

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Ray Plummer purchased a cedar tree infested ranch in northern Kinney County. Initially the ranch was so dominated by cedar that it could support virtually no livestock and only limited amounts of wildlife. Cedar, a heavy water user, had caused springs to dry up that once flowed on the ranch. Ray requested help from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist with his problem. He applied for and received cost-share assistance through EQIP to help control the cedar. Using a multi-stage program involving mechanical brush removal followed by prescribed burning, the cedar was brought under control. After implementing the practices made possible by his EQIP contract, dry springs on the ranch began to flow once again, wildlife reappeared, and Mr. Plummer was able to enjoy the benefits of a productive ranch.

Texas Summary

Overview

For the fourth year in row, landowner interest in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) far surpassed the available funds. For FY 2000, over 4,000 producers applied for over \$34 million in financial assistance. NRCS in Texas was able to assist landowners in the development of 1,409 contracts obligating a little over \$10.5 million in federal cost-share assistance. Eighty percent of the financial assistance was provided to 28 locally led geographic priority areas.

Accomplishments

FY 2000 proved to be another active year for the EQIP program in Texas. Over 1,400 landowners participated in the development of resource improving contracts on 1,055,977 acres. Primary resource concerns targeted include water quality, water quantity, plant health, and erosion. Examples of conservation practices planned include livestock and poultry waste management systems, irrigation efficiency improvements, brush management, and erosion control practices.

Outlook

Texas is a state with many different natural resource concerns. The vast majority of the state is privately owned by landowners that want to protect and improve its natural resources. For the past four years, due to limited funds, less than 35 percent of the applicants were able to obtain a contract. There are currently 23 unfunded proposals for new Geographic Priority Areas. The public demand for this program is great, and with additional funding, significant improvements in all resource concerns could be achieved.

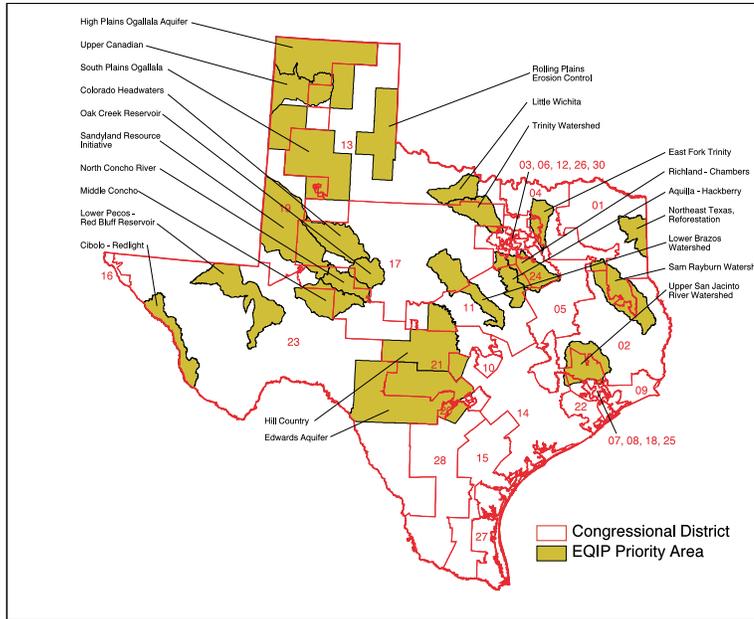
State Contact

Norman Bade, Acting Assistant State Conservationist (Programs),
(254) 742-9808



*The Ray Plummer Ranch,
Kinney County, Texas*

Texas EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Texas EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		CumulativeTotal (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$544,140	96	\$2,131,173	410
District 2	190,287	26	1,042,639	158
District 3	24,706	10	24,706	10
District 4	122,410	33	350,298	66
District 5	123,011	27	123,011	27
District 6	183,892	18	183,892	18
District 8	103,053	14	444,457	50
District 9	167,448	19	167,448	19
District 11	426,818	77	1,679,114	291
District 13	1,604,018	221	8,920,174	1170
District 14	545,440	107	545,440	107
District 15	483,402	86	483,402	86
District 17	1,943,675	205	3,622,169	422
District 19	1,027,679	116	1,744,591	205
District 20	55,136	18	55,136	18
District 21	806,818	84	3,542,369	531
District 22	3,480	2	3,480	2
District 23	1,364,854	98	11,451,685	956
District 24	50,893	10	50,893	10
District 27	158,326	18	158,326	18
District 28	553,250	113	553,250	113
State Totals	\$10,482,736	1,398	\$37,277,653	4687

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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