

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT

**TITLE 155. OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
CHAPTER 20. CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

(A) PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to extend the ability of locally led conservation districts to provide conservation and best management practices to an increasing number of lands including many located in more urban districts. This proposed change will also allow districts the ability to consider best management practices regarding the eradication of cedar trees and the implementation of other state programs like Firewise.

(B) CLASSES OF PERSONS WHO MOST LIKELY WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED RULE AND ANY INFORMATION ON COST IMPACTS RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY FROM ANY PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ENTITIES:

These rules positively affect persons seeking assistance in implementing conservation and best management practices on their lands. No cost impacts are anticipated since the cost-share program is voluntary.

(C) PERSONS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED RULE:

The rule change will provide certain persons within certain districts, once excluded from applying for cost-share funds, with the ability to apply to their conservation district for funds to implement conservation and best management practices.

(D) DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBABLE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE UPON AFFECTED CLASSES OF PERSONS:

It will make more persons eligible to apply for conservation cost-share funds, especially in those districts with a higher urban population.

(E) PROBABLE COST AND BENEFITS TO AGENCY; SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

No additional cost to the agency is anticipated by the rule change.

(F) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION WILL HAVE ANY ECONOMIC IMPACT ON ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR REQUIRE THEIR COOPERATION IN IMPLEMENTING OR ENFORCING THE PROPOSED RULE:

No effect on any political subdivision is anticipated by the amendment to this rule.

(G) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED RULE WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS AS PROVIDED BY THE OKLAHOMA SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT:

Any adverse effects or impacts on small businesses are not anticipated.

(H) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THERE ARE LESS COSTLY METHODS OR NON-REGULATORY METHODS FOR ACHIEVING THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULES:

The cost-share program is a voluntary non-regulatory program and the purpose of the program is to administer monies to persons for the purpose of implementing conservation or best management practices where needed. The agency is unaware of any other methods to achieve the purpose of this proposed rule change.

(I) DETERMINATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED RULE ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT:

No adverse effect upon the public health or the environment will occur through the implementation of this rule change.

(J) DETERMINATION OF ANY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT:

No detrimental effect on public health, safety, or the environment is anticipated by the adoption of this amended rule.

(K) DATE RULE IMPACT STATEMENT WAS PREPARED:

September 30, 2013