

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT

TITLE 155. OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAPTER 12. LAND MANAGEMENT

(A) **PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULE:**

The purpose of these new rules is to provide guidance, procedures, goals, and processes regarding the new programs in our Land Management Division. The programs being developed and implemented are meant to meet the needs of producers, counties, and landowners, as well as provide positive benefits to all Oklahomans. The rules cover a number of areas: damaged lands eligible for restoration including deserted hard rock mines; the purpose, goals, criteria, eligibility, and application process of counties for funding on unpaved roads; outlining the evaluation of natural logjams in Oklahoma waterways for possible removal; meeting the nutrient management and conservation planning needs of producers; and rules for implementing the Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed Restoration Act.

(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 have been created to meet the needs of producers, counties, and landowners, as well as provide positive benefits and effects to all Oklahomans. One program is geared toward providing funding to landowners to restore damaged lands. Another provides funding opportunities to counties for unpaved roads. The rules establish an evaluation process for natural logjams in our waterways, assist conservation districts in placing nutrient management and conservation planners in the districts for use by producers, and implement the Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed Restoration Act.

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

The new rules will benefit producers, counties, and landowners, as well as provide positive benefits and effects to all Oklahomans.

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

It will provide more funding opportunities to landowners with damaged lands, to counties with unpaved roads, and to counties with logjams that are impacting roads and bridges. It will also help bring producers into compliance with state and federal cost-share requirements, as well as, with ODAFF regulations on animal waste by providing more producers with more plan writers. Lastly, these rules will implement the state's first attempted legislation to reduce and study the impacts of invasive woody species in the North Canadian watershed.

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

No additional costs to the agency are anticipated by the new rules.

(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:**

Conservation districts are a major partner of the Commission in implementing conservation programs and practices in Oklahoma per the Conservation District Act. Districts are aware of these programs and agreements are in place to provide these services.

(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:**

All the programs are voluntary non-regulatory programs that move conservation and the protection of natural resources forward in the state. The agency is unaware of any other methods to achieve the purpose of these programs.

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

The Commission anticipates the new proposed rules will positively affect public health, safety, and the environment.

(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 these new rules.

(K) **DATE RULE IMPACT STATEMENT WAS PREPARED:**

This rule impact statement was prepared on September 5, 2023