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 must be heard by the board before any work on the project begins.

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)
4. Applications must be received 30 days before the board meeting they will be heard at.

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 identity 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

Application No._____
Date Received:_____

Converse County Conservation District
321 Brownfield Road, Douglas, WY 82633
307-358-6735
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 _____ ¼ _____ ¼ _____

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):

_____ Streambank protection
_____ Grass/Forb Seeding
_____ Spring Development
_____ Diversion replacement/upgrade
_____ Interior or riparian fencing
_____ Irrigation
_____ Dam/reservoir rehabilitation
_____ Livestock watering facility
_____ Pasture or rangeland restoration/improvement
_____ AFO/CAFO
_____ Water Development (new or replacement)
_____ Other

Some projects may require professional design/planning

COST OF PROJECT (cost breakdown required per practice):

	Practice Description	Unit Amount	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
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

Application No._____

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.