

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Programs Update Nevada State Technical Advisory Committee 5/21/26



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Programs Information for 2026

- Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance
- Local Work Groups – Feedback that will affect ranking
- Priority Practices Review
- FY25 Spending Report by fund pool

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Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)

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Background Information

- The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (GSS) areas are eligible for an **increased Federal Share** for enrollment of GSS land that **protects the long-term grazing uses and related conservation values on** eligible private range and pasture lands.
- This program emphasizes support of grazing operations, maintaining and improving **plant and animal biodiversity, and protecting grasslands and shrublands under the threat of conversion** to cropping, urban development, and other non-grazing uses.

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Policy Information

- Conservation Programs Manual (CPM) Title 440.528.33 B(3)(iii)
- GSS, defined in 7 CFR Section 1468.3, contain little or no noxious or invasive species, as designated or defined by State or Federal law; are subject to the threat of conversion to nongrassland uses or fragmentation; and the land —
 - **Is rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, or wet meadows on which the vegetation is dominated by native grasses, grass-like plants, shrubs, or forbs, or is improved, naturalized pastureland, rangeland, or wet meadows.**
 - provides, or could provide, habitat for threatened or endangered species or at-risk species, protects sensitive or declining native prairie or grassland types or grasslands buffering wetlands, or provides protection of **highly sensitive natural resources as identified by the State conservationist**, in consultation with the State technical committee.

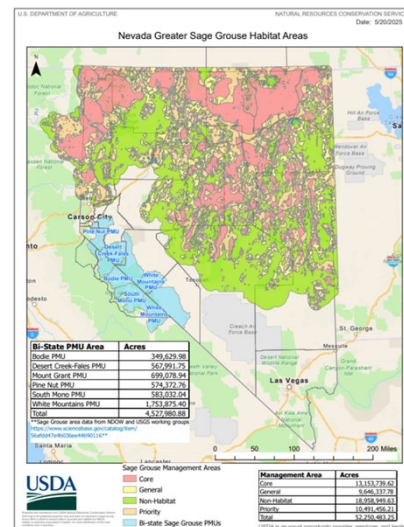
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Map to Support FY 2026

All applications within the any management area may qualify for Grasslands of Special Significance in NV. All other requirements must be met as well.



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Areas Outside of Map

- If an area is outside of the map it is considered ineligible unless a species of concern can be identified (in conjunction with NRCS State Biologist) and all other eligibility criteria is met.
- Additional species can include but are not limited to: Bi-state Sage- grouse, Southwest Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Desert Tortoise, Columbia Spotted Frog, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and potentially other species as approved by the NRCS Nevada State Biologist.

FY26 Update

- NRCS Nevada will continue to work with GSS subgroup
- We also hope to work with the subgroup for other easement-related items such as state ranking priorities for GSS and non-GSS easement applications
- Let us know if you would like to be a part of the discussion



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Local Work Groups – Feedback needed to affect rankings.

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How Ranking Pools Work

Ranking scores are a weighted average of:

- **Resource Priorities**
- **Program Priorities**
- Planned Practice Effects
- Vulnerability Score
- Efficiency Score

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What feedback can influence ranking scores?

- Priority Resource Concerns

This is the easiest way Local Work Group's (LWGs) and Tribal Advisory Councils can influence fund pools.

NRCS software splits Resource Concerns into Resource Concern Categories.

Please work with State Programs Staff and/or your local Field Office when submitting feedback to ensure that we help translate to NRCS speak.

Default Resource Concern 'Points'

Resource Concern Categories

Categories	Min %	Default %	Max %
Air quality emissions	0	5	100
Aquatic habitat	0	5	100
Concentrated erosion	0	10	100
Degraded plant condition	0	5	100
Field pesticide loss	0	5	100
Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	0	5	100
Fire management	0	5	100
Inefficient energy use	0	5	100
Livestock production limitation	0	5	100
Pest pressure	0	5	100
Salt losses to water	0	5	100

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Ranking Pool Report

Categories	Min %	Default %	Max %
Soil quality limitations	0	5	100
Source water depletion	0	10	100
Storage and handling of pollutants	0	5	100
Terrestrial habitat	0	5	100
Weather resilience	0	5	100
Wind and water erosion	0	10	100

Lincoln County Priority Resource Concerns

Resource Concern Categories

Categories			
Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Air quality emissions	0	--	100
Aquatic habitat	0	--	100
Concentrated erosion	0	--	100
Degraded plant condition	0	25	100
Field pesticide loss	0	--	100
Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	0	--	100
Fire management	0	--	100
Inefficient energy use	0	--	100
Livestock production limitation	0	25	100
Pest pressure	0	20	100
Salt losses to water	0	--	100

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Ranking Pool Report

Categories			
Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Soil quality limitations	0	20	100
Source water depletion	0	--	100
Storage and handling of pollutants	0	--	100
Terrestrial habitat	0	10	100
Weather resilience	0	--	100
Wind and water erosion	0	--	100

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Priority Resource Concern Effect on Ranking Score

Practices	Resource Concerns Addressed	Ranking Score with Template RC's	Ranking Scores with Lincoln County PRC's	Score Increase
314	Plant Productivity and Health	23.265	34.265	11
516, 533, 614	Inadequate Livestock water quantity, quality and Distribution	26.841	38.399	12.558
430	Inefficient Irrigation Water Use	30.774	37.989	7.215

314- Brush Management
 516- Livestock Pipeline
 533- Pumping Plant

614- Watering Facility
 430- Irrigation Pipeline

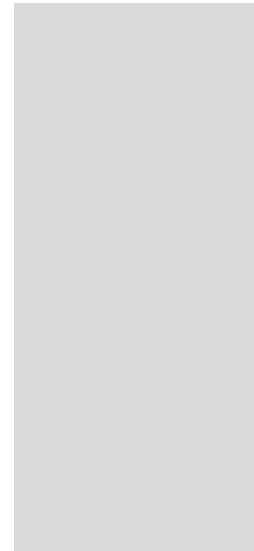
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Deadline to Provide Input – 9/1/26

- State Office Deadlines: Please get your feedback to your Local Field Office by September 1st so we can have your Priority Resource Concerns updated for your LWG fund pool.



LWG Producer Survey

- We have worked with a few STAC members on a potential survey and/or informational flyer that could be sent out to producers in areas where the LWG meetings are not well attended.
- NRCS cannot send out this survey ourselves.
- Please inquire if you are interested in developing a survey or flyer for your LWG.



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Priority Practices Revisited

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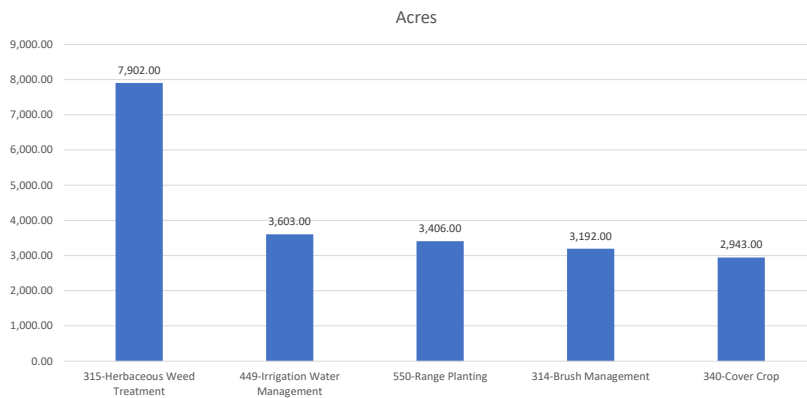
FY26 Priority Practices - EQIP

Practice Code	Practice Name	2025 Obligation
314	Brush Management	\$825,767
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	\$366,816
550	Range Planting	\$582,359
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	
516	Livestock Pipeline	\$481,585
533	Pumping Plant	
614	Watering Facility	
528	Grazing Management	809,490 ac
340	Cover Crop	2,943 ac
449	Irrigation Water Management	3,603 ac

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Top EQIP Practices in Fiscal Year 2025 By Acre



Not Listed

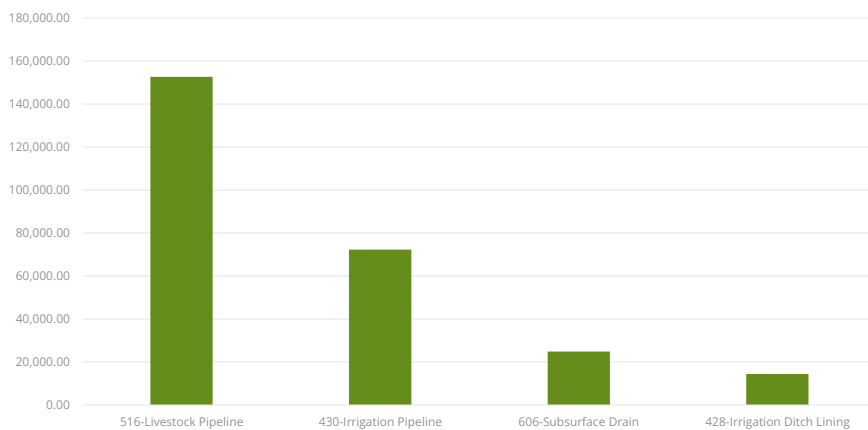
■ **528 Prescribed Grazing**
809,490 acres

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Top EQIP Practices in Fiscal Year 2025 By Feet



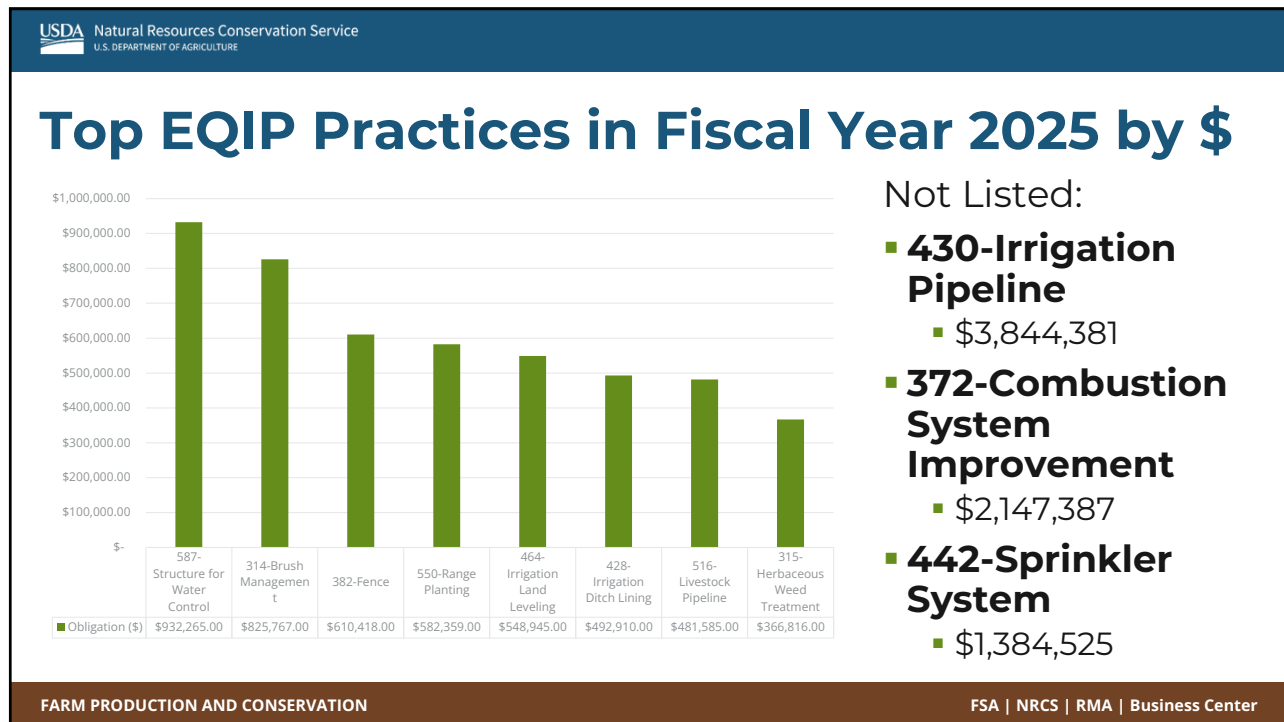
Not Listed

■ **382 Fence**
589,746 ft (111 miles)

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Priority Practices 2027

- Does we need to change our Priority Practice list?
- We have 10 now and can have a total of 10 maximum. We would need to replace practices if we want some added.

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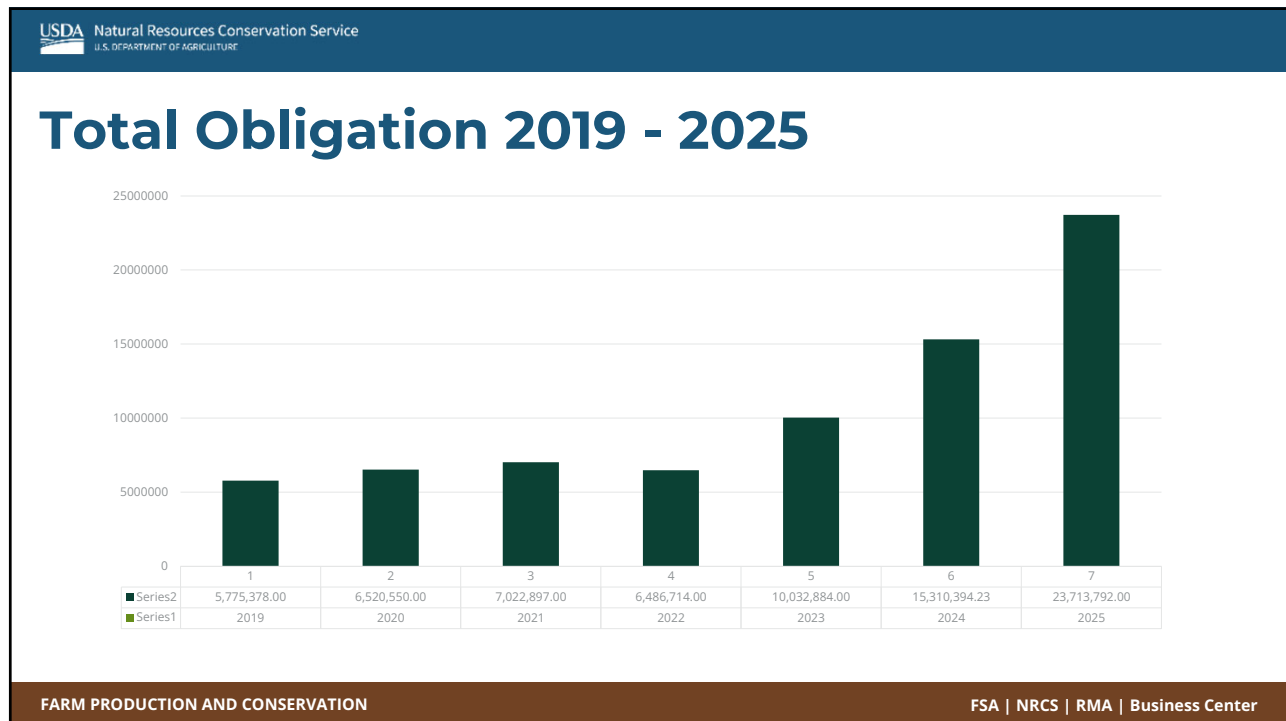

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Allocations and Fund Pools Fiscal Year 2026



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Fiscal Year 2026 Allocations

Program	Allocation Amount
ACEP-ALE General	\$ 1,000,000.00
ACEP-WRE General	\$ 1,000,000.00
AMA	\$ 240,000.00
CSP General	\$ 5,199,000.00
EQIP General	\$ 9,706,377.00
EQIP-National Air Quality Initiative	\$ 3,500,000.00
EQIP Tribal	\$ 1,200,000.00
EQIP-Sage Grouse Initiative	\$ 750,000.00
EQIP-Water Smart Initiative	\$ 750,000.00
EQIP-National Water Quality Initiative	\$ 102,623.00
Total	\$ 23,448,000.00

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Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs

- NV received zero applications for ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (wetlands).
- NV received approximately \$5 million in applications for ACEP-Agricultural Land Easements.
- We were allocated \$1 million.
- Approximately \$750,000 is pre-approved. We have requested the additional \$4.25 million needed and will hear back soon.

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Fiscal Year 2026 EQIP Fund Pools

EQIP Fundpools	Allocation Amount
Caliente Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
Elko Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
Ely Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
Fallon Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
Las Vegas Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
Lovelock Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
Minden Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
Winnemucca Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
Yerington Service Center	\$ 1,550,708.00
EQIP-Water Smart Initiative	\$ 750,000.00
EQIP-National Water Quality Initiative	\$ 102,623.00
	\$ 14,808,995.00

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EQIP Status as of 5/4/2026

FO	Pre-Approved Funds
Minden	\$ 754,123.00
Fallon	\$ 3,436,509.00
Yerington	\$ 2,322,423.00
Winnemucca	\$ 796,360.00
Lovelock	\$ 802,825.00
Las Vegas	\$ 269,787.00
Caliente	\$ 772,467.00
Elko	\$ 2,876,211.00
Ely	\$ 2,338,641.00
	\$ 14,369,346.00

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Spending by EQIP-Category

Category	Required Minimum by policy	Pre-Approved
Socially Disadvantaged ($\geq 5\%$ of General)	\$ 485,318.85	\$ 595,713.00
Beginning farmer/rancher ($\geq 5\%$ of General)	\$ 485,318.85	\$ 1,322,430.00
Source Water Protection ($\geq 10\%$ of General)	\$ 970,637.70	\$ 1,103,870.00
Regenerative Pilot Program ($\geq 25\%$ of General)	\$ 3,127,250.00	\$ 2,120,674.00
Sage Grouse Initiative (Independent Funds)	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 387,000.00
Water Smart Initiative (Independent Funds)	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 872,549.00
National Water Quality Initiative (Independent Funds)	\$ 102,623.00	
National Air Quality Initiative (Independent funds)	\$ 3,500,000.00	\$ 3,372,024.00
Tribal (Nevada Priority)	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 2,283,247.00
		\$ 12,057,507.00

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Technical Service Providers

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NRCS NV has increased our usage of TSP's for engineering practices over the past 2 years.

We have had TSP's complete designs in White Pine County, Lyon County, and Elko County.

NRCS National has made provided additional funding this year for TSP services to all states.

The main barrier to greater adoption in NV now is participant awareness and comfort.

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CSP Context



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Restoring Program Identity

- EQIP – Focuses on helping farmers address natural resource concerns.
 - EQIP offers structural practices in addition to management and vegetative.
- **CSP – Focuses on enhancing a producer's operation to a higher level of stewardship.**

Who are CSP Candidates

- Land is in good shape and producer is interested in taking conservation efforts to the next level
- Willing to look at their whole operation
- They have worked with NRCS through EQIP
- They have interest in trying new things or experimenting including existing infrastructure or changing how they look at their management
- Are they interested in getting paid to keep records?
- Would the EAP payment increase feasibility? (Small Project)

State priority resource concerns:

- Nevada identifies 8 priority Resource concern Category each year
- Specific ranking points are awarded to those targeting the state priorities in the assessment.
 1. Concentrated Erosion
 2. Degraded Plant Condition
 3. Livestock Production Limitation
 4. Pest Pressure
 5. Soil Quality Limitation
 6. Source Water Depletion
 7. Terrestrial Habitat
 8. Wind and Water Erosion

CSP Updates



CSP Contract changes

- CSP existing activity payments (EAP) will be \$4,000 per contract, per year.
- CSP was simplified to only use the FOTG practice code.
- Removing complex enhancement codes while maintaining the concept of **enhancing** conservation practices or an operation.
- Overall streamlining of payment schedules.
- Contract limits increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000

CSP Payments – New Activities

- Enhancement Activity Sheets will not be used for new contracts starting in FY2026.
- Implementation of a practice will be done according to:
 - The FOTG Conservation Practice Standard Implementation Requirements or NRCS Practice Designs
- The list of CSP activities offered in FY-26
 - **Includes vegetative and management activities offered for CSP in FY-25.**
 - Excludes structural activities previously offered in CSP with exceptions for certain structural activities

CSP Payments – New Activities

New Activity Payment	FY26 Status
Conservation Practices	75% of payment schedule
Cover Crop payments	125% of payment schedule
Supplemental Payments:	
Advanced Grazing Management	Offered
Resource Conserving Crop Rotation	Offered
Improved Resource Conserving Crop Rotation	Offered
Bundles	Not Offered

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Cost Estimate in EQIP


FY 2026 EQIP, AMA, RCPP-EQIP Cost Estimator

Applicant Name	John Bell	Field Office	Winnemucca
Program	EQIP	Conservation District	
Program Year	2026	County	Humboldt County
Application #		Planner / Evaluator	
Cost	\$ 44,056.28	CLEAR FORM	Write/Update I&E

TRACT/YIELD NUMBER	CODE	CONSERVATION PRACTICE COMPONENT	AMOUNT	UNIT	UNIT COST FROM COST LIST	NRCS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	NOTES	Add to list Place "X"
T814 F8								
Mill Spring	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Base Cost	1	No	\$ 1,346.60	\$ 1,346.60		
	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Implementation Cost	26	Lb	\$ 3.92	\$ 101.92		
	614	Tire Trough	2,000	Gal	\$ 2.39	\$ 4,780.00		
Glass Spring	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Base Cost	1	No	\$ 1,346.60	\$ 1,346.60		
	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Implementation Cost	38	Lb	\$ 3.92	\$ 148.96		
	614	Tire Trough	2,000	Gal	\$ 2.39	\$ 4,780.00		
T944 F1								
Wagon Wheel 3	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Base Cost	1	No	\$ 1,346.60	\$ 1,346.60		
	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Implementation Cost	100	Lb	\$ 3.92	\$ 392.00		
	614	Tire Trough	2,000	Gal	\$ 2.39	\$ 4,780.00		
Wagon Wheel 2	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Base Cost	1	No	\$ 1,346.60	\$ 1,346.60		

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Cost Estimate in CSP for same project

FY 2026 CSP Cost Estimator

Applicant Name	John Bell	Field Office	Winnemucca	CLEAR FORM
Program	EQIP	Conservation District		
Program Year	2026	County	Humboldt County	Write/Update I&E
Application #		Planner / Evaluator		
Farm Number(s)		Contract Total	\$ 64,056.28	Applicant Type
Tract Number(s)				Individual
				CSP Contract Limitation
				\$300,000

LAND USE	RCCs MET at Time of Application	RCCs MET/EXCEEDED at End of Contract	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	EAP Yearly Payment	
			☐ Cropland			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
☐ Pasture			\$ -	\$ 12,504.08	\$ 12,852.96	\$ 18,699.24	\$ -		Conservation Practice Payment
☒ Range	2	3	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 16,594.08	\$ 16,852.96	\$ 22,699.24	\$ 4,000.00		YEARLY TOTAL
☐ Farmstead									
☐ Associated AqLand									

TRACT/FIELD NUMBER	CODE	CONSERVATION PRACTICE COMPONENT	AMOUNT (for I&E)	UNIT	UNIT COST FROM COST LIST	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	NRCS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	NOTES	Add to I&E Place "X"
	E300EAP	Existing Activity Payment		No	\$ 4,000.00	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	\$ 20,000.00	Schedule EAP each year	N/A
Mill Spring	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Base Cost	1	No	\$ 1,346.60		1.0				\$ 1,346.60		
T814 F8	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Implementation Cost	26	Lb	\$ 3.92		26.0				\$ 101.92		
	614	Tire Trough	2000	Gal	\$ 2.39		2,000.0				\$ 4,780.00		
Glass Spring	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Base Cost	1	No	\$ 1,346.60		1.0				\$ 1,346.60		
T814 F8	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Implementation Cost	38	Lb	\$ 3.92		38.0				\$ 148.96		
	614	Tire Trough	2000	Gal	\$ 2.39		2,000.0				\$ 4,780.00		
T 944 F1													
Wagon Wheel 3	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Base Cost	1	No	\$ 1,346.60			1.0			\$ 1,346.60		
	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Implementation Cost	100	Lb	\$ 3.92			100.0			\$ 392.00		
	614	Tire Trough	2000	Gal	\$ 2.39			2,000.0			\$ 4,780.00		
Wagon Wheel 2	516	High-Density Polyethylene, Base Cost	1	No	\$ 1,346.60			1.0			\$ 1,346.60		

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Deadlines for Applications

- **FY27 Applications** – Feel free to submit now. Please inform your field office you are aware there are no more funding opportunities this fiscal year but want to submit now
- Staff may not start working on your project right away but the application deadline has been met

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For more information

- Talk to your local office
- NRCS Nevada Website
 - Use the QR Code or visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/nevada>
- Email SM.NRCS.NV.INFO@usda.gov



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