



United States Department of Agriculture



New Mexico State Technical Committee Meeting

5/31/2023

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Agenda

Welcome/Introductions- Kenneth

State Conservationist- Xavier Montoya

Programs- NRCS Programs Staff

- 1. Post Inflationary Supplemental Payments- Kenneth**
- 2. Inflation Reduction Act- Kenneth**
- 3. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- Aaron Reynolds**
- 4. Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)- Aaron Reynolds**
- 5. Payment Schedule- Athena Cholas**
- 6. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)- Martin Meairs**
- 7. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)- Athena Cholas**
- 8. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)- Athena Cholas**

Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool/Conservation Desktop- Ana Gomes

Engineering Updates- Elias Gnann

Resource Technology Updates- Kenneth Alcon

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- Kris Graham Chavez

Partner Updates

Questions

Responsibilities of the STC

- Provide information, analysis, recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding
- Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs
- Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications
- Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data

Responsibilities (Cont)

- Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally
- Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups
- Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs

Recommendations Due Date will be set at next STC Meeting

Updated Program Deadlines

Program/Initiative	Application Deadline	Ranking	100% Obligation
EQIP Classic (Except CIC)	November 18, 2022	April 14, 2023	July 7, 2023
EQIP CIC	January 20, 2023	April 14, 2023	July 7, 2023
EQIP Burnlands	March 24, 2023	April 14, 2023	July 7, 2023
EQIP IRA	March 24, 2023	April 14, 2023	July 7, 2023
CSP IRA	March 24, 2023	May 12, 2023	July 7, 2023
CSP Classic	November 18, 2022	February 3, 2023	July 7, 2023
2023 CSP Renewals	April 15, 2022**	November 4, 2022	December 16, 2022
CSP- GCI-1	October 14, 2022**	NA	December 16, 2022
ACEP	November 18, 2022*	TBA	Sept 30, 2023
ACEP IRA	March 17, 2023**	April 24, 2023**	TBA**
CIG	May 1, 2023	May 15, 2023	Sept 30, 2023
*High Priority Applications. Second Sign up may be announce if needed			
** NHQ Established Deadline			



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Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments (PISPs)

Aaron Reynolds

Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments(PISPs)

- Previously, NRCS provided Financial Assistance through CARP to deal with higher commodity prices.
- Now, NRCS can assist producers with Post-Inflationary Supplemental payments(PISPs) for select practices completed between Jan 1, 2023 and September 1st 2023 if the following criteria are met.



Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments(PISPs) Requirements

- ☐ Must be active EQIP contract from FY(s) 2015-2023
- ☐ Practice must be an Eligible Practice (30 Practices)
- ☐ Practice was completed between Jan 1, 2023 and September 1, 2023
- ☐ Practices that have already received a CARP payment are NOT eligible to receive a PISP.****
- ☐ PISP payment must be \$300 or more
- ☐ PISP is only offered for installed practices(in the Event practices are found deficient after September 1st,2023, the producer will be given the opportunity to correct the practice and still receive the PISP payment)

Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments(PISPs) Requirements

- PISP payments will be made ***as soon as possible*** after the practice is fully installed.
 - ***staff should make every attempt to pay PISP prior to September 1st due to limited funds nationwide.
- PISP payments completed after September 1st 2023 will need to be completed by Jan 31st 2024.
- PISP not eligible for RCPP-EQIP currently



PISP Eligible Practices

Practice Code	Practice Name
325	High Tunnel System
327	Conservation Cover
367	Roofs and Covers
382	Fence
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
422	Hedgerow Planting
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
464	Irrigation Land Leveling
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
512	Pasture and Hay Planting
516	Livestock Pipeline
528	Prescribed Grazing
533	Pumping Plant
558	Roof Runoff Structure
560	Access Road
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
574	Spring Development
575	Trails and Walkways
576	Livestock Shelter Structure
578	Stream Crossing
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
642	Water Well
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
655	Forest Trails and Landings
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
666	Forest Stand Improvement



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Inflation Reduction Act IRA

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Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Signed into law in August 2022
- Investment in climate and clean energy
- Promote climate-smart agriculture and forestry greenhouse gas mitigation activities

Natural Resources Conservation Service				
Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List ⁽¹⁾ FY2023				
				
Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ⁽²⁾ (units)	CSP Enhancement Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Bundle and Enhancement Activity
Soil Health			B000BFF1	Buffer Bundle#1*
			B000CPL24	Cropland soil health management system*
			B000CPL25	Climate smart advanced soil health*
	327	Conservation Cover (acres)	E327A	Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects
	328	Conservation Crop Rotation (acres)	E327B	Establish Monarch butterfly habitat
			E328A	Resource conserving crop rotation
			E328B	Improved resource conserving crop rotation
			E328E	Soil health crop rotation
			E328F	Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E328G	Crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for soil organic matter improvement
	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (acres)	E328N	Intercropping to improve soil health
			E328O	Perennial grain crop conservation rotation
			E329A	No till to reduce soil erosion
			E329B	No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E329C	No till to increase plant-available moisture
			E329D	No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
	332	Contour Buffer Strips (acres)	E329E	No till to reduce energy
	340	Cover Crop (acres)	None Available	
			E340A	Cover crop to reduce soil erosion
			E340B	Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E340C	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E340D	Intensive orchard/vineyard floor cover cropping to increase soil health
			E340F	Cover crop to minimize soil compaction
			E340G	Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients
			E340H	Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles
			E340I	Using cover crops for biological strip till
			E345A	Reduced tillage to reduce soil erosion
	345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (acres)	E345B	Reduced tillage to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E345C	Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture
			E345D	Reduced tillage to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E345E	Reduced tillage to reduce energy use
	386	Field Border (acres)	E386A	Enhanced field borders to reduce soil erosion along the edge(s) of a field
			E386B	Enhanced field borders to increase carbon storage along the edge(s) of the field
			E386C	Enhanced field borders to decrease particulate emissions along the edge(s) of the field
			E386D	Enhanced field borders to increase food for pollinators along the edge(s) of a field
	393	Filter Strips (acres)	E386E	Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field
	412	Grassed Waterways (acres)	E393A	Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts
484	Mulching (acres)		E412A	Enhance a grassed waterway
			E484A	Mulching to improve soil health
			E484B	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
			E484C	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
585	Stripcropping (acres)			
601	Vegetative Barriers (feet)			
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (feet)			None Available

IRA Requirements

CSP & EQIP Use of Funds:

*The funds shall **only** be available for 1 or more agricultural conservation practices, enhancements, or bundles that the Secretary determines directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production;*

IRA Requirements

CONDITIONS.--The funds made available under subsection (a) are subject to the conditions that the Secretary shall not--

(1) Enter into any agreement--

(A) that is for a term extending beyond September 30, 2031;
or

(B) under which any payment could be outlaid or funds
disbursed after September 30, 2031; or

(2) Use any other funds available to the Secretary to
satisfy obligations initially made under this section.



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New Mexico

FY 2023 IRA

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FY 2023 IRA Contract Types

Available Funding: \$10,498,956

- CSP – \$5,688,656
 - \$4,788,656 initial
 - \$900,000 additional
- EQIP – \$4,810,300
 - \$3,110,300 initial
 - \$1.7 Million additional

Eligible IRA contract types:

- CSP Classic
- EQIP Classic

IRA Funding Period

- Participants will not need to submit a separate application.
- Application Deadline for CSP & EQIP was March 24, 2023
- Application Deadline for ACEP was March 17, 2023
 - Established by NHQ
 - Funds remain at NHQ

IRA Requirements

“IMPORTANT”

IRA funds:

- Cannot be combined with any other USDA program funding within a contract.
- Payments will count toward program-specific payment limitations

Application Processing

Cannot not use application types:

- Organic
 - Plan-Organic
 - OTI
-
- These application types have specific funding requirements that conflict with IRA funding requirements.

Key Points

- One or more core practices or activities must be planned in a contract.
- Facilitating practices and activities can receive payment but must directly support a core practice addressing climate change in the contract.
- IRA and non-IRA funds cannot be combined in a contract.
- Practices and activities must be implemented, and payments completed prior to September 30, 2031.



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IRA Core Practices



Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activity List

- FY23 list of NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities: nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf

Authorized IRA Conservation Practices

- **EQIP and CSP**
- One or more core Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) conservation practice or activity identify by NHQ.
- Facilitating practices and activities may be included if needed to implement the core practice.
 - Must provide IRA benefits
 - Meet NPPH definition
 - **Document the need**
 - Directly tie to the core practice

Facilitating Practices Enable Mitigation

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree Shrub Site Preparation (490)
Access Control (472)

Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Cover Crops (340)
Irrigation Water Management (449)
Pest Management Conservation System (595)

Waste Separation Facility (632)

Waste Transfer (634)
Roofs and Covers (367)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Watering Facility (614)
Stream Crossing (578)
Fence (382)
Livestock Shelter Structure (576)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Brush Management (314)
Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
Prescribed Grazing (528)

- IRA funding can also be used for practices needed to *facilitate a mitigation practice*.
- Here are some examples of conservation systems that include mitigation practices and the practices that may be needed to facilitate them.



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Projected IRA Allocations

EQIP

FY 24: \$19,742,359

FY 25: \$34,199,102

FY 26: \$39,403,529

CSP

FY 24: \$7,560,705

FY 25: \$15,221,485

FY 26: \$22,882,265

ACEP

FY 24: \$7,616,055

FY 25: \$9,139,266

Recommendations?



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Questions?

Email recommendations to
Kenneth.branch@usda.gov
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athena.cholas@usda.gov
martin.meairs@usda.gov

**Due date will be provided at next
STC Meeting (August)**



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Conservation Stewardship Program

STC Meeting

Martin Meairs



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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- **The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level.**
- **Provides funding for maintaining and improving existing conservation systems and practices and adopting additional conservation activities.**
- **5 year contracts with yearly payments**



CSP Ranking Pools



- Agland (range, crop and pasture)
- Agland - Beginning Farmer/Rancher
- Agland - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher
- Agland-Organic
- Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF)
- NIPF - Beginning Farmer/Rancher
- NIPF - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) - CSP



FY 2023 Application Status



FY 23 Classic CSP

- Total Applications Received - 149
- Selected for funding – 49
- Beginning Farmer Rancher (BFR) - 6
- Socially Disadvantaged (SD) – 16

FY23 IRA-CSP

- Total Applications Received – 25
- Selected for funding – 5
- SD - 3

FY23 CSP Renewals

- Total Applications Received - 20
- Funded – 20
- SD – 5
- BFR - 1



FY 2023 Funds Spent



FY23 Classic CSP Funds Allotted - \$18,267,744

- Agland General - \$6,622,987 – 34 Contracts Selected
- Agland BFR – \$1,348,762 – 6 Contracts Selected
- Agland SD – \$10,090,106 – 7 Contracts Selected
- NIPF General - \$205,889 – 2 Contracts Selected

FY23 IRA-CSP Funds Allotted - \$5,688,656

- Agland – 5 Contracts Selected

FY23 CSP Renewals Obligations

- Total Funds Spent - \$3,988,696 – 20 Contracts
- Agland General - \$2,432,090 – 14 Contracts
- Agland SD – \$1,356,606 – 5 Contracts
- Agland BFR - \$200,000 – 1 Contract



Resource Priorities



New Mexico Priority Resource Concerns	
Agland	Non-Industrial Private Forestland
Wind and Water Erosion	Wind and Water Erosion
Concentrated Erosion	Concentrated Erosion
Degraded Plant Condition	Degraded Plant Condition
Pest Pressure	Pest Pressure
Livestock Production Limitation	Livestock Production Limitation
Terrestrial Habitat	Terrestrial Habitat
Source Water Depletion	Inefficient Energy Use
Soil Quality Limitations	Fire Management

- Other Resource Concerns that are not listed as State Priority Resource Concern
 - Air quality emissions, Aquatic habitat, Field pesticide loss, Salt losses to water, Storage and handling of pollutants, Weather resilience
- Ranking considers the number of priority resource concerns met and addressed.



Ranking Weights



Category	Algorithm	Allowable Min	NM%	Allowable Max
Vulnerabilities	Adjustment (A)	5	5	10
Planned Practice Effects	Adjustment (C)	35	35	50
Resource Priorities	Default	15	35	35
Program Priorities	Default	15	15	35
Efficiencies	Default	10	10	10



Ranking Weights



Categories			
Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Air quality emissions	0	1	30
Aquatic habitat	0	1	30
Concentrated erosion	0	7	30
Degraded plant condition	0	15	30
Livestock production limitation	0	10	30
Pest pressure	0	5	30
Salt losses to water	0	2	30
Soil quality limitations	0	10	30
Source water depletion	0	10	30
Storage and handling of pollutants	0	1	30
Terrestrial habitat	0	13	30



Ranking Weights



Concentrated erosion			
Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels	0	20	50
Classic gully erosion	0	50	50
Ephemeral gully erosion	0	30	50

Livestock production limitation			
Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Feed and forage balance	0	50	50
Inadequate livestock shelter	0	10	50
Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution	0	40	50





Ranking Priorities

- **Implement a priority practice**
 - Prescribed Grazing
 - Residue Management, No-Till
 - Residue Management, Reduced Tillage
 - Pest Management
 - Cover Crops
 - Conservation Crop Rotation
 - Forage Harvest Management
- **Improve habitat for wildlife**
- **Establish pollinator habitat**
- **Fence retrofits as key wildlife crossings**
- **Escape ramps in existing troughs**
- **Adopt all activities by year 3**
- **Adopting Cover Crop Enhancements**
- **Does a planned practice complement an existing system and add a higher level of conservation**
- **Forest: reduce threat of wildfire, reduce pest damage**



Input

- What outreach materials and efforts are needed to increase adoption of cover crops and conservation crop rotation?
- What outreach materials and efforts are needed to increase forest applications and implementation of forest enhancements





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CSP Homepage



[Conservation Stewardship Program - New Mexico | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)



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State Technical Committee Meeting RCPP

May 31, 2023

Kris Graham Chavez



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Partner	RCPP #	Program	Expiration
Canadian River	560	2015 - RCPP	Completed
Acequia	89	2015 - RCPP	Completed
Restoration	514	2015 - RCPP	Completed
North Central	287	2015 - RCPP	Completed
Acequia	1446	2016 - RCPP	Completed
North Central	1525	2016 - RCPP	Completed
Soil Health	1530	2017- RCPP	Completed
Chama * No Cost Extension Granted	1542	2017- RCPP	2/28/2024
Canadian River	1544	2017- RCPP	Completed
Acequia * No Cost Extension Granted	1614	2017- RCPP	2/28/2024
North Central * Renewal	1615	2017- RCPP	Completed
NFWF * No Cost Extension Granted	1700	2018-RCPP	8/31/2024
North Central	1823	2018-RCPP	8/31/2023

Project #	Project Title	Lead Partner	Funding Amount	Funding Pool	CCA	Summary
1893 A-0040	San Juan Non-Native Phreatophyte Removal Program	San Juan SWCD	\$1,042,208.00	State	N/A	The San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District aims to protect reduce wildfire risk by removing non-native Russian olive and Salt Cedar infestations in identified high priority areas. The project will also undertake native plant and tree restoration activities to help restore riparian habitat and improve hydrology, involve the community in restoration and monitoring activities, and to encourage a renewed connection with the river.
1905 A-0056	Eastern New Mexico Prairie Grassland Initiative	NMACD	\$2,025,974.00	CCA	Prairie Grassland	To increase suitable and occupied habitat to meet critical habitat needs of Lesser Prairie-chicken. Habitat improvements will occur through chemical and physical destruction of Mesquite patches across five priority areas identified using a mesquite density model and a study by scientists at New Mexico State University.
514-2127 A-0057	2015 NM Restoration Initiative for Rangeland, Forestland, and Wildlife on Ranches w Fed Lands	NMACD	\$4,000,000.00	State		The New Mexico Restoration Initiative will utilize EQIP contracts with ranchers whose operations include federal lands.
287-2137 A-0046	2015 North Central NM Watershed Restoration Project	Claunch Pinto SWCD	\$2,313,359.00	State		Claunch-Pinto SWCD and its partners have identified over 35,000 acres for forest restoration treatments on private, public, state and tribal lands that are located within both the upland ponderosa pine, pinon, and juniper watersheds, and in the lower elevation riparian ones. Claunch-Pinto SWCD and their partners are committed to successful restoration treatments aimed at improving watershed health and mitigating the extreme risk of wildfire.

Deadlines



Program/Initiative	Application Deadline	Ranking	100% Obligation	Balance
2014 RCPP- Rio Chama (CSP only)	November 18, 2022	March 10, 2023	June 2, 2023	\$1,079,368.00
2014 RCPP- Pecos Watershed (NFWF) EQIP	November 18, 2022	March 17, 2023	June 2, 2023	\$184,345.00
2014 RCPP- Pecos Watershed (NFWF) CSP	November 18, 2022	March 17, 2023	June 2, 2023	\$64,970.00
2014 North Central	November 18, 2022	March 10, 2023	June 2, 2023	\$286,043.86
2018 RCPP- San Juan Phreatophyte Removal	November 18, 2022	March 10, 2023	June 2, 2023	
2018 RCPP- Eastern NM Grasslands	November 18, 2022	March 10, 2023	June 2, 2023	
2018 RCPP- Restoration - Renewal	November 18, 2022	March 10, 2023	June 2, 2023	
2018 RCPP-North Central - Renewal	November 18, 2022	March 10, 2023	June 2, 2023	
2018 New Mexico Ogallala Preservation & Conservation	TBA			

Supplemental Agreement

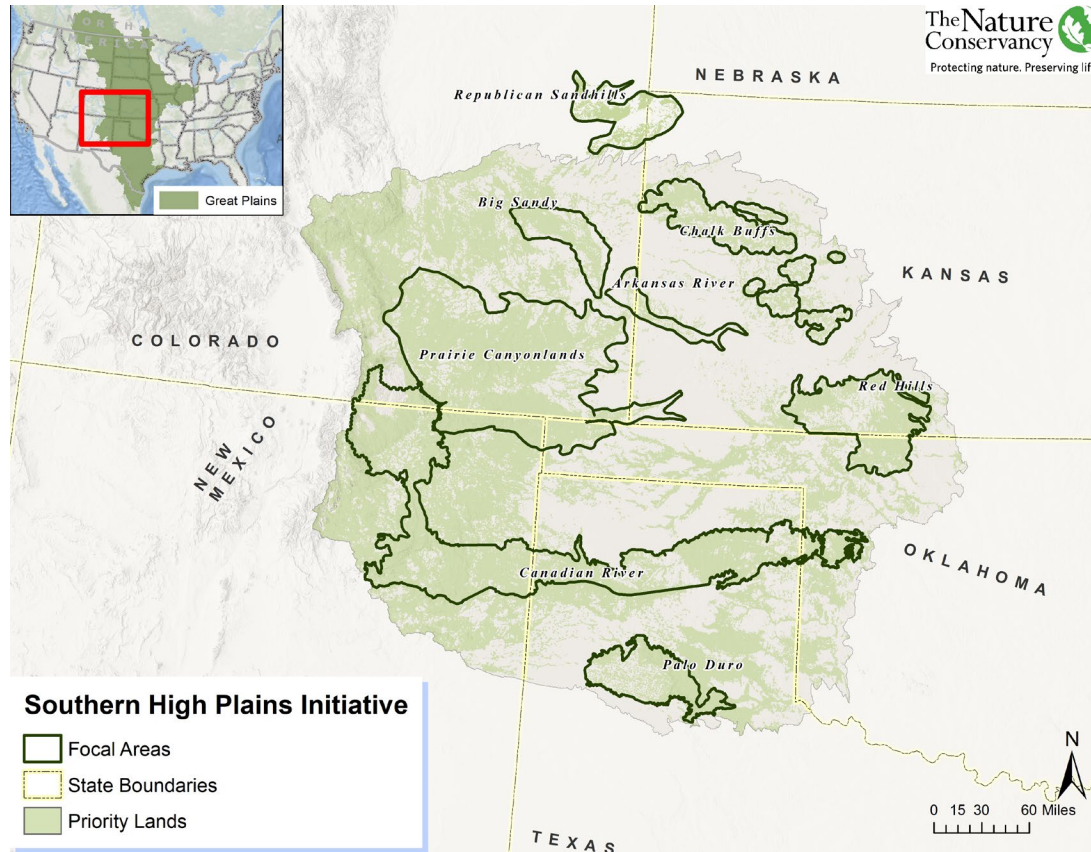


2553	New Mexico Ogallala Preservation & Conservation	NMACD	NM	\$2,184,900	\$15,109,920.00	CCA	The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts will offer land management contracts and entity-held easements to help Eastern New Mexican farmers convert irrigated cropland to dryland crops, pasture, or native grasslands to reduce groundwater pumping from the Ogallala Aquifer and maintain sustainability of agricultural communities. The land use conversions will significantly reduce tillage and soil erosion, as well as sequester carbon.	John Tunberg Ken Walker
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Review



2764	Establishment of Grassland Strongholds across the Southern High Plains	TNC	CO, KS, TX, NM	\$2,000,00 Rentals \$5,460,000 EHE	\$10,200,000	CCA		
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1893 San Juan Non-Native Phreatophyte Removal



1893 San Juan Non-Native Phreatophyte Removal

The San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District aims to protect and reduce wildfire risk by removing non-native Russian olive and Salt Cedar infestations in identified high-priority areas. The project will also undertake native plant and tree restoration activities to help restore riparian habitat and improve hydrology, involve the community in restoration and monitoring activities, and encourage a renewed connection with the river.

Removal of Russian olive and salt cedar has benefits that meet multiple regional priorities:

- Water Quantity (San Juan Regional Water Plan)
- Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration (Lower Animas Watershed Based Plan)
- Community Wildfire Protection (CWPP).

The most urgent of these regional priorities is wildfire protection. During the development of the CWPP, the Community Action Group (CAG) identified priority treatment areas for fuel reduction projects in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), to create defensible space, and to enhance public and firefighter safety.

Treatment of non-native woody invasive species will reduce overall fuel loading and thus fire intensity, turning a catastrophic, high-intensity wildfire that runs through the tree canopy into a low to moderate fire that may have beneficial effects to a riparian understory and reduce the likelihood that a wildfire would threaten lives or property.

Additionally, returning a riparian ecosystem to a natural heterogeneous mix of native species will reduce channelization, which increases downstream impacts of fires that occur upstream.

Allowing a more natural, native, and dynamic river course to catch sediment and debris after a wildfire will reduce the area downstream that experiences detrimental effects of sediment on municipal water systems, agricultural irrigation, and crop health.

Wildfires that occur within the wildland-urban



interface where forest thinning treatments have taken place may provide areas where firefighters could safely construct direct firelines or provide safe point-protection to homes rather than making attempts to construct an indirect fireline far ahead of a running fire. Aerial resources are often called in at great costs to the public in order to slow fires down so firefighters can have time to create firelines large enough to hopefully stop the spread of a wildfire. In untreated areas, it takes heavy equipment to remove these large trees. This takes more time than firefighters can spare. Large treated areas can now be safety zones, whereas before, would only marginally be considered a deployment zone. Treating these overgrown stands may allow property owners to shelter in place safely, should escape routes be compromised, until such time that it is safe to evacuate an area due to smoke or other hazardous situations.

Eligibility: Projects must be located in the Geographic Priority Area. (see attached map)

Lead Partner: San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District

Other Partners: NM State Forestry, San Juan County Extension Service, NM Game and Fish and Farmington Fire Department

Resource Concerns: Degraded Plant Condition, Fire Management, Terrestrial Habitat

Activity Types: Land Management

Start Date: 10/6/22
End Date: 12/31/27

Eligible Practices: Forest Stand Improvement (666), Woody Residue Treatment (384), Brush Management (314) other Facilitating Practices may be used.

Financial Assistance Available: \$750,000

Deadlines: November 18, 2022

Ranking Deadline: March 10, 2023

100% Obligations: June 2, 2023

2137 North Central NM Watershed Restoration



2137 North Central NM Watershed Restoration Project

Claunich-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and their partners have identified over 35,000 acres for forest restoration treatments on private, public, state, and tribal lands that are located within both the upland ponderosa pine, pinon, and juniper watersheds, and in the lower elevation riparian ones. Claunich-Pinto SWCD and their partners are committed to successful restoration treatments aimed at improving watershed health and mitigating the extreme risk of wildfire.

There are many expected outcomes that will benefit the environment that will have positive impacts on both the local economics and social programs within the project area. The project partners have a goal to treat 5,000 acres of riparian woodlands and 15,000 acres of upland watershed vegetation within this five-year project which will enhance and restore a multi-jurisdictional regional landscape (through the use of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program). Upland forest watersheds are the primary sources of water in New Mexico, while the riparian woodland corridors protect the streams and rivers that serve as the conduits for water to downstream locations of agricultural and domestic use. These treatments will enhance and restore the upland watershed source areas and the riparian buffers within the western edge of the Pecos River Watershed and along the Rio Grande, including adjacent tributaries and the upper watersheds. By reducing the forest density and structure, as well as the removal of noxious and invasive exotic plant species, this environmental restoration will make areas more resilient to wildfire and drought, thus protecting ecosystem resources and services, including water quality and quantity,

soil resources, vegetative resources, wildlife resources, air quality, and economic resources such as homes, businesses, and ranches. It is expected that this project will recruit new members from economically and socially disadvantaged areas and provide opportunities to build capacity in these areas.



Claunich-Pinto Soil & Water Conservation District

Eligibility: Projects must be located in the Geographic Priority Area. (see attached map)

Start Date: 10/18/22 **End Date:** 12/31/27

Resource Concerns: Degraded Plant Condition, Fire Management, Long Term Protection Land, Soil Quality Limitations, Wind and Water Erosion

Eligible Practices: Forest Stand Improvement (666) Woody Residue Treatment (384) Brush Management (314) Facilitating Practices may be used.

Financial Assistance Available: \$1,781,000

Deadlines: November 18, 2022

Ranking Deadline: March 10, 2023

100% Obligations: June 2, 2023

Lead Partner Organization:

Claunich-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District

Other Partners:

Forest Service, McKinley SWCD, NM Highlands University, NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Santa Fe Pojoaque SWCD, Coronado SWCD, Taos SWCD, Cuba SWCD, East Torrance SWCD, East Rio Arriba SWCD



1905 Eastern New Mexico Prairie Grassland



1905 Eastern New Mexico Prairie Grassland

This initiative is to increase suitable and occupied habitat to meet critical habitat needs of Lesser Prairie-chicken. Habitat improvements will occur through chemical and physical destruction of Mesquite patches across five priority areas identified using a mesquite density model and a study by scientists at New Mexico State University.

Environmental: LPC priority areas will be treated to maximize restoration or creation of LEK areas, brood rearing and foraging areas. Mesquite and associated woody species density will be significantly reduced in treatment areas which will have benefits for grassland nesting birds and other wildlife species. Prairie grassland habitats are listed as threatened in this area. This proposal offers the opportunity to make more suitable habitat adjacent to occupied habitats. Research demonstrates LPC will not travel far to establish new lek areas. This treatment addresses that issue.

Economic: LPC have wavered on the cusp of listing under the endangered species act for a decade. Agricultural and oil and gas interests would be adversely affected if formal listing were to occur. These same interests have cooperated for a decade to expand habitat for LPC. These partners see healthy populations as a buffer against listing and the hardship that would cause. This proposal offers the opportunity to make more suitable habitat in the midst of occupied habitats. LPC will not travel far to establish new lek areas.

Social: LPC existence and viewing are celebrated each year in this area during the prairie chicken festival. Hundreds of people travel to Milnesand, NM to participate and appreciate these iconic grassland birds. Any expanded opportunity

to view LPC on the lek will resonate across the bird watching world as viewing the mating dance is considered a rare and important event in that community. Additionally keeping the LPC from being listed will allow local agricultural and energy economies to continue to grow without the regulatory encumbrance caused by listing.



Lead Partner Organization:
NM Association of Conservation Districts

Other Partners:
Bureau of Land Management, NM
State Land Office, NM
Game and Fish

Start Date: 7/29/22

End Date: 12/31/27

Resource Concerns:
Degraded Plant Condition, Fire Management, Soil Quality Limitations, Terrestrial Habitat

Activity Types:
Land Management

Eligible Practices:
Woody Residue Treatment (384)
Brush Management (314) other facilitating practices may be used.

Financial Assistance Available: \$1,500,000

Deadlines:
November 18, 2022

Ranking Deadline:
March 10, 2023

100% Obligations:
June 2, 2023



2127 NM Restoration Initiative for Rangeland, Forestland and Wildlife on Ranches with Federal Lands Initiative Project



2127 New Mexico Restoration Initiative for Rangeland, Forestland and Wildlife on Ranches with Federal Lands Initiative Project

This Initiative will utilize RCPP contracts with landowners whose operations include federal lands. Additional agreements submitted by partners will add funds and leverage RCPP funds to extend projects. This will increase the scope of practices implemented, and encourage additional practices treating critical resource concerns.

Projects will treat private, tribal, state, and federal lands while maintaining agricultural and energy production, supporting operation sustainability and maintaining cultural traditions, and addressing social and environmental justice issues will be emphasized. This project will be modeled after the "Restore New Mexico" and "RCPP 2017 Soil" projects. Funds from NRCS, BLM, USFS, NMMA, NMED, NMACD, tribes, and private industry will be combined to accomplish treatment on over 250,000 acres of brush-invaded range lands and dense forest land. Approximately 30 ranchers in 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts will develop Coordinated Resource Management Plans that are essential to effective agency coordination and land treatment. An example of the cost-effectiveness of this proposed approach is that "Restore New Mexico" was nationally recognized for wildlife habitat restoration when it received the

Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award on May 30, 2012, in Washington, DC.

Past approaches where ranchers and land management agencies independently apply restoration projects can be inefficient, fragmented, unfocused, small-scaled, and not cost-effective.

Independently applied isolated projects have not addressed resource concerns on a landscape/watershed scale. Larger scale projects address critical issues of habitat connectivity essential for wildlife adaptation to climate variability. Due to historic settlement patterns, private lands are largely located in the lower portions of a watershed. Upper watersheds are mostly managed by BLM or USFS. This initiative will facilitate broad-scale treatments.



Lead Partner Organization: New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts

Other Partners: Bureau of Land Management

Eligibility: Projects must be located in the Geographic Priority Area. (see attached map)

Start Date: 5/25/22
End Date: 12/31/27

Resource Concerns:
Degraded Plant Condition, Soil Quality Limitations, Terrestrial Habitat

Activity Types:
Land Management

Eligible Practices:
Forest Stand Improvement (666)
Woody Residue Treatment (384)
Brush Management (314) other facilitating practices may be used.

Financial Assistance Available:
\$3,080,000

Deadlines:
November 18, 2022

Ranking Deadline:
March 10, 2023

100% Obligations:
June 2, 2023



CRMP Process



Once participant completes the application process, the NRCS conservationist will contact the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) to allow for the Conservation Planning and Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) to begin. NMACD will:

- contact producer and begin planning process.
- work with producer to complete Phase I and II of the planning process.
- share all documents with NRCS so ranking may begin. NRCS will complete ranking. Those who rank highest will receive a contract. Producer will be notified, conservation contracting development will begin and CRMP will be finalized.
- will keep in contact with Field Office staff to ensure all planning, NEPA documents are being completed.



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QUESTIONS?



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State Technical Committee FY 2023

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Payment schedules for EQIP and CSP



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CONSERVATION BASICS

GETTING ASSISTANCE

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

RESOURCES

For over 80 years, we've helped America's farmers, ranchers, and landowners conserve our nation's resources through our voluntary programs and science-based solutions.

Technical Help

Financial Help

Compliance and Cultural

Resources

Other Topics

Applications and Forms

Find more information on how to apply for NRCS conservation programs.

Conservation Compliance: Wetlands and Highly Erodible Land Provisions

To maintain eligibility for most USDA programs, producers must comply with wetland

Payment Schedules

Review the amount and availability of financial assistance for selected conservation practices in your state.

Ranking Dates

Applications for NRCS conservation programs are ranked and funded at key times throughout the year.

Payment Schedules (Rates) by State

Each year, NRCS re-evaluates the amount of financial assistance available for each activity in each state. These evaluations consider the current costs for material and labor within the state and also the fair marketplace compensation for opportunity costs that may arise (e.g. conversion of productive land). If necessary, the amount of financial assistance is adjusted to keep pace with actual costs.

FY2023 Payment Rates | [States A - H](#) | [States I - M](#) | [States N - P](#) | [States R - W](#)

Alabama

- [Alabama-ACEP-ALE](#)
- [Alabama-CSP-GCI](#)
- [Alabama-CStwP](#)
- [Alabama-EQIP](#)
- [Alabama-Scenarios](#)

314	Brush Management		
314	Brush Management		
	Chemical - Ground Applied	Ac	\$50.76
	HU-Chemical - Ground Anplied	Ac	\$60.92

After Situation:
 A 50 acre unit of pasture, grazed range, or grazed forest where reductio
 treatment chemical application to address plant, animal, and wildlife re:

Feature Measure: Acres planned

Scenario Unit: Acres

Scenario Typical Size: 50.00

Scenario Total Cost: \$3,384.36
 Scenario Cost/Unit: \$67.69

Cost Details:		
Component Name	ID	
Equipment Installation		
Truck, Pickup	939	Equipment and power un
Chemical, ground application	948	Chemical application perf equipment, power unit ar
Labor		

Alaska

- [Alaska ACEP-ALE](#)
- [Alaska CSP-GCI](#)
- [Alaska CStwP](#)
- [Alaska EQIP](#)
- [Alaska RCPP-CSP](#)
- [Alaska RCPP-EQIP](#)
- [Alaska Scenarios](#)



Percentage Rates



Program Variant	Equipment Installation	Materials	Labor	Mobilization	Acquisition of Technical Knowledge	Foregone Income
EQIP	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	100%
EQIP-Hu	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	100%

Payment percentages for EQIP and RCPP are maximum allowed by policy.

The median income in NM and per capita income for NM is below the national average. Due to the low average income, this payment rate is needed and has proven to be successful in garnering enough participant interest to ensure conservation is being implemented where it has the largest environmental benefit. Data is from the US - Census Quick Facts, accessed October 17, 2022



Soil Carbon Amendment (336)

- Payment scenarios for use of compost, biochar, and compost+biochar



United States Department of Agriculture

808-CPS-1

Natural Resources Conservation Service CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD SOIL CARBON AMENDMENT

CODE 808

(ac)

DEFINITION

Using carbon-based amendments to increase soil carbon and improve the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Maintain, increase, or improve soil organic matter quantity and quality
- Maintain or improve soil aggregate stability
- Maintain or improve habitat for soil organisms
- Improve plant productivity and health
- Improve the efficient use of irrigation water

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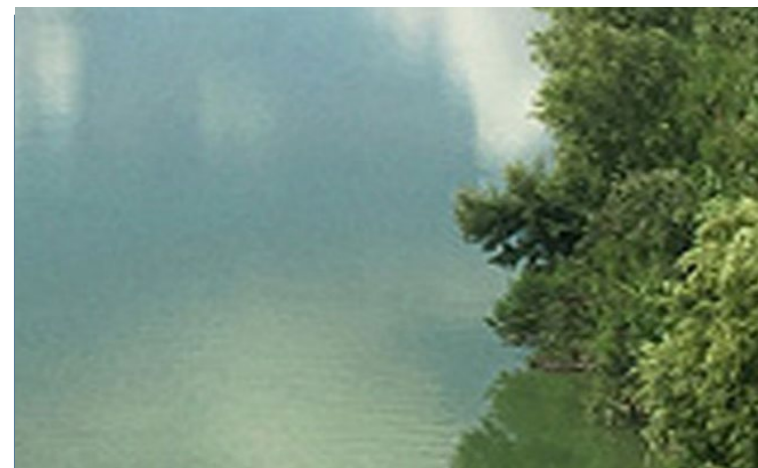


Small Farm Scenarios

- 37 conservation practices with a small farm scenario created nationally.
- Pay by square foot or each.
- Pays more by unit than non-small scenarios.
- Issues
 - no definition of “small”
 - no consistency in typical scenario size.



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Conservation Easements

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FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Payment Schedules (Rates) by State

Each year, NRCS re-evaluates the amount of financial assistance available for each activity in each state. These evaluations consider the current costs for material and labor within the state and also the fair marketplace compensation for opportunity costs that may arise (e.g. conversion of productive land). If necessary, the amount of financial assistance is adjusted to keep pace with actual costs.

FY2023 Payment Rates | [States A - H](#) | [States I - M](#) | [States N - P](#) | [States R - W](#)

Alabama

- [Alabama-ACEP-ALE](#)
- [Alabama-CSP-GCI](#)
- [Alabama-CStwP](#)
- [Alabama-EQIP](#)
- [Alabama-Scenarios](#)

Alaska

- [Alaska ACEP-ALE](#)
- [Alaska CSP-GCI](#)
- [Alaska CStwP](#)
- [Alaska EQIP](#)
- [Alaska RCPP-CSP](#)
- [Alaska RCPP-EQIP](#)
- [Alaska Scenarios](#)



Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)- General

Priorities

- Valencia County +20 points
- Rio Grande +50 points
- Proximity to riparian area
- Metropolitan areas: +25 points
Albuquerque, Las Cruces,
Santa Fe, Farmington.
+20 points

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) - GSS

Priorities

+75 points

- Proximity to Rio Grande, Pecos, Gila, San Juan or Canadian River.
- Contains riparian or perennial water.

+100 points



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Input on applications and ranking

- New Mexico has received the funding needed for all applications, so additional ranking criteria has not been necessary.
- Any input on where to direct outreach efforts to increase applications?



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IRA- Agricultural Land Easements



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Wetland Reserve Easement

States must develop a compensation rate that does not overcompensate landowners and that encourages the enrollment of the types and classes of lands with superior restoration potential.

GARCs should reflect the value that the State conservationist determines to be fair compensation for the rights being acquired.

Can be set by

- geographic area, northern NM vs south
- land type, example forest vs irrigated crop
- wetland type: montane, playa

Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)

Geographic area rate cap (GARC)

- 1) Current GARC for permanent easements is 90% of market value.
- 2) Maximum easement payment is currently \$5,000/acre. ~~Exceptions can be granted.~~
- 3) Water rights are sold on low end at \$12,000 per acre-foot.

Grazed land, no water rights	Not to exceed \$5,000
Land with water rights	Not to exceed \$8,000 per acre.



Wetland Restoration Criteria Guidelines

Restoration Requirements

- ❖ Playas- require cattle exclusion a minimum of 100 feet from high water mark of the playa.
- ❖ Playas- require removal of accumulated sediment and fill drainage features.
- ❖ For sites with flowing perennial water, install beaver dam analogs if beavers are not currently on site.
- ❖ NRCS will pay for removal of invasive species such as salt cedar and Russian olive for 3 years.



Compatible Use Authorization Guidelines

Haying and Mowing is allowed

- ❖ after the end of the State Primary Nesting Season (PNS) identified for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and must be completed by September 1, or
- ❖ Other dates if supported by technical factors and input received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Farm Service Agency, State Technical Committee, and State wildlife agencies.
- ❖ Proposal: Mowing for passive recreational trails is allowed once during the nesting season and once prior to the nesting season to keep vegetation low. Trails will be walked prior to mowing to ensure nests have not been built in the low vegetation. Trails will not exceed 12-foot width.



WRE Partnerships (WREP)

- WREP provides funding to partners to increase WRE outreach and restoration.
- Partners must **provide a 10-percent cash** and/or in-kind match towards easement acquisition due diligence costs or actual easement restoration costs.
- Texas received \$1.5 million to secure easements around playas. Ducks Unlimited, Playa Lakes Joint Venture and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will target playas surrounding local towns and communities whose available drinking water is impacted due to heavy center pivot irrigation activities.

EWP Floodplain Easements

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM (EWP)

FLOOD PLAIN EASEMENT OPTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) that assists sponsors and landowners to protect lives and property from flooding or soil erosion after a natural disaster. The EWP Program is designed for emergency recovery work, including the purchase of floodplain easements. In communities impacted by constant flooding, an easement might be the best solution. Limited Resource Areas (LRAs) are a priority for available funding.





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Delivering Results for Agriculture and Conservation

Conservation Innovation Grants



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State priorities



- Increased reliance on biodiversity to control pests.
- Soil health management systems.
- Water conservation.
- Fish and wildlife habitat.
- New priority: Provide non-lethal alternatives to predator management and/or that decrease mortality of livestock with shelter or management.

- Search for “CIG NRCS NM” for more info.

[Conservation Innovation Grants Program \(CIG\) - New Mexico | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

NM typically allocates \$50,000 per year.



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athena.cholas@usda.gov



United States Department of Agriculture



New Mexico State Technical Committee Meeting

5/31/2023

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Agenda

Welcome/Introductions- Kenneth

State Conservationist- Xavier Montoya

Programs- NRCS Programs Staff

- 1. Post Inflationary Supplemental Payments- Kenneth**
- 2. Inflation Reduction Act- Kenneth**
- 3. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- Aaron Reynolds**
- 4. Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP- Aaron Reynolds**
- 5. Payment Schedule- Athena Cholas**
- 6. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)- Martin Meairs**
- 7. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)- Athena Cholas**
- 8. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)- Athena Cholas**

Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool/Conservation Desktop- Ana Gomes

Engineering Updates- Elias Gnann

Resource Technology Updates- Kenneth Alcon

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- Kris Graham Chavez

Partner Updates

Questions

Responsibilities of the STC

- Provide information, analysis, recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding
- Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs
- Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications
- Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data

Responsibilities (Cont)

- Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally
- Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups
- Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs

Recommendations Due Date will be set at next STC Meeting

Updated Program Deadlines

Program/Initiative	Application Deadline	Ranking	100% Obligation
EQIP Classic (Except CIC)	November 18, 2022	April 14, 2023	July 7, 2023
EQIP CIC	January 20, 2023	April 14, 2023	July 7, 2023
EQIP Burnlands	March 24, 2023	April 14, 2023	July 7, 2023
EQIP IRA	March 24, 2023	April 14, 2023	July 7, 2023
CSP IRA	March 24, 2023	May 12, 2023	July 7, 2023
CSP Classic	November 18, 2022	February 3, 2023	July 7, 2023
2023 CSP Renewals	April 15, 2022**	November 4, 2022	December 16, 2022
CSP- GCI-1	October 14, 2022**	NA	December 16, 2022
ACEP	November 18, 2022*	TBA	Sept 30, 2023
ACEP IRA	March 17, 2023**	April 24, 2023**	TBA**
CIG	May 1, 2023	May 15, 2023	Sept 30, 2023
*High Priority Applications. Second Sign up may be announce if needed			
** NHQ Established Deadline			



United States Department of Agriculture

Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments (PISPs)

Aaron Reynolds

Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments(PISPs)

- Previously, NRCS provided Financial Assistance through CARP to deal with higher commodity prices.
- Now, NRCS can assist producers with Post-Inflationary Supplemental payments(PISPs) for select practices completed between Jan 1, 2023 and September 1st 2023 if the following criteria are met.



Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments(PISPs) Requirements

- ☐ Must be active EQIP contract from FY(s) 2015-2023
- ☐ Practice must be an Eligible Practice (30 Practices)
- ☐ Practice was completed between Jan 1, 2023 and September 1, 2023
- ☐ Practices that have already received a CARP payment are NOT eligible to receive a PISP.****
- ☐ PISP payment must be \$300 or more
- ☐ PISP is only offered for installed practices(in the Event practices are found deficient after September 1st,2023, the producer will be given the opportunity to correct the practice and still receive the PISP payment)

Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments(PISPs) Requirements

- PISP payments will be made ***as soon as possible*** after the practice is fully installed.
 - ***staff should make every attempt to pay PISP prior to September 1st due to limited funds nationwide.
- PISP payments completed after September 1st 2023 will need to be completed by Jan 31st 2024.
- PISP not eligible for RCPP-EQIP currently



PISP Eligible Practices

Practice Code	Practice Name
325	High Tunnel System
327	Conservation Cover
367	Roofs and Covers
382	Fence
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
422	Hedgerow Planting
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
464	Irrigation Land Leveling
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
512	Pasture and Hay Planting
516	Livestock Pipeline
528	Prescribed Grazing
533	Pumping Plant
558	Roof Runoff Structure
560	Access Road
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
574	Spring Development
575	Trails and Walkways
576	Livestock Shelter Structure
578	Stream Crossing
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
642	Water Well
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
655	Forest Trails and Landings
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
666	Forest Stand Improvement



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Inflation Reduction Act IRA

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FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Signed into law in August 2022
- Investment in climate and clean energy
- Promote climate-smart agriculture and forestry greenhouse gas mitigation activities

Natural Resources Conservation Service				
Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List ^[1] FY2023				
Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ^[2] (units)	CSP Enhancement Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Bundle and Enhancement Activity
			B000BFF1	Buffer Bundle#1*
			B000CPL24	Cropland soil health management system*
			B000CPL25	Climate smart advanced soil health*
Soil Health	327	Conservation Cover (acres)	E327A	Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects
			E327B	Establish Monarch butterfly habitat
			E328A	Resource conserving crop rotation
			E328B	Improved resource conserving crop rotation
			E328E	Soil health crop rotation
			E328F	Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
	328	Conservation Crop Rotation (acres)	E328G	Crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for soil organic matter improvement
			E328N	Intercropping to improve soil health
			E328O	Perennial grain crop conservation rotation
			E329A	No till to reduce soil erosion
			E329B	No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E329C	No till to increase plant-available moisture
			E329D	No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E329E	No till to reduce energy
	332	Contour Buffer Strips (acres)		None Available
			E340A	Cover crop to reduce soil erosion
			E340B	Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E340C	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E340D	Intensive orchard/vineyard floor cover cropping to increase soil health
			E340F	Cover crop to minimize soil compaction
			E340G	Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients
			E340H	Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles
			E340I	Using cover crops for biological strip till
			E345A	Reduced tillage to reduce soil erosion
			E345B	Reduced tillage to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E345C	Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture
			E345D	Reduced tillage to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E345E	Reduced tillage to reduce energy use
			E386A	Enhanced field borders to reduce soil erosion along the edge(s) of a field
			E386B	Enhanced field borders to increase carbon storage along the edge(s) of the field
			E386C	Enhanced field borders to decrease particulate emissions along the edge(s) of the field
			E386D	Enhanced field borders to increase food for pollinators along the edge(s) of a field
			E386E	Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field
	393	Filter Strips (acres)	E393A	Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts
	412	Grassed Waterways (acres)	E412A	Enhance a grassed waterway
			E484A	Mulching to improve soil health
			E484B	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
			E484C	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
	585	Stripcropping (acres)		
	601	Vegetative Barriers (feet)		
	603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (feet)		
				None Available

IRA Requirements

CSP & EQIP Use of Funds:

*The funds shall **only** be available for 1 or more agricultural conservation practices, enhancements, or bundles that the Secretary determines directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production;*

IRA Requirements

CONDITIONS.--The funds made available under subsection (a) are subject to the conditions that the Secretary shall not--

(1) Enter into any agreement--

(A) that is for a term extending beyond September 30, 2031;
or

(B) under which any payment could be outlaid or funds
disbursed after September 30, 2031; or

(2) Use any other funds available to the Secretary to
satisfy obligations initially made under this section.



United States Department of Agriculture

New Mexico

FY 2023 IRA

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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FY 2023 IRA Contract Types

Available Funding: \$10,498,956

- CSP – \$5,688,656
 - \$4,788,656 initial
 - \$900,000 additional
- EQIP – \$4,810,300
 - \$3,110,300 initial
 - \$1.7 Million additional

Eligible IRA contract types:

- CSP Classic
- EQIP Classic



IRA Funding Period

- Participants will not need to submit a separate application.
- Application Deadline for CSP & EQIP was March 24, 2023
- Application Deadline for ACEP was March 17, 2023
 - Established by NHQ
 - Funds remain at NHQ

IRA Requirements

“IMPORTANT”

IRA funds:

- Cannot be combined with any other USDA program funding within a contract.
- Payments will count toward program-specific payment limitations

Application Processing

Cannot not use application types:

- Organic
 - Plan-Organic
 - OTI
-
- These application types have specific funding requirements that conflict with IRA funding requirements.

Key Points

- One or more core practices or activities must be planned in a contract.
- Facilitating practices and activities can receive payment but must directly support a core practice addressing climate change in the contract.
- IRA and non-IRA funds cannot be combined in a contract.
- Practices and activities must be implemented, and payments completed prior to September 30, 2031.



United States Department of Agriculture

IRA Core Practices



Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activity List

- FY23 list of NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities: nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf

Authorized IRA Conservation Practices

- **EQIP and CSP**
- One or more core Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) conservation practice or activity identify by NHQ.
- Facilitating practices and activities may be included if needed to implement the core practice.
 - Must provide IRA benefits
 - Meet NPPH definition
 - **Document the need**
 - Directly tie to the core practice

Facilitating Practices Enable Mitigation

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree Shrub Site Preparation (490)
Access Control (472)

Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Cover Crops (340)
Irrigation Water Management (449)
Pest Management Conservation System (595)

Waste Separation Facility (632)

Waste Transfer (634)
Roofs and Covers (367)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Watering Facility (614)
Stream Crossing (578)
Fence (382)
Livestock Shelter Structure (576)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Brush Management (314)
Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
Prescribed Grazing (528)

- IRA funding can also be used for practices needed to *facilitate a mitigation practice*.
- Here are some examples of conservation systems that include mitigation practices and the practices that may be needed to facilitate them.



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Projected IRA Allocations

EQIP

FY 24: \$19,742,359

FY 25: \$34,199,102

FY 26: \$39,403,529

CSP

FY 24: \$7,560,705

FY 25: \$15,221,485

FY 26: \$22,882,265

ACEP

FY 24: \$7,616,055

FY 25: \$9,139,266

Recommendations?



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Questions?

Email recommendations to
Kenneth.branch@usda.gov
aaron.Reynolds@usda.gov
athena.cholas@usda.gov
martin.meairs@usda.gov

**Due date will be provided at next
STC Meeting (August)**



United States Department of Agriculture

CART- CD

State Technical Committee- May 31, 2023

Ana Gomes- *Natural Resources Specialist*

Business and Planning tools -Resource Technology Services-
NRCS



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What is CART?

- Conservation
- Assessment
- Ranking
- Tool

- Set of Business Practices to streamline Conservation Planning and Program Delivery
- Program Neutral integrated Information Technology (IT) Software Application



Any USDA
Conservation
Program!

Conservation Desktop-CD

CONSERVATION DESKTOP
A CDSI Solution

Training Site

Funds CCG Reports Documents Tasks

LEONARD

The_Big_CART_Farm---Leo_CA...

40 Field Test

- Manage Practice Schedule
- Assess**
- Practice Schedule Approval
- Close Practice Schedule
- Manage Client Associations
- Open Agreement
- Create/Edit Practices
- Create/Edit Agreement Items

Active PLUs Case PLUs Practice Schedule PLUs Practice Schedule

Table Options Show Tables

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

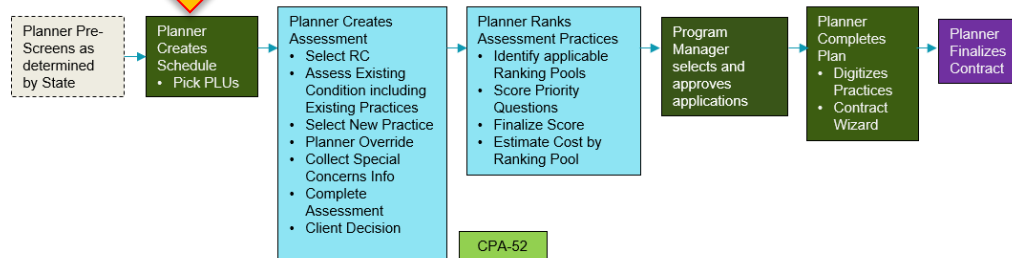
[NRCS Home](#) |
 [USDA gov](#) |
 [Site Map](#) |
 [Civil Rights](#) |
 [FOIA](#) |
 [Accessibility Statement](#) |
 [Request Accessibility Assistance](#) |
 [Conservation Desktop Help Desk Portal](#) |
 [Privacy Policy](#) |
 [Non-Discrimination Statement](#) |
 [Information Quality](#) |
 [USA gov](#) |
 [Whitehouse gov](#) |
 Conservation Desktop Version 3.1 Release

Create Schedule

- Identify or create case
- Create practice schedule
- Add PLUs
- keep the Tracts and PLUs matching the FSA CLU boundaries as closely as possible.



How does CART Work? Inside of CD.

How does CART work? => Integrating IT



Phase I

Collect & Analyze

- Identify Problem
- Determine Objective
- Inventory Resources
- Analyze Resource Data

Phase II

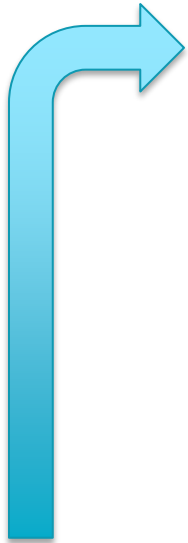
Decision Support

- Formulate Alternatives
- Evaluate Alternatives
- Make Decision

Phase III

Implementation & Evaluation

- Implementation Requirements
- Implement the Plan
- Evaluate the Plan



Conservation Desktop

Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool

Environmental Assessment

Resource Concerns
Planning Criteria (Threshold)
Existing Conditions

Conservation Plan

CAPS – Resource Assessment
Conservation Practices
Economics

Protracts

Funds Manager

CAPS - Designs Checkout

Future

CAPS - Outcomes

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How does CART Work? – Planning Steps

Assessment results for CART UAT DEMO 20190822

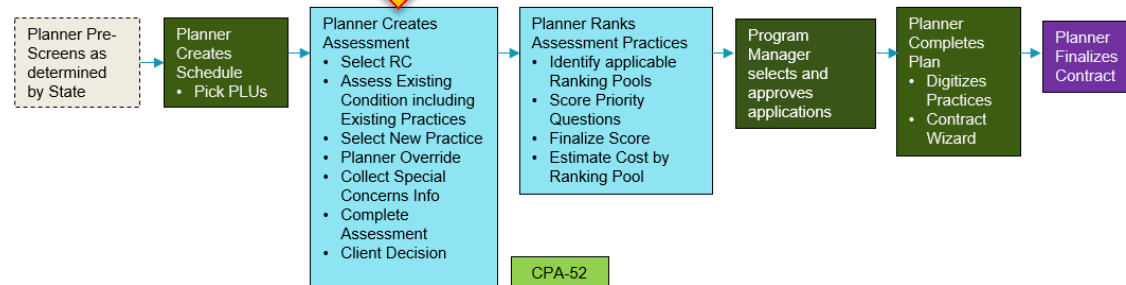
Assessment Date: 08-26-2019 **Assessment Status:** In Assessment **Client Name:** TOBYN V GUTIERREZ
Case Name: Stroda_Kevin---130235se4 **Planner Name:** Chad Volkman **Schedule Name:** CART UAT DEMO 20190822
Schedule Status: Active

Assessment Dashboard

i Status for survey sections are shown below for each Tract/Land Unit

Assessed Tract / Land Unit	Land Use	PLU Modifiers	Acres	Resource Concerns	Resource Inventory	Existing Practices	Planned Practices	Overall Status	Results
▼ ☒ 964	--	--	--	☒ Complete	☐ Not Started	☐ Not Started	☐ Not Started	☒ In Progress	Not Met
☒ 964 / 1	Crop	Irrigated/ Drained	79	☒ Complete	☐ Not Started	☐ Not Started	☐ Not Started	☒ In Progress	Not Met

Questions like
“is there cover out there”,
percentage?



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How does CART work? – Steps 1 and 2

Plant Degradation – Plant Structure and Composition - Forestry - Threshold

Each PLU for forest will have a threshold value of 50 set and a benchmark condition set of questions.



Results for Land Unit

Resource Concerns	Components	Existing Conditions	Existing Practices	Existing Total	Planned Practices	Plan Total	Threshold
Plant structure and composition	Plant structure and composition	0	0	0	0	0	50

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How does CART work? – Steps 3 and 4

Plant Degradation – Plant Structure and Composition - Forestry – Existing Conditions

Answer	Existing Condition Points	Reference for assessment condition
None to Slight	60	Is density, composition, and age structure >80% of the expected ecological site or other documentation that demonstrates representative plant community?
Slight to Moderate	51	Is density, composition, and age structure 60-80% of the expected ecological site or other documentation that demonstrates representative plant community?
Moderate	20	Is density, composition, and age structure 40-60% of the expected ecological site or other documentation that demonstrates representative plant community?
Moderate to Extreme	10	Is density, composition, and age structure 20-40% of the expected ecological site or other documentation that demonstrates representative plant community?
Extreme	1	Is density, composition, and age structure <20% of the expected ecological site or other documentation that demonstrates representative plant community?



Results for Land Unit

Resource Concerns	Components	Existing Conditions	Existing Practices	Existing Total	Planned Practices	Plan Total	Threshold
Plant structure and composition	Plant structure and composition	20	0	20	0	20	50

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How does CART work? – Steps 5 and 6

Plant Degradation – Plant Structure and Composition - Forestry – Planned Practices

Conservation Practices	Conservation Practice Points
Brush Management (314)	10
Forest Stand Improvement (666)	20
Herbaceous Weed Treatment (603)	10
Tree & Shrub Establishment (612)	20



Results for Land Unit

Resource Concerns	Components	Existing Conditions	Existing Practices	Existing Total	Planned Practices	Plan Total	Threshold
Plant structure and composition	Plant structure and composition	20	0	20	40	60	50

How does CART work? – Steps 1 and 2

Soil Quality – Organic Matter Depletion – Threshold

When selected for evaluation, a threshold value will be set to 50 and the existing condition question (matching one used in soil erosion evaluations) will be triggered.



Results for Land Unit

Resource Concerns	Components	Existing Conditions	Existing Practices	Existing Total	Planned Practices	Plan Total	Threshold
Organic matter depletion	Organic matter depletion	0	0	0	0	0	50

How does CART work? – Steps 3 and 4

Table 41: Organic Matter Existing Condition Points

Existing condition points are based on system benefits for cover/residue/biomass of all crops and cover crops in the rotation combined with the effects of harvesting, grazing and tillage. Individual points for associated practices like crop rotation, cover crop and residue management are added to this system level credit.	Existing Condition Points
None – Rapidly Depleting Soil Organic Matter - Soil Conditioning Index is well below zero - Generally fallow, or crops with no durable residue or cover crops, with up to full field tillage.	0
Low - Depleting Soil Organic Matter - Soil Conditioning Index is just below zero - Generally, crops with durable residue or cover crops, or part of the rotation in high residue conserving use crops, with up to full field tillage.	10
Moderate - Maintaining Soil Organic Matter - Soil Conditioning Index is zero or above - Generally, crops with durable residue or cover crops, or part of the rotation in high residue conserving use crops, with reduced tillage or no-till.	20
High - Building Soil Organic Matter - Soil Conditioning Index is well above zero - Generally high residue conserving use crops or perennial crops with full ground cover, not tilled or tilled infrequently.	51

Soil Quality – Organic Matter Depletion – Existing Conditions



Results for Land Unit

Resource Concerns	Components	Existing Conditions	Existing Practices	Existing Total	Planned Practices	Plan Total	Threshold
Organic matter depletion	Organic matter depletion	51	0	51	0	51	50



CART Point Model



Resource Concern Met

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Existing} \\ \text{Condition \& } \\ \text{Practices} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Planned} \\ \text{Practice} \\ \text{Effects} \end{array} > \text{Threshold} \quad \text{or}$$



EQIP Ranking Point Example

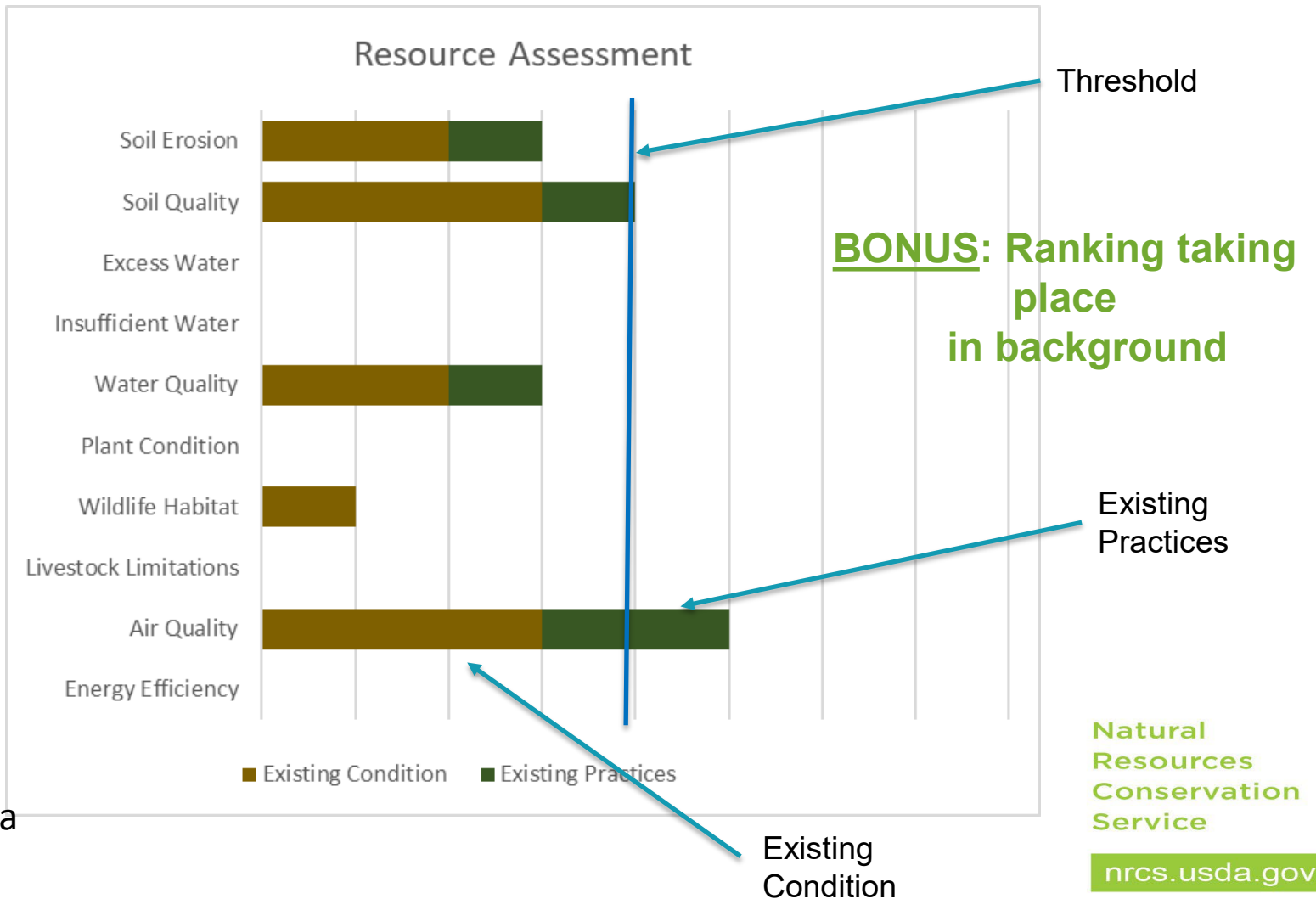
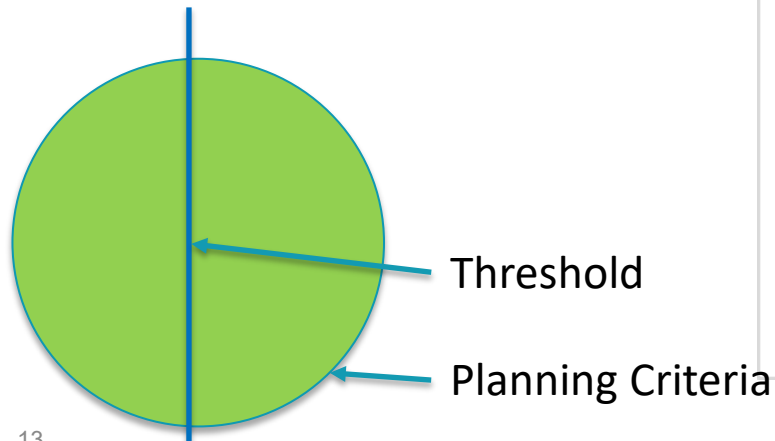
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Threshold} \\ \text{Vulnerability} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{Existing} \\ \text{Condition \& } \\ \text{Practices} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Planned} \\ \text{Practice} \\ \text{Effects} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Resource \& } \\ \text{Programmatic} \\ \text{Priorities} \end{array}$$

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How does CART work? => Steps 3 and 4

CART assists planners to analyze resource data captured in the inventory and compare against the threshold to determine if planning criteria is met. Planner override will be allowed.





Program Ranking

Local flexibility





Interim Ranking Pool Matching

Interim Applicability Ranking Pool Matching

Previously Ranked Results will not be displayed on the Interim page. Applicable Ranking Pools matching progress is provided for informational purposes only.

Assessment Name: EQIP 2022

Assessment Id: 257542

Assessment State: AR

Non-Geospatial: Interim Applicable Ranking Pool Matches

(1 of 5) 1 2 3 4 5

☒	Ranking Pool Name ^	Program	States	Status
☒	1859 LM Producer FY21	RCPP18	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR 2021 Classic: Organic	CStwP	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR 2021 Classic: Statewide Ag	CStwP	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR 2021 Classic: Statewide Ag-BFR	CStwP	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR 2021 Classic: Statewide Ag-SDFR	CStwP	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR 2021 Renewal Statewide Ag- BFR	CStwP	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR 2021 Renewal Statewide Ag- SDFR	CStwP	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR 2021 Renewal- Statewide Ag	CStwP	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR FY 21 Building Resilient Watersheds	EQIP	AR (Admin)	Success
☒	AR FY 21 LRA 3 CAFO	EQIP	AR (Admin)	Success

- All initially matched ranking pools are selected by default.

RETURN TO ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

CONTINUE GEOSPATIAL PROCESS

CONTINUE TO RANK

Click here to proceed through the

National
State &
Local Ranking
pools

Rankings can
be matched by:

- Land Use
- Priorities-
LWG
- Watersheds
- National
Priorities
- Geospatial

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Plan Assessment Ranking Points



Ranking pools will evaluate client's applications for 5 main areas

1. **Plan Assessment:** Existing Vulnerability*
2. **Plan Assessment:** Planned Practice Effects*
3. **Pool Priorities: Resource** - (ex. *Geospatial Based Priority Watershed*)
Question Based (ex. Do the practices in the application affect sage grouse?)
4. **Pool Priorities: Program**-Question Based (ex. Veteran Farmer), past contract information
5. **Efficiency**

***Information captured already in the assessment process**

The locally led process can have input on each of these

NOTE:



Only resource concerns which are identified by the ranking pool will garner plan assessment points-Only practices on land uses which are identified by the ranking pool will garner plan assessment points

Efficiency



Plan Benefits from Applicable Practices

Average Annual Practice Cost

- **Weighted to result in meaningful score as identified by program**



Application Score Weighting



- Set by ranking pool with bounds set by program
- Old National, State, and local questions would be incorporated into Plan Assessment or Pool Priorities

Pool Weighting		
Plan Assessment	Vulnerability	20%
	Planned Practice Effects	30%
Pool Priorities	Resource	30%
	Programmatic	10%
Efficiency Score		10%
Application Score		100%



FY 23 CD Release Schedule

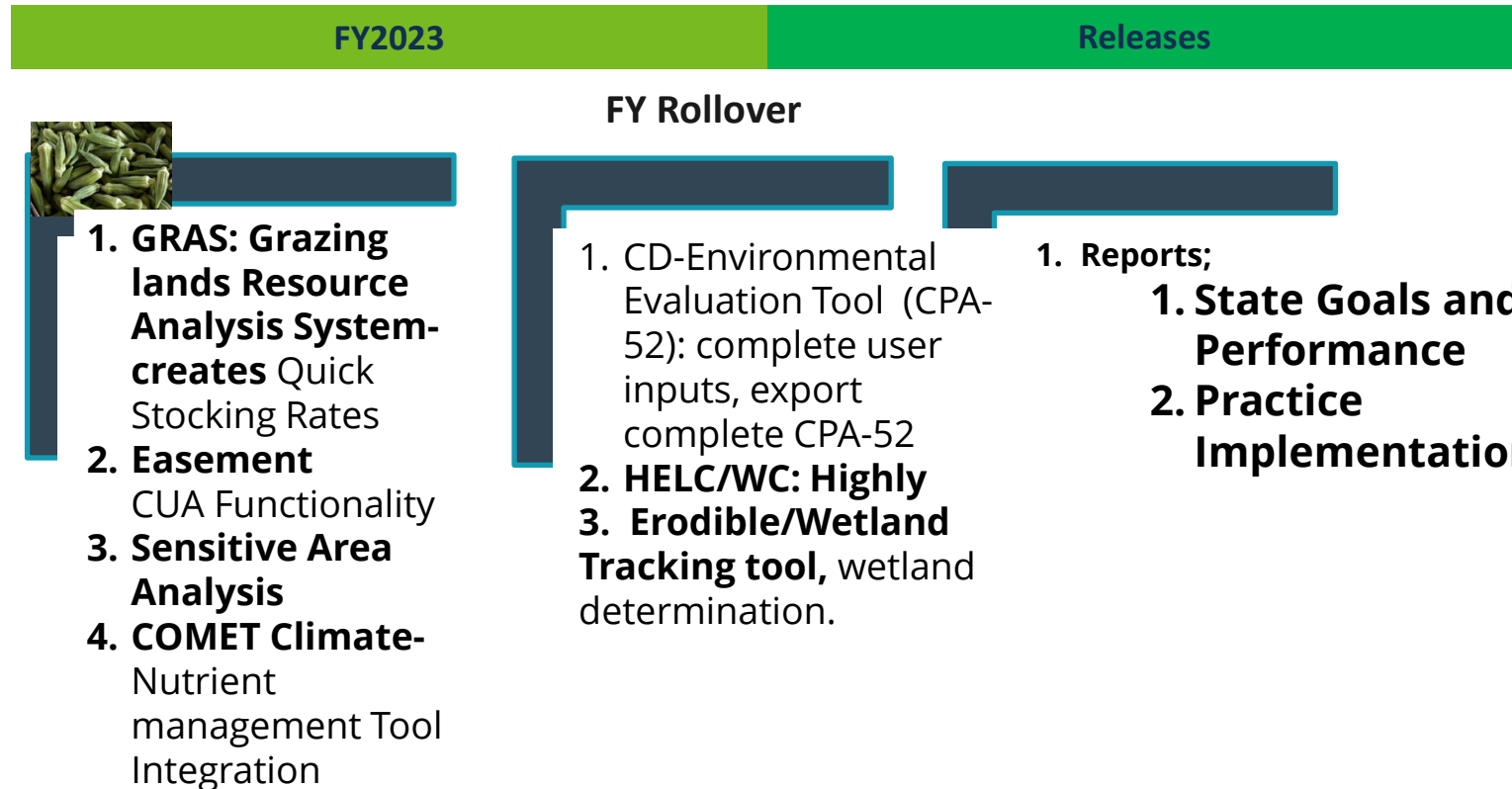


2023 Release Schedule

Release	Deployment (Training and Production)
Zinnia	February 7 or 9
Angus	March 21
Beet	May 2 or 4
Coffee	June 13 or 15
Delphinium	July 25 or 27
Edamame	September 5 or 7
Fig (FY Rollover)	October 17 or 19



CART & CD Release Highlights

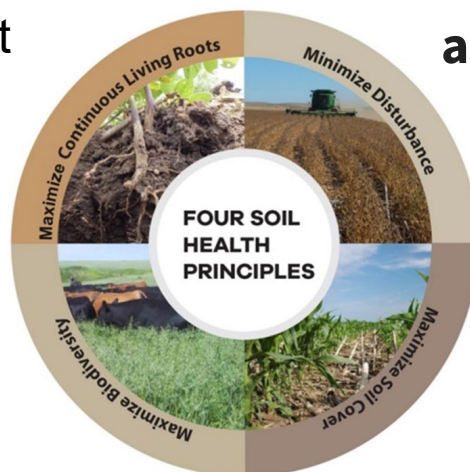


NRCS recognition of a producer's Conservation Accomplishment(s) across their agricultural operation.

Possible Recognitions

Climate Smart (Ag and Forestry)

- Carbon Sequestration
- GHG Mitigation
- Energy Efficiency
- Resiliency
 - Soil Health
 - Water Quantity Savings
- Water Quality
 - Nutrient Management
 - Soil Loss
 - Integrated Pest Management
- Easements



NRCS developed criteria outlining the Conservation Elements that must be achieved for each Recognition Category.

Criteria Measurements:

- Assessment Results
- Sensitive Area Mitigation
- Environmental Benefits
- Additional Quantifying Questions

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Project Plan Objectives



User interface where customers and the public can access information about conservation practices – both references and data – and generate reports for their use

- Data delivery: will be via existing data platforms and tools.
- Public access that protects PII
- Export function and/or ability to point people to where they can download data

Functionality of the tool that allows for connectivity among existing sources of references and data

- FOTG (Field Office Tech Guide)
- CPD-DMS (Document Management Systems)
- Other dashboards
- CPPE, network diagrams
- Economics references
- CEAP findings
- CIG, RCPP, other programs
- Etc.



CART Advantages

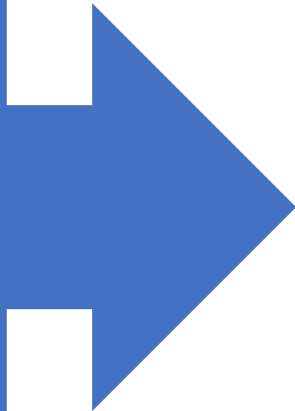


- **Program Neutral Planning**
- **Streamlined Assessment**
- **Assessment and Resource Concern information by Land Unit**
- **Environmental Assessment completed as part of planning**
- **One Plan Goal**
- **Program Prioritization based on Planning and outcomes**
- **Reduced data duplication**



Planning

Planner meets
with Producer
to identify
Resource
Concerns,
Client
Objectives &
Practices.



- Conservation Planning happens in the field.
- Conservation Desktop and CART **do not** eliminate the need to go to the field and plan with the Producer.



United States Department of Agriculture

Q&A Wrap-up



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center