



GLCI FY22 Funding Opportunity

USDA-NRCS-NHQ-GLCI-22-NOFO0001216

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Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)

- **FY22 Consolidated Appropriations Act**
- **Goals/Outcomes**
 - Increase acreage across the nation in managed grazing
 - Increase grazing land technical assistance for farmers and ranchers
 - Encourage existing and new partnerships through emphasizing equity in advancing the resource needs of underserved communities.
 - Ensure strong participation by minority producers in new and existing grazing coalitions.

Key Dates

09/22/2022 – Deadline to submit applications through Grants.gov by 11:59 pm EST.

10/20/2022 – Estimated date NRCS plans on making selections.

11/17/2022 – Estimated date NRCS plans on executing the awards.

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=342983>

Award Information

Estimated funding: \$12M

Federal Floor and Ceiling Amounts:

- \$50K and 150K for one-year agreement
- \$100K and 300K for two-year agreement

Activities can occur within a state or multi-state

There is no commitment by NRCS to make a specific number of awards.

Eligible Activities for Agreements

- **Technical assistance**
 - Write and implement grazing management plans
 - Develop rangeland health reference worksheets and/or grazing management interpretations on both rangeland and pastureland to update current Ecological Site Descriptions.
 - To spur innovation and grazing technologies
- **Education** (Conferences, workshops, webinars, etc.)
- **Grazing networks** (field days, pasture walks, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, mentorship)
- **NRCS Workforce Development**, including mentorship and training
- **Youth Outreach**
- A limited amount of funds in each region may be used to conduct **on-farm research** as a supplemental goal for any projects conducting the above activities

Technical Assistance

Grazing Management Plans

Follow Plans and Specifications outlined in Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 528 – Prescribed Grazing including:

- Goals and objectives clearly stated
- Resource inventory
- Forage inventory and analysis
- Forage-animal balance
- Type of grazing management (rest, deferment, etc.)
- Adaptive management/contingency plan
- Monitoring Plan
- And other guidelines within the state's CPS (found within their Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)).

Technical Assistance

Developing Rangeland Health Reference Sheets

Instructions can be found in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health Technical Reference 1734-6, Version 5

- Appendix 1a Developing Reference Sheets
- Appendix 1b Completing the Functional/Structural Groups Table in the Reference Sheet
- Appendix 2. Generic Evaluation Matrix and Instructions for Developing an Ecological Site-Specific Matrix

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/rangepasture/range/>

Before developing or revising a reference sheet, refer to the EDIT (Ecosystem Dynamics Interpretive Tool) website (<https://edit.jornada.nmsu.edu>) and check with the NRCS state rangeland management specialist to determine if a final or draft reference sheet is available.

Enter reference sheet data into EDIT.

Technical Assistance

Developing Pasture State Interpretations

- NB 190-19-3 ECS – Developing Pasture State Interpretations
National Bulletin:190-19-3
- <https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=43058>
- Adapted forage species, production estimates, growth curves, management interpretations for pasture states within ecological site descriptions.
- Collaborate with NRCS state grazing specialist

Technical Assistance

Spur Innovation and Grazing Technologies

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)
- Virtual fencing
- Software applications to enhance grazing management
- Assessing livestock nutritional demand with forage quality

Education

Grazing Land Conservation

- Conferences
- Workshops
- Webinars



Photo courtesy of Texas Grazing Land Coalition

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Grazing Networks

To promote grazing
land conservation:

- Field days
- Pasture walks
- Peer to peer
knowledge
exchange



Photo courtesy of Texas Grazing Land Coalition

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NRCS Workforce Development

- **Training** (*Learning objectives provided by NRCS*)
 - Working Effectively with Livestock Producers
 - Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health
 - Pasture Condition Scoring
 - Conservation Planning on Grazing Lands.
 - Grazing land tools and technologies used to assess grazing lands.
- **Mentoring** – Promoting Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program (CAMP)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/people/?cid=NRCSSEPRD1596019>

Youth Outreach

- Range Camps
- Grazing land educational materials targeted for youth



2017 Nevada Youth Range Camp

Photo by Sherm Swanson, Cooperative Extension.

On-farm Research

- Grazing land improvement practices
- Innovative technology (virtual fencing, drones)
- Invasive plant control
- Rangeland restoration
- Livestock nutrition
- Soil health on grazing lands
- Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry

NRCS Priority Areas

1. Addressing local natural resource concerns
2. Utilizing Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry practices and principles.
3. Encouraging existing and new partnerships to advance the resource needs of underserved communities.
4. Identifying and implementing strategies to quantify, monitor, report on and verify conservation benefits associated with grazing management systems

Priorities for Applications

- Promoting grazing management systems
- Having a long-term project plan for funding beyond the life of this award
- Led by organizations serving primarily historically underserved producers
- With multi-stakeholder partnerships of three or more organizations
- With high farmer and rancher involvement
- With strategies to quantify, monitor, report on and verify conservation benefits

Historically Underserved Producers

- Beginning Farmer or Rancher
- Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
- Veteran Farmer or Rancher

Eligible Applicants

- Nonprofit organizations 501(c)(3) status
- Farmer and rancher organizations (e.g., grazing coalitions, grassland associations/councils)
- State and local conservation governmental agencies
- Agricultural Extension Services
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Land grant universities including 1890 or 1994 land grant institutions, Hispanic-serving institution or other minority-serving institution such as an historically Black college or university, a tribally controlled college or university or Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institution.

Questions



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