

**NORTHEAST WASHINGTON LOCAL WORK GROUP
FERRY, STEVENS & PEND OREILLE COUNTIES**

Plan for Implementing the FY2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- I. The Northeast Washington Local Work Group is comprised of local, federal and state officials from Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties and representation from the Spokane Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation and the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. In addition, volunteer representatives from the local agricultural, forestry and environmental communities have participated in the Local Work Group (LWG) process

The primary goals of the LWG are to provide access to EQIP funding to solve high priority natural resource problems and to assist landowners in complying with natural resource laws and regulations effecting their agricultural and non-industrial private forestland operations. To that end a list of eligible practices from the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide was developed for use in EQIP contracts. Cost share rates and cost share hold downs were also established for each eligible practice. Cost share rates for Limited Resource Farmers and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers were also established.

- II. The Local Work Group operates in a consensus decision-making fashion. In the event that consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be made by the NRCS District Conservationist.
- III. The General Priority Resource Concerns for the three-county area are found in Exhibit 1. Also listed in Exhibit 1 are potential sources of funding that could be used to address each concern.
- IV. The LWG established a FY2012 Ranking Tool Worksheet to prioritize EQIP applications. This worksheet and definitions are found in Exhibit 2.
- V. The FY 2012 Eligible Practice List & Practice Hold Downs is found in Exhibit 3.
- VI. The EQIP Fund Allocation Plan (Including Tie-Breaking Procedures) is found in Exhibit 4.
- VII. The 2012 application Questionnaire form is found in Exhibit 5.
- VIII. The 2012 Local Work Group Members List is found in Exhibit 6.

EXHIBIT 1

**FERRY/ STEVENS/ PEND OREILLE
LOCAL WORK GROUP**

Identification of Local Natural Resource Priorities

Soil Condition & Quality

- Improve soil condition and quality by treating compaction and infertility on cropland and pastureland and accelerated erosion (including stream banks) on all land uses through vegetative, structural and management practices.

Water Quality

- Improve surface water quality impaired by sediments, high temperatures and animal waste related to livestock activity on rangelands, grazed forests, pastures and farm/ranch headquarters, through the application of improved grazing management practices, riparian zone management and animal waste treatment and utilization.

- Improve surface and ground water quality on cropland, grazing lands and forests impacted by application of agricultural chemicals, animal waste and commercial fertilizers through the development and implementation of pest and nutrient management plans, including comprehensive nutrient management plans for livestock operations.
- Improve surface water quality impaired by sediments from forest access roads, skid trails and harvest landings through application of structural and vegetative practices.

Water Quantity

- Improve irrigation efficiency by a minimum of 10% over existing systems through application of improved mainline delivery and sprinkler systems operated under irrigation water management plans.

Plant Condition

- Improve plant condition on rangeland, grazed forest, pastureland and riparian zones through the application of improved grazing management practices and riparian zone management.
- Improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk through pre-commercial thinning, slash disposal, pruning, afforestation on abandoned cropland or pasture and reforestation after wildfire.
- Improve plant condition and quality through use of suitable native plant species to solve other resource concerns whenever possible.

Animal Condition

- Improve wildlife habitat of terrestrial species through the application of suitable benefiting practices and wildlife habitat management plans.
- Improve habitat for salmonid fish through the removal of barriers to fish passage.

Local Issues

- Assist landowners in voluntary compliance with AFO/CAFO, Tribal or Forest Practices Act regulations.

EXHIBIT 2

FY2012 EQIP APPLICATION RANKING TOOL SUMMARY Northeast Washington Team

- **See attached document**

EXHIBIT 3

FY2012 EQIP ELIGIBLE PRACTICE LIST & PRACTICE HOLD DOWNS Northeast Washington Team

- **See attached document**

EXHIBIT 4

FY2012 EQIP Fund Allocation Plan (Including tie-breaking procedures)

EQIP funds assigned to the Northeast Team will be allocated to the highest ranking applications based on the proposed treatment of key resource concerns within identified land use categories. The Northeast Local Work Group also desires to see these funds utilized over the entire Northeast Team in a fair and equitable manner. To that end the following fund allocation plan will be used.

Tie-Breaking Procedures: In the event that two or more applications have identical ranking scores the following procedures will be followed to break the tie.

1. The randomly generated NRCS ProTracts Tracking Code numbers for each application will be used to break a tie. The application with the higher tracking number is ranked higher for breaking the tie.

Fund Allocation Plan

There will be five funding pools based on land use categories approved by the NRCS: Cropland/Hayland, Grazing Lands (pasture, range and grazed forest), Forest Lands, Multiple Land Use Applications and Confined Animal Feeding Operations.

I) The following percentage of initial EQIP funds assigned to the Northeast Team will be set aside for each of the five land use pools.

Cropland/Hayland	20%
Grazing Lands	20%
Forest Lands	30%
Multiple Land Use	20%
Confined Animal	10%

II) The highest ranking application(s) within each land use pool will be funded, in order from highest to lowest, out of that pool's allocation until the next application in line cannot be fully funded. An application must have a minimum ranking score of 150 points in order to be funded from that pool's initial allocation. Applications with a score of less than 150 points will only be considered for funding if there are unused funds from other pools that cannot be obligated (see below).

III) Unused funds from each pool's initial allocation (covering applications with minimum ranking scores of 150 points) will be moved to the other funding pools in the following order of priority to obligate contracts that were not funded in the initial pool allocations (applications must still have a minimum ranking score of 150 points).

- #1 Multiple Land Use Application Pool
- #2 Forest Lands Pools
- #3 Grazing Lands Pool
- #4 Cropland/Hayland Pool
- #5 Confined Animal Feeding Operation Pool

IV) If there are still unused funds in the Team allocation after all applications in all funding pools with a minimum score of 150 points have been considered, applications with ranking scores below 150 points will be considered. Funding will be done in the order of land use pools listed in III) above and the ranking score of each application within that pool. Unused funds in a pool will move to the next land use pool in order.

V) Unused EQIP funds from the Team will be assigned to the NRCS East Area EQIP fund. These funds will be used to fund the highest ranking applications within the East Area.

Rationale for Funding Allocation Plan

- 1) The Northeast Local Work Group (LWG) identified the land use funding pools with the highest priority and based their initial funding allocations and priority for unused fund-consideration accordingly.

- 2) The Fund Allocation Plan explains how unused funds from each county pool will be redistributed on an identified priority basis.
- 3) Only the highest ranking applications from each pool will be funded. The use of a minimum score of 150 points to establish the order of fund obligation helps to ensure that EQIP funds are always funding the best applications first.

EXHIBIT 5

**FY2012 EQIP INVETORY/QUESTIONNAIRE
Northeast Washington Team**

- **See attached sample form document**

EXHIBIT 6

2012 Local Work Group Members

LWG Member Entity

Pend Oreille CD	Stevens Co. CD
Ferry CD	Pend Oreille Co. Commissioners
Ferry Co. Commissioner	Stevens Co. Commissioners
Spokane Tribe of Indians	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Colville Confederated Tribes	Ferry Co. FSA Committee
Stevens Co. FSA Committee	Pend Oreille Co. FSA Committee
WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife	WA Dept of Natural Resources
Stevens Co. Farm Bureau	NE Washington Hay Growers
Stevens Co. Cattle Producers	NE WA Farm Forestry Association
Natural Resources Conservation Service	

**NORTH EAST LOCAL WORK GROUP
FY2011 EQIP - Eligible Practices and Practice Hold-Downs**

EXHIBIT 3

Practice Code	DRAFT Practice Name	Practice Hold-Down NTE \$ <u>1/</u>
313	Waste Storage Facility	\$ 50,000
314	Brush Management	\$ 10,000
322	Channel Bank Vegetation	\$ 25,000
324	Deep Tillage	\$ 15,000
327	Conservation Cover	\$ 15,000
329*	Residue & Tillage Management - No Till, Strip Till, Direct Seed	\$ 10,000
342	Critical Area Planting	\$ 10,000
350	Sediment Basin	\$ 25,000
362	Diversion	\$ 25,000
378	Pond	\$ 25,000
382	Fence	\$ 50,000
384	Forest Slash Treatment	\$ 35,000
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	\$ 25,000
393	Filter Strip	\$ 5,000
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	\$ 25,000
396	Fish Passage	\$ 25,000
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	\$ 25,000
412	Grassed Waterway	\$ 25,000
422	Hedgerow Planting	\$ 5,000
430DD	Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline: High-Pressure, Underground Plastic	\$ 50,000
430EE	Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline: Low-Pressure, Underground Plastic	\$ 50,000
430FF	Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline: Steel	\$ 50,000
441	Irrigation System: Micro Irrigation	\$ 50,000
442	Irrigation System: Sprinkler	\$ 50,000
449*	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 10,000
484	Mulching	\$ 35,000
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	\$ 50,000
500	Obstruction Removal	\$ 50,000
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	\$ 15,000
516	Pipeline	\$ 35,000
521A	Pond Sealing or Lining: Flexible Membrane	\$ 50,000
521C	Pond Sealing or Lining: Bentonite Sealant	\$ 25,000
528*	Prescribed Grazing	
533	Pumping Plant	\$ 25,000
550	Range Planting	\$ 25,000
558	Roof Runoff Structure	\$ 50,000
560	Access Road	\$ 50,000
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	\$ 50,000
574	Spring Development	\$ 25,000
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	\$ 25,000
578	Stream Crossing	\$ 25,000
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	\$ 50,000
584	Channel Stabilization	\$ 50,000
587	Structure for Water Control	\$ 50,000
590*	Nutrient Management	\$ 5,000
595*	Pest Management	\$ 5,000

**NORTH EAST LOCAL WORK GROUP
FY2011 EQIP - Eligible Practices and Practice Hold-Downs**

EXHIBIT 3

Practice Code	DRAFT	Practice Name	Practice Hold-Down NTE \$ <u>1/</u>
600		Terrace	\$ 10,000
612		Tree/Shrub Establishment	\$ 35,000
614		Watering Facility	\$ 25,000
620		Underground Outlet	\$ 10,000
633*		Waste Utilization	\$ 10,000
634		Waste Transfer	\$ 50,000
642		Water Well	\$ 25,000
643		Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	\$ 25,000
644*		Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	
645*		Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	
657		Wetland Restoration	\$ 25,000
659		Wetland Enhancement	\$ 25,000
660		Tree/Shrub Pruning	\$ 15,000
666		Forest Stand Improvement	\$ 35,000
722		Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	\$ 25,000

*** Management/Incentive Practices 2/**

1/ The listed practice hold-downs are per contract, and apply to all applicants. Applicants qualifying as Historially Underserved (Beginning, Limited Resource, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers) will receive an increase in payment rates; the listed hold-down per contract is not increased.

2/ Incentive payments for a Management/Incentive practice will be allowed for one to three years in the contract. Exception: Residue Management practices (329 and 345) must be scheduled for 3 consecutive years. Nutrient Mgt (590) and Pest Mgt (595) must also be scheduled in all contracts that have 329 or 345, for the same 3 years.