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## Conservation Stewardship Program

- Received 113 applications.
- 25 are moving to obligation.
- Background of applicants
  - 3.5% are Limited Resource Farmers
  - 23% are Beginning Farmer and Rancher
  - 2% Veteran Farmer Rancher
  - 24% are Socially Disadvantaged FR



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## Changes in CSP

- New enhancements require that the practice standard be followed.
- More flexibility in changes to the contract.
- Payments are less per acre than in the past. Rangeland in the past was as high as \$10 per acre. Now \$2 per acre.
- Requires using the definitions of “resource concern.”



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## Is this a resource concern?

- Gullies are stable, there is no progression of headcuts, concentrated flows into gullies do not erode the sides.
- Plants are on pedestals, ground level is lower than the base of the plant.
- Pesticides are applied once in a while.
- Wildlife assessment score is 0.4.

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## Actions being done to assess resource concerns

- Rangeland and Pasture Health Assessments.
- Use of soil penetrometer.
- Completion of Wildlife Habitat Assessments.
- New Erosion Prediction software.
- State Wildlife Action Plan
- Evaluation Questions and Field Verification.

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## Technical Resources

- Cover Crop State Supplement

Cover Crops for Water and Wind Erosion E340101Z, E340102Z: the crop following the cover crop must be no-till planted.	Cover Crops for Soil Compaction Reduction E340107Z: mix must include fibrous and deep-rooted species.
Austrian Winter Peas (Very Good)	Barley (Very Good)
Barley (Excellent)	Clovers (Excellent-Very Good)
Clovers (Very Good-Good)	Millets (Very Good)
Cowpeas (Excellent)	Oats (Very Good)
Mustards (Very Good)	Radish, Tillage (Excellent)
Oats (Very Good)	Rye (Very good)
Radish (Very Good)	Sorghums and sudangrass (Excellent)
Rye (Excellent)	Sunflower (Very Good)
Sorghums and Sudangrass (Excellent)	Triticale (Very Good)
Triticale (Very Good)	Vetch, Hairy (Very Good) *May become weedy
Wheat (Very Good)	Wheat (Very Good)
	Woollypod Vetch (Very Good)



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## Technical Resources

- Grazing Management state supplement.



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## Future Technical Resources

- Implementing Brush Management to benefit wildlife.
- Grazing utilization requirements for different forage species to match forage quantity produced with feed demand of livestock to address specific resource concerns.
- Crop rotations to build soil health.



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## Priorities

- Points given if project improves soil health and improves habitat for wildlife (T&E and species of concern).
- States can designate a priority geographic area, priority airshed and priority watershed.



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## Other 2017 Priorities

- Rangeland: Project benefits grassland birds.
- Cropland: NoTill and Cover crops based on percentage of crop land and pollinator habitat.
- Forestland: Regeneration of aspens, reduce forest pests and disease, improve habitat for wildlife and reduce soil erosion.

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# Questions?

**STC Input:**

What conservation practices will maximize the conservation benefits for the funding available?  
What locations should be prioritized?

What outreach is needed to ensure fairness and maximize conservation benefits?

How can communication be improved?

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# Easements

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graph TD; ACEP[Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ACEP] --- ALE[Agricultural Land Easements ALE]; ACEP --- WRE[Wetland Reserve Easement WRE]; WRE --- WREP[Wetland Reserve Easement Partnership WREP]; WREP --- Technical[Technical]; WREP --- Financial[Financial]; ACEP --- HFRP[Healthy Forests Reserve Program]
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New Mexico NRCS Easements  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/programs/easements/>



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## Payments

- *ALE*: NRCS payment is 50% of the appraised market value of the easement. This can be raised to 75% for ***grasslands of special significance***.
- *WRE*: NRCS payment is 90% of the appraised market value ***not to exceed \$5,000 per acre***.
- STC input- ***italized***

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## Priorities

- Rangeland: Project targets a specific at risk species, a specific development risk, ??.
- Cropland: Proximity to urban area, type of food production, protection of water rights, ??.
- Wetland: wetland type, species benefitted, flood risk reduction, connectivity to already protected land, ??.
- STC input: ??

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## Deed Requirements

Wetland easements: Require a Wetland Restoration Plan. Food plots, disking, grazing, vegetation management, hydrology management require special permission from NRCS.

Agricultural Land: conservation plans required for HEL land, forest land (at least 40 acres) and grazing plans for grassland enrollments.

STC input: any particular requirements or conditions, eq no-till for food plots?

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