

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

In 1997, Jack and Darlene Zippwald acquired their 35-acre irrigated ranch in Smith Valley. Their goal was to significantly improve the property by increasing irrigation system efficiency, improving grazing conditions so that the ranch would support up to 20 pairs of purebred Gelbvieh cattle, and improving habitat for California quail. Following the advice of a neighbor who is a Smith Valley conservation district board member, Jack requested technical assistance from the Yerington NRCS field office. After reviewing the Zippwald's objectives and assessing natural resource conditions onsite, NRCS staff helped develop a conservation plan and engineering designs to meet the natural resource needs and their goals.

The conservation plan was the basis for a 5-year EQIP contract that provides cost-share assistance for implementing the plan. Conservation practices in the contract address the management of pasture and hayland, irrigation water, nutrients, weeds, livestock grazing, and wildlife habitat. EQIP funds provide an incentive to properly install permanent electric fence, livestock pipeline and unique insulated water troughs, which are necessary to facilitate a rotational grazing system. Financial incentives for installing water control structures that will enhance irrigation system efficiency are also included. The Zippwald EQIP contract benefits 15 acres of alfalfa hay, 20 acres of grass pasture, and a small strip of wildlife land.

Nevada Summary

Overview

Nevada continued to have Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) interest in 2000. Applications for funding were completed by 55 landowners or operators for a total of \$1,005,400. Forty-three contracts were developed for these funds. Of the 55 applicants, 12 were Native Americans or tribes of which 11 received contracts for a total of \$197,000. This included \$90,000 of Native American EQIP funds.

Accomplishments

One hundred and seventy one program (FY 97-99) participants continued to apply practices on farms averaging 3,295 acres. The majority of practices being installed are aimed at improving grazing land health, water quality, and water quantity.

Outlook

The EQIP program continues to gain support in Nevada. Local work groups continue to look for opportunities to improve their geographical priority area programs to meet local resource concerns. The impacts from wild fires over the past 2 years are increasing the demand for more funds to improve grazing land conditions and control noxious weeds. Increased interest in tribal geographic priority areas will require additional Native American funds.

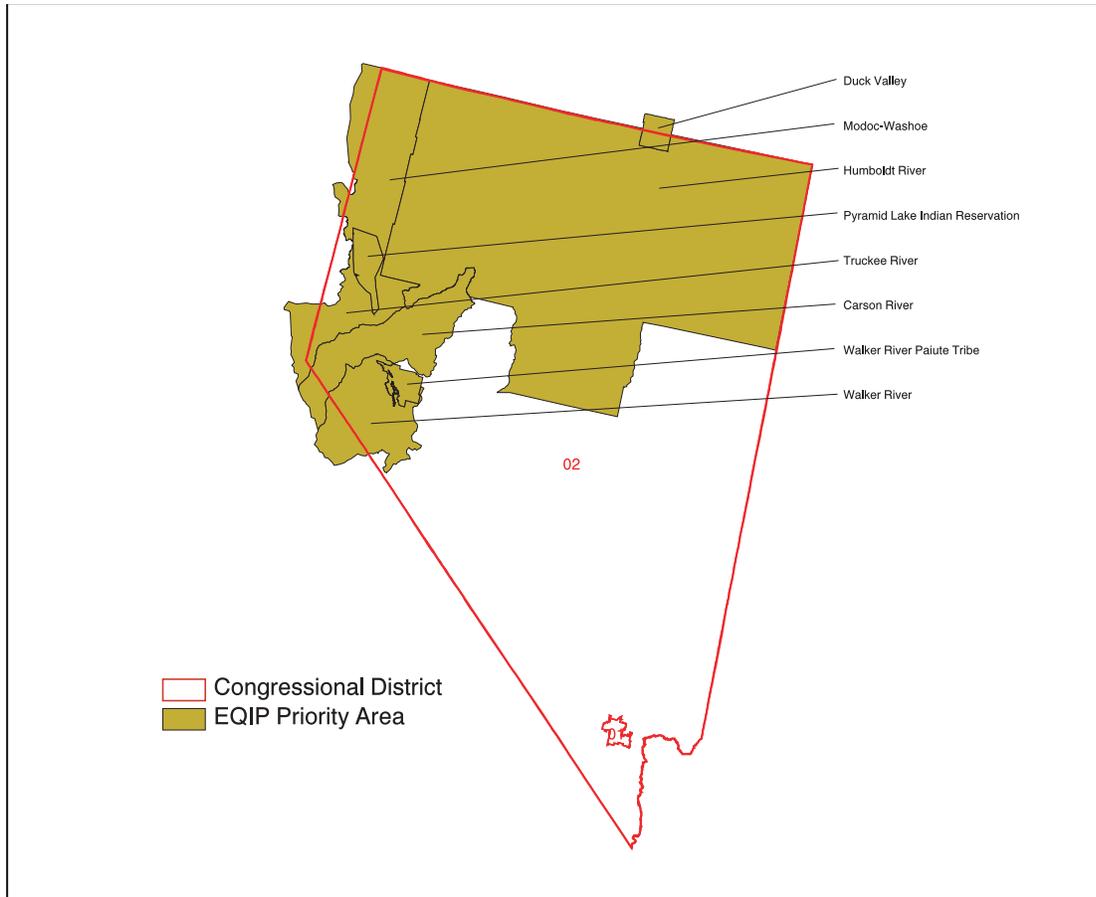
State Contact

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A status review of Jack Zippwald's conservation plan and EQIP contract, confirmed that his goals of increased irrigation system efficiency were met and his goals of improved forage quality and quantity for his cattle were exceeded. However, the milo planting to provide winter food for California quail did not work out. Mule deer ate the milo before it produced seed.

Nevada EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Nevada EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$162,383	1	\$842,405	62
District 2	900,467	37	3,140,848	156
State Totals	\$1,062,850	38	\$3,983,253	218

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one district.

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns, which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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