



Washington State Conservation Commission

Policy #	13-25 Category 3 Policy
Applies to:	All Conservation Districts
Effective Date:	May 16, 2013

PURPOSE

This policy outlines basic elements associated with the Category 3 funding for conservation districts.

BACKGROUND

All districts are required to enter projects into the CPDS system for consideration of funding when budgets are passed by the Legislature. Based upon conservation district entries, in August 2012, the agency submitted a budget request for \$33 million. During the May 2013 Commission meeting, in anticipation of a Capital Budget being passed by the Legislature, the Commission adopted changes to the Category 3 allocation.

POLICY

1. Maximum cost share per land owner per fiscal year is \$50,000.
2. All Practices must meet NRCS standards and specifications, be in compliance with cost share policies and the management practice implementation guidance policy adopted by the Conservation Commission in 2013.
 - a. Engineering services are in addition with a maximum of 5% of cost share value awarded.
 - b. Technical assistance of conservation district staff is in addition with a maximum of 10% of cost share value awarded.
 - c. Travel costs are in addition with a maximum of 2.5% of cost share value awarded.
 - d. Cultural Resources investigations are in addition to the cost share value awarded. Several options are being investigated to reduce the costs. Until some resolution to other options, Conservation districts are encouraged to reach out to NRCS and/or the local tribes to assist with these investigations. Conservation districts are encouraged to provide the tribal representatives the list of investigations needed, well in advance of the timeframe to begin moving dirt for an eligible practice.
 - e. Overhead allowance can be charged against the salaries and benefits within the limits identified in (a) and (b) of the staff working on the project to a maximum of 25% (the allowable rate).
 - f. Education and Outreach expenses are not allowed to be funded under Category 3 funds.
 - g. Irrigation Efficiencies projects and CREP projects not selected for funding within the programmatic limits of the applicable program, may be considered for funding within the category 3 funds.

3. All previously approved policy and procedures remain in place.
 4. If a dispute arises over eligibility or expense, the executive director of the State Conservation Commission has the authority to review a project and make a determination of funding.
 5. Projects which come in under budget must return funds to the Conservation Commission so they may be allocated to the next eligible practice.
 6. Beginning July 1, 2013, funding awarded under this category will have 18 months to reach completion. However, significant movement on the project must begin within 90 days of the funding allocation.
 7. A rolling 18 month time frame will be used until further notice or until 6 months of the end of the 13-15 biennium.
-

Project Funding Selection

To be eligible for project funding, the practice must be entered into the CPDS system and titled Category 3. It must contain a completed and approved WSCC Cost Share application. The project will be selected for funding by date entered, starting with the oldest date. If the particular practice chosen by date is not going to move forward due to landowner decisions, the conservation district may choose one project on their list that may be of higher priority (within the funding authorized).

If the alternate practice is not to move forward due to landowner decisions, the funding opportunity is withdrawn and will be used for the next eligible practice chosen by date entered.