

2011 Environmental Quality Incentive Program Proposal

Local Work Group for the Carrizozo Field Office

INTRODUCTION:

The Carrizozo Field Office is located in the western and southern portions of Lincoln County and the eastern portion of Socorro County in south-central New Mexico. The field office area is comprised primarily of native grazing lands that are open grasslands on the rolling plains, and juniper-pinion savannah on the toe slopes and valleys of the Capitan, Jicarilla, and White Mountains. The mountain slopes are covered with Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer primarily on Lincoln National Forest lands, Approximately 4,500 acres is irrigated pasture and orchards adjacent to the Hondo, Ruidoso and Bonito Rivers.

LOCAL WORK GROUP (LWG):

Below is a list of attendees of the Local Work Group meeting of July 10, 2010 for the Carrizozo Field Office. In addition to the attendees, meeting notices were sent to all on the attached mailing list. Two notices were in the Ruidoso Paper, and notices were sent to all producers with the Practice Reminder letter. The Local Work Group completed the review and recommendations of the information for the Carrizozo Field Office EQIP program.

The following participants were in attendance:

- Bob Moorhead – District Conservationist, NRCS
- Don Ashby – NRCS
- Scott Daniel – UHSWCD
- David Cox – UHSWCD
- Clark Taylor – UHSWCD
- Jim Cooper – Cooper Bros./UHSWCD
- Preston Stone – Stone Ranch/UHSWCD
- Robert Runnels – UHSWCD
- Jackie Powell – Lincoln County commissioner
- Stephanie Bason – LCCSWCD
- Gaylon Herrera – UHSWCD
- Mark Hendricks – Stephenson Ranch
- Walley Ferguson – Black Hills Ranch
- Steve Harkey – Harkey Cattle Co./CarrizozoSWCD
- Gary Hightower – Ancho Cattle Co.
- Bill Hightower – Hightower Land and Cattle Co.
- Bryan Hightower
- Knollene McDaniel – McDaniel Cattle Co.
- Ed Tinsley – Flying W Diamond

- Daryl Skiles

PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS:

- Soil Condition - Rangeland Site Stability
- Water Quantity – Rangeland Hydrologic Cycle
- Air Quality – Undesirable air movement
- Plant Condition – Productivity Health and Vigor
- Noxious and invasive plants
- Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Food
- Domestic Animals – Inadequate quantities and quality of food and forage
- Soil Erosion – wind
- Sheet and Rill

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding was allocated at 90% to the grazing land resource concerns and 10% water resource concerns as shown on the agenda with discretion given to the DC to adjust funds as needed.

***Recommendations made

Address multiple species i.e. Pinion/Juniper, Juniper/cholla in the Price list.

Sometimes our Standards and Specs call for more tree removal than what the producer wants.

Cabled areas (Juniper in the 1960's) needs special consideration because of multiple stems, trash on ground, and number of small seedlings.

A \$50,000 per practice cap was recommended, with discretion given to the District Conservationist to up this limit if allocations exceeded demands.

COST SHARE RATES FACTOR:

The Payment schedule is being compiled by the State Office to establish continuity between counties, with adjustments to the costs due to inflation.

Please refer to the FY 2011 EQIP cost list for final practice payment rates.

RANKING CRITERIA:

No changes were recommended, with the same resource concerns as last year. The recommendation was to use Rangeland Health if a tie were to occur.

Please refer to the ranking criteria links for specific information.

WATERSHED INITIATIVE:

No action at this time was recommended.

SMALL ACREAGE INITIATIVE:

No recommendation was made on this issue, because of the Limited Resource Producer and Beginning Farmer or Rancher programs available.