

## Watershed Agricultural Program SOP

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### 3.1.11.02

#### **EASEMENT ANNUAL STATUS REVIEW (EASR)**

The Easement Annual Status Review (EASR) serves to assess, qualify, and ensure agricultural activities occurring on Properties encumbered by a Watershed Agricultural Council Conservation Easement (WAC CE) are conducted in accordance with a current Whole Farm Plan (WFP), and further defined by the Watershed Agricultural Program guideline version 3.1.10.02 Farming in accordance with a Whole Farm Plan.

The EASR may be completed by the Easement Conservation Planner, with assistance from the Stewardship Coordinator, and/or the Land Conservation Stewardship Specialist.

#### Goal:

To monitor for agricultural activities on WAC CE Properties that have either no WFP association or a Supplemental WFP association. Any agricultural activity requires assessment utilizing the Environmental Review/Problem Diagnosis (ERPD) form for Large Farms and the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) worksheets for Small Farms to determine if development of a WFP or a Supplemental WFP is warranted.

#### Objectives:

- a. Explain the purpose of the EASR.
- b. Monitor Property for agricultural activities.
- c. Determine who is conducting the agricultural activities. (Landowner or Producer)
- d. Assess any agricultural activity for potential environmental issues.
- e. Determine if there have been changes in the landowners' goals and objectives.
- f. Promote other WAC, WAP, and partnering agency programs.
- g. Determine if the landowner meets the eligibility requirements for the Small or Large Farm Program.

#### Process:

The EASR shall determine the need to develop a WFP, a Supplemental WFP, or revise an existing Supplemental WFP. This determination will be recorded in the box in the upper right hand corner on the first page of the EASR form.

1. Before the visit:
  - a. Review previous EASR and Supplemental WFP2 (if it exists).
  - b. Schedule the on-site visit with the easement landowner/producer at a time when you and the landowner/producer can invest time to properly complete the review.
2. Conducting the EASR:
  - a. Discuss and complete the Easement Annual Status Review form. Spend an hour with the landowner (the actual time needed will vary with landowner needs) so that there is time for open discussion.

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- b. Be conversational, rather than like a survey enumerator. You don't have to read the question. You should ask for the information in your own way. The intent is to facilitate an open dialog with the landowner.
  - c. Physically inspect the property for agricultural activities.
  - d. Assess potential environmental issues of the agricultural activities if any are occurring.
  - e. Use photo documentation and EASR form to record and describe condition, use, and status of any/all environmental issues.
  - f. Assess the agricultural activities, if any, for minimum Watershed Agricultural Program (WAP) eligibility standards by utilizing the WAP guideline version 1.1.01 Eligibility for Participation-Large Farms and/or guideline version 1.1.02 Eligibility for Participation-Small Farms.
3. After the visit:
- No WFP association:
    - a. If agricultural activities warrant the need to develop a WFP:
      - i. Send letter notifying landowner the requirement to develop a WFP.  
cc: Easement Program Director and Ag Program Director.
    - b. If agricultural activities warrant the need to develop a Supplemental WFP2:
      - i. Send letter notifying landowner the requirement to develop a Supplemental WFP.  
cc: Easement Program Director and Ag Program Director.
      - ii. Revise the WFP of associated participant to add Supplemental WFP2 utilizing Watershed Agricultural Program SOP: version 2.1.06.1-Whole Farm Plan Supplemental Plan Development.
  - Existing Supplemental WFP:
    - c. If agricultural activities warrant a revision to an existing Supplemental WFP2:
      - i. Inform the WAP Planner to the current environmental concern.
      - ii. Provide EASR to WAP for appending the ASR of associated Participant to incorporate into Revision Prioritization.
  - No WFP needed:
    - d. If agricultural activities do not meet WAP minimum eligibility standards:
      - i. Reassess during next year EASR.