



2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Joe Reyling applied for assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program in 1997 to address concerns over streambank erosion, irrigation inefficiencies, and ineffective use of grazing resources. "The EQIP program helped us realize our expectations of this property in an expedient manner," said Joe Reyling, a landowner in Valley County, Montana. "Rebuilding field ditches, land leveling, and fencing for grazing rotation increased our efficiency. Streambank erosion control and shelterbelts added to conservation enhancement for wildlife too. It's a great win-win program."



Montana Summary

Overview

In Montana, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$5.9 million were submitted by approximately 250 landowners. The Montana FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$5,197,400. This is a shortfall of about \$700,000 to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and our partners developed and approved 209 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated nearly 100 percent of allocated financial assistance funds. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees in Montana devoted over 58,600 hours to EQIP administration in FY 2001. This is equivalent to \$1,264,429 in wages associated with the EQIP.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Montana through 17 Geographic Priority Areas and statewide Natural Resource Concern projects. About \$3,584,104 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in Priority Areas and \$1,581,139 obligated in statewide Natural Resource Concern projects that address water or rangeland health issues. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered nearly 57,800 acres throughout the State. About 2,063 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP in Montana as reported in PRMS. In addition to financial assistance, nearly all of \$44,600 in EQIP education funds was awarded in grants to organizations and groups promoting resource conservation throughout the state. Since the inception of EQIP in Montana, over 22,600 distinct conservation practices have been planned in EQIP contracts.

Outlook

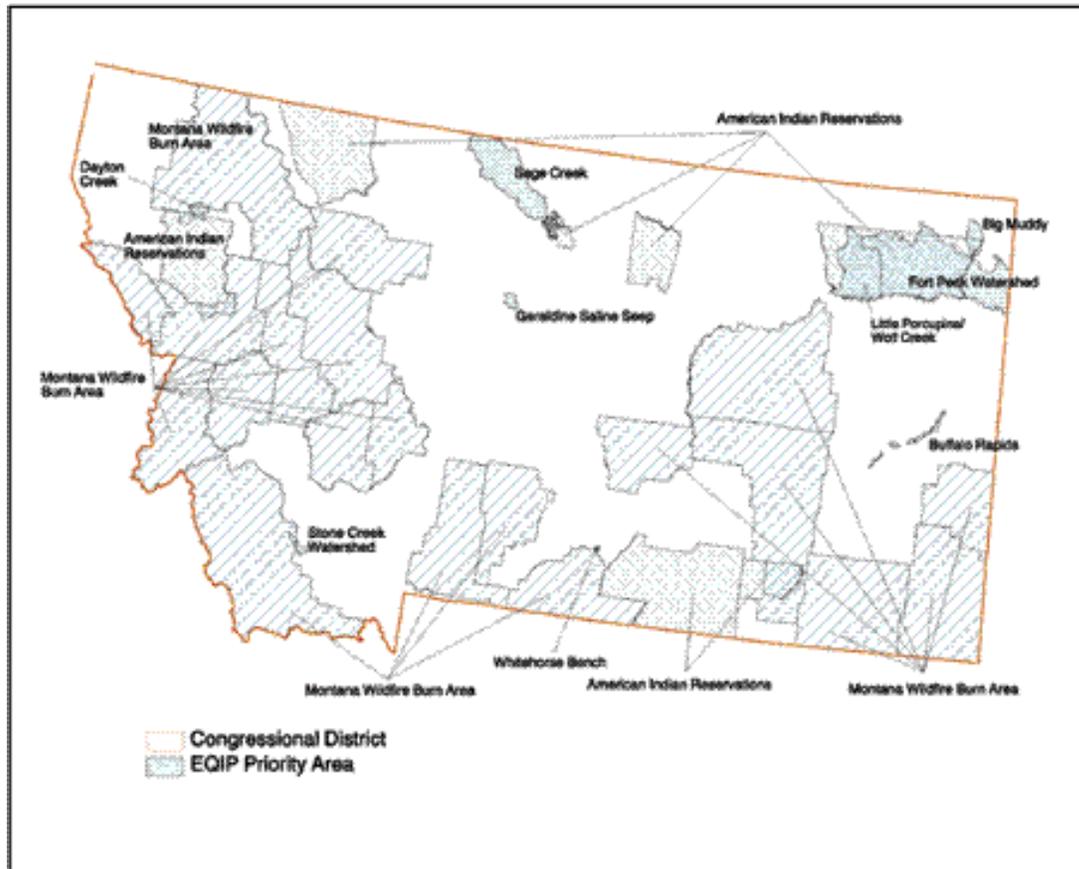
To date, Montana has received over \$21 million dollars which has provided 1,394 producers with the financial incentives to develop conservation plans and contracts. Additionally, over \$6.5 million or 31% of Montana's total EQIP allocation since 1997 has been contracted on Montana's 7 American Indian reservations. This successful conservation program has addressed many varied natural resource issues in Montana including wildfire recovery efforts, grazing restructuring on the Rocky Boy Reservation and salinity recharge recovery efforts that are negatively impacting the town of Geraldine. Participation and interest in EQIP continues to be high in Montana in the form of unfunded applications and continued development of new geographic priority areas.

State Contacts

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Montana EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Montana EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$5,165,243	209	\$21,336,001	1352
State Totals	\$5,165,243	209	\$21,336,001	1352

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