



2010 Annual Report

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

This report contains fiscal year activity for the state of Colorado from the time period of October 2009 to September 2010.

Who We Are

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

“Conservation Innovation Grants will be funded to help producers conserve natural resources and reduce costs in our efforts to improve the quality of air, water, and soil.”

CIG Program Manager

Fiscal Year 2010 Conservation Innovation Grants Program

Statewide Activities

Number of Proposals Submitted	24
Number of Proposals Approved.....	13
Dollar Amount Approved.....	\$774,000

The Program

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging the Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are authorized and used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals.

The Benefits

CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities and individuals to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation’s most pressing natural resource concerns.

How CIG Works

Funding for CIG is announced each year through a funding notice. CIG competitions will emphasize projects that have a goal of providing benefits over a large geographic area.

These projects may be watershed-based, regional, multi-State, or nationwide in scope. The natural resource concerns eligible for funding through CIG will be identified in the funding announcement and may change annually.

The Application Process

Applications are evaluated by a technical peer review panel and scored against criteria identified in the funding notice. Scored and ranked applications will be forwarded to an NRCS Grants Review Board.

The Grants Review Board will make recommendations for project approval to the NRCS Chief. Awards will be made through a grant agreement.

At least 50 percent of the total cost of the project must come from non-Federal matching funds (cash and in-kind contributions) provided by the grantee.

The grantee also is responsible for providing the technical assistance required to successfully complete the project. NRCS will provide technical oversight for each project receiving an award.

CIG is available in select States each year. The State component emphasizes projects that have a goal of providing benefits within a limited geographic area. Projects may be farm-based, multi-county, small watershed, or Statewide in scope.

Public notices in each participating State will announce the availability of funds for the State CIG competitions.

For More Information

Visit our web site at www.co.nrcs.usda.gov.