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## Using Economic and Regulatory Incentives to Restore Endangered Species: Lessons Learned from Three New Programs

### Utilización de Incentivos Económicos y Normativos para Restaurar Especies en Peligro: Lecciones Aprendidas de Tres Programas Nuevos

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## Abstract

**Abstract:** *We studied three new incentive-based programs for restoring endangered species on private lands in the United States: safe harbor, Environmental Defense's Landowner Conservation Assistance Program, and conservation banking. For each program, we gathered data on the number of participating landowners, the number of species targeted for assistance, and the cumulative acreage of enrolled land. Measured in this way, both safe harbor and the Landowner Conservation Assistance Program have been remarkably successful. Landowners are drawn to three aspects of these programs: (1) the removal of regulatory burdens associated with attracting endangered species to their property; (2) technical guidance on how to restore habitats for endangered species; and (3) cost-share assistance for habitat restoration. Technical guidance appears to be more important than either regulatory relief or financial assistance in securing the cooperation of some landowners. Assessing the success or failure of conservation banking proved more difficult, given the relatively small number of banks created to date and the lack of any centralized database on them. However, nearly half of the 47 endangered-species conservation banks we surveyed have sold credits, indicating some success in either acquiring or restoring essential habitats.*

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asistencia y la extensión acumulada de tierras enlistadas. Medidos de esta manera, tanto el refugio seguro como el Programa de Asistencia de Conservación para Propietarios de Tierras han sido notablemente exitosos. Los propietarios son atraídos por tres aspectos de estos programas: (1) la remoción de cargas normativas asociadas con la atracción de especies en peligro a su propiedad; (2) orientación técnica sobre restauración de hábitats para especies en peligro y (3) asistencia costo-ganancia para restauración de hábitat. La orientación técnica parece ser más importante que el aligeramiento normativo o asistencia financiera para asegurar la cooperación de algunos propietarios. La estimación del éxito o fracaso de la banca de conservación fue más difícil, dado el número relativamente pequeño de bancos creados a la fecha y la carencia de una base de datos centralizada. Sin embargo, casi la mitad de los 47 bancos de conservación para especies en peligro que examinamos han vendido créditos, lo que indica cierto éxito en la adquisición o restauración de hábitats esenciales.

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