

2014 Environmental Quality Incentive Program Proposal

For the Datil Field Office

INTRODUCTION: The Datil Field Office is located in Datil, New Mexico. The office provides assistance to the Quemado and Salado Soil and Water Conservation Districts with a combined total of approximately 4.1 million acres. About 39% is Federal lands and 61% is private and state lands, almost all lands are rangeland or grazed woodlands. The Datil Field Office covers the northern and eastern parts of Catron County, the southern portion of Cibola County and the western portion of Socorro County. Topography is varied with elevations ranging from 4500 feet to 10,000 feet with much of the area above 6,000 feet. Soils vary from deep well drained loams and clays to shallow gravelly to rocky soils on mountain sides. Average rainfall ranges from 10 to 20 inches depending on elevation, with annual precipitation figures varying widely from year to year. Vegetation ranges from warm season grass species in lowland areas to cool season grass species in mountain highlands, common grass species include blue and black grama to pine associated bunch grasses. The predominant use of land at the present time is still ranching with more and more emphasis placed on hunting as a source of income. There is also a component of land being sold as subdivisions in the areas that contain suitable numbers of tree species.

LOCAL WORK GROUP: The Quemado and Salado SWCDs held a joint Local Work Group Meeting on September 5th, 1:00 p.m. at the NRCS Datil Field Office. Invitations were sent out to Federal, State, and County agencies with eleven participants attending, and assisting in developing the plan. Attendees represented NM State Forestry, Salado SWCD, US Forest Service, BLM and NRCS.

PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS: The local work group chose these priorities, in this order of importance, on rangeland/grazed forest –

1. Plant -
 - Degraded Plant Condition
 - Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
2. Water –
 - Insufficient Water
 - Inefficient Moisture Management
3. Animal -
 - Livestock Production Limitation
 - Inadequate Livestock Water
 - Inadequate Feed and Forage
4. Plant -
 - Degraded Plant Condition
 - Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
 - Inadequate Structure and Composition
 - Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
5. Soil -
 - Soil Erosion
 - Sheet, Rill, and Wind Erosion
 - Concentrated Flow Erosion
6. Soil –
 - Soil Quality Degradation
 - Organic Matter Depletion

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS: The Local Work Group would allocate monies received by the two Districts based on the same acreage figures used to determine the state allocation to the Datil Field Office, the funds would be split 55% to rangeland practices and 30% Forest practices and 15% to cropland

practices. These funds would be interchangeable if not otherwise obligated; funds would be interchangeable between districts also.

COST DOCKET: A new cost docket has not been received for the 2014 application year. The local work group reviewed the cost docket for FY13 and agreed on using FY13 costs until 2014 has been received.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES: The Local Work Group reviewed the NM Approved Practice List for EQIP and would recommend using it as is.

RANKING CRITERIA: The New Mexico – Datil Field Office, FY 2013 Ranking Criteria Worksheet – Grazing Lands, including attachment for riparian and/or grazed forest, or the New Mexico – Datil Field Office, FY 2013 Ranking Criteria Worksheet – Irrigated Cropland will be used as appropriate to prioritize applications for funding. Tie breaking will be resolved by way of number of resource concerns.

TIMELINES AND EVALUATION PERIODS: The proposed calendar for EQIP 2013 was reviewed. Applications are taken on a continuous basis with the batching period ending in late December^t. No additional batching periods are planned for this program year at this time.