



Colorado NRCS Local Work Group Task Guide

Conservation District: **East Otero Conservation District - 2023**

The USDA Conservation Program Delivery process relies on the products from the locally led process to provide USDA with conservation needs, resource concerns, priorities, and recommendations regarding program administration and implementation. NRCS is required by policy to ensure that local work group meetings are held annually in order for conservation partners, including agricultural producers, to provide this input.

To begin planning for Fiscal Year 2024 Farm Bill Program roll out, please compile or consolidate the comments and information provided during the local work group meeting to complete the items below. Add additional sheets as needed to provide the information.

1. **What are the most important or critical resource concerns in the District?** Please list them in order of priority, up to five (5) per land use. (Select from the attached list of NRCS Resource Concerns as listed in the Field Office Technology Guide Attachment B&C) This information is used to determine Colorado's 8 State Priority Resource Concerns.

Irrigated Cropland:

- Concern #1: Source water depletion
- Concern #2: Wind erosion leads to soil erosion
- Concern #3: Degraded Plant Condition
- Concern #4: Pest Pressure – prairie dogs

Rangeland:

- Concern #1: Source water depletion – inadequate water
- Concern #2: Degraded Plant Condition – over grazing
- Concern #3: Wind erosion

Pasture Land (Irrigated or grazed):

- Concern #1: Source water depletion – inadequate water
- Concern #2: Degraded Plant Condition
- Concern #3: Wind erosion

2. **What are the top conservation practices used by producers in your district? Please indicate the reason why they worked well.** This information is used to determine the state's priority conservation practices which receive higher payment percentage rate.

Irrigated Cropland:

- Practice #1: No Till, Reduced tillage
- Practice #2: Center Pivots; Underground Irrigation pipe, Drip irrigation, Gated Pipe
- Practice #3: Crop Rotation; some cover crops
- Practice #4: Land Leveling; Irrigation Water Management
- Practice #5: Land Leveling



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Rangeland:

- Practice #1: Fences
- Practice #2: Stock Tanks
- Practice #3: Livestock pipeline

Pasture Land (Irrigated or grazed):

- Practice #1: Fences
- Practice #2: Stock Tanks
- Practice #3: Livestock pipeline

- 3. What practices have been attempted by producers in your district that have not worked? Please indicate the reason they did not work (supply chain, weather conditions, contractors, design and installation problems ect) This information is used to identify training needs or revisions to NRCS standards and specifications/ job sheets.**

Irrigated Cropland:

- Practice #1: Cover Crops

Rangeland:

- Practice #1: Stocking Rates don't match our situation.

Pasture Land (Irrigated or grazed):

- Practice #1: Stocking Rates don't match our situation.

- 4. Using the information above does your conservation district have a locally lead conservation project in mind to treat local conservation needs? Please provide a brief write up of the project including the identified resource concern(problem), area of treatment, and practices needed to address the resource concern. This information is used to help form the locally lead fund pools in each of the individual resource teams.**

Our matching grants always feature irrigation projects. Could always use more funds to promote the projects.

- 5. What barriers exist that inhibit installation of practices?**

- Politics in the new Farm Bill
- Labor and Material Costs
- Cost vs Benefit – return on investment
- Time
- Labor Availability
- Communication – How to get the word out.



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6 If you have not completed a management practice with the structural or vegetative practice, what are your barriers? Select all that apply.

Management Practices are defined as a conservation practice that requires regular input from the land manager. Examples include nutrient management, residue management, prescribed grazing management, irrigation water management, ect.

- a. I don't understand the benefit of the management practice.
- b. It will take too much of my time to complete.
- c. I don't feel like it is needed for my operation.
- d. I was not informed from NRCS staff what my options were for management practices.
- e. I have completed management practices.
- f. Other
 - i. Record Keeping
 - ii. Water Management is determined by the canals

If the answer to above was a, b, c, or f please provide a brief explanation of your answer.

6. Are there new technologies or practices that are being used in the District, Resource Team or Watershed that NRCS should consider adopting? (This may include Conservation Stewardship Program enhancement activities) This information is used to identify new NRCS practice or enhancement needs.

Advanced technology to replace labor.

Drones and Robots

GPS on Tractors

7. Additional comments or items that relate to conservation program delivery:

We would like the Targeted money back.

We would like the Source Water money back.

The limits placed on board members concerning the matching grants only punished the board member. It makes it harder and harder to recruit board members.

8. What other support material could be provided from NRCS to be used in the planning and hosting of the meeting?



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Please provide a copy of the attendance list for the meeting as well as the completed task guide(s) to Amber Freouf at amber.freouf@usda.gov with a copy to your Resource Team Leader.

Task Guides must be received by **July 31, 2023**. Thank you for your time and efforts!