Source Water Protection
By Targeting Agricultural Practices

The 2018 Farm Bill includes language that requires changes to some NRCS programs related to Source Water Protection (SWP). It mandates addressing excessive nutrients and other impairments of drinking water sources (groundwater or surface water). Agricultural practices that contribute to the protection of source water are highlighted and tracked across the nation. States work with partners at a more localized level to engage with stakeholders and implement practices that support the source water mission, addressing water quality and quantity. For fiscal years 2019-2023, NRCS will dedicate 10% of funds to this effort on a nationwide basis.

A Collaborative Effort

Nationally, states collaborate with:

- EPA Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water – Source Water Protection
- Association of State Drinking Water Administrators – state entities that are responsible for the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations
- American Water Works Association – the national association of public water supply utilities

In Nevada, NRCS also collaborates with:

- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection - Water Quality and Safe Drinking Water Bureaus
- Nevada Source Water Protection Task Force
- Conservation Districts
- Local Source Water Protection Stakeholders

Winnemucca, Minden and Yerington Watersheds Targeted

Working with NRCS’s State Technical Advisory Committee and community water systems, watershed areas serviced by the Winnemucca, Minden and Yerington Service Centers were identified as the focus areas for targeted source water protection practices.

What Agricultural Water Quality Concerns Can Be Addressed?

- Phosphorus & Excess Nutrients
- Grazing & Loss of Riparian Vegetation
- Dairies
- Diversions & Irrigation
- Sedimentation & Soil Erosion
- Noxious Weeds & Pesticides

Interested in Participating?

Funding for source water protection projects is obtained through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Increased payment rates of up to 90% of practice costs can be received.

For more information about how to apply and program eligibility, interested Winnemucca, Minden and Yerington area producers should contact their local field office. Producers outside those areas should contact the NRCS field office in the county in which they own land or where they have an agricultural operation.

Source Water Protection Priority Practices

- Cover Crop
- Irrigation Ditch Lining
- Irrigation Water Management
- Irrigation Land Leveling
- Prescribed Grazing
- Structure for Water Control
- Pest Management System
- Watering Facility
- Nutrient Management
Winnemucca Field Office: 3275 Fountain Way, Winnemucca, NV 89445, (775) 623-5025

Minden Field Office: 1702 County Road, Ste. A1, Minden, NV 89423, (775) 782-3661

Yerington Field Office: 513 West Bridge Street, Ste. G, Yerington, NV 89447, (775) 463-2265

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. NV-2021 • November