

# **Converse County Conservation District**

## **Resource Enhancement Cost-Share Program Guidelines**

### **Introduction**

The Converse County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will provide funds from its mill levy tax funding to assist landowners with the protection, enhancement and restoration of resources in Converse County. Therefore, all projects must be done within Converse County and with private landowners only.

### **Program Limitations**

The Resource Enhancement Cost-share Program is available to any private sector landowner with property within Converse County. There is a limit of one project per person or group per year. All projects must be completed within one year of approval. Projects may be composed of multiple practices. Only on the ground projects are eligible.

### **Program Overview**

The Resource Enhancement Cost-share Program provides financial incentives to landowners for the establishment of conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, provide soil health improvements, improve or protect water quality, reduce consumptive use of water supplies, improve plant and animal health and productivity, as well as many other locally identified concerns.

### **Project Examples (may include but are not limited to)**

- Soil erosion mitigation (streambank stabilization)
- Water quality and quantity (i.e. irrigation system improvements)
- Resource damage due to acts of nature (field loss, head gates, streambank stabilization, fences, diversion structures)
- Practices that federal farm bill programs do not fund, such as electrical costs
- Solar stock pumps to improve livestock distribution in remote areas
- Spring developments to enhance wildlife and/or improve livestock distribution
- Fencing for implementing a rotational grazing system
- Riparian fencing to manage livestock and reduce grazing impacts

### **Funding**

Cost-share amounts will be determined by referencing the most current NRCS Cost Share list or an actual bid that the landowner has obtained from a contractor. The Converse County Conservation District will not fund more than 50% of the total project cost and will reimburse the applicant based on the actual cost of the project (receipts). Cost-share funds awarded will be based on the availability of District funds and may not exceed \$75,000.

If multiple practices are required for a project, the system is classified as one project. The “one project per year” policy does not allow splitting or segregation of practices into separate

program years to bypass the policy. All practices required for a complete functioning system must be contracted in the same year.

**Application Instructions**

1. Fill out questions completely including proposed costs. Incomplete applications will not be processed.
2. Enclose a good map with the location of each proposed practice clearly drawn out on the map. Converse County Conservation District staff can assist you with the development of a planning map if needed.
3. One application can have multiple practices on it. (Example: spring development, fencing, seeding)

**Ranking Criteria**

All project applications will be ranked on the merit of the project proposal and benefit to the resource. The Converse County Conservation District will use a ranking worksheet to objectively identify conservation projects that have the most impact on improving resources. The District will evaluate the proposed practices and verify eligibility. On-site visits by technical personnel should be expected. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make the case that the project meets the objective of a resource enhancement and provides a public benefit.

**Contract and Payment**

Upon project approval by the Converse County Conservation District Board of Supervisors, the District and the landowner(s) will enter into a signed contract for the practices funded. Only practices initiated and completed within the contact time frame will be reimbursed. the landowner must pay the up-front costs of the project. Applicant is responsible to the completion of any required permitting or other government entity requirements (i.e. SEO well permit; USACE 404 permit; etc.) When the project has been inspected upon completion, and the landowner has turned in the receipts, the landowner will then be reimbursed. Practice(s) must be maintained for the “life-span” of the practice as identified in the contract.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Resource Enhancement Cost-share Program Guidelines:

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Signature

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Date

Application No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Converse County Conservation District  
911 S. Windriver Drive, Douglas, WY 82633  
307-624-3164  
www.conserveconverse.org

## Resource Enhancement Cost-Share Application

Fill out all questions completely including proposed costs. Incomplete applications will not be processed. A sketch or plan map must accompany each application with the location of the proposed practice clearly indicated on it.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner and/or lessee name, address, email, telephone (if other than applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID \_\_\_\_\_ (CCCD is required to provide a 1099 for receipt of cost-share funds totaling \$600 or more)

### **PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Location:**

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_  $\frac{1}{4}$  \_\_\_\_\_  $\frac{1}{4}$  \_\_\_\_\_

**Size of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ acres

**Brief Project Description** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Project Benefits:** Which natural resources will be benefited and how will they be benefited? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List other conservation measures that will be employed to complement the project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Public Benefit: Describe how the project meets the program objectives and how it benefits the public. Public benefits include continued agricultural production to maintain open space and healthy ecosystems; enhanced opportunities for outdoor recreation; enhancements to air, land or water quality; maintenance or enhancement of wildlife habitat; preclusion of soil loss or disease; or other perceived public benefits. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the consequences to public and private resources if this project is not funded: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Practices (check all that apply):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Streambank protection         | <input type="checkbox"/> Dam/reservoir rehabilitation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass/Forb Seeding            | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock watering facility                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Development            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture or rangeland restoration/improvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion replacement/upgrade | <input type="checkbox"/> AFO/CAFO                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interior or riparian fencing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Development (new or replacement)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

\*Some projects may require professional design/planning\*

**COST OF PROJECT (cost breakdown required per practice):**

<u>Practice Description</u>	<u>Unit Amount</u>	<u>Cost per Unit</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
			Total Project Cost \$ _____

Amount Requested from District \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(no more than 50% of total project cost allowed, with a maximum of \$75,000)*

Contribution from other sources \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List other sources: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:**

I hereby declare that the information, and all statements attached to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner signature (required if different than applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Attach extra sheets as necessary

**RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHEET**

1. Do you have any streams running through or adjacent to your land? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
2. Do you have any woody draws and/or streamside tree/shrubs (riparian areas) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
3. Do you have any natural or constructed ponds on your land? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
4. Do you have any wetlands? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
5. Do you use an irrigation system? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
6. If yes, what is your application system? Flood\_\_\_\_ Pivot \_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_
7. Do your land include any forestland? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
  - a. Are forest insects or diseases present? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
8. Do you have any noxious weeds on your land? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
  - a. What kind? *(There are 41 weeds listed on the Converse County Declared List)*
9. Do you have any livestock? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
  - a. What type and how many? Cattle\_\_\_\_ Horses\_\_\_\_ Sheep\_\_\_\_  
Goats\_\_\_\_ Pigs\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_
  - b. How do you water your livestock?
  - c. Do you have a grazing plan for your livestock? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
10. Do you manage all or part of your land for wildlife habitat? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
11. How many acres do you have of- Pasture\_\_\_\_  
Range\_\_\_\_  
Cropland\_\_\_\_  
Forestland\_\_\_\_  
Animal confinement\_\_\_\_

12. Describe the natural resource concerns/problems that occur on your land. These can include but are not limited to soil condition/erosion, water quality/quantity, plant health/productivity, and animal health/productivity:

**The project cannot already be started or completed. No practice installed prior to the date of the last signature on the contract will be eligible for reimbursement.**