

Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Financial assistance to treat resource concerns on tribal lands
Availability of Funding – November 20, 2006

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 criterion established in this notice.

Submitting Proposals

1. Letters of Intent: Must be received in the NRCS State Office by **4:00 p.m., January 19, 2007**. Indicate estimated amount of EQIP funds to be requested, general description of the resources to be treated, practices to be implemented, and anticipated number of producer contracts.

2. Written Proposals: Must be received in the NRCS State Office **NO LATER THAN 4:00 pm, February 16, 2007**. 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:

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 depleters 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 Mariana 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.

III. Proposed treatment of resource concern

IV. 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

<p>Goshute Indian Tribe (Confederated Tribes of Goshute Reservations) Rupert Steele, Chairman PO Box 6104 Ibapah, UT 84034-6036 (435) 234-1138 FAX: (435) 234-1162 rupertsteele@yahoo.com</p>	<p>San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe President Evelyn James PO Box 1989 Tuba City, AZ 86045 (928) 283-4587 FAX: (928) 283-5761</p>
<p>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 joeshirleyjr@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians www.skullvalleygoshute.org Leon Bear, Chairman 3359 So. Main St., #808 Salt Lake City, UT 84115-4443 (801) 484-4422 FAX: (801) 484-5511 ldbear@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe www.nwbshoshone-nsn.gov Ivan Wongan, Chairman Bruce Parry, Executive Director 707 N. Main St. Brigham City, UT 84302 (435) 734-2286 FAX: (435) 734-0424 wongan@earthlink.net</p>	<p>Ute Indian Tribe www.uteindian.com Maxine Natchees, Chairwoman PO Box 190 Fort Duchesne, UT 84026 (435) 722-5141 FAX: (435) 722-2374 maxinen@utetribe.com</p>
<p>Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe (Idaho Office) Ivan Wongan , Chairman 427 N. Main Street, Suite 101 Pocatello, Idaho 83204-3016 (208) 478-5712 FAX: (208) 478-5713</p>	<p>Ute Mountain Ute Tribe www.utemountainute.com Manuel Heart , Chairman PO Box 248 Towaoc, CO 81334-0248 (970) 565-3751 ext. 601 FAX: (970) 565-7412 manuelheart@utemountain.org</p>
<p>Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Lora E. Tom, Chairwoman 440 North Paiute Drive Cedar City, UT 84720 (435) 586-1112 FAX: (435) 586-5915 lora.tom@ihs.gov</p>	<p>White Mesa Ute Council Elayne Atcity, Council Member PO Box 7096 Blanding, UT 84511 (435) 678-3608 eatcity@utemountain.org</p>

