

Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

Oglala Livestock Water Development Project



This Project At-A-Glance

Native American Producers on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Funding for this project is provided by the EQIP Program and partners with financial and in-kind contributions.

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The Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) is a new phased-in approach to deliver conservation programs to farmers and ranchers across South Dakota. Funding for CIS comes through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Funding and support from other agencies and groups can be leveraged and coordinated to focus on mutual issues of the highest priority.

Background

Inadequate distribution of livestock water is leading to degradation of rangeland, soil health, and plant communities on land near Oglala, South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The main sources of water other than the river are dams built before the 1950s. Many of these dams have silted in due to the Badlands soil types and rough terrain. Drought has also reduced the water availability in the dams, leading to potential for high alkali content and selenium poisoning in livestock. The lack of reliable water and the uneven distribution of water has caused plant communities to trend away from desired species and grass to accumulate in other areas, contributing to wildfire risks. Livestock congregate near the White River and its tributaries further impairing this 303 d stream with E.coli and salinity.

Goals

The project's goal is to improve rangeland and soil health as well as contribute to improving water quality in the White River. NRCS will assist with technical support and financial assistance.

Desired Outcomes

Through NRCS technical and financial assistance, approximately 75,066 acres of rangeland will have livestock water evenly distributed to improve grazing distribution on at least 8 Range Units in the White River Basin from Red Shirt to Loneman. These alternative water sources will reduce the number of cattle grazing near the river. A deep well accompanied by pipelines and tanks will assist with improving rangeland health, water quality, and livestock health. More uniform grazing will also help reduce the risk of wildfire.

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Resource Concerns:

Degraded plant conditions, inadequate livestock water distribution, degraded plant diversity, and soil health.

Core Practices	Supporting Practices
Water Well (642)	Prescribed Grazing (528)
Water Treatment Facility (724)	
Watering Facility (Storage Tanks) (614)	
Pipeline (516)	
Water Facility (Rubber tire tanks) (614)	

Time Table of Project

- **Batching Date of May 27, 2022**
- **Eligibility Date of June 10, 2022**
- **Ranking Deadline of July 15, 2022**

