



**CONSERVATION PRACTICES with RANKING  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2022-2023**

For application review, VSWCD does assess points for natural resource priorities to include soil, water, air, plants, animals, human and energy natural resources. **Note: each conservation line is followed by the NRCS NM Conservation Practice Code Numbers (source: USDA-NRCA 2020 Payment Schedule).** While guidance is drawn from this source to determine reasonable reimbursement payment rates, the District has final discretion on all payout amounts and other details.

REF#	HIGH Priority Concerns and Practices (75% assistance)	Points
H1	Pollinator Plants to be established using Perennial shrubs, forbs. NRCS codes 327, 420, 422, 612, 645, 146	10
H2	Wildlife habitat improvement thru perennial tree, shrub, forb and grass plantings, wildlife water facilities. NRCS codes 422, 490, 574, 578, 582, 584, 612, 614, 636, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 656, 660, 666	10
H3	Bat and Bird Houses to be built (5 points for each one). NRCS codes 644	5
H4	Fencing off Critical Area Habitats or other sensitive area. 382	10
H5	Practices to improve or protect habitat for Endangered Species. 420, 422, 430, 574, 612, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 656, 657, 658, 659	10
H6	Wetlands established or protected. 578, 584, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 649, 656, 657, 658, 659	10
H7	Noxious weed removal. 315, 548	10
H8	Hazardous fuel reduction. 314, 394, 500, 548, 666	10
H9	Water Quality directly benefitted / targeted with conservation practices such as well capping, significant filter strips. 313,366,442,443,589,629,632,633,634,635,656	10
H10	Conservation of Irrigation Water thru laser land leveling, concrete ditch lining, irrigation pipeline, drip irrigation, water harvesting. 428, 430, 436, 441, 442, 443, 464, 558, 600, 620	10
H11	Critical Area Treatment practices. 342, 356, 410, 550, 561	10
H12	Erosion Control Practices. 342, 356, 410, 548, 561,587, 589, 603, 650, 654	10
H13	Organic Farming certification or transitioning to organic. 138	10
H14	Solar Pumping Plants. 533	10
H15	Soil Health Practices. 340, 484, 512, 590, 591, 595, 610	10
H16	Certification as Soil Health Champion	10
H17	No-Till or direct seeding / planting. 512	10
H18	Brush Management. 314	10
H19	Native Grass Seeding. 550, 512	10
H20	Range Seeding. 550, 548, 528, 512	10
H21	Structures for Water Control. 587	10
H22	Innovation: new approaches to conservation, encouraging innovation.	10
H23	Conservation Education: activities allowed on this land unit. 575	10

H24	Monitoring. <a href="#">Use under same practice code. 353, 355</a>	10
	<b>MEDIUM Priority Concerns and Practices (50% assistance)</b>	Points
M1	Windbreaks, Hedgerows, routine tree and shrub establishment. <a href="#">612, 650, 660</a>	5
M2	Standard sequence of ripping/leveling/seeding to alfalfa or pasture. <a href="#">464, 512</a>	5
M3	Irrigation or Livestock Wells and pumping plants tied to other cons prc. <a href="#">642, 533</a>	5
M4	Retaining Walls not tied to critical area treatment. <a href="#">410</a>	5
M5	Ponds. <a href="#">629, 520</a>	5
M6	Cover crops and vegetative cover between crop rows and Mulching. <a href="#">340, 484</a>	5
M7	Non-organic practices. <a href="#">572, 610</a>	5
M8	Interior Cross-Fencing tied to a conservation system. <a href="#">382</a>	5
M9	Land Clearing. <a href="#">314, 666</a>	5

<b>LOW Priority Concerns and Practices (25% assistance)</b>		Points
L1	Routine farming practices and routine commonly used seeding of crops such as alfalfa stands, pasture, orchards and vineyards. <a href="#">512, 612</a>	1
L2	Other heavy tillage type soil disruption. <a href="#">572</a>	1
L3	Irrigation Storage Tanks. <a href="#">436</a>	2
L4	Replacement of already established practices such as old concrete ditches, pipelines, and drip irrigation systems. <a href="#">428, 430, 441</a>	2
L5	Exterior Fences. <a href="#">382</a>	1
L6	Plastic cover on crop beds. <a href="#">484</a>	1
L7	Composting. <a href="#">484</a>	1
L8	Irrigation wells and pumping plants not tied to other conservation practices. <a href="#">606, 607, 642, 533</a>	1
L9	Diversion dams and diversions. <a href="#">348, 356, 362</a>	1
<b>Other Concerns -- Extra Points -- Questions</b>		Points
O1	Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) directly affected with these cons prc	10
O2	Cost effectiveness achieved	2
O3	Clean energy sources. <a href="#">136</a>	5
O4	Engineering practices designed/drawn by a Professional Engineer	5
O5	Signed letter from pertinent landowner if conservation practice is to be installed partially or wholly on adjacent land.	5
O6	Applicable Permits in hand if required.	5
O7	Soil Testing, Hoop Houses, Rain Barrels, Bio-Activators directly tied to conservation practices outlined in a Land Use Plan (LUP). <a href="#">325, 436, 484, 558</a>	5
O8	Has written support of other Federal, State or Local Agencies in accomplishing this LUP.	10
O9	Has written support of adjoining landowner(s) in accomplishing this LUP, (3 points for each letter).	3
O10	ALL conservation work will be completed within one-year.	5
<b>NOT TO BE CONSIDERED:</b> * work items that will actually cause degradation or regression of ecological conditions; * cost-sharing of portable items that could be resold or disappear altogether; * work items that are impractical, or overly complicated or costly.		