

CPNRD EQIP- Elm Creek Special Initiative

The EQIP Special Initiative for permanent conversion of irrigated land to non-irrigated land in the CPNRD, has been approved for funding in the Farm Bill. There's a special emphasis area and ranking criteria based on the Cooperative Hydrology Study for the Platte River (COHYST).

The geographic area eligible for the special initiative incentive payment is upstream of Elm Creek, NE, (designated as over-appropriated by the NDNR) where at least 40% of the consumptive use will show up as a depletion to the Platte River within 50 years. See map below.

Requirements for payment:

- Land must have been irrigated 2 of the last 5 years. For the second and third years, management practice payments are only eligible on land that received the first year payment.
- Maximum eligible acres will be 160 acres per participant regardless of the number of contracts.
- A conservation plan must be developed to ensure that the practice is applied during the contract period. Land use changes will use applicable NRCS standards.

Program Details:

- Incentive payment rate of \$200.00/acre X 3 years for a total of \$600.00/acre.
- Application ranking questions are based on COHYST's predicted depletions to the Platte River.
- The NRD will hold a permanent conservation easement.

• CPNRD has budgeted \$1.5 million dollars with a target of 2000 acres. The NRD will issue a payment, in addition to the EQIP incentive payment, based on the difference between the irrigated and non-irrigated value of the land times the percent consumptive use of water that will show up as a depletion to the Platte River within 50 years (based on COHYST).

If you're interested in this program or have any questions, [contact your local NRCS office](#) or the Central Platte NRD at (308) 385-6282.

