



ON-THE-GROUND PROJECT RURAL COST SHARE PROGRAM FUNDING OVERVIEW

General Program Objectives

The On-The-Ground project funding program was created to help fund projects that make a positive difference on the land. The focus of the program is to impact water quality, enhance or protect soils, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Specific Goals of Program

Improve wildlife habitat in riparian, wetland, and/or upland areas- use of tools such as grazing, plantings, water development, fire, chemical application, and other BMPs to improve habitat

Improve grazing distribution- increase productivity of the land through erosion control and vegetation management on rangeland and irrigated cropland

Improve water quality- prevention and control of erosion, mediation for floodwater and sediment damages, improvement for agricultural uses, storage, conservation development, and disposal of water

Improve irrigation efficiency- alleviate and manage soil erosion, improve energy flow, improve the water and water and nutrient cycle

Help keep agricultural operation viable- use of new technologies in range and irrigation management practices

Education- activities to promote agricultural and natural resource conservation education to public school students, and youth organizations, as well as in other venues where youth and children receive formal education

Funding Overview

The amount of cost share available for each project is a maximum of 50% cost share and a maximum of \$10,000.00. The electrical portion of an irrigation project may be capped at an amount of \$5,000.

The Washakie County Conservation District (WCCD) Board of Supervisors will determine the amount of cost share for each project on a case-by-case basis and requires that the landowner invest at least 25% match (cash or in-kind) for each project. The WCCD Board reserves the right to adjust the cost-share final payment based upon actual amount of the project. Cost reimbursement will be based upon actual costs unless actual costs exceed 10% over the estimated cost. If the actual cost exceeds 10% over the estimated cost, the applicant will be responsible for the difference.

Selection Process and Timeline

- 1) Applications are due by the first week of every month and arrangements will need to be made by the applicant to schedule an on-site visit of the proposed project.
- 2) An on-site visit must be conducted prior to approval of the project.
- 3) Applicants are required to provide a map of the project area and attach all cost estimates associated with the cost breakdown on the attached budget sheet.
- 4) Applicants are required to attend a WCCD Board meeting within the month that they have applied, to present the project and answer any questions the WCCD board may have.
- 5) Grant selection and payment decisions will be made by the WCCD Board of Supervisors during their board meetings on the third Monday of February, May, August, and November.

Important Notes

- It is the responsibility of the applicant to make the case that the project meets the goals of the program and has public benefit.
- The ranking sheet is included in this application. Applications that rank 18 points or lower will not be funded.
- If the construction of this project crosses other landowner's properties, applicant will need to have discussed the proposed project and received preliminary access approval. (*Refer to Landowner Permission to Install Form*)
- All projects must be pre-approved before being initiated and must be evaluated upon completion.

For more information, please contact Amanda O'Keefe at 347-2456 ext. 101 or by email at wccd@rtconnect.net.



WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

APPLICATION FOR ON-THE-GROUND RURAL COST SHARE PROJECT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Project description: _____

Total estimated cost: \$ _____

Fill out the following aspects of the project and specifically list ways the project would promote conservation. Each answer will be ranked on a scale of 1-4 depending on the number of benefits.

Impact water quality (Include the name of the waterbody and consider distance to water, impaired water or not, size of water body, amount of water improved):

Enhance or protect the soil (consider soil erosion, compaction, sediment, vegetation):

Benefit to the habitat (consider cover, security, food):

Benefit to the public (consider how water, soil and habitat improvements of the project might improve hunting, fishing, or other for your community):

General questions:

What other treatments have been considered?

What other funding sources have been considered?

What are some benefits if any to multiple landowners?

Has any funding been received by you, or others associated with your operation, in the last three years? If yes, what are the dates?

The following is an example of the ranking sheet that will be used by the WCCD Board of Supervisors to determine eligibility.

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Water Quality	Project impacts multiple aspects of water quality.	Project impacts several aspects of water quality.	Project impacts a couple of aspects of water quality.	Project does not impact water quality.
Soil Conservation	Project will protect or enhance soil conservation in multiple ways.	Project will protect or enhance soil conservation in several ways.	Project will protect or enhance soil conservation in a couple of ways.	Project does not protect or enhance soil conservation
Habitat Enhancement	Project will enhance the habitat in multiple ways.	Project will enhance the habitat in several ways.	Project will enhance the habitat in a couple of ways.	Project does not enhance the habitat in any way.
Public Benefit	Project will benefit the general public in multiple ways.	Project will benefit the general public in several ways.	Project will benefit the general public in a couple of ways.	Project does not benefit the general public in a couple of ways.
Alternative treatments have been considered	Multiple other treatments have been considered.	Several other treatments have been considered.	A couple of other treatments have been considered.	No other treatments have been considered.
Alternative funding sources considered	Multiple other funding sources have been considered.	Several other funding sources have been considered.	A couple of other funding sources have been considered.	No other funding sources have been considered.
Multiple landowners	Project will benefit multiple landowners.	Project will benefit several landowners.	Project will benefit two landowners.	Project will benefit the applicant only.
Benefits of funds	In the last three years, applicant has not benefitted in any way from conservation funds.	Applicant has received funds or benefitted from conservation funds in the last two years.	Applicant has received funds or benefitted from conservation funds in the last year.	Applicant has received funds or benefitted from conservation funds for multiple projects in the last three years.

WCCD RESERVES THE RIGHT NOT TO FUND A PROJECT IF APPLICANT HAS RECEIVED WCCD COST SHARE FUNDS WITHIN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

**WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ON-THE-GROUND RURAL COST SHARE PROJECT
APPLICATION BUDGET SHEET**

Please provide a detailed cost breakdown and attach cost/bid estimates.

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST	LANDOWNER CONTRIBUTION (Please state whether it is cash or in-kind contribution)	OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS (Please state where other funds are coming from)	ANTICIPATED CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION
TOTALS	\$	\$		\$

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SIGNATURE & DATE (landowner)

Daniel Greet, Chairman

Date

Susan Pennington, Vice-Chairwoman

Date

Jaci Harkink, Secretary/Treasurer

Date

Charley Orchard, Member/Supervisor

Date

Keith Bower, Member/Supervisor

Date

Date Project Approved by WCCD Board of Supervisors: _____