

For: State and County Offices

**Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA/HIP)
Change in Administering Agency**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

VPA/HIP was established following the passage of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Under this authority, FSA established a voluntary public access program under which States and tribal governments may apply for grants to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting or fishing, under programs administered by the States and tribal governments.

VPA/HIP was re-authorized with the passage of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

B Purpose

This notice:

- informs FSA State and County Offices that effective for 2014 and subsequent years that the Secretary has designated NRCS as the administering agency for VPA/HIP
- directs County Offices to refer landowners interested in participating in VPA/HIP to the NRCS website at <http://nrcspad.sc.egov.usda.gov/distributioncenter/pdf.aspx?productID=1044> for additional information.

Disposal Date January 1, 2015	Distribution State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices NRCS Offices, and State and Tribal Partnering Agencies
---	--

Notice CM-742

2 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall forward copies of this notice to:

- all State CREP partners
- the State NRCS office
- State fish and wildlife agency office
- Tribal government partners.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall direct landowners interested in VPA/HIP to the NRCS website.