

For: State and County Offices

**State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initial Approvals**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

On January 19, 2008, Acting Agriculture Secretary, Chuck Conner announced the first SAFE projects to be approved under a new continuous CRP practice.

Acting Secretary Conner announced 45 projects located in 18 States. SAFE projects are designed to address high priority State and regional wildlife objectives by providing wildlife habitat targeting specific needs of high value species on nearly 260,000 acres.

**B Purpose**

This notice identifies the 18 States and 45 approved SAFE projects (Exhibit 1). Additional SAFE project announcements may be made when proposals become acceptable.

**2 SAFE Projects Pending and Offer Processing**

**A Pending SAFE Proposals**

Additional SAFE project proposals, highlighting conservation opportunities on approximately 171,200 acres submitted by 17 States, were **not** acceptable and are currently being revised and reviewed. CEPD expects reviews and revisions to be complete soon so that CEPD can announce additional approvals in the near future.

**B SAFE Offers**

All offers for SAFE **must** be processed through the Conservation Online System (COLS) software. Modifications to COLS enabling SAFE will be available in early spring. Until that time, County Offices may educate producers about the initiative but **cannot** take offers for enrollment.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2008	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

## Notice CRP-580

### **3 Action**

#### **A State Office Action**

State Offices shall:

- ensure that County Offices understand the provisions of this notice
- distribute this notice to the State Technical Committee
- comply with the provisions of this notice.

#### **B County Office Action**

County Offices shall follow the provisions of this notice.

Initial SAFE Approvals By State and Project

State/Project	Acres
<b>Colorado</b>	
Lesser Prairie Chicken	2,900
Plains Sharp-Tailed Grouse	1,463
Shortgrass Prairie	1,463
Western Slope Grouse	5,850
<b>Georgia</b>	
Restoring Native Pine Savanna	4,800
<b>Idaho</b>	
Columbian Sharp-Tailed Grouse	3,100
<b>Illinois</b>	
Mercer County	500
Prairie Habitat	20,600
<b>Iowa</b>	
Early Successional/Neo-Tropical Birds	3,500
Gaining Ground	19,700
Grand River	4,500
<b>Maine</b>	
New England Cottontail	250
Upland Sandpiper	1,000
<b>Michigan</b>	
Diverse Grassland	7,500
Native Pollinators	2,500
<b>Minnesota</b>	
Back Forty	23,100
<b>Mississippi</b>	
Black Bear	7,950
Black Belt Prairie	2,500
Bobwhite Quail	2,950
<b>Montana</b>	
Pheasant Winter Cover	10,000
Prairie Pothole	7,700
Sagebrush	1,000

State/Project	Acres
<b>Nebraska</b>	
Tallgrass	11,450
Upland Birds	11,450
<b>North Carolina</b>	
Grassland	5,600
<b>North Dakota</b>	
Coteau-Drift	20,000
Sagebrush	1,000
Tallgrass	6,000
<b>South Carolina</b>	
Restoring Native Grasses	2,300
<b>Texas</b>	
Gulf Coast Prairie	14,400
Lower Rio Grande Thornscurb	5,000
Mixed Grass	20,000
<b>Virginia</b>	
Culpeper Basin	1,000
Longleaf Pine	1,000
Rare and Declining Habitat	500
Riparian Buffer	1,800
<b>Washington</b>	
Coastal Roosevelt Elk	500
Columbia Basin	500
Palouse Prairie	2,000
Shrub-Steppe	5,200
<b>Wisconsin</b>	
Glacial	2,250
Shortgrass	1,000
Southwest Grassland	4,000
Central Grassland	3,000
Western Prairie	2,500