

**2014 Supporting Statement  
 Long Term Contracting  
 OMB No. 0578-0013**

*7 CFR 630, Long Term Contracting, (LTC)*

This document represents a request for a revision to a currently approved information collection, Long Term Contracting (LTC) approved under OMB No. 0578-0013. The Long Term Contracting regulations at 7 CFR Part 630, and the Conservation Program regulations identified in Table A below set forth the basic policies, program provisions, and eligibility requirements for owners and operators to enter into and carry out long-term conservation program contracts with technical assistance under the various programs. These programs are administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The programs in this information collection that continue to be subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 are listed in Table A. The forms included in this collection are to accommodate the conservation programs identified in Table A below. In addition, it will re-evaluate the burden related to the forms associated with programs without exemption.

**Status of the Rules:**

TABLE A: Identifies the Programs and the Associated Regulations in the Current Package

<b>Program</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Date</b>
Long Term Contracting (LTC)	7 CFR 630	40 FR 53370	November 18, 1975
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	7 CFR 701	45 FR 49522 69 FR 10302 69 FR 22377 71 FR 30265	July 25, 1980 March 4, 2004 April 26, 2004 May 26, 2006
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	7 CFR 624	46 FR 56577 70 FR 16926	November 17, 1981 April 4, 2005
Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)	7 CFR 625	71 FR 28547 75 FR 6539	May 17, 2006 February 10, 2010
Wetland Conservation (WC or Swampbuster)	7 CFR 12	61 FR 47025	September 6, 1996

The regulations listed above implemented the provisions for LTC authorized by the following Public Laws:

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<b>Program</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>U.S. Code Citation</b>
Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)	The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (Pub. L. 74-46), as amended ,	16 U.S.C. 590a-f
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-334), as amended	16 U.S.C. 2201-2205
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	Flood Control Act of 1938 (Pub. L. 81-516); Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-334), as amended	33 U.S.C. 701b-1; 16 U.S.C. 2203; 5 U.S.C. 301
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)	Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (Pub. L. 108-148), as amended	16 U.S.C. 6571-6578
Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D)	Section 1528 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Pub. L. 97-98), as amended	16 U.S.C. 3451 et seq.
Watershed Prevention & Flood Protection Program (WPFPP)	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 83-566) as amended; Flood Control Act of 1944 (Pub. L. 78-534)	16 U.S.C. 1001, <i>et seq.</i> ; 33 U.S.C. 701-1

**Changes to the Information Collections since last submission:**

The existing authority to collect information under the Long Term Contracting regulations is valid until July 31, 2016. This submission added two new forms to this information collection: The Agreements for the Purchase of Conservation Easements NRCS-LTP-70 for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program and the NRCS-LTP-80 for the Emergency Watershed Program - Floodplain Easement.

It removes forms under Wetland Conservation (WC, Swampbuster) (7 CFR part 12) that included form (NRCS-CPA-38 Request for Certified Wetland Determination or Delineation) exempted by the Farm Bill due to Conservation Compliance is a Title XII program which now has the paperwork reduction act exemption. The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Section 2904 provided for the exemption of Conservation Programs under Title II of the Act from Chapter 35 of 44, U.S.C. (Paperwork Reduction Act). Additionally, the Agricultural Act of 2014 amended the Food Security Act to exempt Conservation Programs under Title XII of that Act from the Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collection requirements contained in this regulation (7 CFR part 12) have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under provisions of 44 U.S.C. chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB Number 0560-0004. This supporting statement will identify the reduced burden associated with the exempted status of these programs and their associated forms.

**Information Reporting Requirements:**

The information reporting requirements and burden related to this clearance request package includes reporting requirements associated with the following Long Term Contracting items:

TABLE B: Identifies the current forms and provides a brief description

<b>Form</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>AD-1153</b> (formerly CCC-1250)	Application
<b>AD-1154</b> (formerly CCC-1251)	Long-Term Contract/Agreement for NRCS Financial Assistance Programs
<b>AD-1155; AD-1155A</b> (formerly CCC-1252, 1252A and 1252B)	Schedule of Operations (Practices/Cost and signature sheet)
<b>AD-1156</b> (formerly CCC-1253)	Modification of Schedule of Operations
<b>AD-1157</b> (formerly NRCS-LTP-020A, CCC-1255A)	Option Agreement to Purchase
<b>AD-1157A</b> (formerly NRCS-LTP-20B)	Option Agreement to Purchase Amendment
<b>AD-1158</b> (formerly NRCS-LTP-21, CCC-1256)	Subordination Agreement and Limited Lien Waiver
<b>AD-1159</b> (formerly NRCS-LTP-024, CCC-1257)	Notification of Intent to Continue
<b>AD-1160</b> (formerly NRCS-LTP-25, CCC-1258)	Compatible Use Agreement
<b>AD-1161</b>	Practice Approval and Payment Application
<b>NRCS-CPA-68</b>	Conservation Plan
<b>NRCS-LTP-13</b>	Status/Contract Review
<b>NRCS-LTP-020; NRCS-CPA-260; (formerly CCC- 1255)</b>	Warranty Easement Deed, Conservation Easement Deed
<b>NRCS-LTP-70 (newly added)</b>	Agreement for the Purchase of Conservation Easement (Healthy Forests Reserve Program)
<b>NRCS-LTP-80 (newly added)</b>	Agreement for the Purchase of Conservation Easement (Emergency Watershed Program Floodplain Easement)
<b>NRCS-LTP-151</b>	Notice of Agreement or Contract Violation
<b>NRCS-LTP-152</b>	Transfer Agreement
<b>NRCS-LTP-153</b>	Agreement Covering Non-Compliance with Provisions of the Contract

**Justification:**

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information:**

This program authorizes federal technical and financial long term cost-sharing assistance for conservation treatment with eligible land users and entities. Under the terms of the agreement, the participant agrees to apply, or arrange to apply, the conservation treatment specified in the conservation plan. In return for this agreement, federal financial assistance payments are made to the land user, or third party, upon successful application of the conservation treatment.

The authorizations listed above, direct the Secretary of Agriculture to formulate and carry out conservation program long term contracting activities. These forms are needed to administer NRCS long-term contracting programs as authorized. NRCS regulations listed above in

Table A; require the collection of information on these forms to ensure proper utilization of program funds.

This submission added two new forms to this information collection are the Agreements for the Purchase of Conservation Easements NRCS-LTP-70 for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program and the NRCS-LTP-80 for the Emergency Watershed Program - Floodplain Easements. This request includes the use of the forms associated exclusively with the programs and identifies the burden by including the forms to the current information collection package.

It removes NRCS-CPA-38 form which is exempted by the Farm Bill due to Conservation Compliance being a Title XII program which is exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act exemption. The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Section 2904 provided for the exemption of Conservation Programs under Title II of the Act from Chapter 35 of 44, U.S.C. (Paperwork Reduction Act) and Section 1246 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 exempts Conservation Programs under Title XII of the 1985 Act. The information collection requirements contained in this regulation (7 CFR part 12) have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under provisions of 44 U.S.C. chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB Number 0560-0004. The program was identified above. This request excludes the use of the form associated exclusively with this program and identifies the reduction in burden by removing the form from the current information collection package.

**2. Indicate how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection:**

The Conservation Programs that utilize the forms included in this collection are described in the following table. This also serves as a key to the program abbreviations used in other areas of this package.

TABLE C: Conservation Programs subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act

Program	Description
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) (7 CFR part 701)	USDA Farm Service Agency's ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress.
Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) (7 CFR part 624).	The EWP was initiated in 1950 and is administered by NRCS. It provides technical and financial assistance to local institutions for the removal of storm and flood debris from stream channels and for the restoration of stream channels and levees to reduce the threat to life and property. The program also provides for establishing permanent easements in floodplains with private landowners.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) (7 CFR part 625).	HFRP is a voluntary program established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to: 1) Promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species; 2) improve biodiversity; and 3) enhance carbon sequestration. The HFRP was signed into law as part of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and amended by the 2008 Act. The Agricultural Act of 2014 made minor changes to HFRP land eligibility and funding.
Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D)	The RC&D was initiated in 1962 and is administered by NRCS. Through this program, NRCS assists multi-county areas in enhancing conservation, water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, and rural development. The program provides technical and limited financial assistance for the planning and installation of approved projects.
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (WPFPP) (7 CFR Part 622)	The WPFPP, otherwise known as P.L. 566, was initiated in 1954, and is administered by the NRCS. It assists State and local units of government in flood prevention, watershed protection, and water management. Part of this effort involves the establishment of conservation practices on private lands to reduce erosion, sedimentation, and runoff.

TABLE D: The following conservation program is exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act

Wetland Conservation (WC or Swampbuster) (7 CFR 12)	The Wetland Conservation Provisions are part of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. The WC or Swampbuster provisions condition receipt of USDA benefits on landowners and operators not converting wetlands for agricultural production purposes or to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity. None of the programs remaining in this collection are subject to compliance with 7 CFR part 12, with the exception of certain Watershed Program agreements.
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The table below shows only the burden for those programs that are subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The burden associated with those programs now exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act (as identified in the table above) has been removed. The conservation program, now exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act, accounted for one of the forms submitted and completed annually. Removing this program, results in a significant reduction in burden hours. This reduction will be quantified in later in this document. The information collected on LTC forms is obtained from conservation program participants manually and electronically for use by NRCS, other USDA agencies, and local conservation districts as follows: The Number Submitted Annually provides the number of forms completed by respondents and the approximate number of hours to complete each form. The response time is taken from the forms themselves as identified in the OMB Disclosure Statement where available.

TABLE E: Burden for required programs under the Paperwork Reduction Act

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<b>Form</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Program(s)</b>	<b>Form Description</b>	<b>Who Completes</b>	<b>*Number Submitted Annually &amp; Burden Hours</b>
AD-1153	Application	EWP WPFPP HFRP	The basic document used by program participants to request assistance through the local USDA Service Centers (7 CFR Parts 622.20, 624.9, and 625.5.) Used by NRCS to evaluate and prioritize application and to verify eligibility.	Program Applicants with assistance from agency personnel.	750 Estimated time per participant is .30 per response. Burden Hours = 225.0
AD-1154	Contract or Agreement	EWP HFRP	Document is used by NRCS to enter into a contract or agreement with the program participant (7 CFR Parts 622.3, 624.10, and 625.10. Includes Special Contract/Agreement Provisions.	Executed by the agency, with concurrence and acceptance (signature) of the participant.	150 Estimated time per participant is .37 per response. Burden Hours = 55.5
AD-1155; AD-1155A	Schedule of Practices/ Costs and signature sheet	EWP WPFPP HFRP	Practices to be installed are described, scheduled for year of installation, and cost outlays are presented. (7 CFR Parts 622.3(c); 624.3(b); 624.10; 632.21; 634.23; 625.10 701.16; 701.40; 633; and 1410.22.) Summary of schedule and cost outlays included in the schedule of practices and costs with signature blocks. (7 CFR Parts 622.3(c); 624.3(b); 632.21; 634.23; 636.7; 701.16; 701.40; 633; and 1410.22.)	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms. Agency, Conservation District Official, and participant must sign.	300 Estimated time per participant is .373 per response. Burden Hours = 111.9
AD-1156	Schedule Modification	EWP WPFPP HFRP	Document is used by the agency to modify, as needed, a participant's schedule of practices and costs. (7 CFR Parts 622.3(c); 624.3(b);624.10; 632.21; 634.23; 625.10; 701.16; 701.40; 633; and 1410.22.)	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms. Agency, Conservation District Official, and Participant must sign.	25 Estimated time per participant is .375 per response. Burden Hours = 9.375

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<b>Form</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Program(s)</b>	<b>Form Description</b>	<b>Who Completes</b>	<b>*Number Submitted Annually &amp; Burden Hours</b>
AD-1157	Option Agreement to Purchase	EWP HFRP	Form is used by program participants as the equivalent of a real estate option to purchase. (7 CFR Part 624 and 625).	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	170 Estimated time per participant is .40 per response. Burden Hours = 68
AD-1157A	Option Agreement to Purchase Amendment	EWP HFRP	Form is used by program participants as the equivalent of a real estate option to purchase. (7 CFR Parts 624 and 625).	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	170 Estimated time per participant is .40 per response. Burden Hours = 68
AD-1158	Subordination Agreement and Limited Lien Waiver	EWP HFRP	Form is used by program participants to subordinate mortgages and obtain limited lien waivers, when applicable, to the United States with respect to any and all interests of the subordinating party in, or related to the easement area. (7 CFR Parts 624 and 625).	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	100 Estimated time per participant is .495 per response. Burden Hours = 49.5
AD-1159	Notice of Intent to Continue	Not used by any non-exempt programs	Used by program participants who have been notified of tentative acceptance into the program to indicated NRCS their intent to continue in the program. (7 CFR Part 624).	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	170 Estimated time per participant is .26 per response. Burden Hours = 44.2
AD-1160	Compatible Use Application	EWP HFRP	Used by the program participants to request authorization from NRCS to use the easement area for specified purposes. Informs the participant that the authorization does not vest any right of any kind with the landowner. This agreement includes a plan developed by NRCS describing the compatible use of the land, frequency, timing, intensity, and duration of the use. (7 CFR Parts 624 and 625).	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	200 Estimated time per participant is .40 per response. Burden Hours = 80

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<b>Form</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Program(s)</b>	<b>Form Description</b>	<b>Who Completes</b>	<b>*Number Submitted Annually &amp; Burden Hours</b>
AD-1161	Application for Payment	EWP HFRP	Used by program participants to transmit bills and certify completion of the contracted item.	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	200 Estimated time per participant is .30 per response. Burden Hours = 60
NRCS-CPA-68	Conservation Plan	CTA EWP HFRP	Practices planned are described and scheduled for the year of installation. The conservation is developed whether there is financial assistance provided or not.	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree and sign.	2700 Estimated time per participant is .75 per response. Burden Hours = 2,025
NRCS-LTP-13	Status/ Contract Review	EWP WPFPP HFRP	Participant progress in contract or agreement implementation is recorded. (7 CFR Parts 622.3; 624.4; 632.24; 634.27(i); 625.10; 701.24; 701.43; 633; and 1410.55.)	NRCS employees conduct a review. Participant may or may not participate in the documentation process. Final review must be signed by the participant.	250 Estimated time per participant is .375 per response. Burden Hours = 93.75
NRCS-LTP-20 NRCS-CPA-260	Warranty Easement Deed Conservation Easement Deed	EWP HFRP	Form used by the program participant to grant and convey NRCS and easement with appurtenant rights of access to the easement area(s). (7 CFR Parts 624 and 625).	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	120 Estimated time per participant is .40 per response for NRCS-LTP-20; and 50 Estimated time per participant is .05 per response for NRCS-LTP-20. Burden Hours = 50.5



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Form	Purpose	Program(s)	Form Description	Who Completes	*Number Submitted Annually & Burden Hours
NRCS-LTP-70	Agreement for the Purchase of Conservation Easement	HFRP	Form is used by program participants as the equivalent of a real estate option to purchase. (7 CFR Part 625).	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	50 Estimated time per participant is .69 per response. Burden Hours = 34.5
NRCS-LTP-80	Agreement for the Purchase of Conservation Easement	EWP	Form is used by program participants as the equivalent of a real estate option to purchase. (7 CFR Part 624).	Developed by the agency. Participant must read and agree to the terms through signature.	120 Estimated time per participant is .69 per response. Burden Hours = 82.8
NRCS-LTP-151	Contract Violation Notification	EWP HFRP	Used by the agency to notify a program participant of the indication of a contract or agreement violation. (7 CFR Parts; 632.42(b) (1, 2); 634.29; 625.16 and 633).	This form is completed by the NRCS.	20 Estimated time per participant is .495 per response. Burden Hours = 9.9
NRCS-LTP-152	Transfer Agreement	EWP HFRP	Used by the agency and participant when the program participant loses control of all or part of the right and interest in the land. (7 CFR Parts; 624.10; 625.15; 632.22(f); and 633)	Completed jointly by NRCS and the participant.	5 Estimated time per participant is .495 per response. Burden Hours = 2.475
NRCS-LTP-153	Agreement Covering Non-Compliance With Provisions of the Contract	EWP HFRP	This form is used to indicate non-compliance with the contract or agreement. (7 CFR Parts; 624.10; 625.16; 632.41; 634.29; and 633).	Completed by NRCS employee.	10 Estimated time per participant is 1.5 hour per response. Burden Hours = 15

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses,

**and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden:**

The LTC conservation program forms are not all currently being processed using automated methods. Certain information will still need to be collected manually such as the participant's personally identifiable information and signature. NRCS is actively participating in the Departmental e-Forms Initiative. Program participants will soon be able to access the forms, instructions, and the program special provisions; complete the appropriate form, and submit to the agency for consideration electronically. This submission added two new forms to this information collection which are the Agreements for the Purchase of Conservation Easements NRCS-LTP-70 for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program and the NRCS-LTP-80 for the Emergency Watershed Program Floodplain-Easements. Both new forms will be made available through the e-Forms Website.

In summary, NRCS has been working diligently to develop and utilize the capabilities of electronic communications and digital formats in collecting information needed to implement its conservation programs. The following is a summary of the NRCS electronic initiative:

Item	Number	% of Collection
Total Forms in the LTC Collection	19	100.0

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purpose described in item 2 above:**

The forms included in this request for approval reflect the current forms plus two new forms to be used by NRCS in implementing the conservation programs that are non-exempt. NRCS has made every effort to combine forms and eliminate duplication where possible.

**5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden:**

The collection of information does not involve small businesses and small entities.

**6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden:**

Generally, contracting forms are filed one time unless the participant takes action, either voluntarily, or involuntarily, or when a revision of the information included in the application or contract is required. NRCS reviews contract forms with the participant annually to ensure contract compliance and to determine if changes are needed through the annual status review procedure (NRCS-LTP-013.) Participants do not report based on these forms. If the information is not reviewed, NRCS would not be able to perform its responsibilities in administering the conservation program Long Term Contracting Activities.

- 7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**
- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
  - **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
  - **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
  - **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
  - **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
  - **requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
  - **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
  - **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

Information collection on all forms utilized for Long Term Contracting is not conducted in a manner consistent with any special circumstances identified in this section.

- 8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments:**
- **Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting form, and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

The 60 days Federal Register Notice was published in the May 20, 2014 Federal Register (79 FR 28884). The Agency received one comment which expressed general concern over federal expenditures to agricultural landowners, but did not respond to the proposed changes to the information collection or recommend any changes to the forms themselves.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees:**

Long Term Contracting payments are only disbursed to participants or third parties who earned the payments by complying with the terms and conditions of the conservation program Long Term Contract.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy:**

These forms are handled according to established NRCS procedures implementing the Privacy and Freedom of Information Act of 1974 and OMB Circular A-130, "Responsibilities for the Maintenance of Records About Individuals by Federal Agencies."

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior or attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent:**

No sensitive questions regarding sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters which are commonly considered private are asked on the forms.

**12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:**

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories.**

NRCS anticipates the total number of respondents will be 5,560 (Previously 10,145). NRCS estimates that the total burden hours will be 3,085.4 hours (Previously 7,661.0) hours. The estimated burden per response depends upon the specific form. This burden amount is identified by form in Table E and ranges from .05 of an hour to 1.5 hour per respondent.

NRCS employees generally complete the remainder of the forms in the collection and review the documents with the program participant for concurrence and acceptance.

The burden was estimated based on a projected average of documents to be filed annually based on the funding level for the authorized conservation programs.

The burden hours have been significantly reduced from the previous submission due to the exemption by the Farm Bill due to Conservation Compliance is a Title XII program which now has the Paperwork Reduction Act of Conservation Programs under Title II of the 2008 Act from Chapter 35 of title 44, U.S. C.). The number of respondents was averaged from 2008 through 2010.

Total annual cost to the respondents is 52,050.69. This figure is computed based on 3,085.4 burden hours times a wage of \$16.87 per hour rate derived from the U.S. Department of

Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2013 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates in the United States. See <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.t03htm>.

- 13. Provide estimates of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information, (do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in items 12 and 14). The cost estimates should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component annualized over its expected useful life; and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component:**

There will not be any capital, start-up, or operation and maintenance costs.

- 14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information:**

The estimated cost to the Federal Government is \$176,140.80. This amount is estimated as follows:

Cost Item	Total Responses No.	Cost Factor/Form (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
Cost of the Forms, Development and Storage	5,560	7.34	\$40,810.40
Work Hour Costs	5,560	24.34	\$135,330.40
Total Costs			0176,140.80

Work hour costs associated with NRCS employees is an estimate that employees may spend an average of 60 minutes per response, collecting, filing, and processing data on the form. The average hourly wage of an NRCS employee (GS11) is \$24.34 derived from the OPM.Gov Salary Table 2014-GS Effective 2014.

- 15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-1:**

The previous inventory represented 7,661 but this was an error and the number should have been 7,689.35 of burden hours. When the burden hours for the exempted conservation program and the associated form NRCS-CPA-38 being removed from the package are subtracted and the submission of the two new forms to this information collection are added, there is a reduction in burden hours of 4,150. Due to a calculation error in last approval 28.35 burden hours are being added back to this collection. The estimation for the forms remaining in the inventory is 3,085.4 burden hours.

The programs that are not exempt from the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act and have forms that remain as part of this inventory have significantly fewer respondents and responses than the programs that are exempted. The number of contracts entered into for the programs that are remaining as part of the inventory should remain roughly unchanged from year to year and therefore, the information collection needs should remain somewhat static over the next several years.

Previous OMB Burden Hours \$7,661.00 the correct number should be	7,661
Burden Reduction due to exemption of Paperwork Reduction Act	4,150.00
Burden Reduction due to hours indicated on the forms to correct the burden hours	571.25
Burden Added due to submission of two new forms	117.30
Hours added due to error in last submission	28.35
Proposed Burden Hours	3,085.4

**16. For collections of information whose results are planned to be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication:**

The information collected through conservation program long term contracting allows the Agency to evaluate performance of the Agency’s functions in administering the programs, and will not be tabulated or published in any way.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate:**

While the cost of developing, printing, distributing, and storing the forms is estimated at 7.34 cents per form, any funds expended on this should remain available for use in any future long term contracting opportunities. Therefore, the Agency is requesting approval to not be required to display the expiration date for OMB approval.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act."**

There are no exceptions to the 83-1 certification statement.

**19. How is this Information collection related to the Customer Service Center?**

Information will be collected at the local USDA Service Center from each USDA program participant. While some of the information collected for one program may not be applicable to another program, the majority of the forms included in the information collection are non-program specific. Some forms, however, remain program-specific, especially those dealing with conservation easements.

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The Agency has been carefully considering how to reduce the administrative burden on USDA participants, as well as reductions within the agency and the Department. Consideration has been given to shared data resources, common computing platforms, and simplification of processes mandated by the various programs authorized by Congress through the Department. The Agency plans to utilize shared databases to obtain common data elements and eliminate requests for duplicative information. Many of the forms each of the agencies currently use have been redesigned for similarity.