



2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has been actively involved with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) since 1998. The local work group's focus is to improve the irrigation delivery system. Since 1999, with the assistance of EQIP cost-share funds, the Community has installed 35,000 feet of concrete lined ditch, a turnout box, and 800 acres of land leveling. This project has addressed approximately 5,000 acres to date. For 2001, the local work group switched focus from concrete ditch lining to pipelines. When complete, the pipeline project will install 12,900 feet of PVC pipe. Another 1,000 acres will benefit from improved irrigation delivery.

Other resource concerns are being addressed. Local farmers use biotechnology to reduce their pesticide use. Integrated pest management is vital where housing restricts the use of fixed wing aircraft. Local farmers use Bt treated cotton, growth regulators, and trap crops to control pests and reduce spraying. To manage fertilizer use and timing of application, cotton petiole analysis is completed to determine nitrate nitrogen levels in the plant. Test results are discussed with the grower and decisions are made the same day.

Irrigation efficiency is evaluated using the Water Conservation Management Program. This program is available to cooperators in the East Maricopa Natural Resource Conservation District. Soil moisture conditions and plant water requirements are determined. During the irrigation evaluation, the water delivered to the field is measured with a flume. The WCMP staff monitors the time the water advances through the field. Two the three days after irrigation the field is probed to determine the depth uniformity of irrigation. A report is generated and given to the farmer. The farmer has a record of irrigation efficiency and, if needed, recommendations to improve.

The Community's success is due to the focus of the local work group and local NRCS staff. Needs are prioritized and presented to NRCS before applying. The Community's Water Resources Division provides information to NRCS during the planning and design processes. The Water Resources Division ensures the projects are begun and completed in a timely fashion so the farmer's tillage and irrigation schedules are not disrupted.

Arizona Summary

Overview

In Arizona, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Local work groups requested Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$11 million dollars for geographic priority areas and statewide resource concerns. The Arizona FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$5,473,000. This is a shortfall of about \$6 million to meet current client needs. NRCS staff developed 200 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated nearly 99 percent of allocated financial assistance funds. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees in Arizona devoted over 60,000 hours to EQIP administration in FY 2001. This is equivalent to \$1,375,000 in wages associated with EQIP.

Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2001 EQIP financial assistance was distributed in Arizona through 33 Geographic Priority Areas (GPA) and 3 statewide Natural Resource Concern (NRC) projects. Of these Geographic Priority Areas, 18 are on Indian lands. About \$4,600,000 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in GPAs and \$792,000 obligated in NRC projects. Approximately 42 percent of the FY 2001 EQIP funds were obligated on Indian lands through the State. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered 1,475,000 acres. About 6,000 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP in Arizona as reported in PRMS; of these about 1000 were Native American Indian clients. Since the inception of EQIP in Arizona, 40 to 45 percent of the yearly allocation is obligated in contracts assisting Indian agricultural producers. This is approximately \$10,000,000 obligated on Indian land.

Outlook

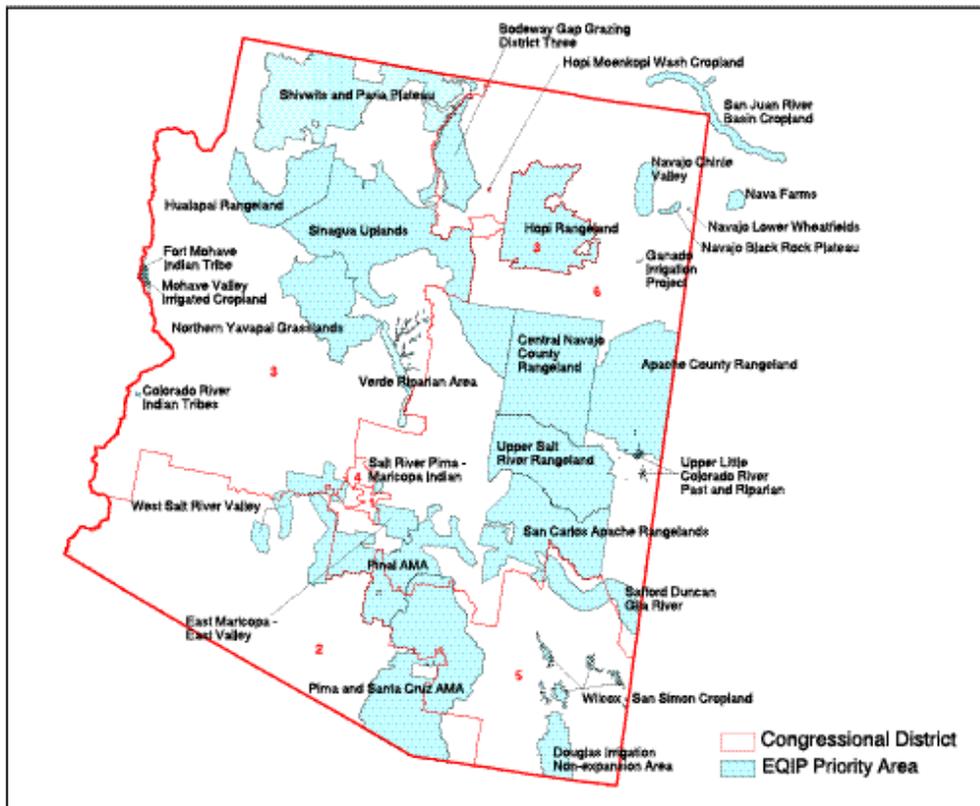
If participation were a measure of success of this program, Arizona would report tremendous success with EQIP. The unmet need is approximately \$6,000,000 in FY 2001, and the total unmet need of unfunded GPAs (approved GPA applications that have not been funded) is about \$28,000,000. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns.

State Contacts

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Arizona EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Arizona EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	0	0	0	0
District 2	\$564,839	43	\$2,798,924	160
District 3	\$1,234,682	31	\$4,129,783	159
District 4	0	0	0	0
District 5	\$1,007,979	49	\$5,147,828	265
District 6	\$2,225,181	77	\$7,881,233	370
State Totals	\$252,381	200	\$19,957,768*	954*

* Does not include funds obligated for the Navajo Nation in New Mexico but administered by Arizona NRCS Staff. This includes 112 contracts and approximately \$1,088,247 in funding for fiscal years 1997 through 2001.

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