

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

PROGRAM YEAR 20

Program Year Begins: April 1, 2019  
Program Year Ends: September 30, 2020

Allocation Period Begins: April 1, 2019  
Allocation Period Ends: September 30, 2019

Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
in cooperation with  
Oklahoma's 84 Conservation Districts

Approved by the Conservation Commission on, April 1, 2019.

## I GENERAL

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission hereby declares that the following problems are having a detrimental effect 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 20. 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 \$1,365,000 of FY 2019 appropriations 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 from the FY 2019 appropriation for Program Year 20 appears on page 13. These funds will be available to conservation districts on April 1, 2019.

Conservation districts that have unobligated Program Year 19 funds may submit a request to the Conservation Commission to carry those funds over for use in

Program Year 20. Requests will include the district's final Program Year 19 Monthly Report. The amount of each district's carry over funds will be based on their performance ranking during Program Years 16, 17, and 18.

### III POLICIES

#### A. Allocation Period

The allocation period shall start April 1, 2019 and end September 30, 2020. Any funds allocated to districts and not obligated during the allocation period for Program Year 20 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.

Conservation district directors are eligible to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program. Due to the limited amount of funds available for Program Year 20 individual directors should give careful consideration to public perception when making their decision to participate in the Program. If the local board votes to allow board members to apply for Program Year 20 the guidelines below will 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 20 performance agreements must be signed and dated by the district board and participant on or before September 30, 2019. All Program Year 20 performance agreements must be completed and the check in the hand of the participant on or before September 30, 2020. Installation of conservation practices cannot 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 20 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 20.

### 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 or a desired state within the site description.
- Restore or release desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality or enhance hydrology.
- 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.
- Pervasive plan species are controlled to a desired level of treatment that will ultimately contribute to creation or maintenance of an ecological site description "steady state" addressing the need for forage, wildlife habitat, and/or water quality.

### 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 site potential.
- Protect soils and control erosion.
- Reduce fine fuel loads and wildlife hazard.
- Pervasive plan species are controlled to a desired level of treatment that will ultimately contribute to creation or maintenance of an ecological site description "steady state" addressing the need for forage, wildlife habitat, and/or water quality.
- Improve rangeland health.

### 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: Grasses, legumes, and forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover.

- Purpose:
- Reduce erosion from wind and water.
  - Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content.
  - Reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excessive soil nutrients.
  - Suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles.
  - Improve soil moisture use efficiency.
  - Minimize 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 seeding/planting methods.

- Purpose:
- Stabilize stream and channel banks, pond and other shorelines, earthen features of structural conservation practices.
  - Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water.
  - Stabilize areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas.

### 362 – Diversion (new structures only)

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

- Purpose:
- Break up concentrations of water on long slopes, on undulating land surfaces and on land that is generally considered too flat or irregular for terracing.
  - Divert water away from farmsteads, agricultural waste systems, and other improvements.
  - Collect or direct water for storage, water-spreading, or water-harvesting systems.
  - Protect terrace systems by diverting water from the top terrace where topography, land use, or land ownership prevents terracing the land above.
  - Intercept surface and shallow subsurface flow.

- Reduce runoff damages from upland runoff.
- Reduce erosion and runoff on urban or developing areas and at construction or mining sites.
- Divert water away from active gullies or critically eroding areas.
- Supplement water management on conservation cropping or strip-cropping systems.

### 378 - Pond **(new structures only)**

Definition: A water impoundment made by constructing an embankment, by excavating a dugout, or by a combination of both.

Purpose: A pond stores water for livestock, fish and wildlife, recreation, fire control, erosion control, flow detention, and other uses such as improving 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 in natural or constructed channels.

Purpose: To stabilize the grade, reduce erosion or improve water quality.

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

Definition: A shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to convey surface water at a non-erosive velocity using a broad and shallow cross section to a stable outlet.

Purpose:

- 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.
  - 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 and appurtenances installed to convey water for livestock or wildlife.

- Purpose:
- Convey water to points of use for livestock or wildlife.
  - Reduce energy use.
  - Develop renewable energy systems.

#### 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.
  - Improvement of air quality.
  - Reduce energy use.

#### 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.
  - Increase carbon sequestration.

#### 561 – Heavy Use Area Protection

Definition: To stabilize a ground surface that is frequently and intensively used by people, animals, or vehicles.

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

#### 600 - Terrace

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

- Purpose:
- Reduce erosion and trap sediment.
  - Retain runoff for moisture conservation.

614 - Watering Facility

Definition: A means of providing drinking water to livestock or wildlife.

Purpose: Provide designated access to drinking water for livestock 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 into an aquifer for water supply.

Purpose: Provide access to a groundwater supply suitable for livestock watering, fire control, wildlife, and other agricultural uses.

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				
	Mechanical	11-30% Canopy Cover		AC	\$157.13
	Mechanical	31-50% Canopy Cover		AC	\$251.40
	Mechanical	>51% Canopy Cover		AC	\$404.72
	Chemical-Individual Plant Treatment	Low (50-200 plants per acre)		AC	\$27.85
	Chemical-Individual Plant Treatment	High (201-400 plants per acre)		AC	\$63.42
	Chemical-Broadcast, Aerial, or Ground			AC	\$40.22
	Chemical-Broadcast	Tebuthiuron 1.0 lb rate		AC	\$57.85
	Chemical-Broadcast	Tebuthiuron 2.0 lb rate		AC	\$92.50
315	HERBACEOUS WEED CONTROL				
	Chemical	Application by any method		AC	\$38.01
	Mechanical			AC	\$23.05
338	PRESCRIBED BURNING				
	Level Terrain, Herbaceous			AC	\$11.87
	Steep Terrain, Herbaceous			AC	\$25.32
340	COVER CROP				
	Basic & Organic/Non-Organic			AC	\$62.86
	Multiple Species Organic/Non-Organic			AC	\$70.95
342	CRITICAL AREA PLANTING/VEGETATION		10 yrs		
	Native & Introduced Vegetation	(normal tillage)		AC	\$268.42
	Native & Introduced Vegetation	(moderate grading)		AC	\$598.95
362	DIVERSION		10 yrs		
	Diversion			CY	\$2.46
378	POND		20 yrs		
	Excavated or Embankment Pond	without Pipe		CY	\$2.51
	Embankment, Pipe Material	1000 Diameter Inch Foot or Smaller		CY	\$3.18
	Embankment, Pipe Material	1001-1500 Diameter Inch Foot		CY	\$3.39
382	FENCE		20 yrs		
	Level Non-Rocky			LF	\$2.32
	Steep-Rocky			LF	\$2.99
394	FIREBREAK				
	Constructed-Slight Slopes	with Light Equipment		FT	\$0.06
	Constructed-Moderate Slopes	with Medium Equipment		FT	\$0.19
	Constructed-Steep Slopes	with Medium Equipment		FT	\$0.69
	Vegetated, Permanent	Firebreak		FT	\$0.14
	Re-Constructed	Firebreaks (where prior firebreaks existed and are not useable)		FT	\$0.09

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
410	GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE		20 yrs		
	Embankment, Galvanized CMP or Plastic Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 4.0)			CY	\$2.69
	Embankment, Galvanized CMP or Plastic Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) is 4.0-2.1)			CY	\$3.04
	Embankment, Galvanized CMP or Plastic Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) is 2.0-1.4)			CY	\$3.42
	Embankment, Galvanized CMP or Plastic Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) is 1.3-1.1)			CY	\$3.65
	Embankment, Welded Steel or Aluminum Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 4.0)			CY	\$2.96
	Embankment, Welded Steel or Aluminum Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 4.0-2.1)			CY	\$3.08
	Embankment, Welded Steel or Aluminum Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 2.0-1.4)			CY	\$3.58
	Embankment, Welded Steel or Aluminum Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 1.3-1.1)			CY	\$3.93
	Rock Chute			CY	\$66.78
	Chute, Rock with Concrete Cutoff			CY	\$82.06
	Concrete Chute			CY	\$582.82
412	GRASSED WATERWAY		10 yrs		
	Base Waterway			AC	\$1,886.68
512	FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING		10 yrs		
	Native Perennial Grass (one species)			AC	\$180.64
	Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses, Seeding			AC	\$224.98
	Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses, Sprigging			AC	\$269.32
	Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses, Seeding w/ Lime			AC	\$304.22
	Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses, Sprigging w/ Lime			AC	\$341.93
	Introduced Perennial Cool Season Grass, Seeding			AC	\$207.05
516	PIPELINE		20 yrs		
	.75 in – 1.25 in Plastic, Normal Trenching			LF	\$2.14
	.75 in – 1.25 in Plastic, Rock Trenching			LF	\$3.24
	1.5 in – 2 in Plastic, Normal Trenching			LF	\$2.55
	1.5 in – 2 in Plastic, Rock Trenching			LF	\$3.65
	> 2 in Plastic, Normal Trenching			LF	\$4.06
	> 2 in Plastic, Rock Trenching			LF	\$5.16
	≤ 2 in HDPE, Surface Installation			LF	\$2.18
	> 2 in HDPE, Surface Installation			LF	\$4.68
533	PUMPING PLANT		15 yrs		
	Electric Powered Pump, 2 HP or Less			HP	\$1,476.51
	Electric Powered Pump, 2 HP or Less, Pressure Tank			HP	\$1,776.11
	Electric Powered Pump, > 2 HP and ≤ 10 HP			HP	\$731.16
	Electric Powered Pump, > 10 HP and ≤ 40 HP			HP	\$466.52
	Electric Powered Pump, > 40 HP			HP	\$298.10
	Variable Frequency Drive, 40 HP or Less			HP	\$356.56

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
533	PUMPING PLANT	(continued)			
		Variable Frequency Drive, > 40 HP and ≤ 100 HP		HP	\$228.15
		Internal Combustion Powered Pump, 75 HP or Less		HP	\$698.22
		Internal Combustion Powered Pump, > 75 HP		HP	\$423.99
		PTO Pump		HP	\$126.18
		Windmill Powered Pump		FT	\$954.80
		Solar Powered Pumping Plant, 150 ft or Less (of total head on pump)		EACH	\$4,794.83
		Solar Powered Pumping Plant, 151-300 ft (of total head on pump)		EACH	\$7,465.65
550	RANGE PLANTING		10 yrs		
		Cropland to Grassland (standard seedbed prep)		AC	\$310.65
		Cropland to Grassland (heavy seedbed prep)		AC	\$333.67
		Highly Diverse Mixtures of Native Plants		AC	\$258.52
561	HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION		10 yrs		
		Aggregate, Crushed Rock or Gravel on Geotextile		SF	\$1.14
		Aggregate, Crushed Rock or Gravel in GeoCell on Geotextile		SF	\$3.85
		Aggregate, Crushed Rock or Gravel on Earthen Base		SF	\$0.88
		Other Cementitious Material, Crushed Gypsum Rock		SF	\$0.94
		Other Cementitious Material, Compacted Caliche		SF	\$0.48
		Reinforced Concrete with Sand or Gravel Foundation		SF	\$3.40
600	TERRACE		10 yrs		
		Terrace Construction		LF	\$1.28
		Terrace Reconstruction		LF	\$1.01
614	WATERING FACILITY		10 yrs		
		Freeze Proof Trough		EACH	\$1,526.78
		Energy Free Fountains		GAL	\$32.91
		Watering Facility < 1000 gallons		GAL	\$2.00
		Watering Facility 1001-1400 gallons		GAL	\$1.31
		Watering Facility 1401-2100 gallons		GAL	\$1.12
		Watering Facility 2101-3000 gallons		GAL	\$0.92
		Watering Facility 3001-5000 gallons		GAL	\$0.76
		Watering Facility > 5000 gallons		GAL	\$0.64
		Watering Ramp, Rock on Geotextile		SF	\$1.01
		Watering Ramp, Rock on Geocell on Geotextile		SF	\$3.25
642	WATER WELL		20 yrs		
		Well depths 150 feet or less		EACH	\$4,573.63
		Wells greater than 150 feet deep to 300 feet deep		EACH	\$9,093.34
		Wells greater than 300 feet deep		EACH	\$14,415.29

CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST-SHARE PROGRAM YEAR 20 ALLOCATIONS

Adair	\$22,000	LeFlore	\$5,000
Alfalfa	\$16,000	Lincoln	\$13,000
Arbuckle	\$16,000	Little River	\$10,000
Atoka	\$5,000	Logan	\$13,000
Beaver	\$22,000	Love	\$13,000
Blaine	\$22,000	Major	\$16,000
Bryan	\$22,000	Marshall	\$5,000
Caney Valley	\$22,000	Mayes	\$16,000
Central North Canadian River	\$18,000	McClain	\$10,000
Checotah	\$16,000	McIntosh	\$22,000
Cherokee	\$10,000	Murray	\$13,000
Cimarron County	\$13,000	Muskogee	\$16,000
Cleveland	\$5,000	Noble	\$16,000
Coal	\$16,000	North Caddo	\$16,000
Comanche	\$13,000	North Fork of Red River	\$10,000
Cotton	\$22,000	Nowata	\$22,000
Craig	\$22,000	Okfuskee	\$13,000
Creek	\$13,000	Oklahoma	\$13,000
Custer	\$13,000	Okmulgee	\$13,000
Deer Creek	\$16,000	Osage	\$24,500
Delaware	\$13,000	Ottawa	\$16,000
Dewey	\$22,000	Pawnee	\$16,000
East Canadian	\$22,000	Payne	\$22,000
Ellis	\$13,000	Pittsburg	\$22,000
Garfield	\$13,000	Pontotoc	\$16,000
Garvin	\$16,000	Pushmataha	\$13,000
Grady	\$10,000	Rogers	\$13,000
Grant	\$22,000	Seminole	\$18,000
Greer	\$16,000	Sequoyah	\$22,000
Harmon	\$22,000	Shawnee	\$16,000
Harper	\$16,000	South Caddo	\$24,500
Haskell	\$16,000	Stephens	\$16,000
Hughes	\$18,000	Talihina	\$22,000
Jackson	\$16,000	Texas	\$16,000
Jefferson	\$22,000	Tillman	\$16,000
Johnston	\$10,000	Tulsa	\$10,000
Kay	\$10,000	Upper Washita	\$16,000
Kiamichi	\$13,000	Wagoner	\$22,000
Kingfisher	\$13,000	Washita	\$16,000
Kiowa	\$16,000	West Caddo	\$22,000
Konawa	\$22,000	Woods	\$22,000
Latimer	\$22,000	Woodward	\$22,000