

Plan of Operations for the Trout Unlimited Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project in Wisconsin (Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild and Rare)

Through RCPP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns in the project area.

Eligible Project Area: Producers located within the Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild and Rare project area are eligible to participate in the project’s EQIP sign-up. The conservation practice(s) identified in the application must be located within the project area to be eligible for financial assistance consideration through the RCPP-EQIP sign-up.

Eligible Practices and Payment Rates: Listed below are the practices eligible for the project. Practice payment rates are posted in the [NRCS Payment Schedule website](#). **Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395) must be part of the proposed project in order to be eligible for funding.**

326	Clearing and Snagging
342	Critical Area Planting
327	Conservation Cover ¹
382	Fence
386	Field Border
393	Filter Strip
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
410	Grade Stabilization Structure ²
412	Grassed Waterway ²
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet ²
484	Mulching
500	Obstruction Removal
560	Access Road (if necessary to facilitate practice installation)
572	Spoil Spreading ¹
578	Stream Crossing
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
587	Structure for Water Control ¹
620	Underground Outlet ¹
657	Wetland Restoration
649	Structures for Wildlife

¹Supporting practices for Wetland Restoration (657)

²Supporting practices for Streambank and Shoreline Protection within the riparian corridor

Eligible Land Uses: Riparian corridors of trout streams* within the project area and in the following land uses are potentially eligible:

- Crop
- Pasture
- Forest
- Farmstead
- Associated Ag Land

*Defined by [WDNR Trout Stream Classification](#) (Class 1, 2, or 3 streams) or streams designated as coldwater or cool-cold per [WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer's](#) Surface Water-Streams Natural Communities layer.

The screenshot shows a GIS layer selection window titled "All Available Layers". The "Surface Water" layer is expanded, showing several sub-layers. The "Streams Natural Communities" layer is checked. Below the layer list, a legend for the "Streams Natural Communities" layer is visible, listing various stream classifications with corresponding colored lines. The following table summarizes the legend items:

Color	Classification
Blue	All other values
Purple	Coldwater
Pink	Cool-Cold Headwater
Blue	Cool-Cold Mainstem
Teal	Cool-Warm Headwater
Light Green	Cool-Warm Mainstem
Dark Red	Large River
Red Dotted	Macroinvertebrate
Grey	No Classification
Olive Green	Warm Headwater

Eligible Resource Concern Categories:

- Aquatic habitat
- Concentrated erosion
- Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss
- Terrestrial habitat

Eligibility for Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395) will be determined using the Wisconsin Stream Habitat Suitability Index (HSI).

Application Period: Applications may be taken at any time and those received by announced NRCS-WI batching dates will be evaluated for funding consideration.

Interested applicants may apply in person at the local USDA Service Center. Applicants may also request EQIP assistance by telephone, FAX, e-mail, or letter. The location and contact information for local NRCS Service Centers can be found on the [USDA Service Center Locator](#).

Funding Pools: Applications will be placed in the Trout Unlimited RCPP Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild and Rare fund pool.

Ranking: Scoring of all applications will be done according to the ranking established in the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART).

Funding: NRCS will allocate the available RCPP-EQIP funds based on the numerical ranking system in CART. Applications will be selected for plan development and contracted in ranked order according to the ranking score, as funds allow. If there are insufficient funds available to fund an application, applications not selected for contracting will be deferred to the next EQIP application ranking period.