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Technical Guide
Section III-A-2
Part 2

# ALAMOGORDO FIELD OFFICE
# ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATION SYSTEM
# IRRIGATED CROPLAND GUIDE SHEET
# RESOURCE DATA

MLRA 42, 70, 39
Soils: All irrigated soils in WEG 3 thru 7.
WEQ values: C-80 or less, I-86 or less and L-3000 or less

If WEQ values listed above are exceeded, erosion losses for each rotation will be computed individually to ensure that total average wind erosion loss is within acceptable levels.

The following alternatives are acceptable regardless of the tillage method used provided the crop residues and/or growing crops are managed as indicated in the Management Requirements section to provide wind erosion protection during February to May, which is the critical blow season.

## MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Crop Rotation needed for erosion control may include any combination of crops grown in any sequence that will significantly reduce erosion compared to the system currently being used.

The existing Irrigation System will be maintained as irrigation is essential for crop growth to control wind erosion. Land will be considered irrigated if adequate residues are produced to control erosion.

**Alternative 1: Maintain Residue until Tilled or Planted:** The Crop Residue Management for Erosion Protection requires leaving the residues from the previous crop on the surface until tillage operations for the next crop begins. After this, no residue is required if the land is planted, plowed or listed when irrigated. Avoid leaving the land in a smooth, dry, pulverized condition during the critical blow period.

**Alternative 2: Growing Crop:** Maintain a 2 inch stubble on growing crops as alfalfa and small grain.

**Alternative 3: Managing Idle Land with Residues:** If land is left fallow or idle manage the rotation where the idle land is preceded by a high residue crop, which has adequate

residue for erosion protection. These residues will be maintained on the soil surface to leave the following "Small Grain Equivalents", (SGe) for the following soil types and Wind Erodibility Groups, (WEG). Sandy loams, clays and highly calcareous loams in WEG-3, 4 and 4L, 1000# SGe/ac.; and loams in WEG-5, 6, and 7, 750# SGe/ac. Alfalfa, small grain, corn, cotton, and milo produce over 1000# SGe/ac. If left standing.

**Alternative 4: Managing Idle Land without Residues:** If inadequate residue is present and where adequate moisture is present on soils that will produce stable clods; plowing or listing is an adequate temporaty alternative, but should not exceed one year in the rotation. Irrigation can also be used.

**Alternative 5: Land to be Idle for Long Periods:** If land is be be left idle for extended periods, irrigation may be needed to re-establish the minimum residue, or the land may be planted to a perennial cover.

The Alternative Conservation System meets the erosion protection requirements of the Food Security Act of 1985 and is attainable and feasible within the Alamogordo Field Office.

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Richard T. Smith — 6/21/88
Area Conservationist — Date

Ray Vmargo Jr. — 7/7/88
State Office — Date