

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Financial assistance to treat resource concerns on tribal lands

Availability of Funding

Effective on the publication date of this notice, Utah Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the availability of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance of \$350,000 for federally recognized tribes and their members, as defined herein. Selection will be based on the criteria established in this notice.

Submitting Proposals

- 1. Letters of Intent:** Must be received in the NRCS State Office by 4:00 p.m., **February 28, 2006**. Indicate estimated amount of EQIP funds to be requested, general description of the resources to be treated, practices that will be implemented, and anticipated number of producer contract.
- 2. Written Proposals:** Must be received in the NRCS State Office by 4:00 p.m., **March 31, 2006**. See proposal outline, below. **Submit proposals to:**

Lisa Coverdale, Assistant State Conservationist – Programs
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
125 South State Street – Room 4402
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

Proposals may also be submitted electronically to the following email address:

lisa.coverdale@ut.usda.gov

Program Objectives

a. Objectives

EQIP objectives, as stated in the 2002 Farm Bill, are to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals, and to optimize environmental benefits, by:

- Assisting producers in complying with local, State, Tribal, and National regulatory requirements concerning soil, water, and air quality, wildlife habitat, surface and ground water conservation, avoiding, to the maximum extent practicable, the need for regulatory programs by assisting producers in protecting soil, water, and related natural resources and meeting environmental quality criteria established by Federal, State, Tribal, and local government.
- Providing flexible assistance to producers to install and maintain conservation practices that enhance soil, water, and related natural resources (including grazing land, wetland, and wildlife habitat) while sustaining production of food and fiber.

- Assisting producers to make beneficial, cost effective changes to cropping systems, grazing management, nutrient management associated with livestock, pest or irrigation management, or other practices on agricultural land.
- Consolidating and streamlining conservation planning and regulatory compliance procedures to reduce administrative burdens on producers and the cost of achieving environmental goals.

b. National Priorities

In order to provide direction to the State and local levels for implementing EQIP to achieve the objectives, NRCS has established the following National priorities for 2006:

1. Reduction of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDLs where available as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and reduction of point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations;
2. Conservation of ground and surface water resources;
3. Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (Nox) , volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depletors that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
4. Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land; and
5. Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation.

Definitions

For the purpose of this notice, the following definitions apply:

STC means State Conservationist, the NRCS employee authorized to direct and supervise NRCS activities in a State, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), or the Pacific Basin Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianna Islands).

Eligible entities means federally recognized Indian Tribes.

Eligible land is tribal owned land on a farm or ranch in Utah that is administered by a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, and pastureland, as well as forestland that is an incidental part of an agricultural operation.

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) is the official document for NRCS guidelines, criteria, and standards for planning and applying conservation treatments and

conservation management systems. The FOTG contains detailed information on the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources applicable to the local area for which it is prepared.

Natural Resources Conservation Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

All ten (10) Federally recognized Tribes (listed alphabetically) may compete for the \$350,000 EQIP set-aside.

- Goshute Indian Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
- Satellite Office: Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians
- Ute Indian Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- White Mesa Ute Council

Written proposals should adhere to the following outline:

Proposal Outline

I. Project Background and Summary

II. Description and extent of existing resource concern

Example: Of the 200,000 acre of irrigated lands in (XYZ) tribe, 40% are surface irrigated, 60% are sprinkler irrigated. Irrigated erosion is a concern on 20% of the surface irrigated lands. Or, ... of the 200,000 acres of rangeland 35% is in poor condition.

IV. Proposed treatment of resource concern

III. Proposed distribution of funds. Please include:

- Amount of funds requested.
- Number of eligible producers that will receive assistance.
- Length of contracts (minimum 1, maximum 5).
- Description of structural and/or management conservation practices to be implemented.
- Number of acres to be treated.

IV. Assurance that existing EQIP contracts are being actively being installed and are in compliance

V. **Assurance** that no individual shall exceed the \$450,000 payment limitation for EQIP from 2002 – 2007.

VI. **Maps, other attachments as appropriate.**

Ranking consideration

NRCS will assess the merits of each proposal, using the following criteria:

1. Priority will be placed on proposals that treat resource problems, as identified in Section II of the proposal, in the most cost effective manner.
2. Priority will be placed on projects that will be completed within 1 year of contract obligation (when the contract is signed).

Method of Allocation

1. All applicants will receive written notification of the decision made by the State Conservationist.
2. Successful applicants will instruct individual applicants to meet with their respective District Conservationists, to initiate contract development.
3. Funds will be obligated upon completion of the contract, approval of the contract by NRCS, and acceptance of the contract by the participant, as indicated by signature on the CCC-1200/Appendix.

Additional information

<http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/index.html>

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

Contact:

Lisa Coverdale, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
USDA-NRCS
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100
801-524-4565

Utah Tribal Councils

Goshute Indian Tribe

(Confederate Tribes of Goshute Reservations)
Amos Murphy, Chairman
PO Box 6036
Ibapah, UT 84034
(435) 234-1138
FAX: (435) 234-1162

Navajo Nation www.navajo.org

President Joe Shirley, Jr.
PO Box 9000
Highway 264, Tribal Hills Drive
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-6000 (Main Switchboard)
(928) 871-6352 (President's Office)
FAX: (928) 871-4025

Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe

Ivan Wongan, Chairman
427 N. Main Street, Suite 101
Pocatello, Idaho 83204-3016
(208) 478-5712
FAX: (208) 478-5713

Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians

Leon Bear, Chairman
3359 So. Main St., #808
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
(801) 484-4422
FAX: (801) 484-5511

Ute Indian Tribe

Maxine Natchees, Chairwoman
PO Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026
(435) 722-5141
FAX: (435) 722-2374

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Selwyn Whiteskunk, Chairman
PO Box 248
Towaoc, CO 81334
(970) 565-3751

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Lora E. Tom, Chairwoman
440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, UT 84720
(435) 586-1112
FAX: (435) 586-5915

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe

President Evelyn James
PO Box 1989
Tuba City, AZ 86045
(928) 283-4587
FAX: (928) 283-5761

Satellite Office: Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe

Ivan Wongan, Chairman
Bruce Parry, Executive Director
862 South Main St., Suite 6
Brigham City, UT 84302-3000
(435) 734-2286
FAX: (435) 734-0424

FAX: (970) 565-7412

White Mesa Ute Council

Elayne Atcity, Council Member
PO Box 7096
Blanding, UT 84511
435-678-360

