

2011 Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Local Work Group Summary for the Las Vegas Field Office

Introduction:

The Las Vegas Field Office is located in Northeastern New Mexico, approximately 64 miles northeast of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The field office services the Tierra y Montes Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which is the majority of San Miguel County, New Mexico. San Miguel County consists of approximately 11,145 acres of irrigated land, 7,382 acres are privately owned. There are approximately 4,180 acres of non-irrigated croplands, 1,555,462 acres of rangelands, and 326,062 acres of woodlands.

Local Work Group:

The Local Work Group Meeting was held on September 14, 2010. Invitations were sent out to Federal, State and Local agencies. Notices of the meeting were submitted to local radio stations and the Optic, as well as posted at various locations within the SWCD.

Priority Resource Concerns:

- Water Quantity
 - Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land
 - Insufficient Flows in Water Course
 - Reduced Storage of Water Bodies
 - Reduced Capacity of Conveyances
- Water Quality
 - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
 - Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water
 - Excessive Salinity in Surface Water
 - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
- Soil Erosion
 - Sheet and Rill
 - Wind
 - Ephemeral Gully
 - Classic Gully
- Plant Condition - Invasive or Noxious Species
 - Invasive or Noxious Weeds
 - Productivity, Health and Vigor
 - Forage Quality and Palatability
 - Wildfire Hazard

Funding Considerations:

- Grazing Land – 34%
- Irrigated Hayland/Cropland – 33%
- Woodland – 33%

In the event that dollars remain in any category, the remaining funds will be allocated in direct proportion to the requests received in the other categories.

No cost caps on practices for FY 2011.

Include an Incentive for Pest Management (595) for the chemical treatment of Class A & B noxious weeds as listed on the NMDA Noxious Weed List. Incentive payments will be limited to two years.

Cost-Share:

Flat Rate = \$22.50/Acre.

Cost Share Rate Factor:

The LWG recommended the cost share rate factor for all practices in the payment schedule be set at 75%. Exclude practice Prescribed Grazing (528) from payment schedule.

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

Ranking Criteria:

The Ranking Criteria will remain unchanged from FY 2010 proposal – with the exception of removing points for the Prescribed Grazing Incentive.

There will be a minimum production requirement of $\frac{3}{4}$ gallon per minute in order to be considered for financial assistance for practice: Well (642).

There must be an improvement to the irrigation system in order to be considered for financial assistance for practices: Land Smoothing (466) and Pasture & Hayland Planting (512).

Please refer to the ranking criteria links for specific information.

Tiebreakers:

Grazing land – Ties will be broken by awarding contracts to applications with the greatest number of productive grazing land acres as identified in the ESD.

Irrigated Hayland/Cropland – Ties will be broken by awarding contracts to applications which have the greatest increase in irrigation efficiency, in 1 percent increments, using FIRS.

Forested Land – Ties will be broken by the greatest number of resource concerns addressed.

Watershed Initiative:

The LWG recommended there be no Watershed Initiative proposal submitted for FY 2011.

Small Farmer/Rancher Initiative Proposal:

The purposes of the Small Farmer/Rancher Initiative is to provide an avenue whereby producers with small acreage that historically have not participated or for those that want to address one or two resource concerns and have had difficulty competing with applications addressing multiple resource concerns are afforded an opportunity to participate.

The resource concerns identified are the following:

- Water Quantity
- Water Quality
- Soil Erosion
- Invasive Woody Species
- Forest Health
- Invasive Noxious Weeds

The Local Work Group has made a commitment to allocate \$15,000.00 of their FY 2011 funds this initiative.

There will be a \$10,000.00 cap per contract.

Household income of \$60,000.00/Yr. or less will be a requirement for the initiative.

The Small Farmer/Rancher Initiative program will target those producers having:

10 acres or less or Irrigated Land

Or

10 acres or less of Forest Land

Or

200 acres or less of Grazing Land

The initiative will include the entire Field Office Area.

The Ranking Criteria developed for the regular EQIP will be used for each respective land use.

Funding Considerations:

Funding will be divided equally between the three land uses.

In the event that dollars remain in any category, the remaining funds will be allocated in direct proportion to the requests received in the other categories or returned to the regular EQIP.