5th Management Plans

Agricultural Subgroup Meeting

July 20, 2020
I. Introduction
II. Statutory Requirements for Agricultural Conservation Programs
III. Discussion of Agricultural Conservation Program Proposals
   A. BMP Program Tiers
   B. Integrated Farm Program
   C. Alternative Conservation Programs
IV. Discuss Options for AMA-specific Customization of Conservation Programs
V. Closing Remarks
Statutory Requirements for Agricultural Conservation Programs
**Base Program**

A.R.S. § 45-568

“**The director shall include in each plan an irrigation water duty or intermediate water duties. These duties shall be calculated... as the quantity of water reasonably required to irrigate crops historically grown in the farm unit and shall be computed by dividing the total irrigation requirement per acre of those crops by an irrigation efficiency of eighty percent...”**
Historic Cropping Program

A.R.S. § 45-568.02(A)

“The director **shall** include in the management plan the historic cropping program ... as an alternative conservation program that achieves conservation equivalent to that required by [the Base Program]”
A.R.S. § 45-568.02(G)

“The director **shall** include... a best management practices program... in lieu of complying with an irrigation water duty and a maximum annual groundwater allotment. The program shall be designed to achieve conservation that is **at least equivalent** to that required under [the Base Program].”
“The director may include... additional alternative agriculture conservation programs that the director determines achieve conservation that is at least equivalent to that required under [the Base Program]... including a cropped acreage program in which the maximum annual groundwater allotment is demined based on the crops grown during the calendar year in which the irrigation efficiency is applied.”
A.R.S. § 45-568.02(F)

“The director may include in the adoption of, or a modification to, the management plan for the fifth management period additional alternative agricultural conservation programs that the director determines achieve conservation that is at least equivalent to that required under [the Base Program]...”
Discussion of Agricultural Conservation Program Proposals
Modifications to BMP Program

Concept

* Introduce Tiers for BMP Points Targets
  * Similar to tiers in Municipal Non-Per Capita Program based on number of connections

To Be Determined

* Method for creating tiers
  * Units
    * Total Irrigation Acres
    * AF/Irrigation Acres
    * Total Actively Irrigated Acres
    * AF/Actively Irrigated Acres
    * Other?

* Setting points targets for each tier
Modifications to BMP Program: Potential BMP Tiers

Potential Agricultural BMP Tiers by AF/Acre

- **CROP CONSUMPTIVE USE**
  - AF/Irrigation Acre

- **ALTERNATIVE CROP CONSUMPTIVE USE**
  - AF/Irrigation Acre

- **NORMAL DISTRIBUTION**
  - AF/Irrigation Acre

- **THREE TIERS**
  - AF/Irrigation Acre
Modifications to BMP Program

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  * Units
    * AF/acre
    * Total acreage
    * Other?
  * Setting points targets for each tier
Potential Alternative Conservation Program: Integrated Farm Program

Concept

* Allow multiple IGFRs under the same owner/operator to combine reporting/allotments, with a “cut to the aquifer” percentage reduction of the total combined allotment.
  * Similar to provision allowing contiguous turf facilities to combine allotments

To Be Determined

* Geographic limitations
  * Contiguous
  * Irrigation District
  * Sub-Basin
* “Cut to the Aquifer” Percentage
* Process for joining/leaving
* Management of flex credits
Potential Alternative Conservation Program:
Integrated Farm Program

Base Program Allotments

Legend
- Farmer A
- Farmer B
- Irrigation District
- Sub-Basin

Integrated Farm Program Allotments

- Contiguous
  - 150 AF – (Cut to Aquifer %)
  - 100 AF – (Cut to Aquifer %)

- Irrigation District
  - 200 AF – (Cut to Aquifer %)
  - 250 AF – (Cut to Aquifer %)

- Sub-Basin
  - 200 AF – (Cut to Aquifer %)
  - 350 AF – (Cut to Aquifer %)
**Potential Alternative Conservation Program: Integrated Farm Program**

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<th>BMP Program</th>
<th>Integrated Farm Program</th>
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<td>Total allotment by IGFR</td>
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<td>Combined Allotments</td>
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<td>Flex Credits</td>
<td>$250 Administrative Transfer Cost</td>
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Options for AMA-specific Customization of Conservation Programs
Questions?

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Management Plans Work Group:
new.azwater.gov/5MP

Full Text of Management Plans:
new.azwater.gov/ama/management-plans