



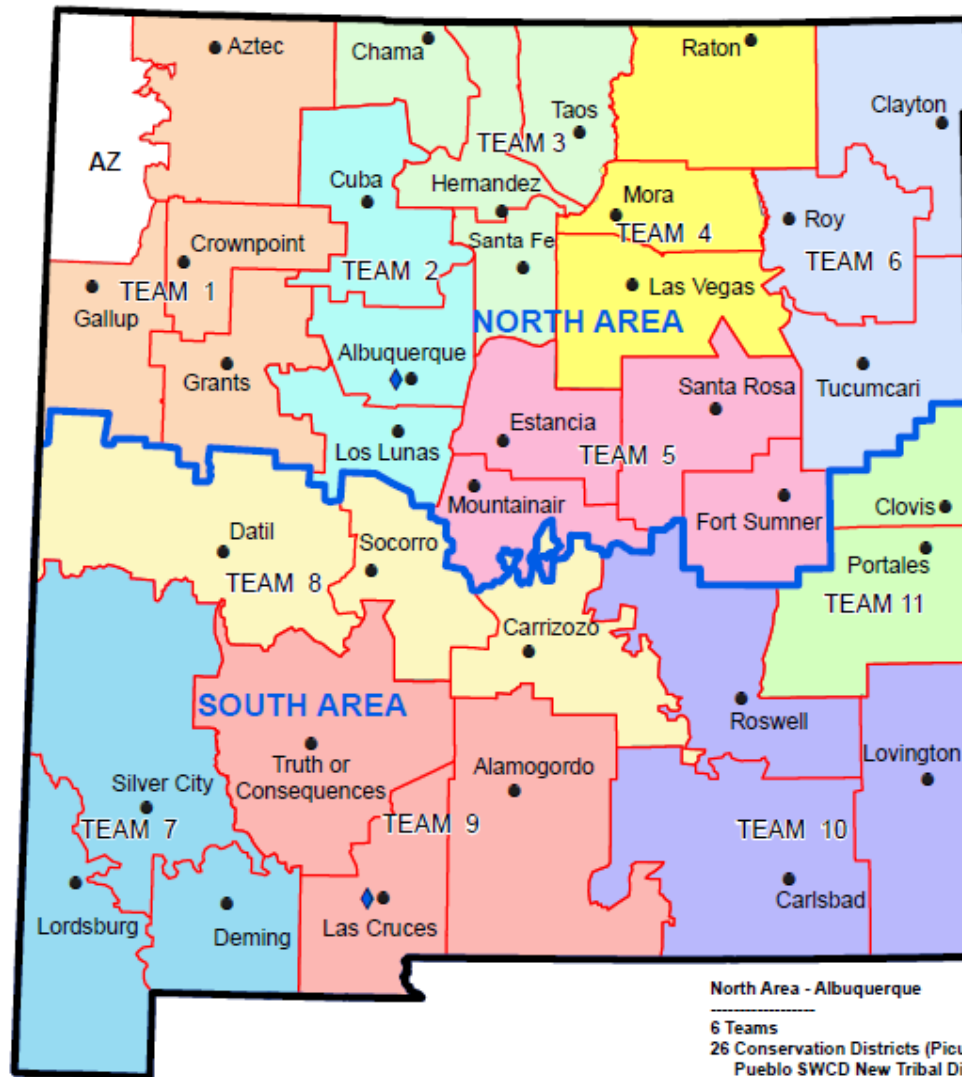
# State Technical Committee

FY 2019-2020 EQIP

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

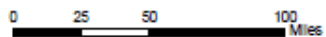
South Area - Las Cruces

5 Teams  
22 Conservation Districts

2 Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos



Resource Inventories and Assessments  
KRM, 3/13/15  
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# FY 2019 Financial Assistance NM Initiatives \$17,567,700

Fund Code	Initial Allocation	Obligated	Fund Code	Initial Allocation	Obligated
Organic	\$35,000	\$38,375	BFR- South*	\$339,192	\$368,075
Organic-Trns	\$50,000	\$55,598	SD- South*	\$200,000	\$294,801
High Tunnel	\$100,000	\$71,430	Forestry* (BFR, SD)	\$200,000	\$193,803
BFR High Tunnel*	\$100,000	\$106,270	Watershed Match	\$850,000	\$682,411
Energy	\$10,000	\$0	NM Wildlife*	\$1,256,770	\$1,245,818
CAP	\$50,000	\$7,644	Ogallala State Match	\$0	\$0
Tribal	\$850,000	\$953,204	CIG	\$75,000	\$75,000
BFR- North*	\$339,192	\$325,798	State AFO	\$200,000	\$51,186
SD- North*	\$200,000	\$145,558	Local	\$12,012,545	\$12,012,545
NM Acequia	\$300,000	\$365,470	* Mandated Funding		



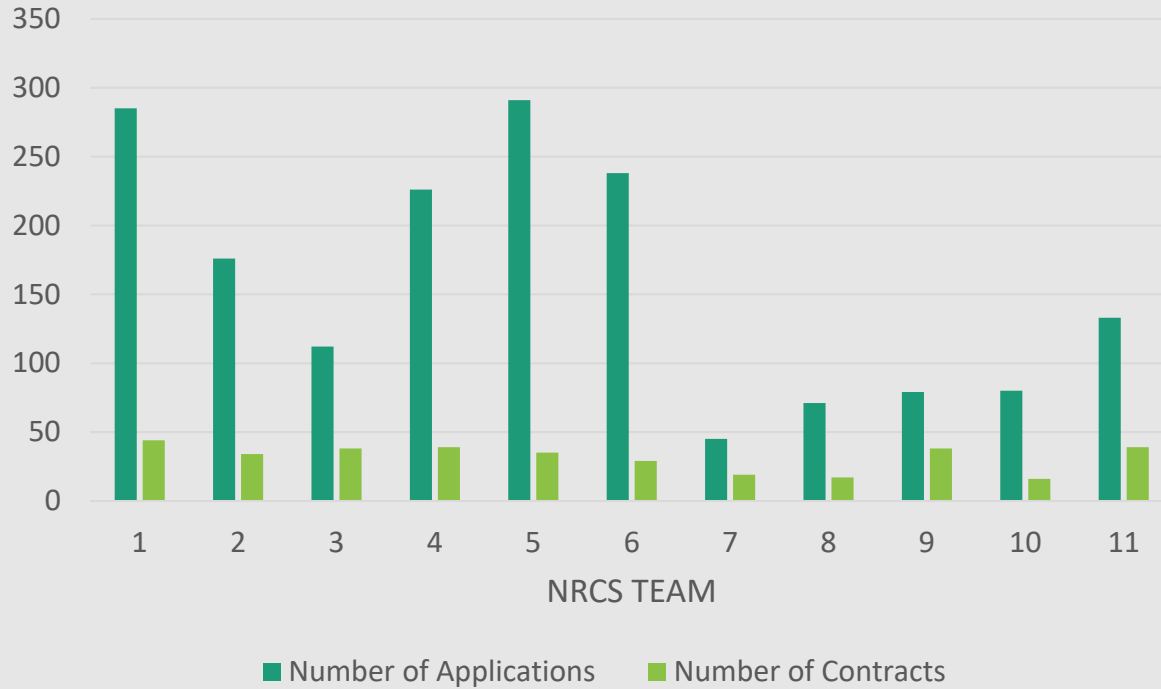
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# FY 2019 Financial Assistance National Initiatives

Initiative	Allocation	Obligated
StrikeForce (Crop, Range, Forest)	\$4,000,000	\$4,174,903
WLFW LPCI	\$739,000	\$574,890
NWQI	\$350,000	\$398,382
Joint Chiefs	\$153,800	\$0
WaterSMART	\$2,500,000	\$2,507,379



## FY 19 EQIP Applications and Contracts

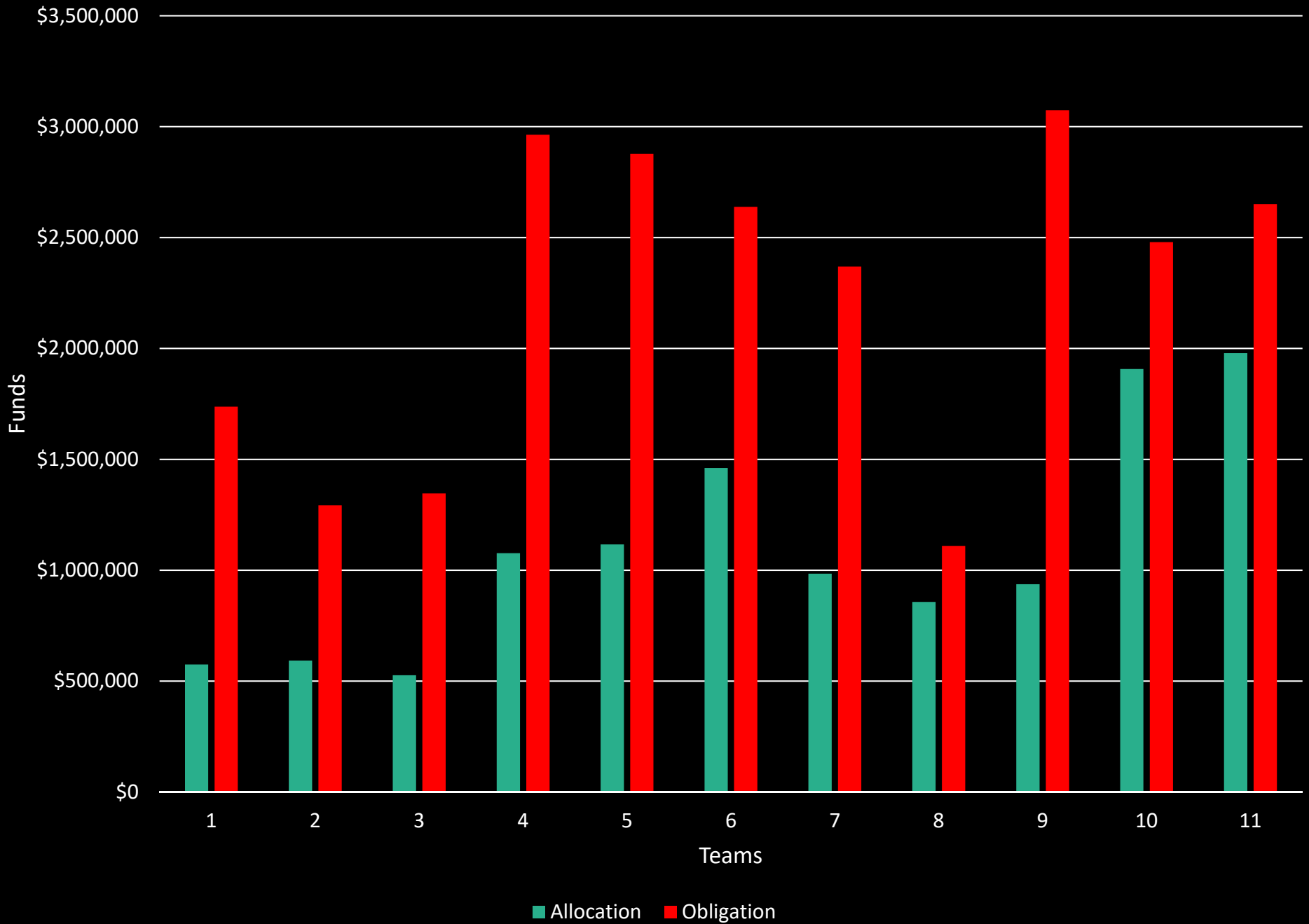


## FY 2019 EQIP Applications and Contracts Per Team

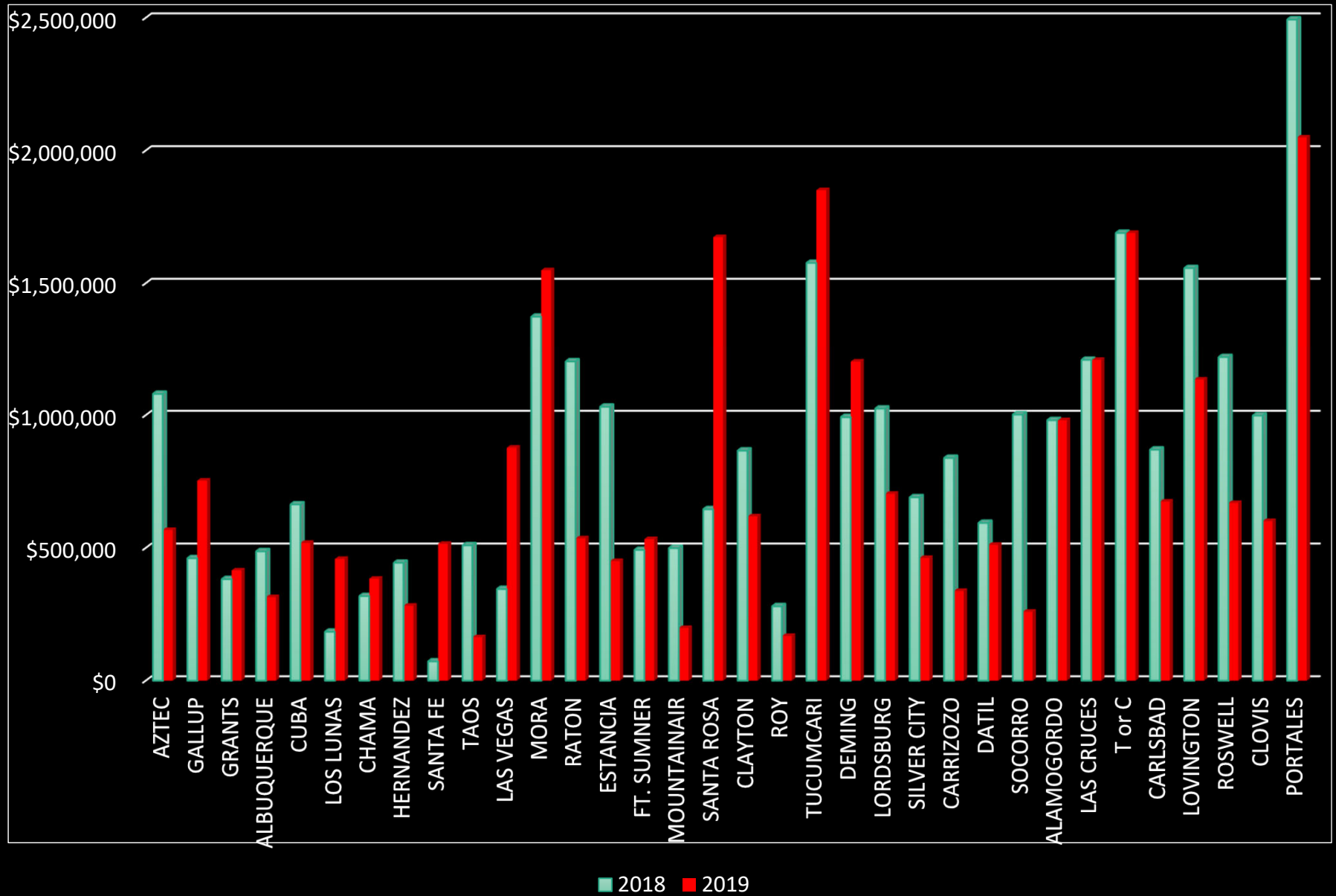
Team	Apps	Contract
1	285	44
2	176	34
3	112	38
4	226	39
5	291	35
6	238	29
7	45	19
8	71	17
9	79	38
10	80	16
11	133	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>895*</b>	<b>348</b>

\*Applications may be duplicates depending on the number of fund codes the producer chose to compete for funding in.

# Team Allocation vs Obligation



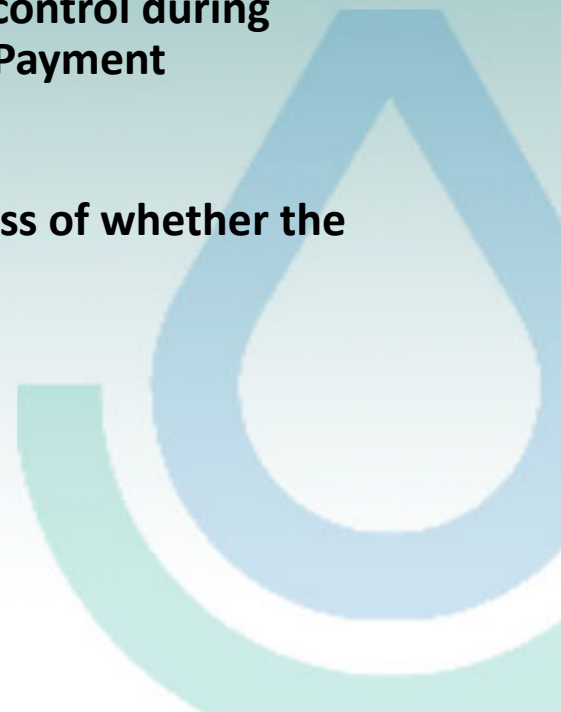
# Field Office Obligation 2018 vs 2019





# Amended Polices

- **Control of Land**
  - **Old Policy:** Applicant/participant demonstrate control of land for the life of the contract at the time of enrollment
  - **New Policy:** Verification of land control at the time of enrollment
  - Applicant will need to establish control at the time of enrollment, NRCS will verify that the participant continues to maintain control during annual contract reviews and prior to approval of any Payment
- **Dependent Practices**
  - Pay when practice meet standards and specs regardless of whether the participant has fully implemented the entire system.
- **Payments when a Participant has Died**
  - This section was removed- all issues go to NHQ







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# Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018





United States Department of Agriculture

# Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

## Implemented in FY 19

- **Organic Payments**
  - May not exceed \$140,000 during 2019-2023
  - Removed \$20,000 annual payment limit
- **New Veteran Farmer/Rancher Definition**
  - Veteran that was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable **AND**
  - has not operated a farm or ranch/has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years” (Meet BFR) **OR**
  - who first obtained status as a veteran “during the most recent 10-year period” (FY 20: Discharge between 10/1/2009-09/30/2020)
- **Requires Notification of Advance Payment Eligibility**
  - Eligible producers must be asked by NRCS if they wish to receive AP



United States Department of Agriculture

# Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

Waiting on Guidance

- **Water Conservation or Irrigation Efficiency**
  - **Authorizes direct program assistance to irrigation districts, acequias, land grants and other entities, for purposes of water conservation or irrigation efficiency**
    - **Eligibility, Control of Land, Signature Authority????**
    - **State will not receive additional funds for this assistance**
- **Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART)**
  - **Requires Weighted Percentages for Resource Concerns**
    - **FY 20 Same Weighted % for RC in State and National Initiatives**
  - **State Office to receive training in January**
  - **State Trainings sometime in mid-late January**



United States Department of Agriculture

# Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

## Industrial Hemp Rule

### Current Guidance

- Hemp producers will be considered eligible for all NRCS-administered programs if they are authorized to produce hemp by a State or Indian tribe with a USDA-approved hemp production plan or who are authorized directly by USDA to produce hemp
- Meet the provisions of the 2014 FB
- Currently NM Does NOT have an approved plan
- Working with NMDA to obtain plan

### Options for Producers

- NMDA Obtains approved plan
  - Producers apply to and be licensed or authorized under state plan or
- Individual producers apply for USDA hemp production license
  - Applications will be accepted beginning Nov 30,2019
- Failure to complete one of the above options can lead to an ineligible application.

Full details/info can be found at:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/hemp>



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# EQIP 2020





EQIP 2020

## State Priority Resource Concerns

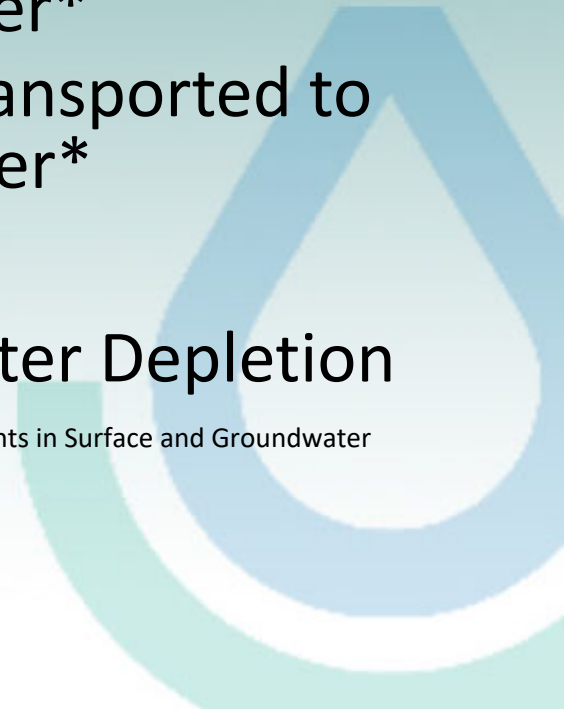
- CART will be used to assess and rank all applications
- Resource Concerns have been changed/consolidated
- Weighted averages for each resource concern
  - FY 2020- Weight all RC with same % (until CART is out)



EQIP 2020  
Cropland  
Priority  
Resource  
Concerns

- Water- 50%
  - Inefficient Irrigation Water Use
  - Nutrients Transported to Surface Water\*
  - Nutrients Transported to Ground Water\*
- Soils- 50%
  - Organic Matter Depletion

\*Prior Resource Concern was Excess Nutrients in Surface and Groundwater

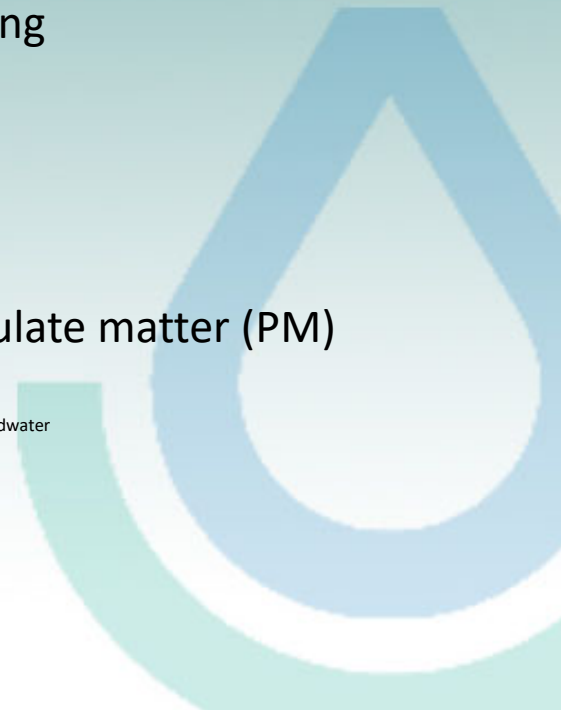




# EQIP 2020 AFO Priority Resource Concerns

- Water- 33.3%
  - Nutrients Transported to Surface Water\*
  - Nutrients Transported to Ground Water\*
  - Sediment transported to Surface Water
  - Pesticides transported to ground water
  - Ponding and Flooding
- Soils- 33.3%
  - Sheet and Rill
  - Wind
- Air- 33.3%
  - Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors

\*Prior Resource Concern was Excess Nutrients in Surface and Groundwater





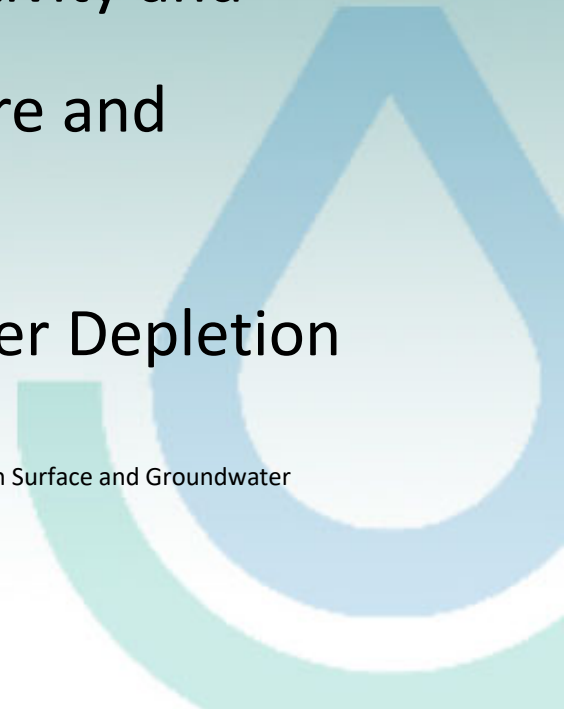


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EQIP 2020  
Pasture  
Priority  
Resource  
Concerns

- Water- 33.3%
  - Inefficient Irrigation Water Use
- Plants- 33.3%
  - Plant Productivity and Health
  - Plant Structure and Composition
- Soils- 33.3%
  - Organic Matter Depletion
  - Wind Erosion

\*Prior Resource Concern was Excess Nutrients in Surface and Groundwater





United States Department of Agriculture

# EQIP 2020

## Rangeland Priority Resource Concerns

- Plants- 25%
  - Plant Productivity and Health
  - Plant Structure and Composition
  - Plant Pest Pressure
- Animals- 25%
  - Feed and Forage Imbalance
  - Inadequate Livestock water quantity, quality and distribution
  - Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates\*
- Soils -25%
  - Classic Gully Erosion
  - Sheet and Rill Erosion
- Energy- 25%
  - Energy Efficiency of Equipment and Facilities

\*Prior Resource Concern was Fish and Wildlife Inadequate Habitat



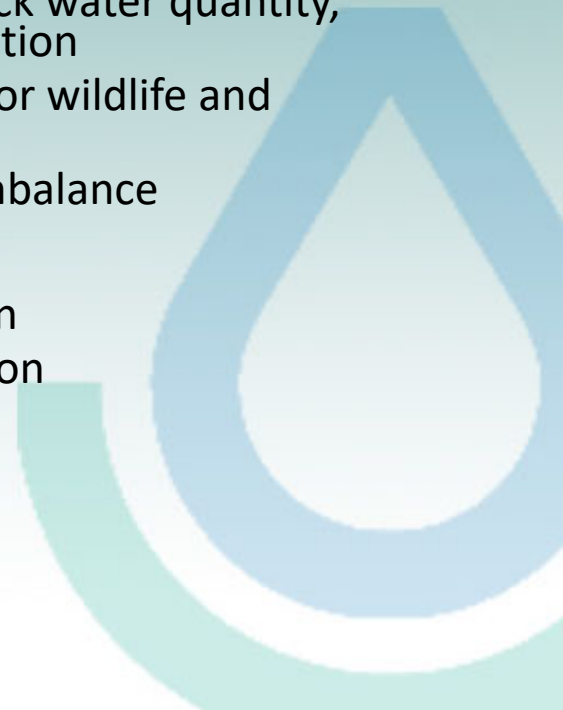


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# EQIP 2020 Forest Priority Resource Concerns

- Plants- 25%
  - Plant Productivity and Health
  - Plant Structure and Composition
  - Wildfire Hazard from Biomass Accumulation
- Animals- 25%
  - Inadequate Livestock water quantity, quality and distribution
  - Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates\*
  - Feed and Forage Imbalance
- Soils- 25%
  - Classic Gully Erosion
  - Sheet and Rill Erosion

\*Prior Resource Concern was Fish and Wildlife Inadequate Habitat





# WaterSMART Initiative

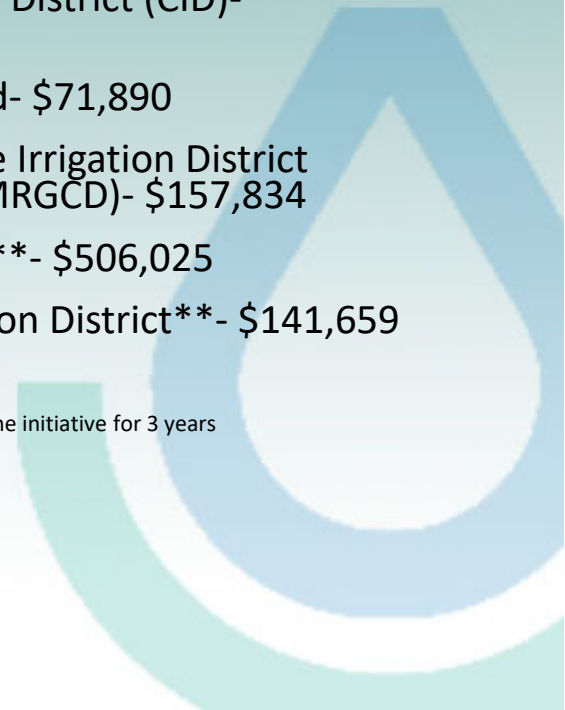
- Initiative with BOR where:
  - BOR works with water and irrigation districts to improve operations of water delivery systems
  - NRCS then works with producers within the delivery system area (who holds the BOR grant) to increase on-farm efficiencies and introduce conservation practices
- General Criteria
  - 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 Initial Allocation
  - 8 Areas in FY19
    - 3 Areas in 2016
    - 6 Areas in 2017
  - \$312,500 Initial Allocation to each
    - Decreased from \$416,666 in FY 18
- Future Funding (Depending on Initial Allocation)
  - More areas equals less funding per area
  - Possibility funding an area for 3 consecutive years
  - After 3 years area will be removed from Initiative

## 8 Project Areas in NM

- Arch Hurley\*- \$794,228
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID)\* - \$448,372
- Navajo Agriculture Products Industry (NAPI)\*- \$0
- Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID)- \$387,091
- Animas Watershed- \$71,890
- Middle Rio Grande Irrigation District Socorro District (MRGCD)- \$157,834
- Guadalupe SWCD\*\*- \$506,025
- Bloomfield Irrigation District\*\*- \$141,659

\* Project Area has been included in the initiative for 3 years

\*\* New Project Area in FY 2019





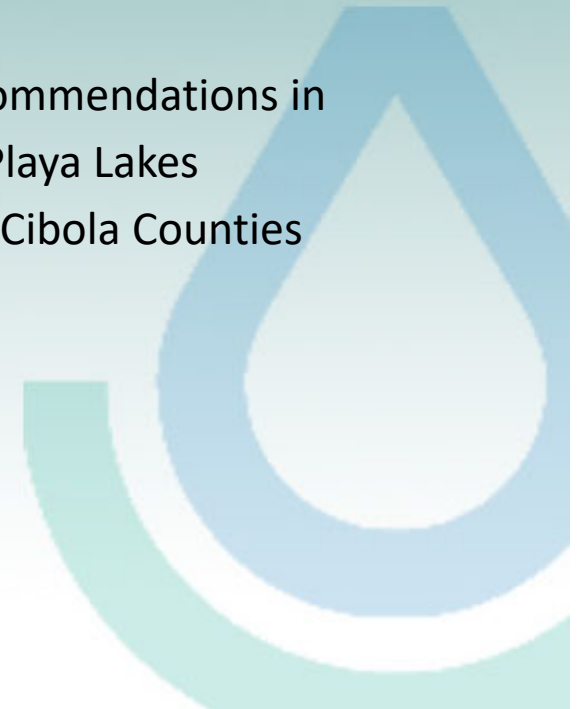
# Source Water Protection

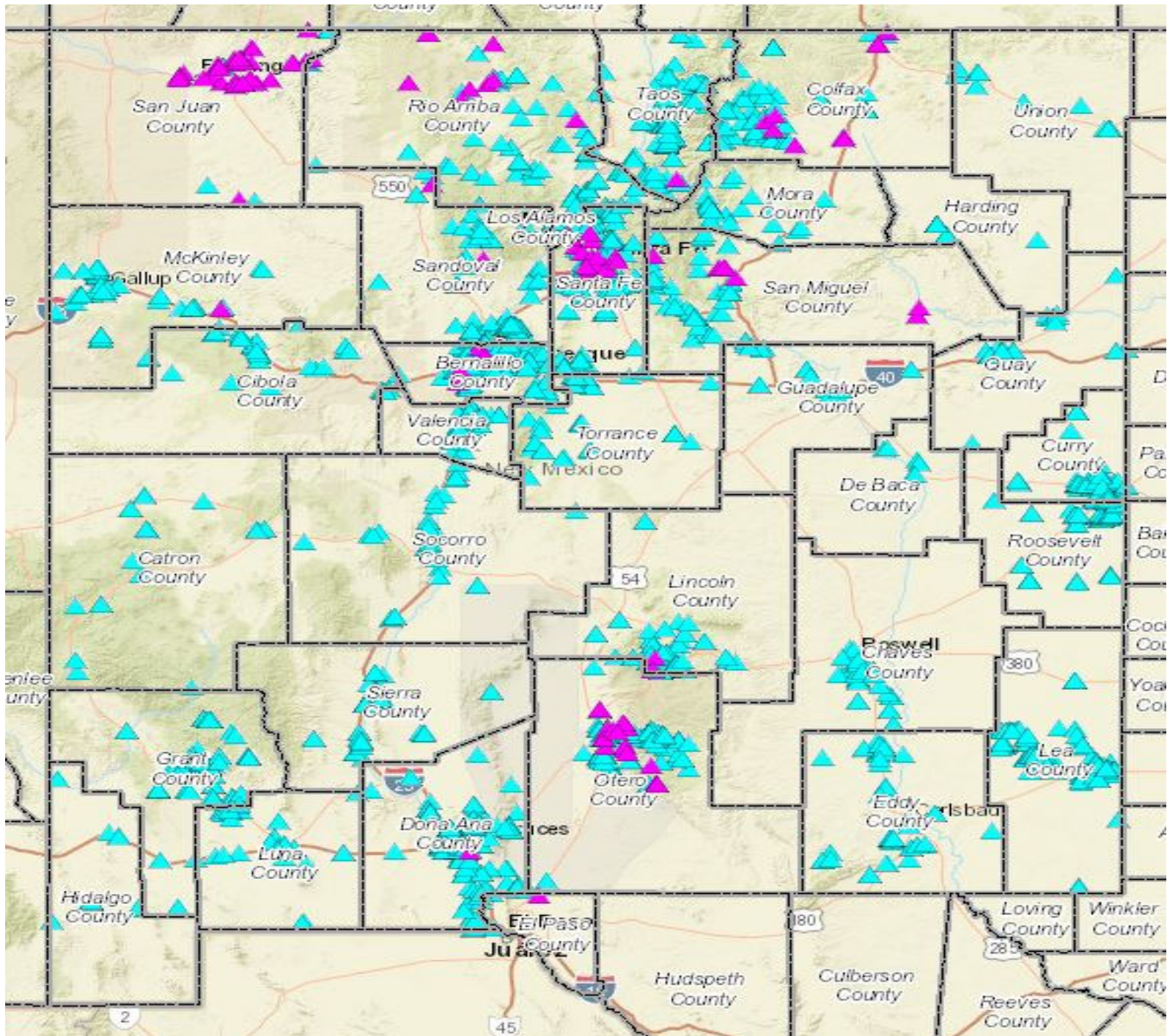
- Purpose:
  - Source Water Protection language in 2018 FB
  - Encourage protection of drinking water sources through conservation programs
  - Sources can be ground or surface water
  - Address Water Quality and Quantity
  - Dedicate at least 10 Percent of total funds available
- General Criteria
  - Participants and Land must meet normal EQIP Eligibility Criteria
  - Land is located in a Source Water Protection Area (SWPA)
  - Plan practices to address Water Quality/Quantity
- Initial Task
  - Identify SWPA's with source water protection assessments where AG is identified as potential source of degradation
  - Select SWPA where 10% of funding can benefit source water protection
  - Local Support (Stakeholders, partners, producers)
  - Identify priority practices

## Recommendations to date

PLJV: Made Recommendations in Colfax, Union, Mora, San Miguel, Harding, Quay, Curry, Roosevelt, and Lea Counties

NMED: Made Recommendations in Eastern NM near Playa Lakes Colfax, Rio Arriba, Cibola Counties



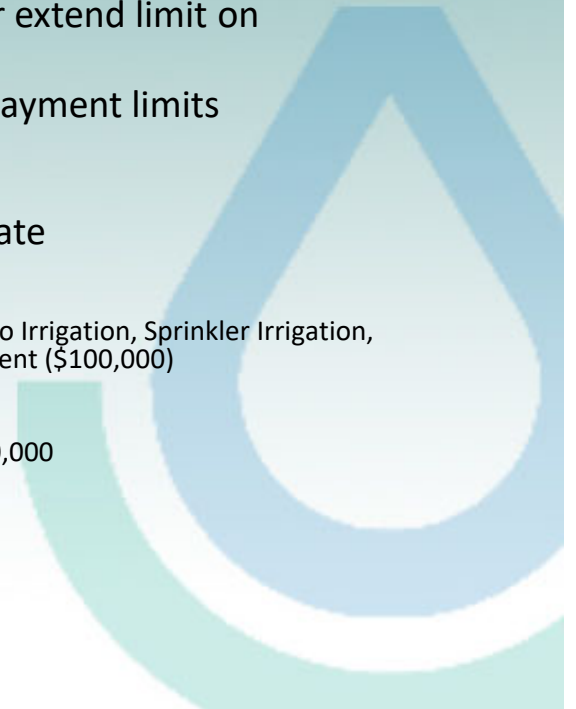




## EQIP 2020

# Payment Schedule

- Payment Percentage Rate
  - 75% For Non HU
  - 90% For HU
- Practice Caps
  - Capped at CIN Level
  - Cannot establish size or extend limit on practices
  - Cannot limit Contract payment limits
- Recommended Caps
  - Non at State level- to date
  - Team 7
    - Irrigation Pipeline, Micro Irrigation, Sprinkler Irrigation, Forest Stand Improvement (\$100,000)
  - Team 11
    - Sprinkler Irrigation- \$70,000





United States Department of Agriculture

# Emergency Watershed Protection Program

EWPP







United States Department of Agriculture

# Emergency Watershed Protection EWP

## Ute Park Fire

Practice	Planned	Units	Total Cost	25% Match	75% NRCS
Mastication	575	ac.	\$402,500.00	\$100,625.00	\$301,875.00
Contour Tree Felling	35	ac.	\$24,500.00	\$6,125.00	\$18,375.00
Re-Seeding	742	ac.	\$111,300.00	\$27,825.00	\$83,475.00
Wattles	3650	ln. ft.	\$7,300.00	\$1,825.00	\$5,475.00
Debris Removal (Burned Structures)	7	ea.	\$7,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$5,250.00
Debris Removal (Only Burned Trees Around Structures)	3	ac.	\$3,000.00	\$750.00	\$2,250.00
Grade Stabilization Structure (Trash Rack)	3	ea.	\$1,500.00	\$375.00	\$1,125.00
Sediment Basins	17022	cu. Yds	\$119,154.00	\$29,788.50	\$89,365.50
Sediment Diversions	2896.2	cu. Yds	\$28,962.00	\$7,240.50	\$21,721.50
Silt Fences*	71	Ea.	\$10,650.00	\$2,662.50	\$7,987.50
			<b>\$715,866.00</b>	<b>\$178,966.50</b>	<b>\$536,899.50</b>

# Mastication



# Reseeding



# Debris Removal



# Structure Protection



# Diversion/Debris Removal

