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Using Rural Stewardship Schemes In Environmental Protection

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Abstract:

In certain areas of the United States where rural areas are home to a sizable segment of the population, environmental resources are being degraded by the growing influence of human activities and economic development. With the ever growing environmental problems, we are placing increasingly more development pressures on land that was once devoted to agriculture, open space and other rural uses. In some areas the priorities of policy makers have been to ensure the continuity of agricultural activities through incentive programs and efforts to decrease the impacts of stressors on the rural environment. While much progress has been made, many challenges remain to addresses issues such as the loss of agricultural land, water pollution and habitat degradation. In order to protect our rural areas from pollution, loss of habitats and farmlands, stakeholder initiatives in innovative land use strategy that can assist communities to responsibly accommodate growth while protecting wildlife habitat, agriculture and rural way of life remain pertinent. To deal with these problems, rural environmental protection schemes emerged as a tool to reward farmers and land owners for carrying out their activities in an environmental friendly manner and to bring about environmental protection on existing farms. The objectives of such schemes center on establishing best management practices built on conservation, landscape protection as well as wildlife and stream habitats management. This study uses a mix scale method to analyze the use of rural stewardship schemes in environmental protection. Emphasis is on the issues and opportunities, the role of stakeholders, monitoring mechanisms and strategies for future lines of action. The results point to widespread benefits of rural environmental stewardship programs amidst several challenges.

Impact Statement:

Environmental stewardship programs can be beneficial to policy makers in the protection of rural areas.

Category: Rural Environmental Protection

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