



American Farmland Trust
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

Creating Stronger Conservation Incentives For the State of Washington

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PIE Program**

The limits of current incentives programs



- Very little money to be spent
- Funds spread thinly across the ground
- Little strategic coordination
- Lack of understanding and confidence by the policy community
- Programs are little not sufficiently appealing to engage strong landowner support
- Potential for effectiveness

Incentives as alternative to regulation



- No likely let-up in need to protect disappearing environmental values
- Our farm businesses are already struggling – increased regulation can accelerate problem
- Watershed processes have depended on incentives – but no decisive political support to assure funding
- Need confidence in incentives if the policy community is to fund them

Environmental Benefits of Agriculture



- **Environmental Benefits**
 - Water quality protection – non-point pollution
 - Aquifer recharge – impervious surfaces
 - Floodwater detention – loss of cover
 - Riparian and upland habitat – lost
 - Wildlife migration corridors – development barriers
- **Quality of Life Benefits**
 - Food connections & security
 - Open space
 - Cultural issues

Opportunities for Restoration and Habitat



- Well managed farms do NOT pollute
- Intensive, site-specific, owner managed solutions possible on private lands
- Efficient voluntary management options are available
- Landowner involvement can greatly strengthen the opportunities
- Intensive regulation becomes unnecessary

How to improve Conservation Incentives



- **Better coordinate existing programs**
- **Identify most important problems and most critical areas**
- **Make programs more appealing so landowners in critical areas will participate**
 - **More financially rewarding**
 - **Easier to use**
 - **Less bureaucratic and confusing**
 - **Reduced threat of regulation**

What we need from you



- **Help us identify the problems with current incentives programs**
- **Participate in our landowner survey**
- **Help us identify ways in which current programs could be improved**
- **Help get the word out to others about the importance and possibilities of stronger incentives programs**

Contact information



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