

# FY 2011

## Environmental Quality Incentive Program Proposal For the Gallup Field Office

**Introduction:** The Gallup NRCS Field Office is located in Gallup, New Mexico. The office serves the McKinley Soil and Water Conservation District which covers land located in McKinley and Cibola counties. The area includes private land as well as tribal land located within the Navajo and Zuni Reservations. The majority of the land is used as grazed range for livestock production. There are irrigation land users in the Ramah Valley including Ramah Village farmers and Zuni tribal farmers.

**Local Work Group:** A meeting of the local work group was called by the McKinley SWCD in Gallup, NM on September 9, 2010. Various entities representing the diverse interest of the area were invited to attend. This included tribal offices for the Navajo Nation and Zuni Tribe as well as state and federal agencies involved with the lands in McKinley County. The LWG meeting was attended by members of the SWCD, USDA Farm Service Agency, McKinley County and Zuni Conservation Program.

**Priority Resource Concerns:** Consensus was reached by the Local Work Group to keep Grazing Lands (Rangeland) as the number one priority, with erosion, water quantity and quality, plant productivity, forage quality, and inadequate stock water as the main concerns. Irrigated Croplands as the second with water quantity and quality, plant condition, mainly productivity, and sheet and rill erosion, as the main concerns. Forested land is the third priority, with water quantity and quality, plant health and vigor, wildfire hazard, and wildlife population's imbalance, as the main concerns. Grazed forests will be covered under Grazing lands. It was agreed by the members that these three categories will capture most of the resource concerns within the SWCD and field office service area and will apply to both Tribal and Non-Tribal lands.

**Funding Considerations:** The LWG recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: 40% Irrigation, 40% Range, and 20% Forestry.

**Cost Share Rate Factor:** The LWG has decided to cap all practices at \$40,000.

The LWG has requested to recommend adding cattle guards as a cost share item on public domain roads due to the diverse status of land ownership and management by government agencies. Cost data for practice is being developed.

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

**Ranking Criteria:** Grazing and Forestry questions were changed for the 2010 ranking tool. No changes were recommended for the Irrigated Crop ranking questions.

Applicants will be categorized into High, Medium or Low depending on the ranking points received.

Please refer to the ranking criteria links for specific information.

**Watershed Initiative:** The LWG has decided not to pursue this for FY 2011.

**Small Acreage Initiative:** The LWG has decided not to commit any money to this matching fund.