

## **Resolution # 2021-01**

**Sponsor: Washington State Conservation Commission**

**Title: Conditioning Funds of Incentive-Based Conservation Programs**

**Subject: Opposing the Requirement of Certain Conservation Practices as a Condition of Program Participation**

### **Background:**

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) "is making quality conservation planning on America's private lands a national priority." This means that a conservation plan is much more than merely a means to execute a government financial assistance contract. It is an innovative strategy for landowners and operators to address the variety of resource concerns on their operations. The conservation plan provides cooperators with options that will lead to desired results. The cooperators can then choose the options that best meet their needs and capabilities.

The conservation plan lies at the heart of voluntary, incentive-based conservation delivery, and NCP is working to create an environment that allows planners to provide comprehensive strategies to address all of the resource concerns on the property. However, the conservation partnership must continue to offer the elements of a comprehensive conservation plan as options to landowners and operators. Our cooperators' financial and management capabilities will determine how these options are prioritized, and in what order they can be implemented. These choices should be made by our cooperators, and not the agencies or organizations that administer financial assistance programs. In other words, eligibility for financial assistance to implement conservation practices should not be based on a landowner or operator's ability to implement other practices, whether they are part of a comprehensive conservation plan or not.

### **Action requested to be taken by NASCA:**

- Oppose any proposal by a federal agency requiring the implementation of certain conservation practices as a condition to access incentive-based conservation program financial assistance.
- Continue to participate with NCP to ensure that the revitalization of conservation planning does not lead to a mindset that would limit options to cooperators.