

State Technical Committee



Representatives from state and federal agencies, organizations, agri-business, and American Indian Tribes make up the Oklahoma State Technical Committee.



Oklahoma State Technical Committee

Section 1446 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorizes the State Technical Committee to provide recommendations for establishing criteria, priorities, and other State-level initiatives on EQIP and other USDA programs. The State Technical Committee is advisory to the Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist in the implementation of conservation programs within Oklahoma. Currently, 90 representatives from state and federal agencies, organizations, agri-businesses, and Tribes serve on the Oklahoma State Technical Committee (Table 1). This committee reviews proposals from the local level and provides advice and recommendations to the Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist on conservation priorities and initiatives. They also make recommendations on statewide program assistance, eligible conservation practices, cost share and incentive payment limits, and on criteria to prioritize EQIP and other conservation program applications.

State Technical Committee by Organizational Category

| Organizational Category | Number of Members |
|--|-------------------|
| Federal Agencies | 30 |
| American Indian Tribes | 8 |
| State Agencies | 21 |
| Farm Organizations | 14 |
| Wildlife/Environmental Organizations | 11 |
| Agri-Business | 3 |
| Other Government | 3 |
| Total | 90 |

In 2002, the Oklahoma State Technical Committee reviewed conservation priorities established by local conservation districts in meeting the conservation needs at the local level. Sixty-three separate natural resource conservation issues were identified and prioritized by the 88 conservation districts serving all of Oklahoma. Through this process, resource treatment needs were



identified on over 33 million acres at an estimated cost of over \$897 million.

Priority conservation issues for the state were identified by the State Technical Committee, in order of priority:

- ☒ brush invasion–Eastern Redcedar
- ☒ surface water contaminates–animal waste
- ☒ sheet and rill erosion on cropland
- ☒ gully erosion on grazingland
- ☒ groundwater contamination

These priority concerns occur on 6,116,325 acres. An estimated \$320 million in financial assistance is needed to treat these priority resource needs. An additional 58 separate resource concerns impacting an additional 27.3 million acres were identified in the locally-led process. An estimated \$545 million in financial assistance is needed to treat these concerns.

- ☒ Coordinating with other federal, state, Tribal, local, public and private activities as they relate to the Natural Resources Conservation Service programs
- ☒ Guidance on a definition for large confined livestock operations and other livestock-related issues that is appropriate for the state.

The State Technical Committee provides advice and recommendations on the following conservation programs:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP)
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Compliance
- Crop Residue Management

| Oklahoma Conservation Priorities, State Technical Committee | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Priorities Identified by State Technical Committee | Acres Needing Treatment | Financial Assistance Needed |
| Brush Invasion-Eastern Redcedar | 3,072,900 | 151,433,750 |
| Surface Water Contaminates-Animal Waste | 909,175 | 13,544,500 |
| Sheet and Rill Erosion on Cropland | 1,310,078 | 44,607,678 |
| Gully Erosion on Grazingland | 609,172 | 108,954,750 |
| Groundwater Contamination | 215,000 | 1,600,000 |
| Total | 6,116,325 | \$320,140,678 |
| Other Locally-Led Resource Concerns | 27,318,190 | 545,464,134 |
| Total for all Resource Concerns | 33,434,515 | \$865,604,812 |

The Oklahoma State Technical Committee may offer advice and recommendations to the state conservationist on the following on program issues:

- ☒ State program management policies and procedures
- ☒ Technical programmatic recommendations
- ☒ Statewide public information and outreach campaign(s)
- ☒ Selecting and ranking priority areas
- ☒ Selecting significant statewide natural resource concerns
- ☒ Guidelines for developing ranking criteria for evaluating applications
- ☒ Guidance on eligible conservation practices
- ☒ Technical guidance on conservation practices, including new innovative conservation practices
- ☒ Cost-share rates and incentive payment limits and methods of payment
- ☒ Identifying, monitoring, and analyzing performance indicators
- ☒ Evaluating and reporting program impacts on natural resources and the environment

Wetland Conservation

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Although the Technical Committee has no implementation or enforcement authority, USDA gives strong consideration to the Committee’s recommendations.

Each State Technical Committee establishes criteria and guidelines for evaluating petitions by agricultural producers regarding new conservation practices and systems not already described in field office technical guides. Role of the state conservationist on the committee include chairing the committee, ensuring equal representation of all interests, give serious consideration to the committee’s advice, and call and provide notice of public meetings.

A list of the Oklahoma USDA State Technical Committee Members and minutes of previous meetings maybe found at: <http://www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/StateTechComm/Index.htm>

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