

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT EXPANDING INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION ACTIONS UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Bob Stallman, American Farm Bureau Federation President:

“Farm Bureau believes the goals of the Endangered Species Act can best be accomplished when farm and ranch families and other private landowners work with government agencies through voluntary incentives to promote listed species on private lands. This approach has a proven track record of success in the areas where it has been used, and we are pleased the Interior Department is recognizing the positive role farmers and ranchers can play in species conservation.”

Tom Martin, American Forest Foundation President & CEO:

“This is a positive development for landowners and the wild plants and animals for which they provide habitat. It provides an important incentive to protect wildlife before they officially become threatened or endangered. It will support more forest conservation on private lands and help keep species healthy enough to avoid being listed. We commend the Interior Department for this proactive solution.”

Jamie Rappaport Clark, Defenders of Wildlife President:

“Defenders is always looking for new and innovative ways to encourage private landowners to voluntarily conserve wildlife and habitat. When we can find ‘upstream’ solutions that protect species before they become imperiled, everyone wins. The Fish and Wildlife Service is to be commended for enlisting private landowners in the ongoing quest to conserve endangered species.”

Jim Lochhead, Chair of the ESA Committee of the Western Urban Water Coalition and Manager of Denver Water:

“The Western Urban Water Coalition is pleased that the Department of the Interior has begun the process of establishing an innovative and flexible tool for improving the administration of the Endangered Species Act. The proposal announced today to award credits to landowners who take proactive measures to conserve species before it is necessary to list them under the Act is beneficial to species and to property owners and developers. The WUWC has long supported the use of regulatory incentives to make the ESA work better. We are pleased that the government is moving forward with its request for comments on this proposal and to develop a proposed rule that will make recovery credits an integral part of the ESA program.”