Recommendations from the State Technical Committee
March 3, 2020
Objectives

- Allocation
- Ranking
- Incentive Contracts
- High Priority Practices - Becky
- Source Water Protection - Becky
Applications vs Contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># APPS</th>
<th># CONTRACTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1676</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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National Allocation

- National Air Quality Initiative
- National Water Quality Initiative – Limestone & Graveyard Creek
- Sage Grouse Initiative
- Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative
- Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Project
- Colorado River Salinity
- WaterSmart
Required by Policy

- National Organic Initiative (Certified & Organic)
- National On-Farm Energy Initiative
- Beginning Farmer or Rancher (BFR) – 5%
- Socially Disadvantaged (SDFR) – 5%
- High Tunnel
- Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)
State and Local

- Animal Waste
- Wildlife Habitat – 10%
- Source Water Protection – 10%
- Tribes
- Resource Team
  - Irrigated Cropland
  - Non-Irrigated Cropland
  - Grazing Land
  - Irrigated Pasture & Hayland
  - Forestry
Ranking

• Each RT Designate up to 5 Land Uses

• Input from Local Work Group and NRCS Team (State, Area, Field)
  • Established 5 Priority Resource Concerns for each Land Use
  • Ranking Component Weights
  • Bank of Questions
Irrigated Cropland

- Source Water Depletion
- Wind and Water Erosion
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Soil Quality Limitations
- Field, Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
Non-Irrigated Cropland

- Soil Quality Limitations
- Wind and Water Erosion
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Weather Resilience
- Concentrated Erosion
Grazing Lands

- Degraded Plant Condition
- Soil Quality Limitations
- Wind and Water Erosion
- Livestock Production Limitation
- Terrestrial Habitat
Pastureland

- Degraded Plant Condition
- Soil Quality Limitations
- Source Water Depletion
- Livestock Production Limitation
- Pest Pressure/Concentrated Erosion
Forestry

- Degraded Plant Condition
- Wind and Water Erosion
- Terrestrial Habitat
- Pest Pressure
- Soil Quality Limitations
Wildlife

- Aquatic Habitat
- Terrestrial Habitat
- Concentrated Erosion
- Pest Pressure
- Soil Quality Limitations
Ranking Weights

- Vulnerabilities – 30%
- Planned Practice Effects – 25%
- Resource Priorities – 20%
- Program Priorities – 15%
- Efficiencies – 10%
Incentive Contracts

- Introduced in 2018 Farm Bill
- Steppingstone between EQIP and CSP
- Identify High Priority Areas (HPA)
- Identify Priority Resource Concerns (PRC)
High Priority Areas

- Definition – areas with identified priority resource concerns that represent a significant concern in a State or region.

Additionally –
- Must encompass every region within the state
- Overlap with other high priority areas
  - Parcel of land may exist in multiple high priority areas
Priority Resource Concern

• Definition – specific natural resource issue or problem that is likely to be addressed through the implementation of conservation practices

Additionally –
- States identify up to 3 PRC for each land use in HPA
- Same PRC may be used for more than one land use within the HPA
- Incentive Practices identified for each PRC
Incentive Contract

1. Participant must agree to implement one or more incentive practices
2. Appropriate contract length to achieve desired conservation benefits
   - Not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years
3. Will not apply towards the $450,000 EQIP payment limitation
Incentive Contract Payments

Payments are made of two components:

1. Incentive practice payments for adopting and installing practices

2. Annual payments for managing, maintaining, and improving incentive practices during the contract period
More information coming

- Policy and business tools under development
- National Bulletin to be released (March) with Rollout Timeline and Guidance:
  - High Priority Areas
  - Priority Resource Concerns
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High Priority Practices

CO NRCS will choose up to 10 practices eligible for increased payment that:

1. Address water quality impairment due to excess nutrients,
2. Address water conservation,
3. Meet other identified priority resource concerns in habitat or other area restoration plans, or
4. Are geographically targeted to a specific watershed
# List of High Priority Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Code</th>
<th>Practice Description</th>
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<th>Practice Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>449</td>
<td>Irrigation Water Management</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
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<td>391</td>
<td>Riparian Forest Buffers</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>Residue and Tillage Management- No-Till</td>
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<td>528</td>
<td>Prescribed Grazing</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>Woody Residue Treatment</td>
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<td>580</td>
<td>Streambank and Shoreline Protection</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>Conservation Cover</td>
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<td>643</td>
<td>Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>Stream Habitat Improvement</td>
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<td>590</td>
<td>Nutrient Management</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>Conservation Crop Rotation</td>
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<tr>
<td>345</td>
<td>Residue and Tillage Management- Reduced Till</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>Residue and Tillage Management- Reduced Till</td>
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<tr>
<td>645</td>
<td>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>Tree/Shrub Establishment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Source Water Protection Map

Colorado Source Water Protection Watersheds
Suggested Priority Resource Concerns
• Water Quality Degradation
• Nutrients in Surface Water
• Excessive Sediments in Surface Water
• Excess Pathogens & Chemicals from Manure, Biosolids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

Land Uses
• Cropland- Irrigated and Dryland (this includes Hay)
• Grazing Lands (Native and Introduced)
• Forest
• Farmsteads
### List of Priority Practices for Source Water Protection

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<td>584</td>
<td>Channel Bed Stabilization</td>
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<td>Filter Strip</td>
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<td>528</td>
<td>Prescribed Grazing</td>
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<td>Riparian Forest Cover</td>
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<td>350</td>
<td>Sediment Basin</td>
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<td>Stream Crossing</td>
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<td>580</td>
<td>Streambank and Shoreline Protection</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>Early Successional Habitat Development/Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>340</td>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
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<td>Conservation Crop Rotation</td>
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<td>327</td>
<td>Conservation Cover</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>Nutrient Management</td>
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<td>382</td>
<td>Fence</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>Range Planting</td>
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<td>329 or 345</td>
<td>Residue and Tillage Management- No Till or Reduced Till</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>Upland Wildlife Habitat and Management</td>
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<td>606</td>
<td>Subsurface Drain</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>Structure for Water Control</td>
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<td>560</td>
<td>Access Road</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>Livestock Pipeline</td>
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<td>Tree/Shrub Establishment</td>
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<td>512</td>
<td>Forage and Biomass Planting</td>
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<td>Critical Area Planting</td>
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<td>443</td>
<td>Irrigation Systems- Surface and Subsurface</td>
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<td>516</td>
<td>Livestock Pipeline</td>
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National Water Quality Initiative Priority watersheds selected for CO

• Limestone Creek
• Graveyard Creek
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