

BASIN STATES PARALLEL PROGRAM (BSPP)

BSPP

- Salinity control program offered in seven Conservation Districts in the Colorado River Basin in Western Colorado.

- Partnership with NRCS to provide irrigation improvements for irrigated landowners
- Participant irrigation projects reduce seepage that carries salt into the Colorado River

- CO River average annual salt load is nine million tons!
- CO River Basin - wide goal is to reduce salt load by 1,860,000 tons
- Need about 760,000 more tons of control

- Salt in the CO river system causes damage to water users in AZ, CA, NV, and Mexico
 - Causes reduced crop yields
 - Water treatment costs for domestic use
 - Damage could exceed \$200/ ton of salt
- Treaty with Mexico to keep salinity at a certain level each year

BSPP

- The Bureau of Reclamation provides funding to the Colorado State Conservation Board
- Funding source is power revenues from Hydroelectric facilities on the Colorado River

BSPP

- Historically, NRCS received this funding for salinity control
- Due to changes in 1996 Farm Bill, NRCS could no longer accept these funds

BSPP

- Contract between Bureau of Reclamation and State of Colorado
- Contract between Colorado State Conservation Board and Districts

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- Contract requirements:
 - Install cost effective projects
 - All projects meet NRCS standards and specifications
 - Program rules are parallel to EQIP

BSPP

- Funding is made available to Districts:
 - For landowner financial assistance contracts
 - For technical assistance employees to augment NRCS staff
 - For administrative costs associated with the program

QUESTIONS?

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