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Agency Information Collection Activities; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grassland Easements

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Agency Information Collection Activities; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grassland Easements

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Comment from Anonymous

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General Comment

This proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a great step towards both restoring and conserving America's land and wildlife. With the grassland easement plan heavily emphasizing the protection of the environment in exchange for economic incentives to farmers and private landowners, this provides a beneficial relationship to both parties. I appreciate that this proposal provides easy access to landowners looking to apply for the program through specialists that can answer any questions. It is also appreciated that land inspections are done to ensure they meet the requirements of the program and allow for specialists to gain an idea of the value of the land. As part of policy regarding property rights and nature, it is essential to have situations in which both parties can gain value in order to ensure the perseverance of proposals such as this. The ability to balance both economic gains and environmental protection make this proposal highly valuable to the U.S.

Preserving grasslands is of great importance not only to protect species and ecosystems, but also to preserve the integrity of our soils(<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/11/221125132024.htm#:~:text=Researchers%20found%20that%20less%20intensively,such%20as%20springtails%20>). Soil health continues to degrade through means of industrial agriculture and methods such as monocropping, tilling, and the flooding of fields. This proposal is a stepping block forward for conservation and restoration and could be used to snowball other efforts to protect valuable U.S. natural assets. With the Grassland Easement plan describing the benefits to soil, this proposal can help further advance soil quality policies and proposals for the federal government. One way in which this plan could help to further implement policies is to apply this plan to convince farmers to plant cover crops for an economic incentive. Not only will this help to preserve U.S. agricultural land, but it will also decrease the chance of grasslands being further demolished for industrial agriculture purposes with sustainable agriculture techniques being incentivized and implemented into policy.