

# **2011 Environmental Quality Incentive Program**

## **Local Work Group Summary for the Roy Field Office**

### **Introduction:**

The Roy Field Office staff provides technical assistance to all of Harding County and small amounts of land within Union to the North and East; and San Miguel to the South. Harding County has two Soil and Water Conservation Districts within its 1.7 million acre boundaries. Ute Creek Soil and Water Conservation district makes up 1.3 million acres and Mesa Soil and Water Conservation District having 400,000 acres. Harding County also boasts the oldest SWCD in the State; Mesa SWCD was created and recognized by the state as a functioning Conservation District April 13, 1938. Harding County is 95% rangeland that is primarily used for livestock grazing.

### **Local Work Group:**

The Local Work Group (LWG) met on September 9, 2010. Those represented and supplying input were as follows:

- Ute Creek SWCD-4 members
- Mesa SWCD- 1 member
- US Forest Service-1
- NM Extension Service-1
- Harding County Commisioners-1
- State Senator District 7- Clinton Harden
- RC&D member- 1
- CRRRP member-1
- NRCS-4
- Ranchers-3

### **Priority Resource Concerns:**

- Soil Erosion, sheet and rill
- Water Quantity and Quality, Rangeland Hydrologic Cycle

### **Funding Considerations:**

100% of funding in Harding County will be dedicated to treat Rangeland. The Local Work Group also recommended there be a funding cap of \$50,000, per contract for brush management.

### **Cost Share Rate Factor:**

The Local Work Group recommended that the cost share rate be set at 75% for the 2011 signup. Prescribed grazing will not be eligible for a payment during this signup as well, as per recommendation of LWG.

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

### **Ranking Criteria:**

Local adjustments will be used without any changes from last year.

Ranking Criteria Worksheets to be used are:

Grazing Lands

In the event of a tie, <% canopy cover will be used.

Level of grazing system will also be considered.

Please refer to the ranking criteria links for specific information.

### **Watershed Initiative:**

The LWG is proposing a watershed initiative. Name of Watershed & HUC(s): Mosquero Creek 1108000703, Tequesquite Creek 11080000706, Circle Bar Ranch 11080000707. Approximate number of acres: 489,000 acres

Primary Agricultural land use: **Native Grazing Land / Rangeland**

The Primary Resource Concerns/Problems in this watershed are: **Water Quality due to the availability of forage for grazing animals along the creek, also allowing native vegetation to flourish creating better water health. Soil depletion and degradation due to the animal having full capacity of the riparian area at all times. Water Quantity would be an issue after fencing of the riparian area due to unavailability of surface water to grazing animals.**

**The areas of concern have recently been treated for removal of invasive species along the riparian area; thus being identified through prior year brush control. The activities would include; fencing, watering facilities and facilitating practices that are included for watering systems. Monitoring would be done through yearly status reviews.**

**Multiple resource concerns will be addressed, including plant community condition, plant community composition, loss of hydrologic function, water quality and quantity, Soil depletion, and degradation. Conservation practices that will be utilized include fencing, watering facilities, pipeline, storage, well, and pump.**

### **Small Acreage Initiative:**

The LWG is not requesting a small acreage initiative. Small farmers have not had difficulty competing against larger producer with multiple resource concerns. Funding has been small in recent years, but the size of the operation or number of resource concerns not being a determining factor.