

2014 Environmental Quality Incentive Program Proposal

For the Cuba Field Office

Introduction: The Cuba F.O. is located in Northwest New Mexico, approximately 60 miles NW of Albuquerque. The vast majority of the district is rangeland with an average elevation of 6000-8000 feet. Some minor farming involves hay land permanent pasture and irrigated cropland, the latter being found on Pueblo lands.

Local Work Group: The Local Work Group Meeting was held on September 12, 2013 at the Cuba SWCD New Office. The Local Work Group had representation from: Cuba SWCD, NRCS Cuba Field Office, New Mexico Ag Extension and NM Game and Fish. There was no tribal representation.

Priority Resource Concerns: The LWG has identified the following resource concerns:

Private Range Lands

1. Soil - Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill and Wind
2. Plant – Degraded plant condition – Excessive plant pest
3. Plant – Degraded plant condition – Inadequate structure and composition
4. Plant – Degraded plant condition – Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation

Private Irrigated Lands

1. Water - Insufficient water– Inefficient use of irrigation water
2. Plant – Degraded plant condition- Undesirable plant productivity and health
3. Plant – Degraded plant condition – Excessive plant pest pressure

Tribal Range lands

1. Animals- Livestock production limitation - Inadequate livestock water
2. Animals- Livestock production limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage

Tribal Irrigated Lands

Water - Water - Insufficient water– Inefficient use of irrigation water

Federal lands

1. Water – insufficient Water – inefficient moisture management
2. Animals- Livestock production limitation - Inadequate livestock water
3. Animals- Livestock production limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage

Funding Considerations:

Rangelands with 40%,

Irrigated lands with 40%

Woodlands 20%

Note: If there are any leftover moneys from Range or irrigation then that money goes to woodlands first, then Range then irrigation. **No cost caps on any practices for 2013.**

Cost share Rate Factor:

The LWG accepted the 75% cost share rate for all practices in the payment schedule. (No change)

Ranking Criteria**Points (200)****Grazing Land Questions:**

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Will this treatment include practices that will address invasive species?
(314, 666, 342, 550, 315, 528) | 75 |
| 2. Will this contract include rotation to address cool season grasses ?
(528, 550) | 50 |
| 3. Will this treatment include practices to address sheet and rill erosion?
(410, 550, 528, 362,548,561,600, 350, 342, 484,384) | 50 |
| 4. Will this treatment include practices to address woody debris after treatment along stream banks?
(348) | 25 |

Wood Land Questions:**Points (100)**

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Will the applicant treat woodlands for thinning? (666, 314, 384, 348) | 100 |
|--|-----|

Irrigated Cropland Questions:**Points (200)**

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Will this treatment include practices that will address water delivery efficiency?
428, 464, 430, 436, 443, 441, 442, 449, 466, 587 | 25 |
| 2. Will this treatment include practices that will address noxious and or invasive species?
327, 328, 340, 386, 512, 315, 484 | 25 |
| 3. Will this treatment include improving Pasture management?
511, 512, 315, 595, 608, 561, | 75 |
| 4. If this treatment includes forage and biomass planting or interceding, will the seed mix
Include native, dry land, and or drought tolerant species and varieties. | 75 |

Tie Breaker:

The criteria for the tie breaker in the Cuba Field Office will be tracking code assigned by protract. The highest number will be funded.

Watershed Initiative: None recommended for this year.

Small Acreage Initiative: None recommended for this year.