

## Updates to League agriculture policy to reflect current programs

Federal programs and initiatives are ever-changing. At the direction of Congress (and sometimes the administrative branch), they can be created, renamed, merged or ended. The Izaak Walton League's opportunities to advocate for conservation in agriculture often lie in engaging around these programs. A few programs listed in the League's Conservation Policies no longer exist, or their purposes go by another name today than they did when created. They include:

1. The Stewardship Incentive Program at the U.S. Forest Service ended in 2002. The Forest Stewardship Program still exists. Today, similar functions are carried out by a series of Forest Service Programs that work with local partners to implement conservation, and therefore broader language referencing the suite of these programs is more applicable.
2. The Wetlands Reserve Program was replaced in 2014 by Wetland Reserve Easements in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.
3. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program was repealed in 2014. In its place, 10% of all funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program is set aside for fish and wildlife purposes.

This resolution intends to update our Conservation Policies to reflect contemporary programs.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; The Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Bloomington, Minnesota on July 18, 2026, supports the adoption of the following amendments (additions and ~~deletions~~ as noted below) to the IWLA 2025 Conservation Policies.**

Chapter III, Stewardship of the Land, Section B) Agricultural Conservation

- 1) f) Support ~~the~~ USDA Forest Service programs that work in partnership with states, tribes, cooperative extension, and conservation districts to help private landowners plan and carry out conservation on private forest lands ~~Forest Stewardship Program and Stewardship Incentives Program.~~
- 4) Despite decades of conservation efforts, there remains an overwhelming need to improve our stewardship of soil, water, forest, wildlife, and other resources. The League has long supported a range of rural conservation programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and state agencies that provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners, such as the Conservation Reserve Program, ~~the~~ Wetlands Reserve Easements Program, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, funds reserved under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for fish and wildlife habitat, and the Conservation Stewardship Program. The League also supports adequate funding of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to maintain and expand existing conservation programs.