

**USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Request for Proposals for
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Financial Assistance to Treat Natural Resource Concerns on Tribal Lands**

Effective October 1, 2007, the Utah Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the availability of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance in the amount of \$350,000 for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and their members, as defined herein.

Selection of the proposal(s) will be based on the criteria as set forth in this notice.

Submitting Proposals

1. Letters of Intent: Must be received in the NRCS Utah State Office by **4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 22, 2007**. Indicate the estimated amount of EQIP funds to be requested, general description of the natural resource concerns, the conservation practices to be implemented, and the anticipated number of producer contracts.

2. Written Proposals: Must be received in the NRCS Utah State Office **NO LATER THAN 4:00 pm on Friday, November 16, 2007**. See proposal outline, below.

Submit proposals to:

Lisa Coverdale, Assistant State Conservationist – Programs
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
125 South State Street – Room 4402
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

Proposals may also be submitted electronically to the following email address:

lisa.coverdale@ut.usda.gov

Program Objectives

a. Objectives

EQIP objectives, as stated in the 2002 Farm Bill, are to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals, and to optimize environmental benefits, by:

- Assisting producers in complying with local, State, Tribal, and Federal environmental quality criteria and regulatory requirements concerning soil, water, air quality, wildlife habitat, surface and ground water conservation, as well as avoiding, to the maximum extent practicable, the need for such regulatory programs by assisting producers in protecting natural resources.
- Providing flexible assistance to producers to install and maintain conservation practices that enhance soil, water, and related natural resources (including grazing land, wetland, and wildlife habitat) while sustaining production of food and fiber.

- Assisting producers with making beneficial, cost effective changes to cropping systems, grazing management, nutrient management associated with livestock, pest or irrigation management, or other practices on agricultural land.
- Consolidating and streamlining conservation planning and regulatory compliance procedures to reduce administrative burdens on producers and the cost of achieving environmental goals.

b. National Priorities

In order to provide direction to the State and local levels for implementing EQIP to achieve the objectives, NRCS has established the following National priorities:

1. Reduction of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDLs, where available, as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and reduction of point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations;
2. Conservation of ground and surface water resources;
3. Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (Nox) , volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depletors that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
4. Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land; and
5. Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation.

Definitions

For the purpose of this notice, the following definitions apply:

- ▶ **STC** means State Conservationist, the NRCS employee authorized to direct and supervise NRCS activities in a State, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), or the Pacific Basin Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianna Islands).
- ▶ **Eligible entities** means Federally Recognized Indian Tribes.
- ▶ **Eligible land** is tribal owned land on a farm or ranch in Utah that is administered by a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe and includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, and pastureland, as well as forestland that is an incidental part of an agricultural operation.
- ▶ **Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG)** is the official document for NRCS guidelines, criteria, and standards for planning and applying conservation treatments and conservation management systems. The FOTG contains detailed information on the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources applicable to the local area for which it is prepared.
- ▶ **Natural Resources Conservation Service** is a federal agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

All ten (10) Federally Recognized Indian Tribes (listed alphabetically below) may submit a proposal for the \$350,000 EQIP set-aside:

- Goshute Indian Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
- Satellite Office: Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians
- Ute Indian Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- White Mesa Ute Council

Proposal Outline

Written proposals should adhere to the following outline:

I. Project Background and Summary

II. Description and extent of existing resource concern

Example: Of the 200,000 acre of irrigated lands in (XYZ) tribe, 40% are surface irrigated, 60% are sprinkler irrigated. Irrigated erosion is a concern on 20% of the surface irrigated lands. Or, ...of the 200,000 acres of rangeland 35% is in poor condition.

III. Proposed treatment of resource concern(s)

IV. Proposed distribution of funds. Please include:

- ◆ Amount of funds requested.
- ◆ Number of eligible producers that will receive assistance.
- ◆ Length of contracts (minimum 1 year, maximum 10 years).
- ◆ Description of structural and/or management conservation practices to be implemented.
- ◆ Number of acres to be treated.

IV. Assurance that any existing EQIP contracts are active, in compliance, and that contracted conservation practices are being installed according to schedule.

V. Assurance that no individual shall exceed the \$450,000 payment limitation for EQIP from 2002 – 2007.

VI. Maps, other attachments as appropriate.

Ranking Consideration

NRCS will assess the merits of each proposal, using the following criteria:

1. Priority will be placed on proposals that treat resource problems, as identified in Section II of the proposal, in the most cost effective manner.

2. Priority will be placed on projects that will be completed within 1 year of contract obligation (when the contract is signed).

Method of Allocation

1. All applicants will receive written notification of the decision made by the State Conservationist.
2. Successful Tribal applicants will instruct individual applicants to meet with their respective District Conservationists, to initiate contract development.
3. Funds will be obligated upon completion of the contract, approval of the contract by NRCS, and acceptance of the contract by the participant, as indicated by signature on the CCC-1200/Appendix.

Additional information

<http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/index.html>

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

Contact:

Lisa Coverdale, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

USDA-NRCS

125 South State Street

Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

801-524-4565

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| <p>Goshute Indian Tribe (Confederated Tribes of Goshute Reservations) Rupert Steele, Chairman PO Box 6104 Ibapah, UT 84034-6036 (435) 234-1138 FAX: (435) 234-1162 rupertsteele@yahoo.com</p> | <p>San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe President Mary Lou Boone PO Box 2710 Tuba City, AZ 86045 (928) 283-5539 FAX: (928) 283-5451</p> |
| <p>Navajo Nation www.navajo.org President Joe Shirley, Jr. PO Box 9000 Highway 264, Tribal Hills Drive Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-6000 (Main Switchboard) (928) 871-6352 (President's Office) FAX: (928) 871-4025 joeshirleyjr@yahoo.com</p> | <p>Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians www.skullvalleygoshute.org Lawrence Bear, Chairman 3359 So. Main St., #808 Salt Lake City, UT 84115-4443 (801) 484-4422 FAX: (801) 484-5511 ldbear@hotmail.com</p> |
| <p>Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe www.nwbshoshone-nsn.gov Ivan Wongan, Chairman Bruce Parry, Executive Director 707 N. Main St. Brigham City, UT 84302 (435) 734-2286 FAX: (435) 734-0424 wongan@earthlink.net</p> | <p>Ute Indian Tribe www.uteindian.com Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman PO Box 190 Fort Duchesne, UT 84026 (435) 722-5141 FAX: (435) 722-2374 curtisc@utetribe.com</p> |
| <p>Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Tribe (Idaho Office) Ivan Wongan , Chairman 427 N. Main Street, Suite 101 Pocatello, Idaho 83204-3016 (208) 478-5712 FAX: (208) 478-5713</p> | <p>Ute Mountain Ute Tribe www.utemountainute.com Manuel Heart , Chairman PO Box 248 Towaoc, CO 81334-0248 (970) 565-3751 ext. 601 FAX: (970) 565-7412 manuelheart@utemountain.org</p> |
| <p>Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Lora E. Tom, Chairwoman 440 North Paiute Drive Cedar City, UT 84720 (435) 586-1112 FAX: (435) 586-5915 lora.tom@ihs.gov</p> | <p>White Mesa Ute Council Elayne Atcity, Council Member PO Box 7096 Blanding, UT 84511 (435) 678-3397 eatcity@utemountain.org</p> |