



United States Department of Agriculture

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

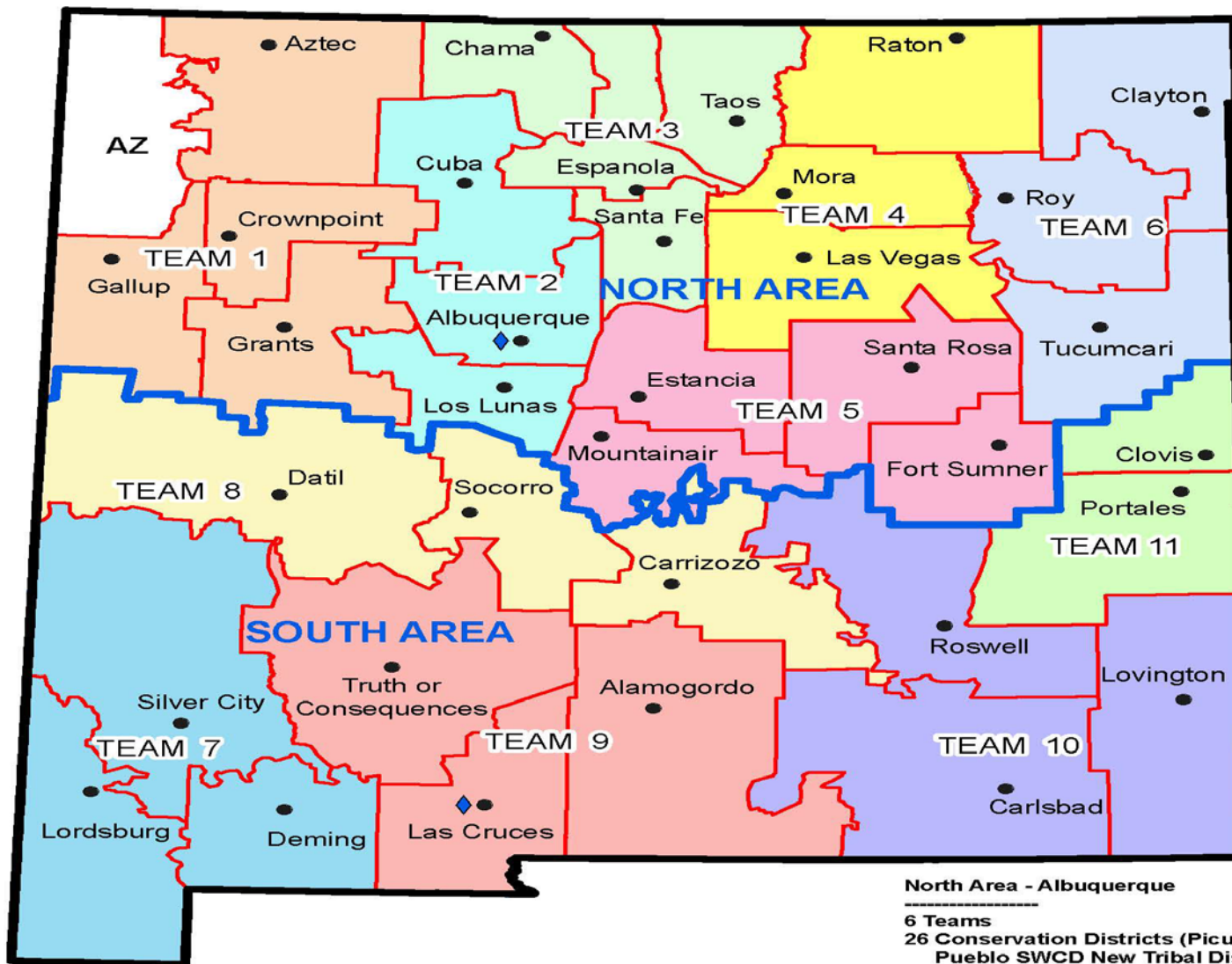
FY 2019 STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

KENNETH J. BRANCH

NRCS



NRCS - New Mexico Administrative Areas

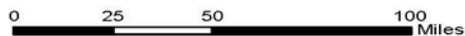


North Area - Albuquerque

 6 Teams
 26 Conservation Districts (Picuris
 Pueblo SWCD New Tribal District)
 23 Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos

South Area - Las Cruces

 5 Teams
 22 Conservation Districts
 2 Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos

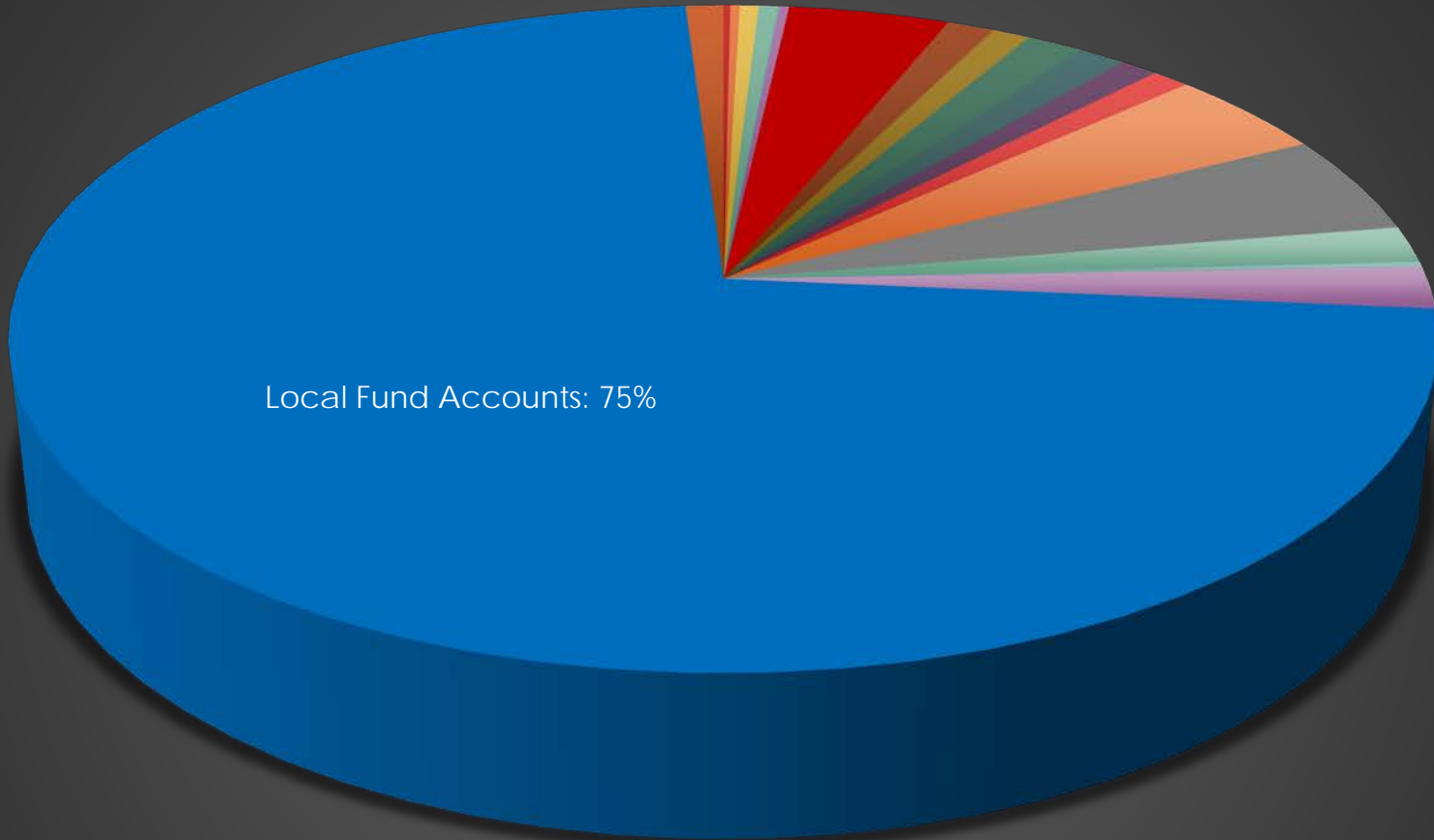


FY 2018 Financial Assistance NM Initiatives \$19,642,000

Fund Code	Initial Allocation	Obligated
Organic	\$35,000	\$81,752
Organic-Trns	\$50,000	\$8,840
High Tunnel	\$100,000	\$73,590
BFR High Tunnel	\$100,000	\$143,252
Energy	\$10,000	\$0
CAP	\$50,000	\$11,538
Tribal	\$850,000	\$1,138,627
BFR- North	\$250,000	\$300,010
SD- North	\$200,000	\$243,334
NM Acequia	\$300,000	\$54,712

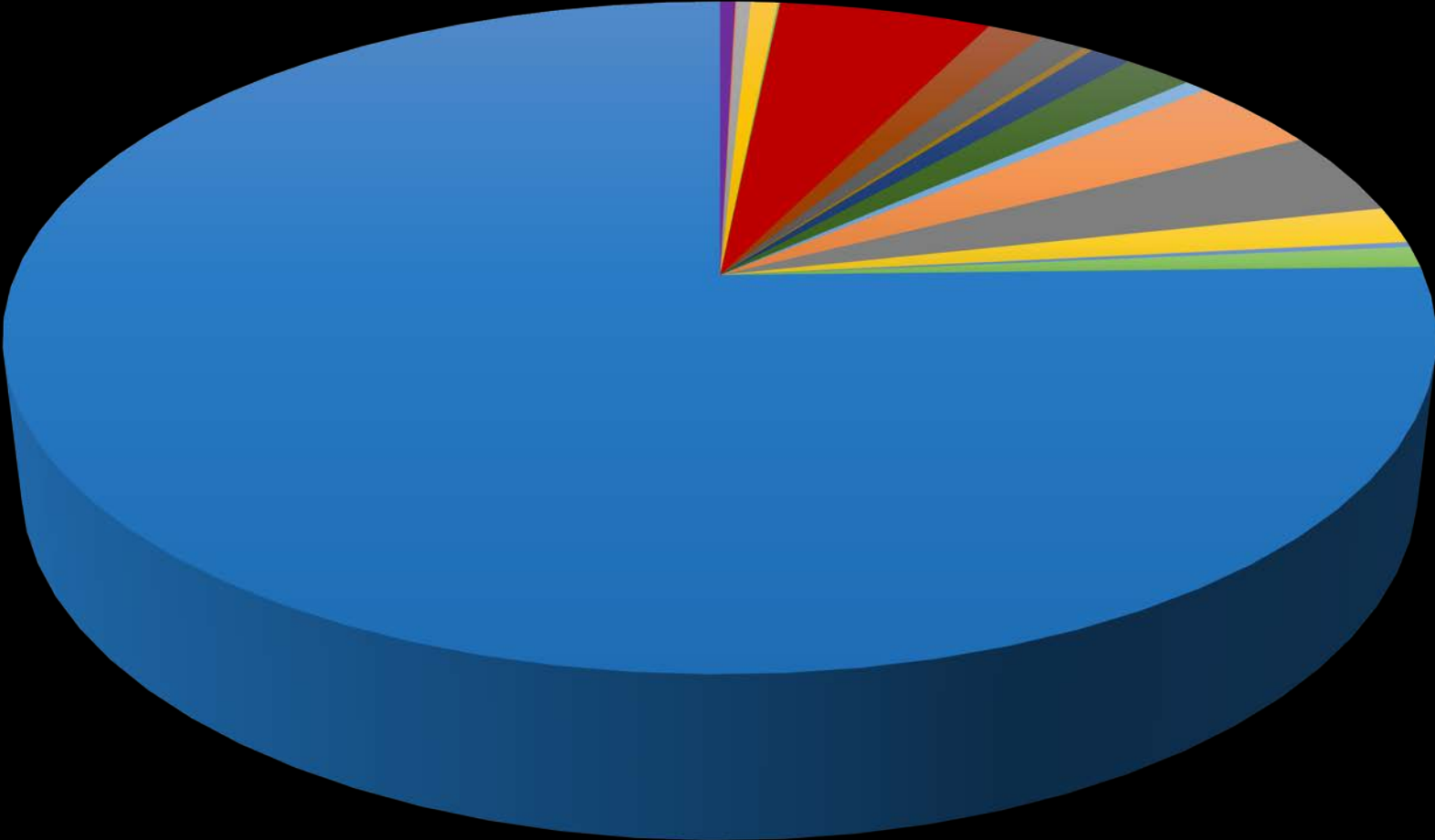
Fund Code	Initial Allocation	Obligated
BFR- South	\$250,000	\$224,421
SD- South	\$200,000	\$370,845
Forestry (BFR, SD)	\$200,000	\$121,672
Watershed Match	\$850,000	\$705,570
NM Wildlife	\$949,850	\$800,435
Ogallala State match	\$350,000	\$350,000
CIG	\$49,400	\$49,400
State AFO	\$200,000	\$200,000
Local	\$14,247,750	\$14,953,384 Includes prior year funds

EQIP General Initial Allocation



- Organic
- AP
- BFR- South
- gallala state match
- Organic Transition
- Tribal
- SD- South
- CIG
- High Tunnel
- BFR- North
- Forestry- State (BFR, SD)
- Cost Overrun
- BFR High tunnel
- SD- North
- Watershed Match
- Local Fund Accounts
- Energy
- NM Acequia
- NM Wildlife
- State AFO

EQIP Obligation



- Organic
- Organic-Trns
- High Tunnel
- BFR High Tunnel
- Energy
- CAP
- Tribal
- BFR- North
- SD- North
- NM Acequia
- BFR- South
- SD- South
- Forestry (BFR, SD)
- Watershed Match
- NM Wildlife
- Ogallala State match
- CIG
- State AFO
- Local



FY 2018 Financial Assistance National Initiatives

- ▶ National Initiatives
 - ▶ Stirkeforce:\$4,000,000 Allocated
 - ▶ \$4,000,615 Obligated
 - ▶ Acequia (Future Directions)- Was not funded by NHQ
 - ▶ National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI):\$350,000 Allocated
 - ▶ \$177,391 Obligated (primarily to Animas River Watersheds)
 - ▶ Ogallala: \$1,350,000 Allocated
 - ▶ \$991,284 Obligated
 - ▶ Lesser Prairie Chicken (LCPI)- \$500,000
 - ▶ \$750,484 Obligated
 - ▶ Joint Chiefs- \$153,800
 - ▶ WaterSMART (next slide)



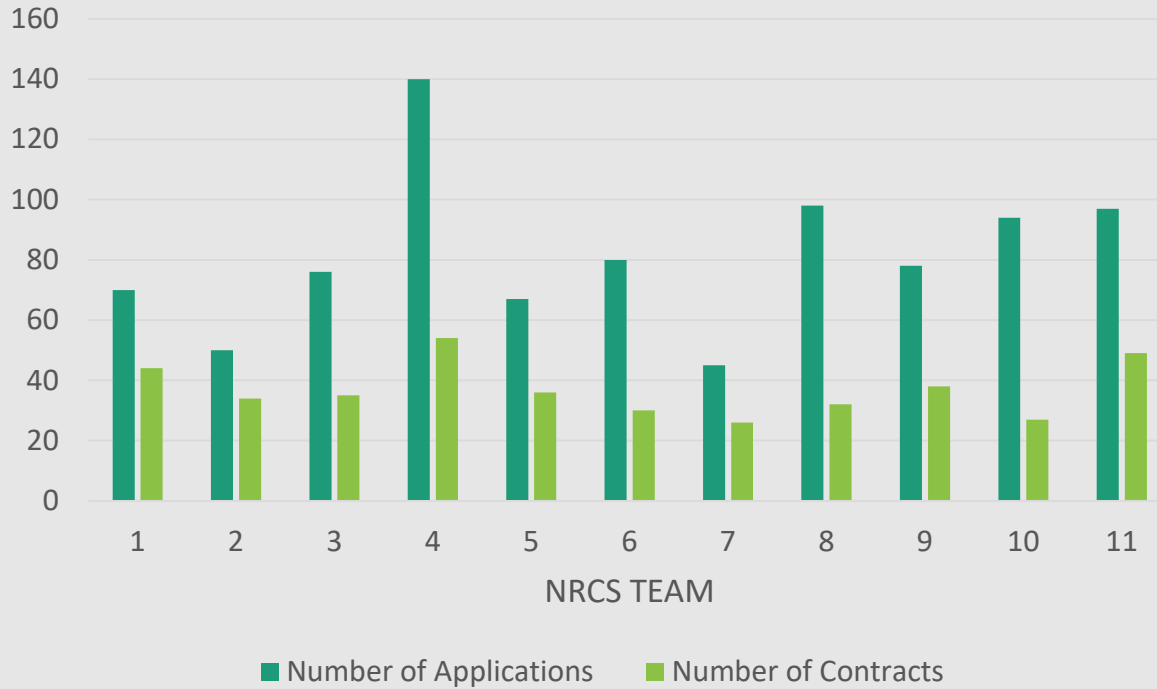


WaterSMART Initiative

- Initiative with the BOR where:
 - BOR works with water and irrigation districts to improve operations of water delivery systems, water districts, and water basins.
 - NRCS then works with producers within the delivery system area or district to increase on-farm efficiencies and introduce conservation practices
- General Criteria
 - Participants and Land must meet normal EQIP Eligibility Criteria
 - Participants receive irrigation water from Bureau of Reclamation source
 - Irrigation water provider has an approved Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART project for water conservation
- NM Received \$2.5 Million which was divided equally to each project area.
 - Each Project Area received an initial allocation of \$416,666
- 6 Project Areas in NM
 - Animas Watershed- \$80,249
 - Arch Hurley- \$625,883
 - Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID)- \$375,154
 - Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) - \$520,331
 - Middle Rio Grande Irrigation District Socorro District (MRGCD)- \$457,088
 - Navajo Agriculture Products Industry (NAPI)- \$415, 647



FY 18 Applications and Contracts

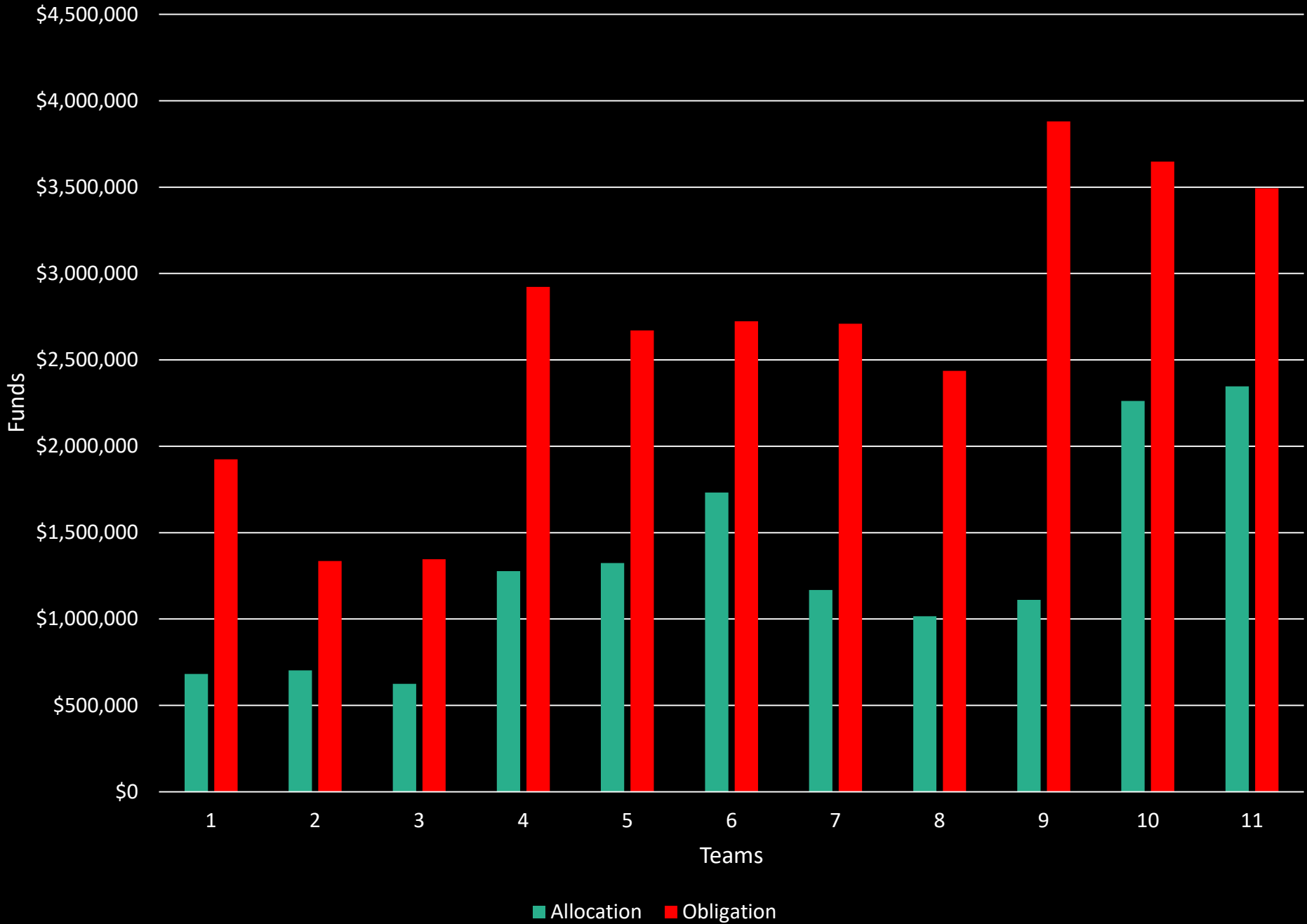


Team	Apps	Contract
1	70	44
2	50	34
3	76	35
4	140	54
5	67	36
6	80	30
7	45	26
8	98	32
9	78	38
10	94	27
11	97	49
Total	895*	405

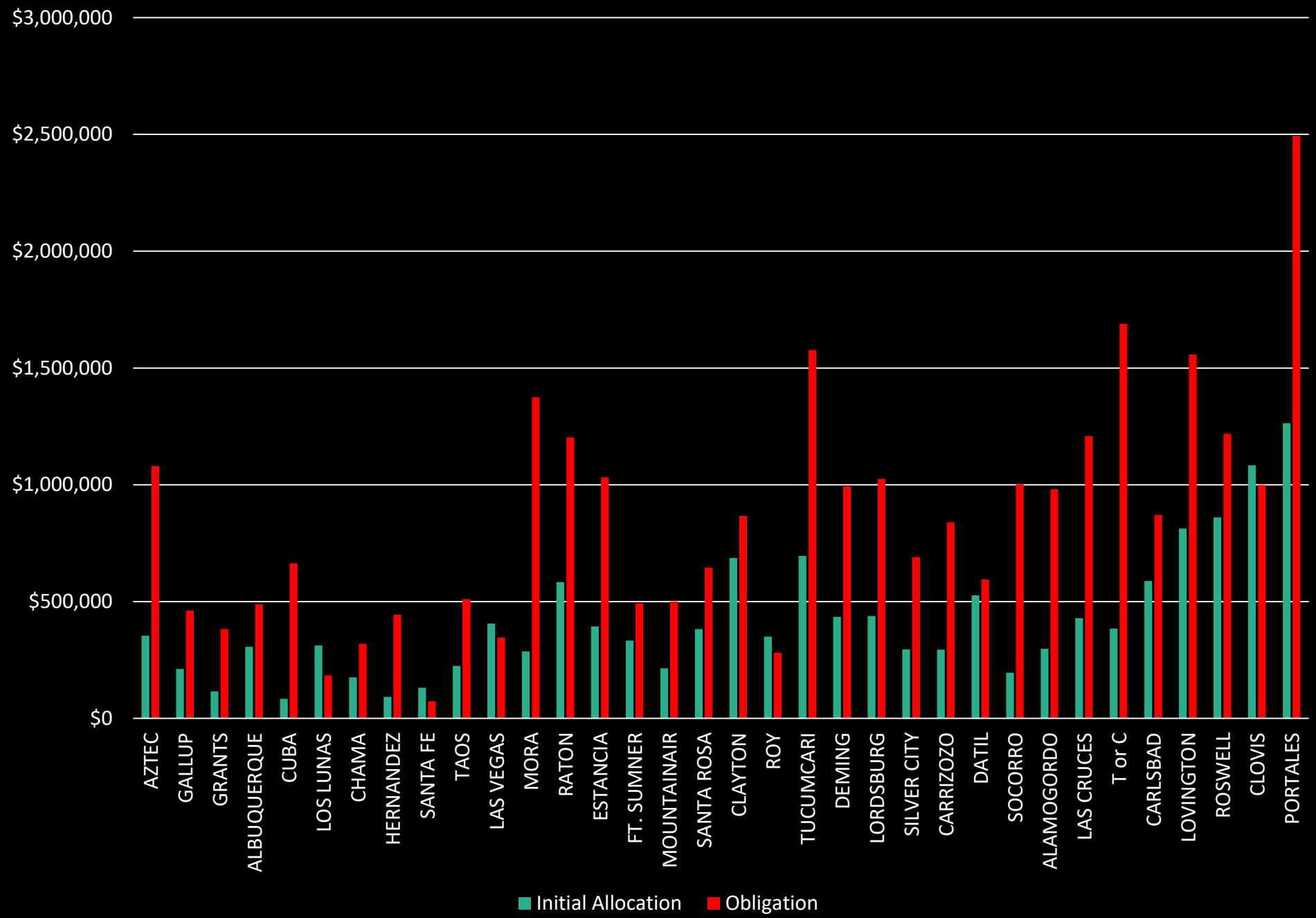
FY 2018 Applications and Contracts Per Team

*Application total may be higher as some apps have been deferred to 2019

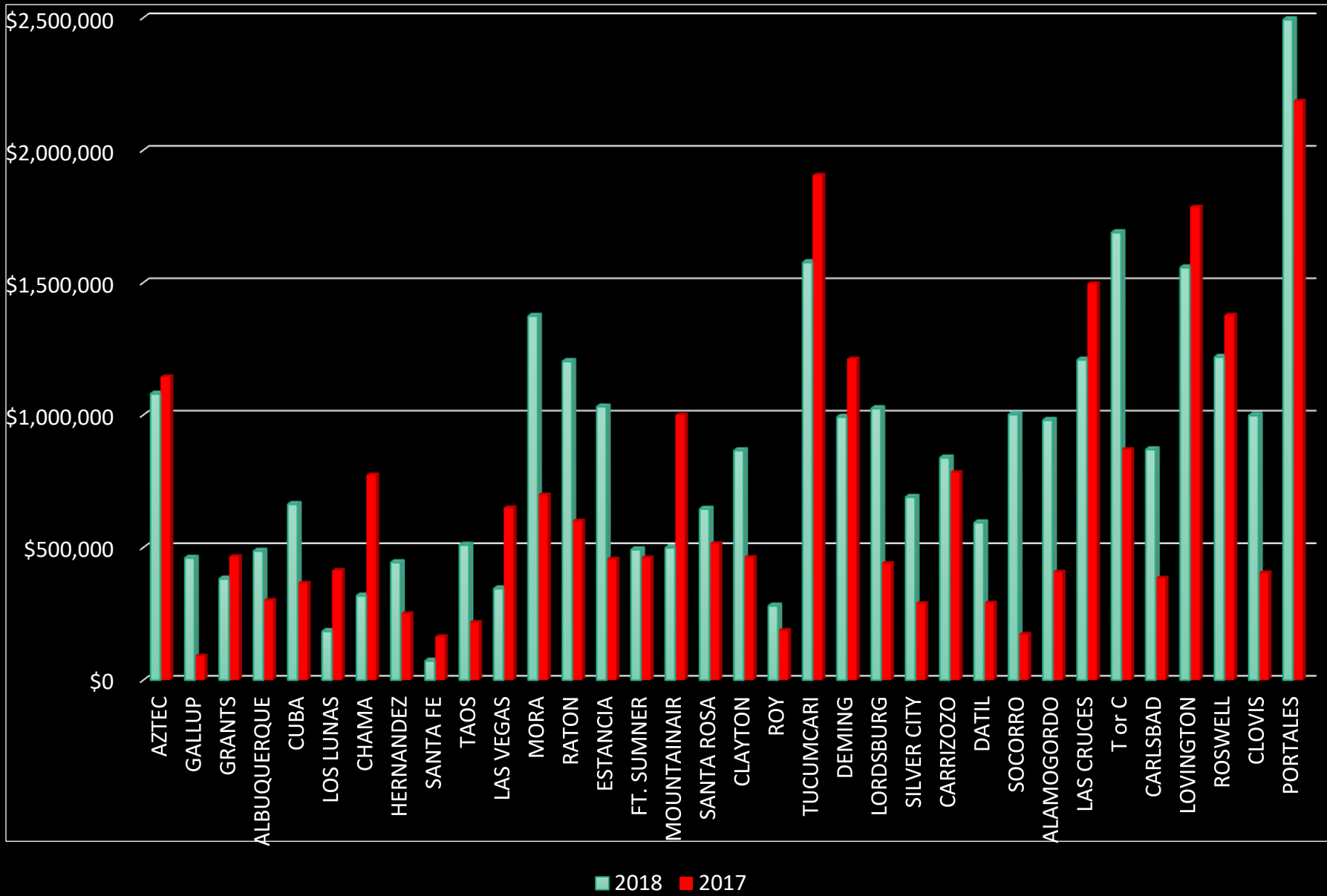
Team Allocation vs Obligation



Field Office Allocation vs Obligation



Field Office Obligation 2018 vs 2017





EQIP 2019

State Priorities

- Degraded Plant Condition
- Insufficient Water
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
- Soil Erosion
- Soil Quality Degradation
- Water Quality Degradation





FY 2019 Financial Assistance Allocation to Date

- ▶ State, Area and Local
 - ▶ Due to CR we received approx. 25% of our initial allocation.
 - ▶ Further guidance will be provided from NHQ on remaining EQIP General funding
- ▶ National Initiatives
 - ▶ Stirkeforce: \$4,000,000
 - ▶ WaterSMART: \$2,500,000
 - ▶ Waiting on Guidance regarding all other initiatives.

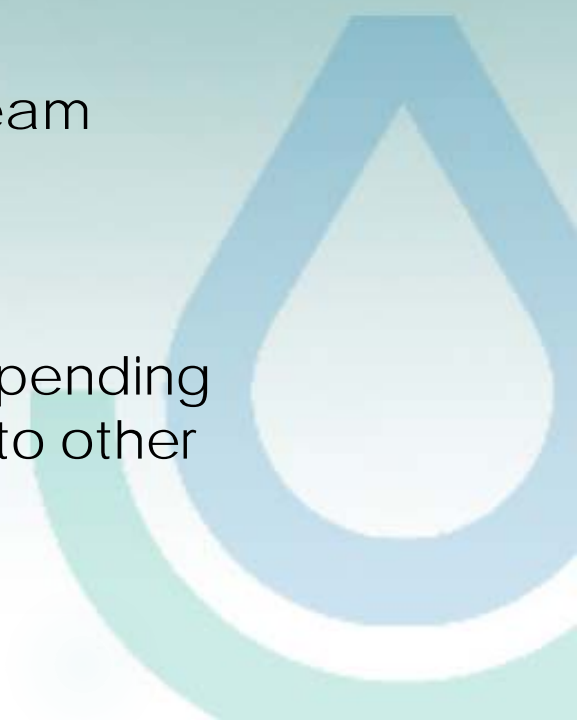




New Mexico FY 2019 Major Deadlines

- ▶ Application Deadline: January 18, 2019
- ▶ Eligibility Deadline: March 8, 2019
- ▶ Ranking Deadline (State and National Initiatives)
 - ▶ April 5, 2019
- ▶ Ranking Deadline (Local): TBA for each Team
- ▶ Obligation Deadline:
 - ▶ 100% Obligation by July 1, 2019

Note: These dates are subject to change depending on initial allocation, Farm Bill Funding or due to other circumstances.



**New Mexico
FY 2019 EQIP
Proposed Schedule of Activities/Deadlines**

	ACTIVITY	Schedule of Activities/ Deadlines for FY 2019
A	Bulletin on FY 19 Activities/Deadlines, Proposals, Ranking Criteria, Cost Lists, etc.	TBA
B	Local Work Group/Stakeholder Meetings Held	Oct 12,2018
C	Payment Schedule Uploaded	TBD
D	Field Office Proposals due in State Office	October 19, 2018
E	Fund codes and ranking tools released to the field. Public notice/outreach emphasis begins.	December 21, 2018
F	Field Offices review/test ranking tools. Make A.O. & S.O. aware of any problems/deficiencies/ revisions.	January 4, 2019
G	Ranking Tools loaded into ProTracts & posted to state website.	January 18, 2019
H	Application Deadline - 1200's must be signed/dated, submitted to F.O.	January 18, 2019
I	Applications entered into ProTracts	January 25, 2019
J	Deadline to send Pending Letters (30 Days)	February 1, 2019
K	Eligibility Deadline - Control of Land, Permits, CCC-926, AD-1026, CCC-901, FSA-211, DUNS, SAM's, etc.	March 8, 2019
L	Screening Deadline- If Applicable	March 15, 2019
N	State and National Initiatives Applications Ranked and Recorded in ProTracts. Including Estimated Costs	April 5,2019
M	Request CRMP (if needed)	April 12, 2019
O	Ranking deadline for Local Allocations: TBA by Team DC. Please inform SO of deadline set by DC	TBA
P	Field Offices complete plan development in Toolkit, upload plans to ProTracts, finalize FA fund amounts. (Develop plans for highest priority apps. first, then next highest, etc. Develop enough plans to utilize initial FA allocation, plus next five)	May 4, 2018
Q	Area Conservationists Complete Contract Folder Review/FA Re-Allocations as Needed/Approve Contracts. 75% of funds obligated.	May 18,2018
R	100% Funds Obligated	July 1, 2019



Local Work Group

- ▶ All Local Work Group meetings have been conducted
- ▶ Deadline was Oct 12, 2019.
- ▶ All teams have submitted proposals to the SO
- ▶ SO is currently reviewing proposals.





United States Department of Agriculture



Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)





EWP – Ute Park Fire

NRCS have been working mostly on Philmont. We have identified several places for sediment basins as well as areas for contour tree felling or mastication along with re-seeding. There is also the potential for debris removal and some wattles and a diversion around some structures

July 11, we met with Vermejo Park Ranch. We identified a location for a sediment basin and mastication with reseeding. They opted out of participating in EWP

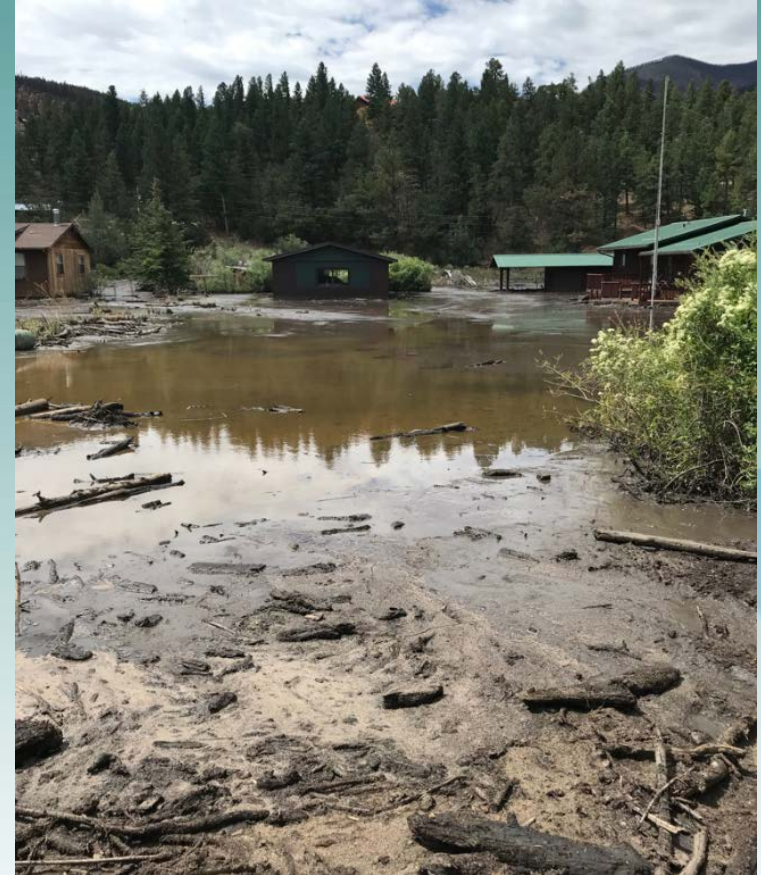
BAER - SWCA was hired by Department of Homeland Security to head up the BAER team.

Practice	Quantity Units	Cost Per Unit	Total Cost	Notes	
Mastication	689 ac.	\$700.00	\$482,300.00		
Contour Tree Felling	35 ac.	\$700.00	\$24,500.00		
Re-Seeding	742 ac.	\$100.00	\$74,200.00		
Wattles	5125 ln. ft.	\$2.00	\$10,250.00		
Debris Removal (Burned Structures)	16 ea.	\$1,000.00	\$16,000.00		
Debris Removal (Only Burned Trees Around Structures)	3 ac.	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00		
Grade Stabilization Structure (Trash Rack)	3 ea.	\$500.00	\$1,500.00		
Sediment Basins	18290 cu. Yds.	\$7.00	\$128,030.00		
Sediment Diversions	1048 cu. Yds.	\$10.00	\$10,480.00		
Silt Fences	1233 LnFt	\$6.00	\$7,398.00		
		Total	\$757,658.00	\$757,658.00	\$0.00
		Match 25%	\$189,414.50		
		NRCS 75%	\$568,243.50		

EWP – Ute Park Flood

A recent wildfire in the upper reaches of the watershed directly above Ute Park has changed the dynamics of the watershed.

Heavy rains deposited debris (mostly consisting of rock and logs). This debris was deposited in locations where future flood events could redeposit the debris and cause sufficient harm to life and property if not removed. Our engineers have completed a rough estimate of 400 tons of rock deposits along with several tons of other debris.



EWP – Ute Park Flood

Along with the debris deposits the flood created a threat to houses due to the incised channel it created. Immediate temporary measures will be needed to protect these properties most likely in the form of jersey barriers.

- \$198,000 for debris removal
- \$20,000 for jersey barriers.







EQIP, Fund Codes, Local Work Groups

1. There are private Acequias that are not documented with the state. These Acequias do not qualify for RCPP funding because they are not recognized as they are considered private.
 - a. Recommendation is to open the NM acequia initiative to private acequias. I understand the need these private acequias have however if we open up the initiative to private acequias how are we going to determine if they are an acequia or an irrigation district etc. Currently our initiative states the acequia is eligible if they have bylaws and are on record with the state. If we open it up to private acequias we should, at the very least, have the requirement of having bylaws in place. The bylaws don't have to be on record with the state but at least it tells us that the acequia is functioning.
2. Regarding Fund Codes- Some members of the committee were not aware of all the fund codes it was asked that NRCS review the fund codes with the staff and ensure they get the word out to their producers. I can discuss this at area meetings or other opportunities I have to remind the employees of this.
3. LWG meetings: Members of the committee feel that the LWG meetings should be conducted by the local SWCD. It was asked that FO's let the SWCD plan and conduct the meetings. In most cases the districts rely on NRCS to run this meeting as they don't have the staff to do this or don't understand what is needed.
4. When reviewing the FY 2019 state priority resource concerns it was noted that Wildfire hazard and Water Quantity were not priorities.
 - a. Recommendation was made to add Wildfire Hazard and Water quantity as a state priority I'm good with adding these, however there comes a time when we have to evaluate the priorities. We can't have all the RCs be the priority, if that was the case why would we even have to set priorities. Next year we probably need to set a max # of RC's as the priority. I say no more than 5.
5. The committee discussed the benefits of completing 384 woody residue management on lesser prairie chicken projects where the brush was treated. According to partner agencies they have the ability to do this they just have the means to get the arch clearances completed. We noted that there is a current scenario for 384 for lesser prairie chicken areas however we are unsure if 384 is a priority practice for the LPCI.
 - a. NRCS will review the list of practices for the LPCI
 - b. Recommendation was made that if 384 was not on the list of practices that NRCS make a request to NHQ to add this practice. Partner agency's will provide data to justify the request. I will review the practices for the LPCI once we get word that his initiative will be funded. Last I heard was that it was still being discussed.
6. Discussions were had regarding initiatives for land during drought conditions. It was noted that during drought conditions producers do not have grazing lands for their livestock. Questions were asked if NRCS currently has an initiative to help with additional grazing land. Currently NRCS does have a drought initiative however this initiative does not cover FA for leasing land. We can assist with practices (in the payment schedule) to address RC on leased land but we cannot help pay for the lease. According to members of the committee there are situations where the BLM has land without a permittee. It was asked if NRCS can contract with producers on this land. NRCS noted that the producer must have control of the land as required by program policy.
 - a. Further discussion will have to come to figure out how NRCS can help in these situations.