

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 \$50,000.

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:

Signature

Date