



**Resolution No: 2018-15**

**Title:** Conservation Practices on Prevented Planting Acres

**Problem:** Dryland farming within Washington has unpredictable weather patterns that may prevent timely spring plantings due to excessive soil moisture leading to unplanned fallow fields. Fallow fields within high rainfall regions of Washington can create the ideal conditions for extensive soil loss due to water erosion the following fall, winter and spring and negate decades of conservation efforts to protect and improve soil health and water quality conditions. There is grower interest to protect the soils in these unplanted fields with various conservation practices (e.g., cover crops) to minimize soil erosion during the following fall, winter and spring months.

There are prevented planting programs managed through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) and delivered by private insurance companies to assist growers with conservation practices if they are unable to adequately plant fields in the spring due to poor field conditions. There needs to be a sense of timeliness and consistency between private insurance agents with respect to providing guidance to growers related to their options for conservation practices on prevented planting acres. Additionally, new and/or expanded cost-share programs designed to assist growers with expenses related to conservation practices on prevented planting acres would enhance the use of conservation practices to minimize soil erosion.

**Recommendation:** WACD and WSCC to support the development of a Washington growers collaborative effort to address the needs of Washington growers to effectively and efficiently enhance the implementation of conservation practices on prevented planting acres in an effort to protect future soil productivity and past conservation investments to improve soil health and water quality by minimizing soil erosion on prevented planting acres. WACD to work with NACD and RMA at a national level to enhance the implementation of conservation practices on prevented planting acres.

**Submitted by:** Palouse Conservation District

Approved by the Southeast Area Association on 10/23/18  
Assigned To: Legislative, Bylaws & District Policies Committee  
Recommended DO PASS on 11/26/18  
Adopted on 11/28/18