

AGENDA

Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Virtual Meeting – Teams Meeting
September 28 , 2023
10 a.m. (CDT)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Welcome and Introduction | Tony Sunseri |
| 2. Questions/Tribal Concerns | Darrel DuVall |
| 3. Follow-up from Our Last Meeting | Darrel DuVall |
| 4. Rangeland prescribe burn addressing woody encroachment | Sheldon Fletcher
Lower Brule Environmental
Protection Office and rancher |
| 5. Tribal Liaison/NRCS office Update | NRCS Tribal Liaisons |
| 6. Financial Assistance Program Updates | Jeffrey VanderWilt |
| 7. Farm Service Agency Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation Reserve Program | Owen Fagerhaug, FSA |
| 8. Introduce USDA Partnerships with Tribal Nations website | Darrel DuVall |
| 9. Other Partner Topics | |
| 10. Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested Agenda Items | |

Jan 17, 2023 TCAC feedback for meetings

1. How often do you believe Tribal Conservation Advisory Council meetings (like this) should occur?

2 times per year	3 times per year	4 times per year	only when NRCS has new information to share (signup details, results)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. How likely would you travel to another Tribe's community to participate in this meeting (if held in person) and participate in a field visits of that host tribe's projects/efforts/concerns?

Very likely	Somewhat likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. If you are a Tribal leader (employee, committee member, department director, council member), how likely would you offer to 'host' a NRCS Tribal Conservation Advisory Council meeting at your home tribal facilities?

Very likely Somewhat likely Neither likely nor unlikely Somewhat unlikely Very unlikely



4. What additional information do you want to share with NRCS leadership regarding TCAC meetings?

Enter your answer

Submit

Never give out your password. [Report abuse](#)



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NRCS Tribal Updates from the field

September, 2023

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Merris Miller serving Standing Rock Tribe

Underground Greenhouse Project

- Toured 2 facilities with the tribe to get ideas
- Agreement completed to construct facility at Kenel.

Conservations Projects

- Working on multiple conservation plans with tribal producers for potential EQIP contracts....Fencing projects, water projects, and a couple potential future underground greenhouses.



Dave Pesicka serving Cheyenne River Tribe



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Dave Pesicka serving Cheyenne River Tribe



Dave Pesicka serving Cheyenne River Tribe



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Rob Goodman serving Oglala Tribe

- Trainings
- Outreach
 - County Fair
 - NRCS/Tribal CREP
- Makoce Ag Convergence



- NRI
- Tribal/BIA partnership
- Fieldwork / on-the-job training

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Mary Scott serving Rosebud Tribe

- ❖ Rosebud Range Workshop
- ❖ Hemp Field Tour
- ❖ Cedar Encroachment
- ❖ Career Fairs



2023 Rosebud Range Workshop

Adult Workshop
Thursday, July 27, 9:00-12:00 pm CST

In addition to information on culturally important plants, NRCS and SDSU Extension staff will discuss grazing and rangeland management. Topics covered will include plant identification, similarity index, how to measure pasture forage production, and how to monitor pasture usage during the grazing season. Range management kits will be provided to help participants with plant identification and grazing monitoring.

LOCATION: Rosebud Sioux Tribal Ranch is 2.5 miles south on BIA Road 1/HWY 18 junction

LUNCH: Sponsored by the Tribal Ranch from 12:00-1:00 pm

Persons requiring special accommodations or materials in an alternate format or for more information, please contact Ron Frederick at (605) 856-2198 or Mary Scott at (605) 350-8196.

Youth Workshop
Thursday, July 27, 1:00 – 4:00 pm CST

This is not your ordinary classroom! Youth, ages 8-18, will be transported to nature's classroom to have hands on learning about grasses, forbs, and shrubs while also learning the importance of these plants to the Lakota people and culture.

It is the policy of South Dakota State University (SDSU) not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, gender, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran's status or any other protected class in the offering of all benefits, services, and educational and employment opportunities. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Rosebud Hemp Commission

Hemp Field Tour

The Rosebud Hemp Commission invites you to tour a 150 acre fiber hemp crop located on the reservation. Join us to see the crop, meet the growers, and hear from the processor who has contracted to buy the crop.

Date: Monday June 26th

Time: 10:00 am

Location: 294th St. Olsonville, SD (south side near 277th Ave)

Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association

JOIN US! 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We are hosting 3 UTV/ATV tours of burn units from this spring.

Lunch after tour!

August 2, Rich and Sara Grim, Bonesteel, SD
 August 9, Jon Smikle and Jo Wulf, Herrick, SD
 August 30, Todd Olson, north of Academy, SD

Lunch after tour!

Bring your own UTV/ATV!
Limited seating available if you do not have a machine.

PLEASE RSVP for directions to units:
sharon.klein@sdstate.edu or sean.kelly@sdstate.edu
 605-842-1267



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Shane Reis serving Lower Brule Tribe





Russell Felicia serving Crow Creek Tribe

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe (CCST) Tree Care Guidelines

TREE CARE

Tree Care Responsibilities for Homesite Owners

The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe is partnering with homeowners to enhance tree sites and provide long-term benefits. While the tribe will handle site preparation and initial planting, it is the responsibility of homesite owners or lessees to maintain the trees for the 20-year lifespan of the tree belt. The following simplified guidelines outline important tree care responsibilities:

Responsibilities and Recommendations:

1. Packing and Watering:

- After planting, pack the soil around trees by stepping heavily. This removes air spaces and helps retain moisture.
- Water trees on the day of planting for reduced stress. Soak the site well for each tree.
- During the first summers, water trees weekly with 1 to 2 gallons per tree.

2. Weed Control:

- Remove weeds within the fabric mulch around trees, being careful not to harm them.
- If using chemicals, follow the label instructions for trees and shrubs.

3. Managing Vegetation between Rows:

- Use tillage, a hooded sprayer, or mow grass short to control competing vegetation.
- If grass is already short (e.g., buffalo/grama sod), no action is needed. For tall grass (e.g., Brome), take measures to minimize competition with trees.

4. Weed Control between Rows:

- Preferably, use tillage or a hooded sprayer to control competing vegetation. Alternatively, mow the grass short.
- Grasses that are already short (e.g., buffalo/grama sod) can be left as is, while tall grasses (e.g., Brome) require action to minimize competition for moisture.

5. Fabric Maintenance:

- Ensure the black fabric remains securely in place and does not disconnect or blow up.

6. No Grazing:

- Do not allow horses to access the tree row or shrubs. Grazing can damage the trees.

Please review and sign the document below to acknowledge your understanding and commitment to the tree care responsibilities.

[Resident's Name]

[Resident's Signature]

[Date]



- Woody Encroachment
- Irrigation Management
- Lee's Corner Project



- Winter Winds
- Pollinators
- New EQIPS
- Trainings/Conferences





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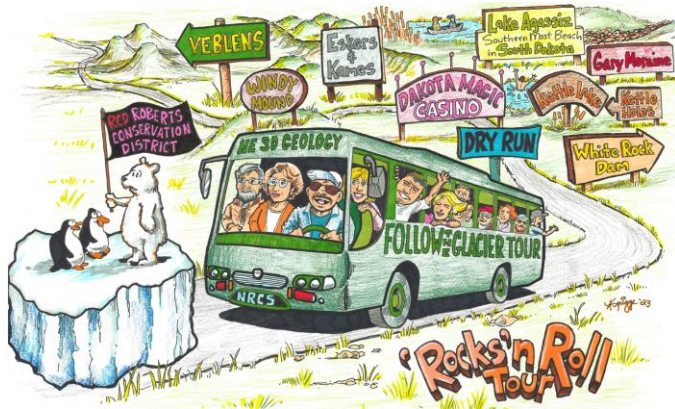
Lorne Aadland serving Sisseton Wahpeton Tribe

NORTHEAST SD GEOLOGY TOUR

June 22, 2023

Leave at 8:30am and Return at 4:30pm

Dakota Magic Casino Parking Lot – I-29 and SD State Line



LIMITED SEATING!!!

REGISTRATION \$25 – Due June 20th – MEAL INCLUDED!!!

Contact Kristin at the Roberts Conservation District: 605-698-3923 or

Call Lorne or Kent w/ NRCS: 605-698-7639 or

Email at Lorne.aadland@usda.gov, Kent.Duerre@usda.gov



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Glacial Lakes RUC Meeting @SWO







United States Department of Agriculture

Darrel DuVall, State Tribal Liaison

USDA's portion of the June 6, 2023 Indian Ag Summit hosted by/with IAC & USDA's FSA, RMA, NRCS

- Tribal CREP
- Testimonies
- USDA tools
- Partners
- Conversation



INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK | GREAT PLAINS REGION

IAC GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL SUMMIT

Tue & Wed
JUNE 6-7

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center
920 W. Sioux Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

Informational sessions for Native American producers and Tribal entities in the Great Plains Region

TOPICS:

- USDA programs available to tribal entities and Native American farmers and ranchers
- Akiptan (CDIF) provides loans and technical assistance to those in Indian Agriculture
- USDA Rural Development Program MPPEP (Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program)
- An understanding of IAC and partners from UVE are collecting data by monitoring and assessing Tribal Lands placed in CRP/CREP.

June 6 - Lunch will be provided
June 7 - Breakfast & lunch provided

Fanny Brewer
Technical Assistance Specialist | Great Plains Region
(605) 200-0236
fanny@indianag.org

Sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture USDA, NRCS, FSA, and RMA

REGISTER AT
bit.ly/PlainsSummit

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JOIN US




INDIAN AG SUMMIT

JUNE 6 10 AM CST - JUNE 7 9 AM CST

RAMKOTA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER - PIERRE, SD

HOSTED BY:
USDA, Farm Service Agency
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA, Risk Management Agency
Intertribal Agriculture Council

June 6: Representatives from host USDA agencies will share programs available to tribal entities and Native American farmers and ranchers. Additional guest partners will be on-site.

June 7: Intertribal Agriculture Council will host financial resources and natural resource management sessions.

To learn more and pre-register please visit <https://www.indianag.org/events>.

SERVICE CENTER
Visit your local USDA Service Center or contact Darrel DuVall, NRCS State Tribal Liaison, at (605) 530-5045 or Steve Dick, FSA State Executive Director, at (605) 352-1162.

LOCATOR

"Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Darrel DuVall at darrel.duvall@usda.gov or (605) 530-5045 or dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services."

www.farmers.gov

Darrel DuVall, State Tribal Liaison

Healthy Soil at Home publication

Native Plants Long Used for Medicinals...

Culturally significant native plants used for medicine and more

The historical use of culturally significant native plants is of interest to many Tribal peoples and to the general public. Many plants Native Americans used in South Dakota were also used by pioneers and early settlers. Often the plants had multiple uses; among the most important were medicines.

Here's a sampling of ten of those native plants and some of their uses, each showing the common name (CN) along with the name in native Lakota language (LL) and phonetic guide to its pronunciation:

CN: Bergamot/Beebalm
LL: Wahpe Wastemna
"wahk-PA Y wah-SHTA Y-manah"

Bergamot was one of the plants connected with the Sun Dance, the most important ceremony practiced by the Lakota and nearly all Plains Tribes.

CN: Bitterroot
LL: Hohwa
"Hoh-WAH"

One of the most popular Lakota Sioux Indian medicines, bitterroot was used as a remedy for sore throats, toothaches, and coughs.

CN: Prairie turnip/Breadroot
LL: Tinpila
"TEEN-psee-lah"

A favorite food of the Lakota, this tuberous root was widely used throughout the Plains. Almost pure

starch, the root was peeled and eaten raw or cooked in soups and stew. Roots were dried for winter use, and pounded and added to other foods.

CN: Purple Coneflower
LL: Echinacea icahepe Hu
"ee-CHAH-pay HOO"

Coneflower was universally used as an antidote for snake bite and other venomous bites and stings; smoke treatment for headache; distemper in horses; and to reduce enlarged glands, as in mumps. Roots were chewed or rubbed on teeth for toothaches, and used to cure tonsillitis. Burns were bathed with the juice to give relief from the pain, and the plant was used in the steam bath to render the great heat endurable.

CN: Red Cedar/Juniper
LL: Hante
"han-TAY"

The fruits and leaves were boiled together and the decoction was used internally for coughs, and given to horses as a remedy for coughs. For a cold in the head twigs were burned and the smoke inhaled.

CN: Red Osier Dogwood
LL: Can Sasa
"chahn SHAH SHAH"

Considered a very sacred plant, the inner bark was mixed with tobacco for smoking the sacred pipe.

CN: Rose
LL: Onjinjintka Hu
"unh ZHEE Zintka hoo"

Petals were used for a tea and also to make jam. Roots were boiled for a stronger tea. Dried rose hips were added to soups and stew or eaten alone.



Plants including bergamot were used by Lakota tribes in important ceremonies.

CN: Sage
LL: Pejihota
"pay-JEE-HOH-tah"

A decoction of the plant was taken for stomach troubles and many other kinds of ailments. It was used also for bathing, and burned to exorcise evil influences or benevolent powers.

CN: Sweet Grass (peji)
LL: Wachanga
"(pay-JEE) wah-CHAHN-gah"

It was used for perfume and was burned as an incense in any ceremony or ritual to induce the presence of good influences or benevolent powers.

CN: Yarrow
LL: Taopi Pejuta
"tah-OH-pee pay-100-tah"

Yarrow has long been revered as one of the oldest medicinal plants in the world, recorded in oral histories of most Native American tribes. The flowers and leaves were used to treat insect bites, leaves were put in the outer ear to cure earaches and chewed for toothaches, and drunk as tea for headache, digestive distress, and fever.



Coneflower was used by Lakota Indians as a remedy for more ailments than any other plant. All parts of the plants were used for medicinal purposes.

Add Trees and Shrubs for Diversity, Protection

Answering these questions will help you decide the location and spacing of trees and shrubs, as well as the species you choose to keep or plant.

1. How tall and fast will they grow?
2. Will they tolerate shade?
3. Will they offer food and/or cover to wildlife?
4. Do I want berries and fruit to eat?
5. What can I expect for fall leaf color?
6. Where should I place them?
7. Do I want protection from wind?
8. Do I want to control snow drifts?

Snow is an important consideration in landscaping. Windbreaks, yard trees, and shrubs will reduce snowblower work and fuel consumption if correctly placed. Spruce and juniper trees with low-level branches left intact provide maximum density and trap snow in the shortest, deepest drifts. Multiple tree rows increase density and shorten snow drifts. While providing diversity and shade, deciduous trees, with the lower branches removed, are least effective for trapping snow.



DID YOU KNOW

up to 20,000 pounds of total living matter are in the top six inches of an acre of soil?

Birch is among the recommended native trees



RECOMMENDED TREES / SHRUBS

Trees	Shrubs
American basswood	silver buffaloberry
quaking aspen	chokeberry
paper birch	common chokecherry
boxelder	common cranberry
crabapple	highbush
hackberry	golden currant
downy hawthorn	redosier dogwood
ironwood	American hazel
Rocky Mtn. juniper	false indigo
bur oak	juneberry
ponderosa pine	common juniper
Black Hills spruce	American plum
Colorado blue spruce	raspberry
	prairie rose
	woods rose
	four-winged saltbush
	western sandcherry
	silverberry
	skunkbush sumac
	smooth sumac
	nannyberry viburnum
	Bebbs willow
	sandbar willow
	yucca
	arrowwood
	black chokecherry

Groundcovers

Vines

spreading juniper
snowberry
riverbank grape
woodbine



Tony Sunseri, State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Federal Building, 200 Fourth Street, SW
Huron, SD 57350

Phone: (605) 352-1200

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September Tribal Advisory Meeting

SD FY2023 Conservation Stewardship Program Obligations

<u>SD NRCS FY 2023 CSP Obligations</u>	Count of Participant	Sum of Contract Acres	Sum of Obligation
<u>Classic</u>	114	320,578	\$ 16,759,257
Classic Beginning Farmer/Rancher	13	18,114	\$ 1,588,030
Classic General	84	223,863	\$ 12,757,738
Classic Socially Disadvantaged SD	9	45,992	\$ 1,517,839
Classic Shade Hill	8	32,609	\$ 895,650
<u>Renewal</u>	85	234,334	\$ 10,896,668
Renewal NIPF	1	715	\$ 7,500
Renewal- Beginning Farmer/Rancher	6	10,391	\$ 665,591
Renewal-General	70	161,228	\$ 8,877,920
Renewal- Socially Disadvantaged	8	61,999	\$ 1,345,657
<u>IRA</u>	61	197,058	\$ 7,880,588
CSP-IRA General	56	178,335	\$ 7,375,604
IRA Socially Disadvantaged	1	11,742	\$ 200,000
IRA-Beginning Farmer/Rancher	4	6,981	\$ 304,984
Grand Total	260	751,970	\$ 35,536,513

All Historically Underserved applicants were funded in FY2023 in all CSP fund pools

Looking ahead:

Increased program allocations will provide increased funding opportunities to applicants

Increased funding is expected to extend for next few program years

Increased funding is targeted toward Climate Smart Activities

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
 Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Year End

FY2023 WRE Applications		
Status	Total Acres	Number of Applications
Cancelled	386	3
30-year	-	
Permanent	-	3
Ineligible	318	3
30-year	-	0
Permanent	-	3
Eligible	5504	39
30-year	372	3
30-year RGR	100	1
30-year conversion	80	1
Permanent	3860	26
Permanent RGR	1092	4
Total	6208	45

Projected FY2023 WRE Agreements			
Fund Code	Total Acres		Number of Agreements
Permanent RGR	190	\$679,056	1
Permanent	263	\$1,106,564	3
30 Year RGR- Pending Approval	100	\$325,137	1
Offers Cancelled	210	\$1,155,269	2
Total	763	\$3,266,026	7
FY2023 ALE Applications			
Status	Total Acres		Number Agreements
Parcels Funded ALE- IRA	2394		2

Water Bank Program (WBP)
Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Year End

FY2023 WBP			
Status	Total Acres	Number of Applications	Dollars
Funded	1047	11	\$509,905
Unfunded	400	9	\$126,000
Grand Total	1447	20	

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Funding Breakdown of American Indian Fund Pools

Fund Code	Initial Allocation	Initial Allocation Change	Value of Funded Applications	Remaining Allocation	Number of Assessments	Number of Assessments Funded	Number of Assessments Funded in Other Fund Pools
Standing Rock Sioux	\$200,943.00	\$532,677.00	\$733,620.00	\$0.00	4	2	2
Cheyenne River Sioux	\$319,821.00	\$290,311.00	\$610,132.00	\$0.00	13	3	10
Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux	\$316,163.00	\$246,572.00	\$562,735.00	\$0.00	10	10	0
Rosebud Sioux	\$128,701.00	\$235,009.00	\$363,710.00	\$0.00	7	4	2
Lower Brule	\$64,690.00	\$83,982.00	\$148,672.00	\$0.00	4	2	1
Crow Creek Sioux	\$69,262.00	\$239,505.00	\$308,767.00	\$0.00	4	2	1
Yankton Sioux	\$83,894.00	(\$34,232.00)	\$49,662.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
Flandreau Santee Sioux	\$40,914.00	(\$40,914.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	0
Lake Traverse Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux	\$50,059.00	(\$22,519.00)	\$27,540.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
Total	\$1,274,447.00	\$1,530,391.00	\$2,804,838.00	\$0.00	45	26	16

Pond Initiative (Reservations)	Included within the individual Reservation Fund Pools						
Beginning Farmer or Rancher (5% of General)	\$200,286.00	\$1,230,491.00	\$1,430,777.00	\$0.00	69	16	36
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher (5% of General)	\$200,286.00	\$1,804,713.00	\$2,004,999.00	\$0.00	34	9	23
Grand Total	\$1,675,019.00	\$4,565,595.00	\$6,240,614.00	\$0.00	148	51	75

	Initial Allocation		Value of Funded Contracts with Socially Disadvantaged Participants	Percent of Funding	Number of Contracts Funded	Number of Contracts with Socially Disadvantaged Participants	Percent of Contracts
Socially Disadvantaged Participants Funded Across All Fund Pool	\$31,456,092.00		\$6,491,749.00	20.64%	386	46	11.92%

Application originally selected for funding cancelled

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Funding Breakdown - Initiative Funds

Fund Code	Initial Allocation	State Matching Funds	Allocation Change	Value of Funded Applications	Funds Returned to Headquarters	Remaining Allocation	Number of Assessments	Number of Assessments Funded	Number of Assessments Funded in Other Fund Pools
National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)	\$221,064.00			\$0.00	\$221,064.00	\$0.00	0	0	0
Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI)	\$176,883.00		\$358,958.00	\$450,000.00	\$85,841.00	\$0.00	2	1	1
EQIP-CIC (Soil Health) (General Funds)	\$872,950.00		(\$53,675.00)	\$819,275.00		\$0.00	39	11	21
Northern Plains Grassland Bird WLFW	\$400,000.00		\$294,407.00	\$694,407.00		\$0.00	17	2	12
Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)	\$45,700.00			\$45,338.00		\$362.00	1	1	0
ACT Now Pilot (IRA)	\$385,742.00		\$16,474.00	\$402,216.00			31	28	0
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)	\$1,900,000.00	\$0.00	\$933,526.00	\$2,816,117.00	\$17,409.00	\$0.00	201	33	71
Total Allocation:	\$4,002,339.00	\$0.00	\$1,549,690.00	\$5,227,353.00	\$324,314.00	\$362.00	325	48	105
State Funds Used for Initiatives									
Funds Returned to Headquarters									
Application originally selected for funding cancelled									
State Matching Funds									

Summary Of FY 2023 EQIP Allocations

Initial General Allocation	\$17,459,000.00
National Initiative Allocation	\$443,647.00
Additional National Initiative Allocation	\$397,947.00
Additional General Allocation	\$10,065,650.00
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Allocation	\$2,285,742.00
Additional IRA Allocation	\$950,000.00
Allocation Returned	\$324,314.00
Total Final EQIP Allocation	\$31,277,672.00

Summary of Final Obligations

Number of Contracts	386
Initial Obligation Amount	\$31,327,392.00
CIG Obligation	\$99,966.00
Final Obligation Amount (ProTracts)	\$31,224,116.46
Percent of Obligation	100.48%

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Funding Breakdown - General Funds									
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Fund Code	Initial Allocation	Allocation Change	Value of Funded Applications	Remaining Allocation	Number of Assessments	Number of Assessments Funded	Number of Assessments Funded in Other Fund Pools
American Indian (StrikeForce) (19% of General)							
Standing Rock Sioux	\$200,943.00	\$532,677.00	\$733,620.00	\$0.00	4	2	2
Cheyenne River Sioux	\$319,821.00	\$290,311.00	\$610,132.00	\$0.00	13	3	10
Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux	\$316,163.00	\$246,572.00	\$562,735.00	\$0.00	10	10	0
Rosebud Sioux	\$128,701.00	\$235,009.00	\$363,710.00	\$0.00	7	4	2
Lower Brule	\$64,690.00	\$83,982.00	\$148,672.00	\$0.00	4	2	0
Crow Creek Sioux	\$69,262.00	\$239,505.00	\$308,767.00	\$0.00	4	2	1
Yankton Sioux	\$83,894.00	(\$34,232.00)	\$49,662.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
Flandreau Santee Sioux	\$40,914.00	(\$40,914.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	0
Lake Traverse Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux	\$50,059.00	(\$22,519.00)	\$27,540.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
Watershed Fund Pools							
Brookings Area	\$51,433.00	\$1,414,911.00	\$1,466,344.00	\$0.00	89	22	51
Big Sioux			\$64,634.00		7	1	6
Coteau			\$141,390.00		31	6	23
Glacial Lakes			\$73,033.00		8	1	7
Upper James			\$611,946.00		19	6	9
Vermillion			\$575,341.00		24	8	6
Pierre Area	\$67,713.00	\$1,675,893.00	\$1,743,606.00	\$0.00	161	34	78
Central Plains			\$335,307.00		9	5	2
Lower James			\$213,795.00		13	6	5
Lower Missouri			\$219,380.00		45	4	16
Mid Missouri			\$348,236.00		16	7	6
North Missouri			\$106,544.00		30	5	20
River Hills			\$520,344.00		48	7	29
Rapid City Area	\$51,557.00	\$2,534,410.00	\$2,585,967.00	\$0.00	79	15	51
Northwest			\$748,275.00		27	2	16
Three Rivers			\$835,108.00		18	4	14
Prairie Hills			\$369,873.00		11	5	5
Hills			\$188,629.00		9	2	6
Southwest			\$444,081.00		14	2	10
Animal Waste Management	\$1,500,000.00	\$2,278,147.00	\$3,778,147.00	\$0.00	17	15	0
Beginning Farmer or Rancher (5% of General)	\$200,286.00	\$1,230,491.00	\$1,430,777.00	\$0.00	69	16	36
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher (5% of General)	\$200,286.00	\$1,804,713.00	\$2,004,999.00	\$0.00	34	9	22
Organic	\$25,000.00	(\$14,507.00)	\$10,493.00	\$0.00	2	1	1
FY20 On-Farm Energy	\$10,000.00	\$14,884.00	\$24,884.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
High Tunnel Systems & Small Scale-Speciality	\$75,000.00	\$291,578.00	\$366,578.00	\$0.00	26	12	3
Wildlife (10% of General)	\$400,000.00	\$36,764.00	\$436,764.00	\$0.00	47	13	16
State Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)	\$150,000.00	(\$50,000.00)	\$0.00				
Cost Overrun	\$0.00			\$0.00			
Total General Allocation:	\$6,025,564.00		\$16,653,397.00	\$0.00	570	180	273

All Highs Originally Selected for Funding

[illegible]

Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS)	Initial Allocation	Allocation Change	Value of Funded Applications	Remaining Allocation	Number of Assessments	Number of Assessments Funded	Number of Assessments Funded in Other Fund Pools
FY 2021 Projects							
CIS - American Creek Watershed	\$225,301.00	154,853.00	\$380,154.00	\$0.00	9	9	0
CIS - Cedar Control on Native Grasslands	\$31,715.00	14,236.00	\$45,951.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
CIS - Resilient Forest Landscapes (Custer County)	\$49,500.00	(1,788.00)	\$47,712.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
CIS - Upper James River Saline/Sodic Soils	\$1,233,438.00	(614,352.00)	\$619,086.00	\$0.00	3	3	0
CIS - Medicine Creek	\$120,180.00	(78,253.00)	\$41,927.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
CIS - BFID Irrigation and Soil Health	\$67,732.00	4,928.00	\$72,660.00	\$0.00	3	2	0
CIS - Lake Badger Watershed	\$157,518.00	360,320.00	\$517,838.00	\$0.00	3	2	0
CIS - Rapid Creek Water Restoration #1	\$171,092.00	2,385.00	\$173,477.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
CIS - Hecla Sandhills Prairie Management	\$11,600.00	54,339.00	\$65,939.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
CIS - Long-billed Curlew	\$277,177.00	136,996.00	\$414,173.00	\$0.00	5	3	1
FY 2022 Projects							
CIS - CAFO	\$534,964.00	(20,983.00)	\$513,981.00	\$0.00	8	8	0
CIS - Clear Lake and Hiddewood Creek Water Quality	\$38,804.00	173,397.00	\$212,201.00	\$0.00	5	1	4
CIS - CRST Streambank Stabilization	\$508,027.00	(147,001.00)	\$361,026.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
CIS - Flood Damage Repair-Whetstone River_North Fork of the Yellow Bank River	\$300,044.00	(251,133.00)	\$48,911.00	\$0.00	3	1	0
CIS - Hot Springs Wildfire and Pest Mitigation	\$144,047.00	119,884.00	\$263,931.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
CIS - Jasper Area Fire	\$659,603.00	(575,042.00)	\$84,561.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
CIS - Minnehaha Sustainable Ag	\$60,753.00	(9,085.00)	\$51,668.00	\$0.00	7	7	0
CIS - Oakwood Lake	\$224,815.00	(193,858.00)	\$30,957.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
CIS - Oglala Livestock Water	\$889,476.00	(775,741.00)	\$113,735.00	\$0.00	3	1	0
CIS - Pierre Creek	\$141,605.00	(141,605.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	0
CIS - Rangeland and Riparian Health (Custer Co)	\$276,543.00	(132,681.00)	\$143,862.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
CIS - Rapid Creek Water Restoration #2	\$117,520.00	(18,713.00)	\$98,807.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
CIS - Resiliency Strategies for Grazingland Management and Recovery-Beadle County	\$171,181.00	160,983.00	\$332,164.00	\$0.00	7	6	0
CIS - Resilient Forest Landscapes – Lawrence County	\$12,808.00	837.00	\$13,645.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
CIS - Resilient Forest Landscapes-Meade County	\$66,249.00	(7,055.00)	\$59,194.00	\$0.00	4	4	0
CIS - Conservation Implementation Strategy for Sharp-tailed Grouse	\$2,883,155.00	(1,500,676.00)	\$1,382,479.00	\$0.00	41	35	0
FY 2023 Projects							
CIS - Homestead	\$228,737.00	(176,249.00)	\$52,488.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
CIS - Clark Co. Range Resoration	\$175,000.00	(79,145.00)	\$95,855.00	\$0.00	3	3	0
CIS - Upper Deer Creek	\$59,751.00	41,052.00	\$100,803.00	\$0.00	5	2	0
CIS - Yankton Range Improvement	\$85,727.00	62,180.00	\$147,907.00	\$0.00	7	3	0
CIS - Hand-Hyde Erosion Mitigation	\$211,654.00	(211,654.00)		\$0.00	On Hold for FY2023		
CIS - Charles Mix Irrigation	\$150,000.00	50,859.00	\$200,859.00	\$0.00	4	1	0
CIS - Frozen Man Creek	\$200,000.00	(111,083.00)	\$88,917.00	\$0.00	2	2	0
CIS - Soil Health Long Term Grazing	\$400,000.00	136,074.00	\$536,074.00	\$0.00	17	13	4
CIS - Extending Grazing in Shadecill	\$750,000.00	760,450.00	\$1,510,450.00	\$0.00	18	10	2
CIS - Dry Creek Watershed	\$50,000.00	(6,320.00)	\$43,680.00	\$0.00	1	1	0
CIS - Cheyenne River - Wasta Area	\$450,000.00	(2,249.00)	\$447,751.00	\$0.00	6	6	0
CIS - Managing Woody Encroachment	\$44,609.00	87,078.00	\$131,687.00	\$0.00	5	5	0
CIS Totals	\$12,180,325.00	(\$2,733,815.00)	\$9,446,510.00	\$0.00	189	148	11

Application originally selected for funding cancelled

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Tribal Grasslands CREP

Q: What is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)?

A: CREP is a component of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CREP is a public-private partnership program, allowing states, Tribal governments, non-profit and private entities to partner with FSA to implement CRP practices that address high priority conservation and environmental objectives.

Partners work with FSA to develop a CREP agreement designed to address conservation goals on agricultural lands in specific geographic areas. The CREP agreement defines practices that achieve substantial on-site and off-site natural resource benefits targeting one or more goals such as maintaining or improving grassland productivity, enhancing wildlife habitat, and reducing soil erosion.

Q: What is the purpose of the Tribal Grasslands CREP Agreement?

A: The Tribal Grasslands CREP Agreement is modeled after the Grasslands CRP, a working lands program, which protects grassland while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and eligible land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

CRP participants maintain permanent, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or forbs (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance.

Q: What is the difference between CRP and CREP?

A: While administered under the same statutes and Federal regulations as CRP, CREP provides the opportunity for additional benefits not available through general, continuous, or grassland CRP signups.

- Under general and grasslands CRP enrollment, producers submit bids to enroll land during announced signup periods. Bids are scored according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) and ranked against other submissions. The higher the EBI score, the more likely you are to receive a contract.
- Through continuous CRP enrollment, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time. Certain eligibility requirements still apply but offers are not subject to competitive bidding.

Participation

Q: Do I have to enroll in CRP through CREP once a Tribal CREP Agreement is signed?

A: No. The Tribal CREP Agreement provides another avenue to protect environmentally sensitive ground using FSA programs.

Participation in CREP is voluntary. Land is offered for enrollment by FSA tract. All landowners associated with the land offered for enrollment must agree to participate; all lessees with an interest in the acreage being offered must be provided an opportunity to participate.

Q: What is the length of the CRP-1?

A: The contract period may vary for each CRP-1. The contract period will not be less than 10 years and not greater than 15 years in length.



**Q: Who is eligible to offer the land for enrollment in CRP through a Tribal CREP?**

A: An owner is eligible to offer land for enrollment in CRP if they have owned the land for 12 months before submitting the offer. An operator is eligible to offer land for enrollment if they have operated the land for 12 months before submitting the offer and they provide satisfactory evidence that control of the land will continue uninterrupted for the CRP-1 period. The person offering the land for enrollment must have more than a zero percent share on the CRP-1.

Q: If I participate in CREP, am I eligible to participate in other FSA and NRCS programs?

A: Land enrolled in CREP is also eligible for USDA disaster programs such as, the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), if all applicable disaster program requirements are met.

The grass cover on land enrolled in CRP through this CREP is eligible for NAP, Rainfall Index, and/or PRF crop insurance policies related to grazing if applicable.

Current policy does not allow land to be enrolled in CREP and EQIP or CSP at the same time. Land associated with an expired EQIP or CSP contract, may be eligible to participate in this CREP.

Q: What land is eligible to be offered for enrollment in the Tribal Grassland CREPs?

A: Eligible land must:

- be owned by the Tribe or owned by a member of the Tribe and be physically located within the CREP project boundary
- contain forbs or pasture upon which grazing is the predominant use
- have less than 5 percent tree canopy interspersed throughout the offered acreage
- be located in an area historically dominated by grassland
- provide habitat for animal and plant populations of significant ecological value

Q: How will FSA determine eligible land?

A: The Tribe and BIA are working with FSA to help determine land that meets the agreement's eligibility provisions. The FSA County Office may need to verify landowner(s) and lessee(s) associated with the land being offered for enrollment with the Tribe and/or BIA.

Q: How will FSA process offers to enroll land that have multiple owners?

A: All landowners associated with the land offered for enrollment must agree to participate even if they do not want a share of the contract payment. For example, if the Tribe and one or more Tribal members all have an undivided ownership interest in the land being offered for enrollment, they must all agree to participate (sign the CRP-1 contract).

Q: How are payment (CRP-1 contract) shares determined?

A: The landowners and lessee(s) associated with the land offered for enrollment will determine payment (CRP-1 contract) shares. The payment shares are not required to be commensurate with other contracts or agreements in the County Office.



Q: If an operator voluntarily relinquishes their right to participate in CRP or signs the CRP-1 with a zero share, will they be relieved of any contractual obligations?

A: Each person or entity that signs the CRP-1 for a share greater than zero is jointly and severally liable for complying with terms and conditions of CRP-1.

Zero share participants are not jointly and severally responsible for CRP-1 performance. However, all activities scheduled in the approved conservation plan are tied to the land enrolled in CRP. If the lessee chooses not to participate in CREP and continues to lease the contracted acreage, they must work with the landowner to ensure they are following the approved conservation plan and are aware of all applicable restrictions.

Cost Share Payment

Q: How is cost share determined?

A: Activities scheduled in the approved Conservation Plan and associated with establishing permanent internal fencing and livestock watering facility needed to facilitate livestock grazing are eligible for cost share. FSA will provide up to 50% of the eligible reimbursable costs incurred.

Upon completion of the approved activities, the CRP participant must notify the FSA County Office by signing the FSA-848B and submitting receipts/invoices documenting costs incurred. Calculated cost share will be based on actual eligible costs incurred, not to exceed the cost share approved in the Conservation Plan. Participants (signatories on the CRP-1 contract) who contributed to the cost of the approved activity are eligible to receive a cost share payment based on their contribution. For example, if the landowner and lessee equally split the cost to install permanent internal fencing, then the cost share will be split the same way.

Q: Are participants with zero share on the CRP-1 eligible for cost share?

A: Yes. Participants (signatories on the CRP-1 contract) who contribute to the cost of an approved activity are eligible to receive a cost share payment based on their contribution. For example, if the lessee, who signed the CRP-1 with zero share, incurs 100 percent of the cost to install permanent internal fencing, they would be eligible for 50 percent cost share.

Q: Will FSA pay an increased cost share percentage to traditionally underserved/beginning farmers and ranchers?

A: No. The Statute (2018 Farm Bill) limits cost share to 50% of eligible reimbursable costs incurred for CRP, including CREP.

Q: Is cost share separate from the annual rental payment?

A: Yes, the cost share payment is calculated separately from, and is in addition to, the annual rental payment.





Annual Rental Payment

Q: What is the annual rental payment?

A: The Tribal CREP Agreement may establish a set per acre annual rental payment rate for all eligible land enrolled in CRP through the CREP or utilize the grassland rental rate in effect when the offer is submitted.

Activities and any associated cost share scheduled in the approved conservation plan will not impact the per acre annual rental payment rate.

Q: When does FSA issue annual rental payments?

A: Annual rental payments are issued every October for the prior fiscal year. CRP-1 contracts that begin or take effect on a date other than October 1, will receive a prorated payment the first year. For example, a contract that begins on February 1, 2023, will receive a prorated payment in October of 2023 that represents the contract being effective for 8 months.

Q: Does FSA limit what participants do with their share of the annual rental payment?

A: No, participants may use their annual rental payment as they see fit.

Conservation Plan (Grazing Management Plan)

Q: If I have a BIA plan, will a separate management plan be required for the land enrolled in CRP through CREP?

A: Yes, NRCS will write a Conservation Plan for all land enrolled.

Q: What will be included in my Conservation Plan?

A: Each Conservation Plan will be based on the producer's decisions, permitted activities, and supporting information for treatment of a unit of land that meets NRCS standards and specifications, and addresses identified natural resource concerns.

The Conservation Plan:

- may align with the BIA plan with minor modifications
- may include rest periods, plan for rotational grazing, different start times, etc.
- will require maintenance/enhancement of the land enrolled
- will include residue requirements to allow for grass sustainability
- will require that noxious/invasive species be controlled



Q: If included in the approved Conservation Plan, when should cross-fence, well, and other approved activities be completed?

A: The approved Conservation Plan will provide the time frame for each activity to be completed. To maximize benefits to be received from the approved activity, the activity will likely be scheduled to be completed in the first 1-2 years of the contract.

Q: Will the approved Conservation Plan for the land enrolled include any additional restrictions?

A: Yes. The Conservation Plan and associated Management Plan will specify AUM or AU restrictions, rest periods, rotations, and activities limited during the primary nesting season (May 1 through August 1). Grazing is permitted. Haying is permitted during PNS but might require modifications to minimize wildlife disturbance (flush bars, starting in the middle of fields, skipping rows, changing the timing of cutting, etc.).

Q: Is there support available for CRP participants to assist with meeting required practice standards?

A: Yes. NRCS, TSP, or other cooperators will be available to work with CRP participants as they implement their conservation plan. If included in the approved conservation plan, cost share is available to establish permanent internal fencing and livestock watering facility needed to facilitate livestock grazing.

Tribal and Participant Responsibilities

Q: What are the Tribe's responsibilities?

A: As the CREP partner, the Tribe is responsible for contributing at least 5 percent of the overall annual program costs through direct and in-kind contributions to eligible participants. These contributions can include outreach to potential participants, compliance and monitoring of contracted acres, technical assistance and management of grazing plans and conservation planning, enhancements to contracted acreage, etc. In addition, by December 31 each year, the Tribe must report progress made in fulfilling the purpose, objectives, and goals provided in the agreement to FSA.

As a CREP participant (signatory on the CRP-1 contract) and landowner, the Tribe must:

- Provide a lessee, who has an interest in the acreage being offered, an opportunity to participate in CREP.
- agree to implement the conservation plan developed for the contracted acreage and comply with the terms and conditions of the CRP-1 contract (see CRP-1 Appendix).
- Ensure CREP acreage is annually certified by one participant on the CRP-1 contract at the local FSA County Office.

Important: All participants who sign the CRP-1 for a share greater than zero are jointly and severally liable for complying with the terms and conditions of the CRP-1.



**Q: What are the landowner's responsibilities?**

A: As a CREP participant (signatory on the CRP-1 contract) and landowner, the landowner must:

- Provide a lessee, who has an interest in the acreage being offered, an opportunity to participate in CREP.
- agree to implement the conservation plan developed for the contracted acreage and comply with the terms and conditions of the CRP-1 contract (see CRP-1 Appendix).
- Ensure CREP acreage is annually certified by one participant on the CRP-1 contract at the local FSA County Office.

Important: All participants who sign the CRP-1 for a share greater than zero are jointly and severally liable for complying with the terms and conditions of the CRP-1.

Q: What are the lessee's responsibilities?

A: If the lessee chooses to participate in CREP, they must agree to implement the conservation plan developed for the contracted acreage and comply with the terms and conditions of the CRP-1 contract (see CRP-1 Appendix). In addition, they must ensure the CREP acreage is annually certified by one participant on the CRP-1 contract at the local FSA County Office.

Important: All participants who sign the CRP-1 for a share greater than zero are jointly and severally liable for complying with the terms and conditions of the CRP-1.

If the lessee chooses not to participate in CREP and continues to lease the contracted acreage, they must work with the landowner to ensure they are following the approved conservation plan and are aware of all applicable restrictions. Lessees, not participating in CREP (not a signatory on the CRP-1), that incur costs associated with establishing permanent internal fencing and livestock watering facility needed to facilitate livestock grazing included in the conservation plan, will not be eligible to receive cost share assistance from FSA.



Tribal CREP Myth Busting Notes

Questions Submitted

1. Policy currently states that a producer cannot have the same land enrolled in multiple conservation programs simultaneously, such as CRP, CSP, EQIP, etc. (2-CRP, para 151c). Producers are concerned that they will not be able to participate in CSP or EQIP moving forward if land is enrolled in CREP. FSA is working on unifying policy which would allow land to be enrolled in CREP (CRP) and EQIP at the same time. Currently, only land associated with an expired EQIP or CSP contract may be eligible to participate in CREP. When a policy update is made, it will be applicable to the Tribal Grassland CREPs.

Land enrolled in CREP is eligible for USDA disaster programs such as, the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), if all applicable disaster program requirements are met. The grass cover on land enrolled in CRP through this CREP is eligible for NAP, Rainfall Index, and/or PRF crop insurance policies related to grazing if applicable.

2. If a producer receives no share or a zero share of the contractual monies, are they required to put in the practices that the tribe wants installed? This is additional money out of their pocket. Producers are claiming this should be an obligation of the tribe to install since they are getting all of the monies for the contract. This will need to be worked out between the Tribe and the lessees.

Producers with a share greater than zero are responsible (liable) for completing activities scheduled in the conservation plan. It is important to point out that only participants (signatories) on the CRP-1 are eligible for cost share reimbursement. For example, if a lessee, who is not a signatory on the CRP-1 completes and pays for an activity required in the conservation plan, FSA will not be able to provide cost share assistance to that lessee.

3. If a producer signs a statement saying they want nothing to do with the CREP agreement, and are not listed on the contract, would they be relieved of any contractual obligations? Each person or entity that signs the CRP-1 for a share greater than zero is jointly and severally liable for complying with terms and conditions of the CRP-1.

Participants that have voluntarily relinquished the right to participate in CRP or sign the CRP-1 with a zero share are not jointly and severally liable for CRP-1 performance. However, all activities scheduled in the approved conservation plan are tied to the land enrolled in CRP. If the lessee chooses not to participate in CREP and continues to lease the contracted acreage, they must work with the landowner to ensure they are following the approved conservation plan and are aware of all applicable restrictions.

4. Shouldn't the Tribe offer the ground for enrollment if they are getting all the money? The lessee can initiate an offer with the FSA County Office, but only an eligible owner or operator that will receive a share greater than zero can submit an offer (sign the CRP-1 and CRP-2C).
5. Who pays taxes on the monies received? Producer or tribe? Tax liability falls on the recipient of the payment for whatever share that they receive. Tribes don't have a tax liability, so producers would only be liable for money that went to them.
6. Who does the planning on the contract? Especially if the producer is not getting any monetary compensation for implementation of the practices. NRCS/TSP will write a conservation plan which includes all required activities for the land enrolled. All activities scheduled in the approved conservation plan are tied to the land enrolled in CRP. If the lessee signs the CRP-1 to a zero share or

Tribal CREP Myth Busting Notes Questions Submitted

chooses not to participate in CREP but continues to lease the contracted acreage, they must work with the landowner to ensure they are following the approved conservation plan and are aware of all applicable restrictions.

7. Are there any restrictions on what the Tribe(s) or producers can use rental payments on? **No. CRP participants may use their share of the annual rental payment as they see fit. For example, payments received by the Tribe may be reinvested in additional conservation improvements, cost share assistance, or other Tribal initiatives and programs.**
8. Many producers at CRST and likely the other Tribes, have existing, ongoing conservation contracts through NRCS. In CSP agreements, for example, the producer being the operator received the incentive payment(s). The understanding was that upon expiration of CSP contracts producers could enroll. What happens if the Tribe requires enrollment in CREP contracts on those same acres. Will there be liquidated damages on the unfulfilled portions? Can we find compatibility between them as we're looking to in Wyoming re: EQIP? **Penalties associated with the early termination of a CSP contract are administered by NRCS. Actions taken (cancel or modify contract) will be dependent on the number of CSP contract acres impacted.**

NRCS Policy: If a CSP participant wishes to enroll in CRP:

- the participant must request to remove acres from the CSP contract.
 - NRCS must approve the request before the participant can enter into a contract for the new program.
 - The State Conservationist must determine if CRP provides greater natural resource protection than CSP prior to approving the modification to remove the acres from the CSP contract.
 - NRCS will modify the CSP contract to adjust the acres and performance level as applicable.
 - Participants are not subject to liquidated damages or refund of payments received for enrolling land in CRP if CRP provides increased natural resource protection.
9. Our handbook currently prohibits CRP enrollment where an active contract exists, or where the useful life of the practice hasn't lapsed. Can this be addressed? **FSA is working on unifying policy which would allow land to be enrolled in CREP (CRP) and EQIP at the same time. Currently, only land associated with an expired EQIP or CSP contract may be eligible to participate in CREP. When a policy update is made, it will be applicable to the Tribal Grassland CREPs.**
 10. Can we get staffing assistance for Tribal Land offices to help with enrollment? **Local FSA County staff are available 8-4:30 Monday through Friday to assist the Tribe and tribal members with CREP enrollment. Appointments are not required, but encouraged to ensure staff can dedicate time with minimal interruption.**
 11. Is there support available to the producer/land manager to achieve the required practice standards? **Yes. NRCS, TSP, or other available cooperators will be available to work with CRP participants as they implement their conservation plan. If included in the approved conservation plan, cost share is available to establish permanent internal fencing and livestock watering facility needed to facilitate livestock grazing.**
 12. What is the cost-share rate for CRP Practices? **The Statute (2018 Farm Bill) limits cost share to 50 percent of eligible reimbursable costs incurred for CRP, including CREP. FSA continues to explore ways to assist CRP participants with mitigating costs associated with livestock enhancements.**

Tribal CREP Myth Busting Notes Questions Submitted

13. Can producers enter into their own agreements on these acres? **Yes.** A landowner can enter into their own CRP contract however, all landowners associated with the acreage being offered for enrollment must agree to participate in CRP and sign the CRP-1. A lessee or operator may offer land for enrollment in CRP if they have operated the land for 12 months before submitting the offer and they provide satisfactory evidence that control of the land will continue uninterrupted for the CRP-1 period. However, all landowners associated with the land being offered by the operator must agree to participate in CRP and sign the CRP-1. In other words, a lessee or operator cannot enroll land in CRP without the landowner agreeing to it.
14. What is the length of the contracts? **The Agreement?**
The CRP contract period for each CRP-1 may vary. The contract period will not be less than 10 years and not greater than 15 years in length.
- The CREP agreement, which established the Tribal Grassland CREP signup, is designed to allow continuous enrollment or reenrollment of eligible acreage in CRP through CREP until the CREP Agreement is terminated, enrollment is suspended, authority for CCC to enroll land in CRP expires or is otherwise ended, the maximum acre project enrollment limit is reached, or September 30, 2037, whichever comes first.
15. Who is responsible for the adoption of practices? **Participants signing the CRP-1 with a share greater than zero are jointly and severally liable for complying with terms and conditions of the CRP-1. While zero share participants are not jointly and severally liable for CRP-1 performance, all activities scheduled in the approved conservation plan are tied to the land enrolled in CRP. If the lessee continues to lease the contracted acreage, they must work with the landowner to ensure they are following the approved conservation plan and are aware of all applicable restrictions.**
16. Is there leniency for producers that are not prepared to meet practice standards in year one? **Yes.** Participants should work with their local FSA/NRCS office. If activities in the conservation plan cannot be completed as scheduled, FSA/NRCS can look at modifying the conservation plan to reschedule the activity or otherwise assist the producer.
17. Must all enrollment happen in the first year of the CREP agreement, or can enrollment occur throughout the agreement? **No.** CREP enrollment is continuous as long as CRP is authorized by the Farm Bill, CRP acreage is available, and the CREP agreement is active.
18. Who receives the payments for allotted lands enrolled, Tribe, Landowner, or Producer? **Payment shares are determined by the CRP-1 signatories (landowners and lessees associated with the land offered for enrollment) as specified on the CRP-1. FSA will issue payments to CRP-1 participants according to the payment shares listed on the CRP-1. If BIA is signing on behalf of allottees, payments will be issued to BIA and they will distribute that money to the allottees.**
19. Is the BIA authorized to enroll allotted lands? **Yes.** BIA, when representing allottees owning the land, may sign the CRP-1 on their behalf.
20. Who signs the CRP Contracts? **All landowners associated with the land offered for enrollment must sign the CRP-1 (agree to participate) even if they do not want a share of the contract payment.**

Tribal CREP Myth Busting Notes

Questions Submitted

Lessees associated with the land offered for enrollment must be given the opportunity to participate (landlord/tenant provisions).

21. "I understand that each FSA Tract of Land will be its own contract. Who will be doing the work to get it all enrolled? Is it my job as operator even though I'm not getting any rental payment? (CRST) The owner or operator making the land eligible to be offered will need to work with FSA to identify the land being offered for enrollment and assist with any subsequent actions required as part of the enrollment process.
22. How did this "voluntary" program become "mandatory". Especially for SDA producers that depend on the land for their livelihood. FSA does not require participation in CRP. Landowners may offer eligible land for enrollment. Lessees associated with the land being offered for enrollment must be provided an opportunity to participate in CRP (this does not entitle them to a payment share). The lessees can either sign the CRP-1 or provide a statement voluntarily relinquishing their right to participate in CRP.



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Partnerships With Tribal Nations

Our goal is to make USDA farm and conservation programs and services more meaningful and accessible to Tribal Nations and citizens on more than 64 million acres of tribal and allotted trust land used for farming, grazing by livestock and wild game, and forestry.

By connecting Tribal Nation leaders, land managers, agricultural producers, and citizens with USDA programs and services, USDA seeks to better fulfill its commitment and government-to-government responsibilities to Tribal Nations and promote opportunities for land access, indigenous representation, conservation partnerships, and support for tribal food sovereignty.

We appreciate the patience, goodwill, expertise, and perspectives of Tribal Nations, tribal organizations,



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