

# 2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus—

Sand Mesa agricultural producers in the North Portal/Cottonwood Bench EQIP priority area near Riverton are using EQIP to improve economic and environmental conditions of the area, accelerate conservation planning on area farms, and facilitate application of conservation practices to provide the most efficient use of irrigation water. The project began with construction of the Sand Mesa pipeline, which was completed in November 1998. The pipeline was part of a major renovation to the irrigation delivery system operated by the Midvale Irrigation District. NRCS designed the 14-mile pipeline for the system.

With the new pipeline in place, local producers had strong support for another project to upgrade existing sprinkler systems and allow conversion from flood irrigation to pivot sprinklers by tying into the renovated delivery system. Landowners applied for EQIP dollars and, based on environmental benefits to the entire watershed, the North Portal/Cottonwood Bench project ranked number 3 out of 30 proposals submitted for funding in 1998. Over 86 percent of the landowners have an EQIP contract, and 80 percent of the acres within the area are being treated. Upgrades include 9 sprinkler pivot systems, renozzling of 26 existing pivots to convert from high to low pressure, and installation of 52,880 feet of underground pipeline and 10,090 feet of gated irrigation pipeline. Each landowner could select 75 percent cost share; however, they opted for a lesser percentage to make more of the limited funds available to neighbors. The improved irrigation efficiencies mean more water stays in the Wind River and Bull Lake, which benefits other water users in the state.

## Wyoming Summary

### Overview

Again in 2000, demand for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was overwhelming. Of the 343 applications received by local offices, 118 were funded. As more than 600 contracts are implemented, over a million acres of private rangeland in Wyoming will receive prescribed grazing along with other land treatments. Improved irrigation systems and water management will be installed on over 50,000 acres of crop and hayland in the state.

### Accomplishments

Several priority areas are reaching completion with the majority of land within the areas receiving treatment. This year, 118 contracts were written with landowners to address a broad array of resource concerns with a variety of conservation practices on over 400,000 acres of range, cropland, and hayland. Local work groups were active in prioritizing applications for funding.

### Outlook

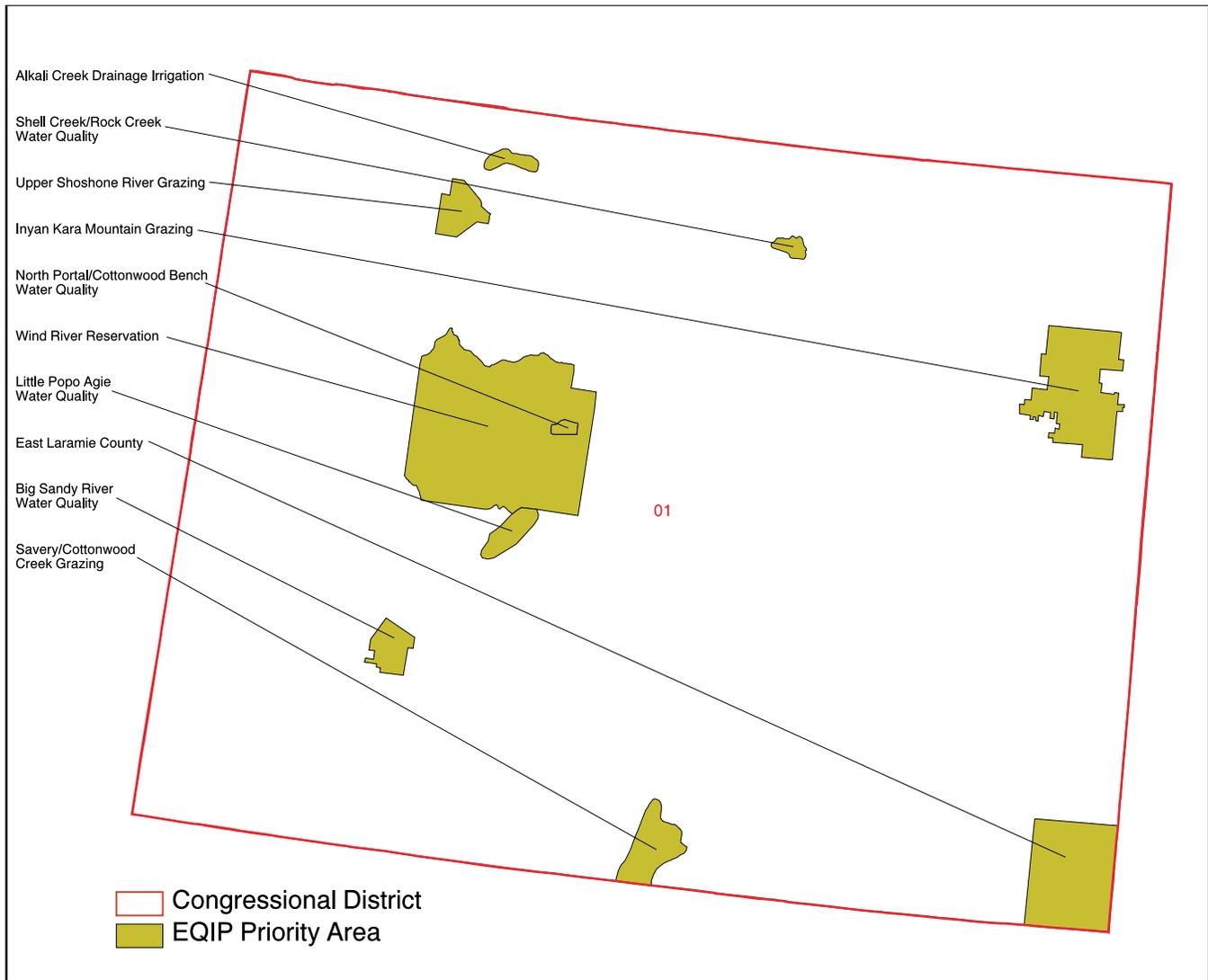
Because limited funding allows funding of only a third of the applications, some producers become frustrated with the program when the majority of them cannot receive assistance, these producers are encouraged to work with their local offices and be persistent with their application. Interest is expected to remain strong for EQIP. Wyoming farmers and ranchers need financial and technical assistance to install needed conservation practices because of current agriculture economics, drought, and natural resource concerns.

### State Contact

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## Wyoming EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional District



## Wyoming EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$2,642,537	122	\$11,370,889	665
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$2,642,537</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>\$11,370,889</b>	<b>665</b>

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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