



United States Department
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Farm Service Agency

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Conservation Memo 2002 – 22

Date: March 22, 2002

To: Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW 6th Ave., Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97201

Attention: Kendra Phillips **Response to:** ISRP

From: Fred Ringer, Program Specialist
Oregon State FSA Office

Subject: Leveraging Conservation Easements for Fish & Wild Life in the Willamette

I support the proposal to establish a conservation easement program along the Willamette River from Corvallis to Harrisburg. I see this as means to solve major conservation problems in this area.

As the Program Specialist responsible for the Federal Administration of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) I support this effort. In discussing the proposal with Karen Stromeier I believe there is real opportunity to provide additional conservation.

I see a producer signing up for a riparian buffer practice under CREP. The producer would receive cost-share for establishing the riparian buffer and also receive annual rental payments on those acres signed up for 15 years.

As I understand it an easement program would then come in behind CREP and the producer would be compensated for maintaining the riparian buffer through the easement program. I have supported the idea of easements and support this proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact Fred Ringer, Oregon State FSA Program Specialist at (503) 692-3688 X223.

FWR