

FY 2011

Environmental Quality Incentive Program Proposal

For the Fort Sumner Field Office

Introduction:

Fort Sumner Field Office is located at 101 Stearns, Fort Sumner, NM. The office is located within De Baca County, along Highway 60/84 in the Eastern part of the state. Fort Sumner is 68 miles due west of Clovis, NM and 36 miles SE of Santa Rosa, NM. Fort Sumner is an agricultural community with irrigated farm land in the valley and rangeland throughout the remainder of the county. Rangeland makes up 80% of the area with irrigated and dry cropland making up the remainder of the county agriculture lands.

Local Work Group:

The Local Work Group (LWG) is comprised of individuals representing the following groups, De Baca SWCD, De Baca County Commission, New Mexico State Land Office, Farm Service Agency, RC& D, NMACD and NRCS staff. The LWG met on September 13, 2010 to discuss the FY 2011 Environmental Quality Incentive Program. The meeting was attended by 14 individuals with the purpose of providing local input into the FY 2011 EQIP program.

Priority Resource Concerns:

Rangeland:

Plant Condition- Noxious and Invasive Plants, Productivity Health and Vigor

Water Quantity- Rangeland Hydrologic Cycle

Soil Condition- Sheet and Rill

Fish and Wildlife- Inadequate Water

Domestic Animals- Inadequate Stock Water, Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage

Cropland:

Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land, Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding

Soil Erosion- Irrigation Induced, Wind

Water Quality- Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater and surface water

Funding Considerations:

The LWG discussed the allocation of EQIP funds received at the Fort Sumner Field Office and decided that the funds will be allocated as follows:

Grazing Lands- 60%

Cropland- 30%

Watersheds- 10%

After discussion the LWG reached a consensus that no cost share caps will be used in the Fort Sumner Field Office for the FY 2011 EQIP program.

Cost Share Rate Factor:

The LWG discussed agreed that 75% was an acceptable rate factor for the common practices in the Fort Sumner Field Office. The LWG declined to reduce the rate below that level.

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

Ranking Criteria:

The LWG discussed the FY 2010 ranking questions and deemed that some changes would be necessary to further address the priority resource concerns selected.

Grazing lands: Three questions will be added to the grazing lands ranking criteria. These questions will pertain to the addition of prescribed grazing as part of the overall conservation plan. This practice will be cost shared and a grazing plan will be developed in order to be awarded points and cost share for this practice. There will be 75 points available for this question. Those points will be taken away from questions 1, 2, 3 of the 2010 EQIP Ranking

Criteria. Twenty five points will be taken away from each question in order to allocate points to the new questions related to prescribed grazing. The new questions will be as follows:

1. Will prescribed grazing (528) be implemented on 81 – 100% of needed acres for the treatment area offered? 50 pts.
2. Will prescribed grazing (528) be implemented on 60 - 81% of needed acres for the treatment area offered? 15 pts.
3. Will prescribed grazing (528) be implemented on 10 - 60% of needed acres for the treatment area offered? 10 pts.

All ties will be broken by the actual percent of canopy cover or density of brush as measured by transects performed by NRCS staff. The higher density of brush will take precedents over lower densities.

Cropland: The ranking criteria for cropland will remain the same as FY 2010 without any changes. Ties for cropland will be based on the percent of damaged ditch as determined by NRCS staff. The higher percentage of damaged ditch will take precedents over lower percentage.

Please refer to the ranking criteria links for specific information.

Watershed Initiative:

The LWG is requesting a local watershed initiative for the Truchas Creek-Pecos River (130600030905) and the Vaughn Ranch-Pecos River (130600030906) watersheds. These watersheds encompass approximately 67888 acres. However the area designated by the LWG as a priority is the irrigated cropland located in the Fort Sumner Irrigation District. The irrigation district is located south east of the town of Fort Sumner, NM and totals 7,152 acres of irrigated cropland. The LWG has elected to allocate 10% of the Fort Sumner Field Office initial EQIP FY 2011 allocation to advance the conservation efforts in this area with the request of matching funds from the Sate office. The priority resource concerns selected by the LWG are as follows:

Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land, Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding

Soil Erosion- Irrigation Induced, Wind

Water Quality- Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater and surface water

Small Acreage Initiative:

The LWG has elected to not pursue a small acreage initiative this FY.