

**STATE GUIDELINES  
FOR THE  
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

**PROGRAM YEAR 16**

Program Year Begins: December 1, 2014  
Program Year Ends: June 30, 2016

Allocation Period Begins: December 1, 2014  
Allocation Period Ends: June 30, 2015

Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
in cooperation with  
Oklahoma's 86 Conservation Districts

Approved by the Conservation Commission on December 1, 2014.

## 1. GENERAL

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission hereby declares that the following problems are having a detrimental affect on the renewable natural resources of our state:

Oklahoma's water and soil resources are an important foundation of the state's economic infrastructure. Natural climatic events as well as human activity are impacting these two natural resources. As long as farmers and ranchers produce food from the land to feed the world and the wind blows and the rain falls, we will continue to see impacts on soil and water. Our task as stewards of these natural resources is to minimize these impacts. Protecting these vital natural resources is paramount in preserving the state's economic future. In order to accomplish this goal, the Conservation Commission hereby establishes the following goals and objectives to address these problems affecting our renewable natural resources:

Make cost-share funds available to conservation districts so that they can implement cost-share practices which will protect our soil and water natural resources.

The Conservation Commission herein establishes the complete list and description of the conservation Cost-Share Program policies and conservation practices approved for use by the conservation districts during Program Year 16. See Section II for the approved list of conservation practices with their respective range of cost-share rates for each of the Conservation Cost-Share Program initiatives. State cost-share average costs (unit cost) are based on Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) data.

Any exceptions from these established Conservation Cost-Share Program policies and guidelines shall be approved by the Conservation Commission.

## II. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

### A. Locally Led Conservation Initiative

The Conservation Commission allocates the \$1,389,394.00 FY 2015 appropriation and \$20,606.00 of the un-obligated balance from previous program years for a total of \$1,410,000.00 to the Conservation Cost-Share Fund for the purposes of providing cost-share payments to eligible participants for implementing approved cost-share conservation practices.

### B. Conservation District Allocation

The amount of funds allocated to each conservation district appears on page 12. These funds will be available to conservation districts on December 1, 2014.

### III. POLICIES

#### A. Allocation Period

The allocation period shall start December 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2015. Any funds allocated to districts and not obligated during the allocation period for Program Year 16 will be released by the district and made available for reallocation by the Conservation Commission. Funds become obligated to a participant after approval of the application by the board and a performance agreement has been signed and dated by the district board and the participant.

#### B. Authorized/Designated Representatives

The district board must designate an authorized district representative. This person can sign all forms. The authorized district representative must be a district board member. It cannot be a district employee.

The district must designate a technical representative. The designated technical representative will assist in developing conservation plans and determining the need for conservation practices. The representative will also be responsible for design and layout of approved conservation practices, determining compliance with approved standards and specifications, and certifying conservation practice quantities and completion of conservation practices.

#### C. Conservation Practices

Each district board may select any of the approved cost-share conservation practices within the Locally Led Conservation Initiative for inclusion in the district's local guidelines. The selection should be based on which practices will best address the district's highest priority problems affecting renewable natural resources.

Cost-share practices shall be implemented according to NRCS standards and specifications. In the event NRCS standards and specifications do not exist, conservation practices must meet Conservation Commission approved standards and specifications.

#### D. Average Costs

State average cost (unit cost) for these practices is based on Oklahoma NRCS data. In order for a variance to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting data compiled by the district. The variance rate must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to the board's approval of Program applications and performance agreements being signed.

#### E. Cost-Share Payments

The minimum cost-share payment amount that shall be made to any participant from these funds is \$100. The maximum cost-share payment amount that shall be made to any participant from these funds is \$5,000.

#### F. Cost-Share Rate

The maximum cost-share rate for these practices is 75%. District boards may choose to set cost-share rate less than the specified rate.

#### G. Eligibility

Applicants for the Conservation Cost-Share Program must be a district cooperator with a conservation plan.

Conservation Commissioners, Conservation Commission staff, conservation district employees or the spouses of any of these people shall not be eligible to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

On November 1, 1999 conservation district directors became eligible to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program. Due to the limited amount of funds available for Program Year 16 individual directors should give careful consideration to public perception when making their decision to participate in the Program. If the local board decides that board members can apply and board members choose to apply for Program Year 16 the guidelines below must be followed.

1. Individual district board members applying cannot discuss any element of the Cost-Share Program including but not limited to practices, rates, average costs, selection criteria, application approval/disapprovals, cost-share payments, and extensions.
2. Individual district board members applying for the Cost-Share Program must abstain from voting on all elements of the Program.
3. Individual district board members cannot use their position as a conservation district board member to improve or elevate their individual chances of becoming a successful applicant.

#### H. Agreements

All Program Year 16 performance agreements must be signed and dated by the district board and participant on or before June 30, 2015. All Program Year 16 performance agreements must be completed and the check in the hand of the participant on or before June 30, 2016. Installation of conservation practices can not begin until an effective performance agreement is in place. A performance agreement becomes effective on the last date of signature. Each participant should have only one performance agreement.

Each participant is required to sign a maintenance agreement. Completion of the maintenance agreement and signature of the participant are required prior to the disbursement of the cost-share payment.

### IV APPROVED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Contained in this section is a list of all conservation practice's approved for use in the Program Year 16 Locally Led Conservation Initiative. The conservation district shall only use conservation practices listed here unless a special request is approved by the Conservation Commission. In order for a conservation practice special request to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting documentation. The special request must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to the board's approval of Program applications and performance agreements being signed.

State average cost (unit cost) for these practices is based on Oklahoma NRCS data. In order for a variance to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting data compiled by the district. The variance rate must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to performance agreements being signed.

Below are the conservation practices approved for Program Year 16.

#### 314 - Brush Management

Definition: The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.

Purpose: Create the desired plant community consistent with the ecological site.

- Restore or release desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality or enhance stream flow.
- Maintain, modify or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock and wildlife.
- Manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions.

#### 315 – Herbaceous Weed Control

Definition: Removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants.

Purpose: Enhance accessibility, quantity, and quality of forage and/or browse. Restore or release native or create desired plant communities and wildlife habitats consistent with the ecological site. Protect soils and control erosion. Reduce fine-fuels fire hazard and improve air quality.

#### 338 – Prescribed Burning

Definition: Controlled fire applied to a predetermined area.

- Purpose:
- Control undesirable vegetation.
  - Prepare sites for harvesting, planting or seeding.
  - Control plant disease.
  - Reduce wildfire hazards.
  - Improve wildlife habitat.
  - Improve plant production quantity and/or quality.
  - Remove slash and debris.
  - Enhance seed and seedling production.
  - Facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals.
  - Restore and maintain ecological sites.

#### 340 – Cover Crop

Definition: Crops including grasses, legumes, and forbs for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes.

Purpose: Reduce erosion from wind and water. Increase soil organic matter content. Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile. Promote biological nitrogen fixation and reduce energy use. Increase biodiversity. Suppress weeds. Manage soil moisture. Minimize and reduce soil compaction.

### 342 - Critical Area Planting

**Definition:** Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have, or are expected to have, high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

**Purpose:** To stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas.

### 362 - Diversion (new structures only)

**Definition:** A channel constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side.

**Purpose:** To divert excess water from one area for use or safe disposal in other areas.

### 378 - Pond (new structures only)

**Definition:** A water impoundment made by constructing an embankment or by excavating a pit or dugout.

**Purpose:** To provide water for livestock, fish and wildlife, recreation, fire control, develop renewable energy systems, and other related uses, and to maintain or improve water quality.

### 382 - Fencing

**Definition:** A constructed barrier to animals or people. (Does not include temporary fence.)

**Purpose:** This practice facilitates the accomplishment of conservation objectives by providing a means to control movement of animals and people, including vehicles.

**NOTE: This practice is to be used only in conjunction with the Pond (378) or as cross fencing for grazing management.**

### 394 – Firebreak

**Definition:** A permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land planned to retard fire.

**Purpose:**

- Reduce the spread of wildfire.
- Contain prescribed burns.

### 410 - Grade Stabilization Structure

**Definition:** A structure used to control the grade and head cutting in natural or artificial channels.

**Purpose:** To stabilize the grade and control erosion in natural or artificial channels, to prevent the formation or advance of gullies, and to enhance environmental quality and reduce pollution hazards.

#### 412 - Grassed Waterway (new structures only)

**Definition:** A shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to carry surface water at a non-erosive velocity to a stable outlet.

**Purpose:** This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

- To convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding
- To reduce gully erosion
- To protect/improve water quality

#### 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting

**Definition:** Establishing adapted and /or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

**Purpose:** Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health. Reduce soil erosion. Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production. Improve soil and water quality. Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production.

#### 516 - Pipeline

**Definition:** Pipeline installed for conveying water for livestock.

**Purpose:** To convey water from a source of supply to points of use.

#### 533 – Pumping Plant

**Definition:** A facility that delivers water at a designed pressure and flow rate. Includes the required pump(s), associated power unit(s), plumbing, appurtenances, and may include on-site fuel or energy source(s), and protective structures.

**Purpose:** Delivery of water for irrigation, watering facilities, wetlands, or fire protection. Removal of excessive subsurface or surface water. Provide efficient use of water on irrigated land.

#### 550 - Range Planting

**Definition:** Establishing of adapted perennial or self-sustaining vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees.

**Purpose:** Restore a plant community similar to the ecological site description reference state for the site or the desired plant community. Provide or improve forages for livestock. Provide or improve forage, browse or cover for wildlife. Reduce erosion by wind and/or water. Improve water quality and quantity.

#### 561 – Heavy Use Area Protection

**Definition:** The stabilization of areas frequently and intensively used by people, animals or vehicles by establishing vegetative cover, surfacing with suitable materials, and/or installing needed structures.

**Purpose:** To provide a stable, non-eroding surface for areas frequently used by animals, people or vehicles. To protect and improve water quality.

### 595 - Pest Management

**Definition:** A site-specific combination of pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression strategies.

**Purpose:** Prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks to water quality from leaching, solution runoff and absorbed runoff losses. Minimize negative impacts of pest control on soil resources, water resources, air resources, plant resources, animal resources and/or humans.

### 600 - Terrace

**Definition:** An earth embankment, a channel, or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope.

**Purpose:** To reduce erosion, reduce sediment content in runoff water, and improve water quality.

### 614 - Watering Facility

**Definition:** A permanent or portable device to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock and/or wildlife.

**Purpose:** To provide access to drinking water for livestock and/or wildlife in order to meet daily water requirements and improve animal distribution

### 642 - Water Well

**Definition:** A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed to an aquifer for water supply.

**Purpose:** Provide water for livestock, wildlife, irrigation, and other agricultural uses. To facilitate proper use of vegetation, such as keeping animals on rangeland and pastures and away from streams, and providing water for wildlife.

## V CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Please refer to the Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and specifications book.

IV CONSERVATION PRACTICE COST-SHARE STATE AVERAGE COSTS

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
314	BRUSH MANAGEMENT		10 yrs		
		Mechanical 11-30% Canopy Cover		AC	\$149.01
		Mechanical 31-50% Canopy Cover		AC	\$238.41
		Mechanical >51% Canopy Cover		AC	\$372.47
		Chemical-Individual Plant Treatment Low (50-200 plants per acre)		AC	\$26.29
		Chemical-Individual Plant Treatment High (201-400 plants per acre)		AC	\$58.54
		Chemical-Broadcast, Aerial, or Ground		AC	\$41.83
		Chemical-Broadcast Tebuthiuron 1.0 lb rate		AC	\$59.64
		Chemical-Broadcast Tebuthiuron 2.0 lb rate		AC	\$97.10
		Chemical-Broadcast Imazapyr		AC	\$50.66
315	HERBACEOUS WEED CONTROL		10 yrs		
		Chemical Application		AC	\$25.46
		Mechanical		AC	\$21.23
338	PRESCRIBED BURNING				
		Rangeland-Level Terrain, Herbaceous Fuel		AC	\$6.99
		Rangeland-Steep Terrain, herbaceous Fuel		AC	\$13.49
340	COVER CROP				
		Mixed Species (mechanical/chemical kill)		AC	\$90.74
		Non-Legume-Dead Litter		AC	\$71.40
		Legume-N Fixation		AC	\$71.40
		Organic Cover Crop		AC	\$88.41
		Multispecies Cover Crop on Pasture		AC	\$72.47
342	CRITICAL AREA PLANTING		10 yrs		
		Introduced Grass with NPK (normal tillage)		AC	\$206.86
		Introduced Grass with NPK and Lime (normal tillage)		AC	\$270.72
		Native Grass with Lime (normal tillage)		AC	\$424.63
362	DIVERSION		10 yrs		
		Diversion		CY	\$1.70
378	POND		20 yrs		
		Excavated or Embankment Pond without Pipe		CY	\$2.37
		Embankment, Pipe Material 1000 Diameter Inch Foot or Smaller		CY	\$2.99
		Embankment, Pipe Material 1001-1500 Diameter Inch Foot		CY	\$3.19

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
382	FENCE		20 yrs		
		Barbed/Smooth Wire		LF	\$2.33
		Wire Difficult		LF	\$2.82
394	FIREBREAK				
		Constructed-Light Equipment		FT	\$0.05
		Constructed-Medium Equipment, flat-medium slopes		FT	\$0.18
		Constructed-Medium Equipment, steep slopes		FT	\$0.64
		Vegetated, Permanent Firebreak		FT	\$0.13
		Re-Constructed Firebreaks (where prior firebreaks existed and are not useable)		FT	\$0.09
410	GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE		20 yrs		
		Embankment, Pipe Material > 1000 Diameter Inch Foot		CY	\$2.91
		Embankment, Pipe Material 1001-1499 Diameter Inch Foot		CY	\$3.10
		Rock Chute		CY	\$57.93
		Concrete Chute		CY	\$522.50
412	GRASSED WATERWAY		10 yrs		
		Base Waterway		AC	\$1,411.75
512	FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING		10 yrs		
		Native Perennial Grass (one species)		AC	\$203.68
		Seedbed Prep. Seed & Seeding-Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses		AC	\$327.78
		Overseeding Legumes		AC	\$44.66
		Sprigging with Lime Application		AC	\$426.40
		Overseeding Legumes with Lime Application		AC	\$97.73
516	PIPELINE		20 yrs		
		.75 in – 1.25 in Plastic, Normal Trenching		LF	\$1.84
		.75 in – 1.25 in Plastic, Rock Trenching		LF	\$2.88
		1.5 in – 2 in Plastic, Normal Trenching		LF	\$2.16
		1.5 in – 2 in Plastic, Rock Trenching		LF	\$3.20
533	PUMPING PLANT		15 yrs		
		Electric Powered Pump, 2 HP or Less		HP	\$1,310.54
		Electric Powered Pump, 2 HP or Less, Pressure Tank		HP	\$1,742.67
		Electric Powered Pump, > 2 HP and ≤ 10 HP		HP	\$600.57
		Electric Powered Pump, > 10 HP and ≤ 40 HP		HP	\$437.68
		Electric Powered Pump, > 40 HP		HP	\$277.24
		Solar Powered Pumping Plant, 150 ft or Less (of total head on pump)		EACH	\$3,209.11
		Solar Powered Pumping Plant, 151-300 ft (of total head on pump)		EACH	\$4,876.89

<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Life Span</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>
550	RANGE PLANTING		10 yrs		
		Native Plants (standard seedbed prep)		AC	\$211.95
561	HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION		10 yrs		
		Rock on Geotextile		SF	\$1.35
		Rock in GeoCell on Geotextile		SF	\$3.78
		Reinforced Concrete with sand or gravel foundation		SF	\$2.46
595	INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT				
		Basic IPM One Resource Concern		AC	\$14.95
		Basic IPM More than One Resource Concern		AC	\$20.15
		Advanced IPM, All Resource Concerns		AC	\$29.91
		Basic IPM Fruit/Veg, One Resource Concern		AC	\$83.08
		Basic IPM Fruit/Veg, More than One Resource Concern		AC	\$106.35
		Advanced IPM Fruit/Veg, All Resource Concerns		AC	\$162.03
		IPM Small Farm One Resource Concern		AC	\$506.79
		IPM Small Farm More than One Resource Concern		AC	\$648.10
		Advanced IPM Small Farm All Resource Concerns		AC	\$972.15
600	TERRACE		10 yrs		
		Terrace Construction		LF	\$0.70
		Terrace Reconstruction		LF	\$0.95
614	WATERING FACILITY		10 yrs		
		Freeze Proof Trough		EACH	\$1,442.77
		Energy Free Fountains		GAL	\$28.39
		Watering Facility < 1000 gallons		GAL	\$1.77
		Watering Facility 1001-1400 gallons		GAL	\$1.16
		Watering Facility 1401-2100 gallons		GAL	\$0.99
		Watering Facility 2101-3000 gallons		GAL	\$0.81
		Watering Facility 3001-5000 gallons		GAL	\$0.66
		Watering Facility > 5000 gallons		GAL	\$0.55
642	WATER WELL		20 yrs		
		Well 50 feet or less in depth		EACH	\$1,668.30
		Well 50-100 feet in depth		LF	\$35.56
		Well 100-600 feet in depth		LF	\$20.73
		Well > 600 feet in depth		LF	\$17.39

CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST-SHARE PROGRAM YEAR 16 ALLOCATIONS

Adair	\$22,500.00	LeFlore	\$17,500.00
Alfalfa	\$10,000.00	Lincoln	\$13,750.00
Arbuckle	\$18,750.00	Little River	\$13,750.00
Atoka	\$10,000.00	Logan	\$17,500.00
Beaver	\$17,500.00	Love	\$15,000.00
Blaine	\$18,750.00	Major	\$21,250.00
Bryan	\$16,250.00	Marshall	\$11,250.00
Caney Valley	\$15,000.00	Mayes	\$18,750.00
Central North Canadian River	\$16,250.00	McClain	\$13,750.00
Checotah	\$18,750.00	McIntosh	\$16,250.00
Cherokee	\$12,500.00	Murray	\$18,750.00
Cimarron County	\$13,750.00	Muskogee	\$18,750.00
Cimarron Valley	\$11,250.00	Noble	\$20,000.00
Cleveland	\$10,000.00	North Caddo	\$15,000.00
Coal	\$10,000.00	North Fork of Red River	\$11,250.00
Comanche	\$10,000.00	Nowata	\$18,750.00
Cotton	\$20,000.00	Okfuskee	\$16,250.00
Craig	\$21,250.00	Oklahoma	\$18,750.00
Creek	\$22,500.00	Okmulgee	\$11,250.00
Custer	\$13,750.00	Osage	\$22,500.00
Deer Creek	\$11,250.00	Ottawa	\$21,250.00
Delaware	\$17,500.00	Pawnee	\$13,750.00
Dewey	\$22,500.00	Payne	\$22,500.00
East Canadian	\$22,500.00	Pittsburg	\$20,000.00
Ellis	\$21,250.00	Pontotoc	\$11,250.00
Garfield	\$17,500.00	Pushmataha	\$12,500.00
Garvin	\$18,750.00	Rogers	\$20,000.00
Grady	\$17,500.00	Seminole	\$20,000.00
Grant	\$17,500.00	Sequoyah	\$11,250.00
Greer	\$15,000.00	Shawnee	\$13,750.00
Harmon	\$22,500.00	South Caddo	\$22,500.00
Harper	\$18,750.00	Stephens	\$18,750.00
Haskell	\$15,000.00	Talihina	\$17,500.00
Hughes	\$11,250.00	Texas	\$16,250.00
Jackson	\$17,500.00	Tillman	\$21,250.00
Jefferson	\$20,000.00	Tulsa	\$12,500.00
Johnston	\$15,000.00	Upper Washita	\$11,250.00
Kay	\$15,000.00	Valliant	\$10,000.00
Kiamichi	\$11,250.00	Wagoner	\$11,250.00
Kingfisher	\$20,000.00	Washita	\$17,500.00
Kiowa	\$13,750.00	West Caddo	\$17,500.00
Konawa	\$17,500.00	Woods	\$12,500.00
Latimer	\$15,000.00	Woodward	\$22,500.00