

NM NRCS

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State Technical Committee

Purpose

NRCS has established a technical committee in each State to assist in making recommendations relating to the implementation and technical aspects of natural resource conservation activities and programs.

Responsibilities of State Technical Committees

- (1) Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages.
- (2) Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs.
- (3) Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications.
- (4) Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data.
- (5) Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally.
- (6) Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups.
- (7) Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs.

Responsibilities of the State Conservationist

- (1) Chair the committee.
- (2) Ensure representation of all interests, to the extent practicable.
- (3) Give strong consideration to the committee's advice on NRCS programs, initiatives, and activities.
- (4) Call and provide notice of public meetings.
- (5) Follow the standard operating procedures.
- (6) Provide other USDA agencies with recommendations from the State Technical Committee for programs under their purview.
- (7) Ensure that recommendations, when adopted, address natural resource concerns.
- (8) Extend membership to any agency or persons knowledgeable about economic and environmental impacts of conservation techniques and programs.
- (9) Respond to requests for membership as outlined in Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 501, Subpart C, Section 501.22D.

Local Work Groups

- Need to be established and hold -- at a minimum -- one official LWG meeting to prepare for EQIP.
- Will be convened by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and will establish its own working procedures, including:
 - Organization
 - Decision-making procedure
 - Meeting dates, including timely notification of members
 - Recording and distributing Local Work Group considerations, actions and decisions
 - Others as deemed necessary



Local Work Groups



August 10, 2018

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 440-18-06

SUBJECT: PGM – FARM BILL PROGRAMS – LOCAL WORKING GROUP GUIDANCE FOR FY 2018

TO: All Employees

ACTION ITEMS DUE BY October 19, 2018

Purpose. To provide guidelines for meeting with Local Working Groups for 2019 EQIP, CSIP, CIG and ACEP

Expiration Date. December 31, 2018.

New Mexico will implement conservation programs in 2019 based on the most current information/instructions from NHQ.

Attached are Guidance for LWG (Attachment #1), EQIP Fund Account Proposal (Attachment #2), Local Watershed Initiative Worksheet and Acequia Initiative Proposal (Attachment #3), Watershed Template (Attachment #3a) and CSIP, CIG and ACEP recommendation worksheet (Attachment #4) for all Designated and Area Conservationists in New Mexico to use in assisting Local Work Groups (LWGs) make recommendations on implementing the EQIP for FY 2019. The State Conservationist has the responsibility of grouping applications to the extent possible by similar crop, forestry, and livestock operations for evaluation purposes and ensure that funding is targeted to identified priorities. For this reason, the local EQIP fund accounts will be established in 2019 by Team and not by Field Office.

The FY 2018 EQIP proposals and other program recommendations are due to the ASTC-Programs and appropriate Program Manager by October 19, 2018.

LWG meetings should be scheduled from no later than October 12, 2018. Please keep in mind that LWGs are advisory, not decision-making groups. The proposal from the Team is the final recommendation of the Designated Conservationist to the State Conservationist on the various aspects of carrying out the program for FY 2019. As soon as meeting dates, times and locations have been established for your LWG meeting please convey that information to Kristin Graham Chavez and the appropriate State Program Manager for posting to the state website.

LWGs/D.C.s are encouraged to consider including the following in their proposal:

- ❖ Screening criteria to determine High, Medium and Low priority (Please see EQIP 515.72 for policy regarding screen criteria).
- ❖ Technical criteria to address tiebreakers
- ❖ Cost caps for high cost practices, if applicable (Please see 515.72 E(3) and 512.60F

- Screening Criteria
- Technical Criteria to address tiebreakers
- Cost Caps
- State and National Initiatives
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Watershed and Acequia Initiatives
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Agriculture Conservation Easement Program

2019 RCPP

APF will be released pending the passing of the Farm Bill.



2018 RCPP

Signed 2 agreements

- Pecos Watershed – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- North Central – Claunch-Pinto SWCD

2017 RCPP

- Chama
- Soil Health
- North Central Canadian River
- Acequia
- Canadian River





2017 RCPP

Canadian River

Budget Period: 17XX
Commitment Item: FA
Fund: NR0001004N
Funding Program: NR.AI.EQI3.35.E544.17XXF
Funding Center: NR35000000
Allocated: \$3,150,000.00
Obligated: \$3,090,092.09
Unobligated: \$59,907.91

Soil Health

Budget Period: 17XX
Commitment Item: FA
Fund: NR0001004N
Funding Program: NR.AI.EQI2.35.E530.17XXF
Funding Center: NR35000000
Allocated: \$5,600,000.00
Obligated: \$5,326,599.43
Unobligated: \$273,400.57

North Central

Budget Period: 17XX
Commitment Item: FA
Fund: NR0001004N
Funding Program: NR.AI.EQI1.35.E615.17XXF
Funding Center: NR35000000
Allocated: \$775,375.00
Obligated: \$770,082.00
Unobligated: \$5,293.00

Joint Chiefs ' Landscape Restoration

- Landscape scale treatments
- Reduce the potential of wildfires and loss
- Communities
- Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources

Taos Valley Watershed Coalition (TVWC)

- Identified a focus area of 280,000 acres of contiguous landscape featuring juniper woodland to spruce/fir forest.
- Encompasses most of the headwaters of the Rio Grande within Taos County; waters that are critical to the economy and well-being of New Mexico's most populous areas such as Taos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque.
- Developed a Landscape Restoration Strategy that prioritizes areas for restoration treatments. Funding is requested for implementation activities on Taos Pueblo, private, and Carson National Forest managed lands.
- Partners Include: Carson National Forest; USDA Forest Service; Rio Grande Water Fund-LOR Foundation; New Mexico Water Trust Board; Taos County; and Taos Pueblo.

Total FY 2018 Funding - \$403,800 NRCS - \$153,800 Forest Service - \$250,000

A scenic landscape photograph showing a golden field in the foreground, a dark mountain range in the middle ground, and a blue sky with white clouds. A tree with yellow leaves is on the left side.

Questions?

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