

# 2011 Environmental Quality Incentive Program

## Local Work Group Summary for the Silver City Field Office

### Introduction:

The Silver City Field Office is located in the town of Silver City, county seat of Grant County, in the southwestern part of New Mexico. The field office provides assistance to the Grant and San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) with a combined total of 4.3 million acres. Approximately 35% are state and private lands and 65% federal lands. There are a wide variety of landscapes ranging from 4,400 feet up to 11,000 feet elevation. Annual precipitation ranges from 10 inches in the southern desert to over 20 inches in the mountains. Soils are extremely variable and complex. They range from deep loamy soils in the two major river valleys and broad alluvial slopes to shallow rocky soils in the foothills and mountains. Vegetation ranges from the black grama, tobosa, dropseeds, yucca, Mormon tea, and mesquite. The district incorporates desert grasslands sites up to ponderosa pine, piñon ricegrass, mountain brome and mountain muhly of the ponderosa pine type. The present economy of the area is based on agriculture with less emphasis on the mining and logging activities of the past.

### Local Work Group:

The Grant and San Francisco Soil & Water Conservation Districts held a combined Local Work Group Meeting September 9, 2010, at the Glenwood Community Center in Glenwood, NM. Invitations were sent out to federal, state, and local agencies. The meeting was also announced in the local newspaper. Eight participants were in attendance and provided input in developing the FY 2011 EQIP plan. Representatives from the San Francisco SWCD, Grant SWCD, State Land Office, New Mexico State Forestry, NMSU Cooperative Extension Office, and the New Mexico Environmental Department had the opportunity to make suggestions to the District Conservationist.

### Priority Resource Concerns:

#### Rangeland resource concerns:

- **Soil Condition** - Sheet and Rill erosion, Wind erosion, gulley erosion
- **Water Quantity** – Rangeland hydrologic cycle
- **Plant Condition** - Noxious and invasive plants
- **Domestic Animals** – Inadequate livestock water

#### Irrigated Land resource concerns:

- **Water Quantity** – Inefficient water use on irrigated lands.
- **Plant Condition** – Encroachment of noxious and invasive plants.
- **Water Quality** – Contamination of water with suspended particles and foreign materials.
- **Wildlife** – Inadequate Cover/Shelter, Inadequate Food and Water.

**Forest Land resource concerns:**

- **Water Quantity** - Rangeland hydrologic cycle.
- **Water Quality** – Contamination of water with suspended particles and foreign materials.
- **Wildlife** – Inadequate Cover/Shelter, Inadequate Food and Water.

The local work group does not intend to limit landowners from addressing other resource concerns utilizing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

**Funding Considerations:**

The Local Work Group recommended continuing to allocate monies received to the two districts based on the same acreage figures used to determine the state allocation to the Silver City Service Center as done in previous years. Initially, both districts will use 50% of the available funds for grazing land practices, 45% for irrigated land and 5% for forest land. These funds are interchangeable if not otherwise obligated. Un-obligated funds within the districts are also interchangeable.

The LWG recommends NO caps on any practices or contracts.

**Cost Share Rate Factor:**

The LWG recommends using payment rates as listed in the state payment schedule. 15% additional for HU producers.

Recommendations from the local work group were made for the cost of fence. The LWG recommends an increase in the payment rate for a fence based on terrain and slope. The recommended payment rate would be as follows. Standard Barbed Wire, Remote Country or wilderness, material packed in by horse, mule, person at least 1/2 mile from a road be paid \$4.50/ft. Standard Barbed Wire, Rough Country > 15% slopes or < 15% slopes with shallow soil (<20") be paid at a rate of \$3.00/ft. Standard Barbed Wire, Smooth Country < 15% slopes, moderately deep or deeper soils be paid at a rate of \$1.95/ft. For HU producers and increase of 15% would be added to each payment rate.

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

**Ranking Criteria:**

The national ranking tool will be used. State and local issues will be incorporated into the ranking tool.

Please refer to the ranking criteria links for specific information.

**Watershed Initiative:**

No watershed initiatives were recommended by the LWG or the District Conservationist.

**Small Acreage Initiative:**

No small acreage initiative proposals were recommended for the 2011 EQIP.