



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Agricultural Water Symposium

Kindra Brandner  
USDA NRCS Colorado  
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# OBJECTIVES

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Funding Opportunities for Ditch and Irrigation Companies
  - ✓ Water Management Entities (WME's)
  - ✓ Eligibility Requirements/Practices/Payment Rates



## NRCS - The Agency

NRCS is an agency committed to “helping people help the land”. Our mission is to provide resources to farmers and landowners to aid them with conservation, ensuring productive lands in harmony with a healthy environment is our priority.



## NRCS - The Agency

- Delivering high-quality science and technology for private lands conservation
- Promoting productive working lands and healthy waters
- Promoting and enhancing productive agricultural landscapes
- Supporting healthy watersheds and diverse land use communities increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency
- Creating a climate of inclusion and foster diversity so private lands conservation will thrive



**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

**Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC)**

**NRCS National Office**

**NRCS State  
Office**



**Colorado Area and Field Offices**





# The Environmental Quality Incentives Program

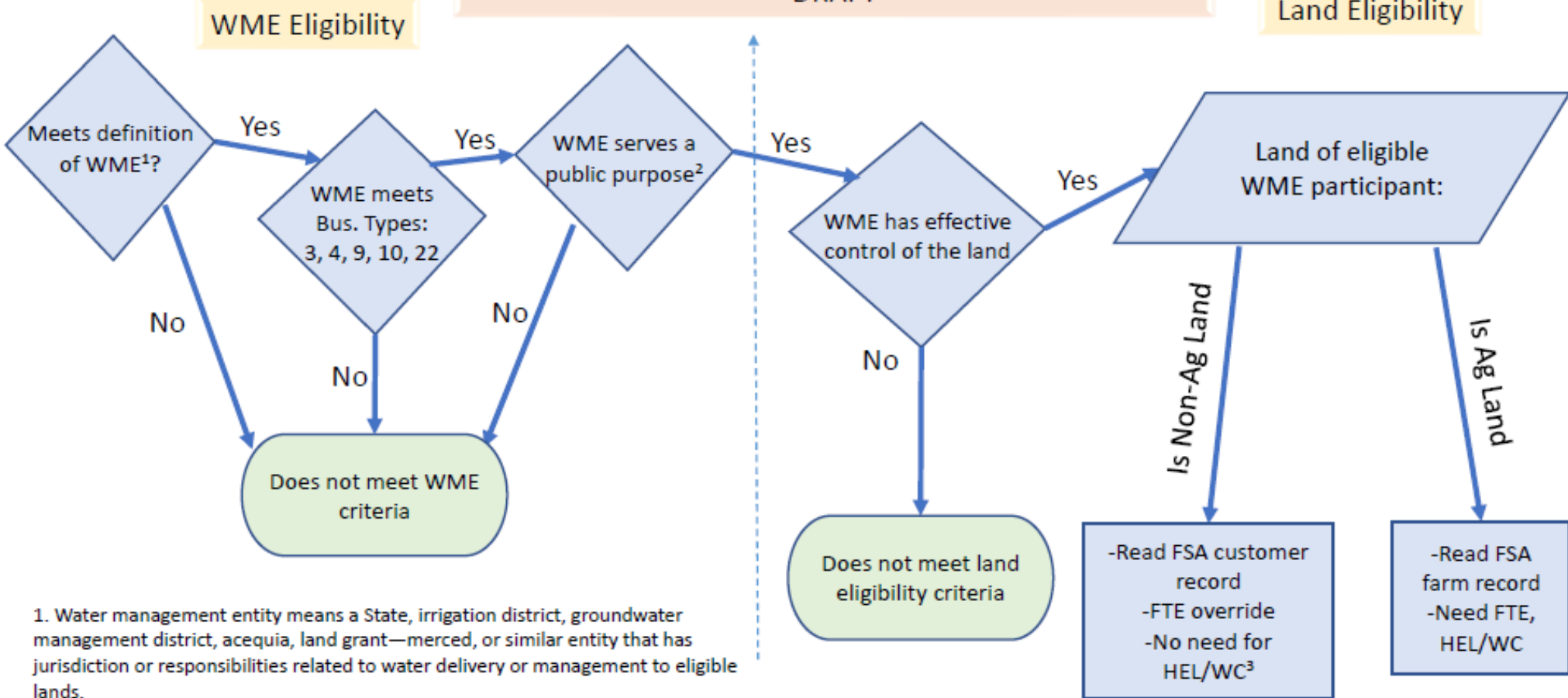
EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers to address natural resource concerns that helps producers make conservation work for them. NRCS provides financial assistance and one-on-one help to plan and implement conservation practices. NRCS in Colorado offers about 150 conservation practices that can lead to cleaner water, air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat.



# Funding Opportunities for Ditch & Irrigation Companies



Eligibility Flow Chart for Water Management Entities -- DRAFT



1. Water management entity means a State, irrigation district, groundwater management district, acequia, land grant—merced, or similar entity that has jurisdiction or responsibilities related to water delivery or management to eligible lands.

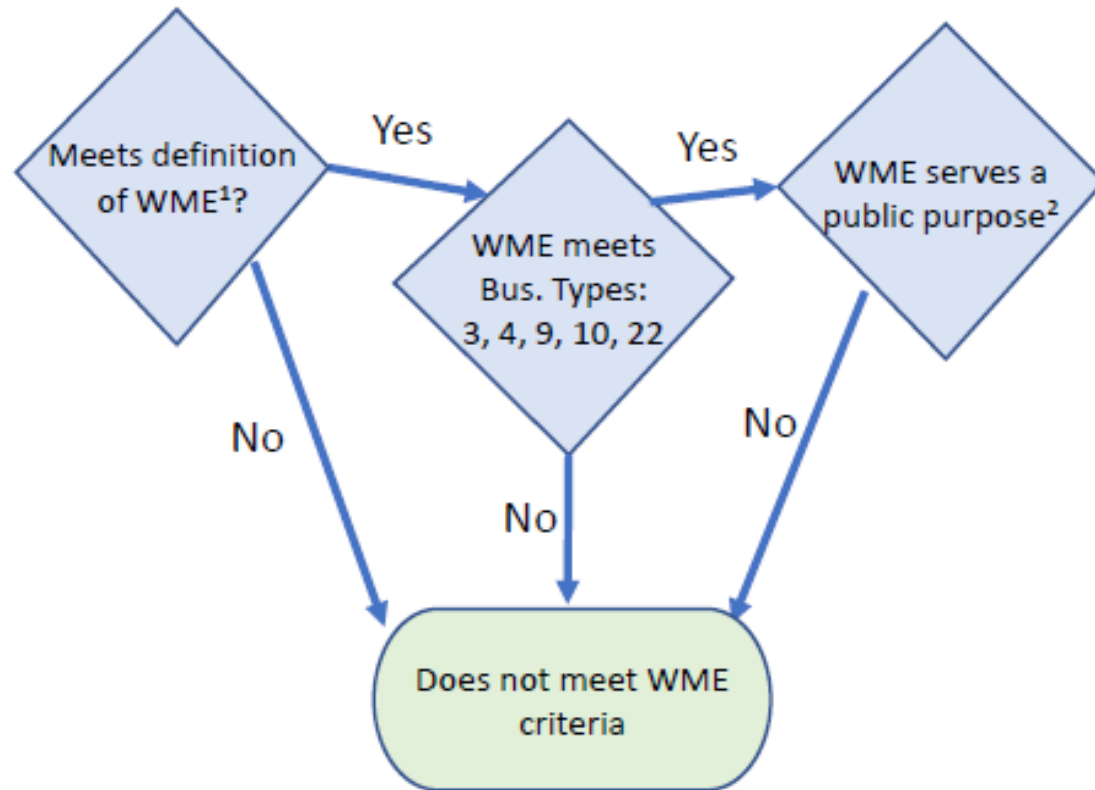
2. A private or public company that serves a public purpose such as a public utility (i.e., has a public governing board ) and assists private agricultural producers with managing water distribution or conservation systems

3. As this is non-ag land, HEL and wetland compliance not required



Eligibility Flow Chart for Water Management Entities --  
DRAFT

WME Eligibility



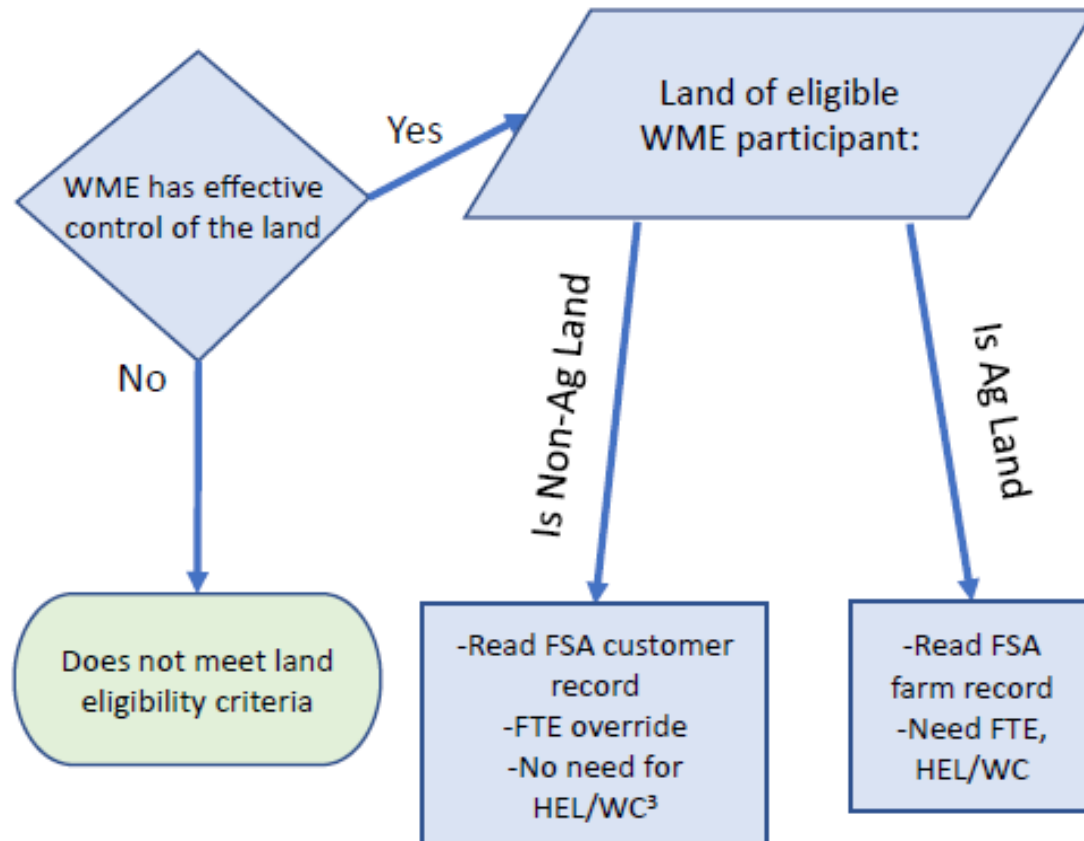
## Potentially Eligible business types for in WMEs in EQIP

- *Business type 3* - Joint Venture (with or without an EIN)
- *Business type 4* - Corporation
- *Business type 9* - State or local government
- *Business type 10* - Churches Charities and Non-Profit Organizations
- *Business Type 22* - Limited Liability Company with EIN



Eligibility Flow Chart for Water Management Entities --  
DRAFT

Land Eligibility



## Water Management Entities (WME's)

NRCS may approve entering into an EQIP contract with a water management entity when such contract is pursuant to a watershed-wide project of the water management entity that effectively conserves water using the following criteria:

- i. The project has a current, comprehensive water resource assessment; and
- ii. The project plan incorporates one or more of the following practices:
  - ✓ Water conservation scheduling and if applicable, distribution efficiency, soil moisture monitoring;
  - ✓ Irrigation-related structural or other measures that conserve surface or ground water, including aquifer recover practices; or
  - ✓ A transition to water-conserving crops, water-conserving crop rotations, or deficit irrigation.



## Contract Limitations

- Each EQIP contract with a person or legal entity will be limited to \$450,000 over the term of the contract.
- Group contracts may have a contract limit of up to \$900,000 with an approved waiver from the Financial Assistance Program (FAPD) division director.





# Practices and Payment Rates

## Target Off Farm System (Infrastructure)

- 587 – Structure for Water Control
- 430 – Irrigation Pipeline
- 428 – Irrigation Ditch Lining
- [Colorado Payment Schedule](#)
- [CO EQIP Website](#)





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# Kindra Brandner

EQIP Program Manager

621 Iris Drive

Sterling, CO 80751

970-458-3151 (office)

970-520-2162 (cell)

[kindra.brandner@usda.gov](mailto:kindra.brandner@usda.gov)

