

Plan of Operations for the Trout Unlimited Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project in Wisconsin (Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild and Rare Phase 2)

Through the 2014 Farm Bill RCPP regulation, the RCPP-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 Phase 2 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
327	Conservation Cover ¹
342	Critical Area Planting
382	Fence
386	Field Border
393	Filter Strip
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
402	Dam ³
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 ^{1,4}
578	Stream Crossing
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
582	Open Channel
584	Channel Bed Stabilization
587	Structure for Water Control ¹
606	Subsurface Drain
620	Underground Outlet ¹
649	Structures for Wildlife
657	Wetland Restoration

¹Supporting practices for Wetland Restoration (657)

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

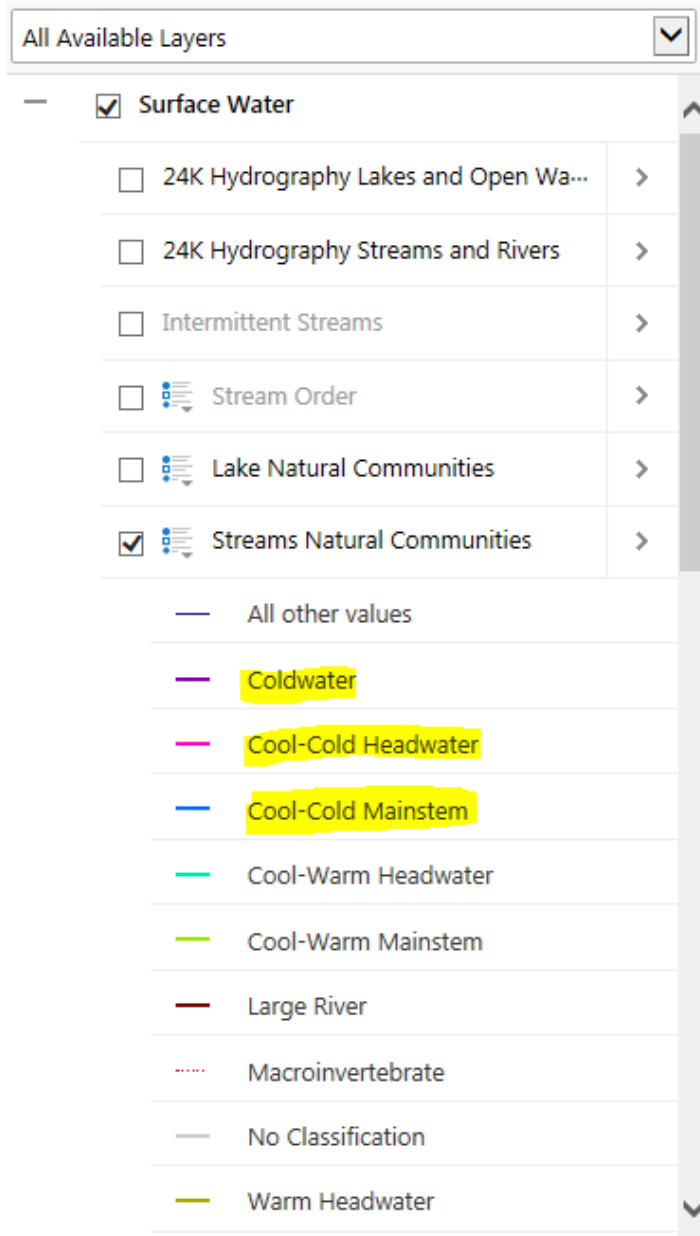
³To reduce downstream flood damage by reducing peak flows and sedimentation

⁴ Associated with some 342 Critical Area Planting

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.



Eligible Resource Concern Categories:

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

FY2023 Plan and Process

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 RCPP-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](#).

Trout Unlimited has field staff available in Wisconsin to complete a project site walkover to help a landowner understand how to incorporate stream habitat features. You may contact Paul Krahn at 608-606-0565 or paul.krahn@tu.org also contact Sara Strassman at 608-668-1632 or Sara.strassman@tu.org for more information.

Funding Pools: Applications will be placed in the Trout Unlimited RCPP Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild and Rare Phase 2 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 RCPP-EQIP application ranking period.