

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Fate of Land in Expiring Conservation Reserve Program Contracts, 2013-16

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR,) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: Voluntary retirement of cropland under the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides numerous benefits related to soil erosion, water quality, wildlife habitat provision, and other environmental services. The persistence of benefits realized under the program depends on what happens to CRP land when the contract under which it was originally enrolled in the program expires. Using a novel dataset of expiring CRP contracts and post-CRP land use over 2013-16, this report considers the fate of the 8.1 million acres of land in active CRP contracts in 2012 – roughly one quarter of all CRP land -- that expired between 2013 and 2016, a period that partly coincided with relatively high crop prices and relatively low reenrollment opportunity.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 4/3/2019 Completed: XX/XX/19 Withdrawn: XX/XX/19

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [x] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No