS Service Center or visit the Colorado NRCS website at [www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov).

###

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer