Gallatin Valley RCPP

**Project Overview**
A partnership of agricultural and conservation groups in the Gallatin Valley of Montana has recently been approved for $3.7M in funding through the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). This program creates a special 5-year funding pool for conservation projects in the Gallatin Valley and promotes coordination between NRCS and local partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. The funding will be used for two purposes:

1. To compensate landowners for **conservation easements** on important agricultural properties; and
2. To implement **farming and ranching practices** that protect and enhance water quality, soil health and water quantity.

**Geographic Focus**
The project area includes the entire Gallatin Valley (see map below). Within this larger region, projects will be prioritized that:

- Adjoin or are close to designated “impaired water bodies” (especially Camp Creek, the East Gallatin River and their tributaries); and/or
- Have prime, important or unique agricultural soils.

**Opportunities for Landowners and Producers**

**Conservation Easements**
Special funding is available to compensate landowners for conservation easements on important agricultural properties. Conservation easements are perpetual, voluntary agreements that protect prime soils and promote agricultural viability by restricting residential development of a property and preventing conversion to nonagricultural uses.

**Farming and Ranching Practices**
Special funding is available to implement practices that promote water quality, soil health and water quantity. Examples of qualified activities include: riparian/stream fencing, tree and shrub establishment, irrigation system improvements, wildlife plantings, grazing management plans and many others.

**To Learn More**

For Conservation Easements: Brendan Weiner, Project Manager, Gallatin Valley Land Trust 406-587-8404 x. 6, brendan@gvlt.org

For Farming/Ranching Practices: Peter Brown, Stewardship Manager, Gallatin Valley Land Trust 406-587-8404 x. 7, peter@gvlt.org
Collaborating Partners
Gallatin Valley Land Trust (Lead Partner)
Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
City of Bozeman
Gallatin County
Gallatin Conservation District
Gallatin County/MSU Extension
Gallatin Local Water Quality District
Gallatin National Forest
Greater Gallatin Watershed Council
Heart of the Rockies Initiative

Montana Association of Land Trusts
Montana Audubon
Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Montana Land Reliance
National Park Service Rivers & Trails
Sacajawea Audubon Chapter
Trout Unlimited
The Trust for Public Land