

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary, conservation program administered by NRCS that can provide financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices that address priority natural resource concerns.

- In consultation with the State Technical Committee and Local Work Groups, the State Conservationist has developed ranking pools and ranking criteria to focus EQIP funding for priority resource concerns and initiatives.
- NRCS uses the Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) to assess the site vulnerability, existing conditions, and identify potential resource concerns on a unit of land. After CART assessment, NRCS uses CART Ranking to evaluate an application in all applicable ranking pools.
- The State Conservationist establishes batching periods to select the highest ranked applications for funding, contract approval is dependent on program eligibility determinations.
- Any interested farmer or rancher may submit an application for participation in EQIP.

Interested Applicants

For more information about EQIP, how to apply and program eligibility, interested applicants should contact a NRCS field office in the county which you own land or where you have an agricultural operation.

Visit <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/> to find the NRCS representative for your county.

Regional Forestland Ranking Pools

There are six regional EQIP forestland ranking pools in California. The conservation goals and funding priorities for these ranking pools are promote healthy and productive forestlands, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, minimize the impacts to water quality and reduce wildfire risks on non-industrial private forestlands. The following sections include the applicable land uses, resource concerns, conservation practices, and practice payment caps for the regional forestland ranking pools. A list of the regional pools and a map is included at the end of the document.

Land Uses

The descriptions below are the general NRCS land use definitions - applications should fit within, but do not need to exactly match, these descriptions. Below are the applicable land uses for the forestland ranking pools.

Forest: Land on which the primary vegetation is tree cover (climax, natural or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products or non-timber forest products.

Farmstead: Land used for facilities and supporting infrastructure where farming, forestry, animal husbandry, and ranching activities are often initiated. This may include dwellings, equipment storage, plus farm input and output storage and handling facilities.

Associated Agricultural Lands: Land associated with farms and ranches that are not purposefully managed for food, forage, or fiber and are typically associated with nearby production or conservation lands. This could include incidental areas, such as odd areas, ditches and watercourses, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal and permanent wetlands, and other similar areas.

Grazed: Where grazing animals impact how land is managed.

Wildlife: Where the applicant is actively managing for wildlife.

Resource Concerns

The goal of conservation planning is to help each client attain sustainable use and sound management of soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources, based on related human considerations (SWAPAE+H). Below is a list of priority resource concerns for the forestland ranking pools.

SWAPAE+H	Resource Concern Category	Resource Concern
Soil	Concentrated Erosion	Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels
		Classic gully erosion
	Soil Quality Limitation	Aggregate instability
		Compaction
		Concentration of salts or other chemicals
		Organic matter depletion
		Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
	Wind and Water Erosion	Subsidence
		Sheet and rill erosion
	Water	Field, Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss
Nutrients transported to groundwater		
Nutrients transported to surface water		
Pathogens and chemicals from manure biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater		
Pathogens and chemicals from manure biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water		
Field Pesticide Loss		Sediment transported to surface water
		Pesticides transported to groundwater
Source Water Depletion		Pesticides transported to surface water
		Groundwater depletion
		Inefficient irrigation water use
Storage and Handling of Pollutants		Surface water depletion
		Nutrients transported to groundwater
		Nutrients transported to surface water
		Pesticides transported to surface water
		Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to groundwater
Weather Resilience		Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water
		Drifted snow
		Naturally available moisture use
		Ponding and flooding
		Seasonal high water table
		Seeps



SWAPAE+H	Resource Concern Category	Resource Concern
Air	Air Quality Emissions	Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen
		Emissions of greenhouse gases - GHGs
		Emissions of ozone precursors
		Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors
		Objectionable odor
Plants	Degraded Plant Condition	Plant productivity and health
		Plant structure and composition
	Pest Pressure	Plant pest pressure
Fire Management	Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation	
Animals	Aquatic Habitat	Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
		Elevated water temperature
	Livestock Production Limitation	Feed and forage balance
		Inadequate livestock shelter
		Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality, and distribution
	Terrestrial Habitat	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
Energy	Inefficient Energy Use	Energy efficient equipment and facilities
		Energy efficient farming/ranching practices and field operations

Conservation Practices

NRCS conservation practices eligible for financial assistance through regional forestland ranking pools are listed in the below table. For more information about NRCS conservation practices visit the following website link: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=NRCSDEV11_001020.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice Name	Practice Units	Lifespan (Years)
314	Brush Management	ac	10
315	Herbaceous Weed Control	ac	5
326	Clearing and Snagging	ft	5
327	Conservation Cover	ac	5
338	Prescribed Burning	ac	1
342	Critical Area Planting	ac	10
348	Dam, Diversion	no	15
350	Sediment Basin	no	20
351	Water Well Decommissioning	no	20
362	Diversion	ft	10
367	Roofs and Covers	no	10
379	Multi-Story Cropping	ac	10
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	ft	15
381	Silvopasture Establishment	ac	15

Practice Code	Conservation Practice Name	Practice Units	Lifespan (Years)
382	Fence	ft	20
383	Fuel Break	ac	10
384	Woody Residue Treatment	ac	10
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	ac	5
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	ac	15
393	Filter Strip	ac	10
394	Firebreak	ft	5
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	ac	5
396	Aquatic Organism Passage	mi	5
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	no	15
412	Grassed Waterway	ac	10
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	ac	5
422	Hedgerow Planting	ft	15
430	Irrigation Pipeline	ft	20
436	Irrigation Reservoir	ac-ft	15
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	ac	15
457	Mine Shaft and Adit Closing	no	15
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	ft	15
472	Access Control	ac	10
484	Mulching	ac	1
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	ac	1
500	Obstruction Removal	ac	10
512	Forage and Biomass Planting	ac	5
520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil	no	15
521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	no	20
533	Pumping Plant	no	20
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	ac	1
558	Roof Runoff Structure	no	15
560	Access Road	ft	10
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	ac	10
570	Stormwater Runoff Control	no	1
575	Trails and Walkways	ft	10
578	Stream Crossing	no	10
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	ft	20
582	Open Channel	ft	15
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	ft	10
587	Structure for Water Control	no	20
601	Vegetative Barrier	ft	5
606	Subsurface Drain	ft	20
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	ac	15
614	Water Facility	no	20
620	Underground Outlet	ft	20
630	Vertical Drain	no	10
636	Water Harvesting Catchment	no	20



Practice Code	Conservation Practice Name	Practice Units	Lifespan (Years)
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	no	10
643	Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	ac	1
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	ac	1
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	ac	1
649	Structures for Wildlife	no	5
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	ft	15
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	ft	10
655	Forest Trails and Landings	ft	5
656	Constructed Wetland	ac	15
657	Wetland Restoration	ac	15
659	Wetland Enhancement	ac	15
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	ac	10
666	Forest Stand Improvement	ac	10
740	Pond Sealing and Lining, Soil Cement	no	20
910	TA Planning	no	1
911	TA Design	no	1
912	TA Application	no	1
913	TA Check-Out	no	1

Practice Payment Caps

For certain conservation practices a limit to the amount of financial assistance has been established in certain regions. Practice payment caps are established in consultation with local partners and to allow limited financial assistance support to reach more participants. Please contact your local field office if you have questions. A maximum payment amount per contract or practice is not allowable. Practice payment caps are applicable per agreement item.

Conservation Practice	Regular Payment Cap	Historically Underserved Payment Cap
Payment Caps for the Central Coast Pool		
314 – Brush Management, Mechanical or Chemical	\$7,500	\$13,500
314 – Brush Management, Biological with Goats	\$2,500	\$4,500
315 – Herbaceous Weed Control	\$15,000	\$27,000
382 – Fence	\$50,000	\$90,000
484 – Mulching	\$15,000	\$27,000
550 – Range Planting, Native Species	\$5,000	\$9,000
560 – Access Road	\$40,000	\$72,000
666 – Forest Stand Improvement	\$40,000	\$72,000
Payment Caps for the Sierra Nevada Pool		
384 – Woody Residue Treatment	\$30,000	\$54,000
490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Mechanical	\$70,000	\$126,000
490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Chemical or Biological	\$13,000	\$23,400
612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment	\$35,000	\$63,000
660 – Tree/Shrub Pruning	\$17,000	\$30,600
666 – Forest Stand Improvement	\$90,000	\$162,000

Regional Forestland Ranking Pools

Ranking Pool	Servicing Offices	Ranking Pool	Servicing Offices
Central Coast	Capitola LPO Concord Service Center Half Moon Bay LPO Hollister Service Center Livermore LPO Napa Service Center Petaluma Service Center Salinas Service Center Templeton Service Center	Interior Coast Range and Southern Cascades	Colusa Service Center Lakeport LPO McArthur LPO Oroville Service Center Quincy LPO Redding Service Center Red Bluff Service Center Susanville Service Center Willows Service Center Woodland Service Center Yreka Service Center Yuba City Service Center
Modoc Plateau	Alturas Service Center McArthur LPO Susanville Service Center Tulelake Project Office	North Coast	Del Norte LPO Eureka Service Center Ukiah Service Center
Sierra Nevada	Auburn Service Center Bakersfield Service Center Fresno Service Center Grass Valley Service Center Jackson LPO Madera Service Center Mariposa LPO Merced Service Center Placerville Service Center Visalia Service Center	Southern California	Bishop Service Center Blythe Service Center Escondido Service Center Imperial Service Center Indio Service Center Lancaster Service Center Oxnard Service Center Minden Service Center (NV) Redlands Service Center San Jacinto LPO Santa Maria Service Center Victorville Service Center

