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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: Helping Conservation Grow
USDA Looking for Input on 2007 Farm Bill

Half of all land in the United States is dedicated to agriculture, something that makes issues relating to farm policy and land management critical for protecting wildlife. The National Wildlife Federation has long been at work urging the passage of legislation that offers financial incentives for farmers to set aside some of their land (including wetlands) to benefit wildlife. One such piece of legislation was the 2002 Farm Bill, which included numerous conservation programs with environmentally friendly incentives to farmers. To name a few:

The Conservation Reserve Program: Helps pay farmers to plant vegetative cover that cuts down on soil erosion and at the same time increases habitat for nesting waterfowl, upland game birds and other wildlife in critical areas such as the Prairie Pothole Region.

The Grassland Reserve Program: Helps landowners restore America's most endangered ecosystems, grasslands, which are home to a wide array of species such as bison and sage grouse.

The Wetlands Reserve Program: Encourages the re-establishment or protection of wetlands-many of which have been filled in and converted to farmland. Wetlands filter contaminants and sediment from water that enters lakes, rivers and groundwater, as well as support a third of all bird species and nearly 200 species of amphibians in the United States alone.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program: Provides financial incentives for farmers and landowners to create wildlife habitat on their lands. Already, more than a million acres and more than 8,400 projects have been approved under this program, significantly increasing wildlife benefits.

Why bring this up now? These programs--administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)--have to be reauthorized in the 2007 Farm Bill if they are to remain viable. That means they are again up for consideration by those crafting and voting for this legislation.

Make sure these conservation-friendly programs are not only included, but fully funded, so that every farmer who wants to participate can. Currently, four out of five agriculture producers who apply are turned away due to lack of funding.

Question5:
Question6: