

Through the Central Tri-County Soil & Water Conservation District Cost-Share Program, land occupiers can request financial and technical assistance from the local District for the implementation of conservation practices. The projects selected by Central Tri-County SWCD identify conservation practices that are designed to protect and improve soil and water resources.

*All conservation practices and sites must meet certain eligibility requirements.

**Only one (1) practice can be applied for cost-share per year.

Description of Eligible Cost-Share Practices:

Brush Management:

This practice applies on rangeland, and warm and cool season pastures where removal or reduction of excessive woody, non-herbaceous plants is desired. The practice is a managed reduction of woody plants on rangelands having brush or tree densities (such as Juniper, Pinon, or Cholla cactus) above those called for in the appropriate ecological site descriptions. These lands must have the potential to produce desirable native or adapted introduced forage plants. Project requires a forage balance worksheet and management.

Diversion:

A structure built to stabilize and or impound runoff, conserve water, prevent erosion, prevent pollution, and to enhance groundwater recharge. This practice applies to land uses where surface runoff water control and management are needed, and where soils and topography are such that the diversion can be constructed and a suitable outlet is available or can be provided. Diversions shall not retain or retard water. Some examples of practices include construction of grade stabilization structures, earth excavations, terraces, and gabion structures.

Forest Stand Improvement:

Is specific to forested land where thinning treatments are intended to create a more productive forest while decreasing the threat of insects and disease as well as the risk from wildfire without sacrificing the vistas. Forest thinning can restore natural plant communities and improve wildlife habitat.

Noxious Weed Management:

The definition of a Noxious Weed is: Any plant designated by Federal, State, or county government that is injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property. New Mexico currently has 45 listed noxious weeds. Here is the link to that list:

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/media/pdf/noxious-weed-memo-and-list-june-2020.pdf>

Windbreak with Drip Irrigation Systems:

A windbreak is a linear, dense planting of usually both trees and shrubs that diverts the wind and is designed to reduce undesirable effects of strong winds such as soil blowing and plant and soil losses.

Drip Irrigation: An irrigation system for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface as drops or tiny streams through emitters placed along a water delivery line. This practice efficiently and uniformly applies irrigation water and maintains soil moisture for optimum plant growth.

Range Planting (Native Grass Mix)

Restoration and establishment of adapted perennial vegetation of native grasses and forbs on rangeland, native or naturalized pasture, grazed forest or other suitable locations where the principle goals and method of vegetation management is herbivore based. This practice shall be applied where desirable vegetation is below the acceptable level for natural reseeding to occur. A long-term grazing management plan is required to implement project.

Rainwater Harvesting:

Rainwater harvesting is the capture, diversion, and storage of rainwater for a number of different purposes including landscape irrigation, drinking and domestic use, aquifer recharge, and storm water control. A rainwater harvesting system comprises of six basic components:

- 1) Catchment surface: *the collection surface from which rainfall runs off (rooftop)*
- 2) Gutters and downspouts: *channels water from the roof to the tank*
- 3) Downspout screens, first-flush diverters, and roof washers: *components which remove debris and dust from the captured rainwater before it goes into the tank*
- 4) One or more storage tanks: *also called cisterns*
- 5) Delivery system: *gravity-fed or pumped to the end use*

- 6) Treatment/purification: *for potable systems, filters and other methods to make the water safe to drink*

Cost-share projects will require a minimum amount of storage based on roof size and will be determined during District on-site planning. (This is usually hundreds of gallons of storage per application). Roofs and roofing materials are not approved for reimbursement.

(Other practices may be eligible).

*We do not offer any type of cost-share for ponds.

Farm or Ranch Categories

Critical Area Planting:

To establish native grasses on land being converted from other uses, or the renovation of existing pasture or rangeland caused by physical conditions that have high erosion rates. Project requires a forage balance worksheet and management.

Cross Fencing:

Permanent or temporary cross fence to facilitate rotational grazing. Landowner must have a minimum of 5 paddocks at minimum 10 acres each. Boundary fence is not eligible. Must be part of a rotational grazing system and can only be installed on livestock pastureland.

Irrigation Water Management:

This practice is applicable to all irrigated lands to improve irrigation water use efficiency, minimize irrigation induced soil erosion, and decrease degradation of surface and groundwater resources. An irrigation water management plan must be developed to create a system capable of efficiently applying water to meet the intended purpose by controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water.

Irrigation Pipeline:

A distribution pipeline installed for conveyance of water from a source of supply to an irrigation system. This standard does not apply to multiple outlet irrigation system components (surface gated pipes, sprinkler lines, or micro irrigation tubing).

Livestock Pipeline and Watering Facility:

A pipeline installed to convey water specially and only for livestock or wildlife with the purpose of distributing rangeland grazing. Must be part of a livestock rotational grazing system and have a grazing plan developed by CTCSWCD or NRCS. Only permanent tanks or fountains with in-ground pipelines are eligible; does not include ponds. Confined lots are not eligible. A grazing management plan is required to implement project.

Watering Facility:

This practice applies to rangeland uses where there is a need to supply daily water requirements for livestock or wildlife. Approved construction materials and installation specifications must be followed. Requirements: 1.) A source of water that is adequate in quantity and quality for the purpose; 2.) Where soils and topography are suitable for a facility; 3.) Locate the watering facility to meet the needs of the managed livestock or wildlife species; 4.) Select a site that will promote even grazing distribution and reduce grazing pressure on sensitive areas. A grazing management plan is required to implement project.

Shade Ball Water Conservation:

The HDPE shade balls are 4 inches in diameter, UV-stable, and water-filled. High surface-area coverage is achieved by placing a sufficient number of balls on the surface of the water. As water levels rise and fall, the balls organize themselves into a cover that provides coverage of up to 91%. Measurements of evaporation, water temperatures, rainfall, and ice formation have been done, and significantly less evaporation and ice formation with the ball-covered tank has been recorded.

(Other practices may be eligible).

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For more information contact:
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