

# Source Water Protection (SWP) Program - Colorado



## Source Water Protection (SWP)

- SWP is a locally driven state and nation-wide effort to help public water systems (PWS) protect the quality of their drinking water supply.
- SWP is a non-regulatory, voluntary approach to prevent the pollution of lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater that serve as community drinking water sources.
- SWP-related funding for PWS comes via the USDA Farm Bill and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

## Overview

The 2018 Farm Bill provides a new opportunity for farmers and landowners to receive 75 percent financial assistance rates for key water quality practices located in source water protection (SWP) priority areas.

NRCS Colorado is providing 10 percent of Farm Bill program funding for this initiative and is now accepting SWP applications. On a statewide basis, funding will be split 55 percent for groundwater source protection/45 percent surface water source protection.

Eligible conservation practices may address groundwater or surface

water protection, or both (see eligible top best management practices for additional practices potentially available for FY2024 funding).

## SWP Funding Opportunities

NRCS offers conservation programs that provide financial and technical assistance to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. NRCS accepts applications on a continuous basis, but rank and batch applications as funding allows.

The NRCS in Colorado must spend 10 percent of its annually allocated financial assistance funds on SWP projects. This requirement could result in SWP funding to potentially reach nearly \$5M in FY-2024. Estimates include:

- \$3M from the Environmental Quality Incentive's Program (EQIP) and,
- \$1.5M from the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

## About EQIP and CSP

- The *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)* is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.
- The *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)* helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation.

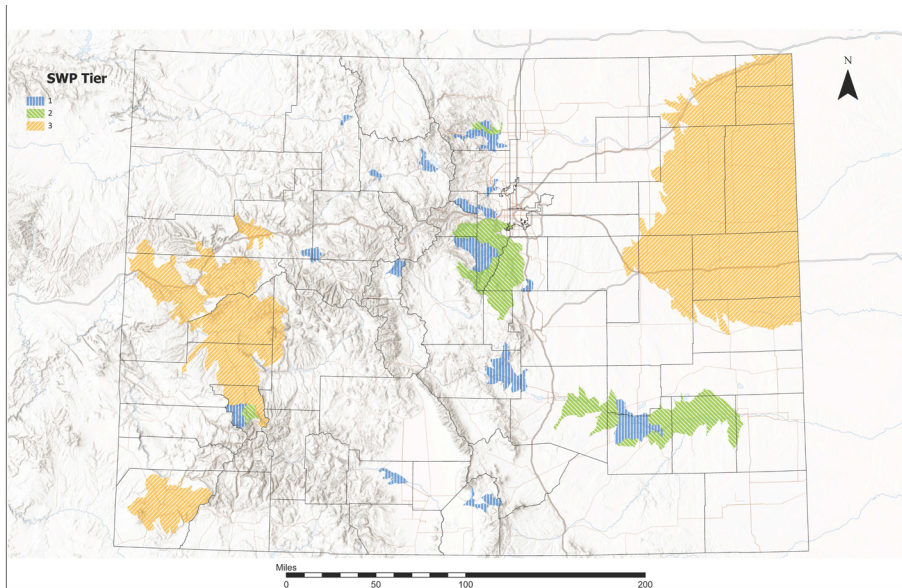
## About NRCS

### Who we are

For more than 80 years, we have helped people make investments in their operations and local communities to keep working lands working, boost rural economies, increase the competitiveness of American agriculture, and improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and habitat.

### What we do

Through one-on-one, personalized advice, we work voluntarily with producers to find the best solutions to meet their unique conservation and business goals. By doing so, we help ensure the health of our natural resources and the long-term sustainability of American agriculture.



## Qualifications

Application only accepted within designated project area (see map above).

## Program Partners

- USDA FSA NRWA
- USDA NRCS
- USDA FSA
- USDA Rural Development
- US EPA Region 8
- Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD)
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
- Colorado Rural Water Association
- Denver Water
- Aurora Water
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Colorado Watershed Assembly
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies?
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union?
- Colorado Cattleman's Association?
- Colorado Livestock Association?

**For more information** about NRCS's Source Water Protection Program and other financial and technical assistance opportunities, please visit [www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov).

## Top Best Management Practices to Protect Source Water

- Nutrient management
- Filters
- Cover crops
- Forest stand improvement
- Conservation crop rotation
- Residue/Tillage management
- Filter strip and Buffers
- Stormwater runoff control
- Grade stabilization structure
- Channel bed stabilization
- Streambank and shoreline protection
- Water and sediment control basin
- Amendments for treatment of agricultural waste
- Salinity and sodic soil management
- Soil testing
- Monitoring well
- Groundwater testing
- Written drainage water management plan
- Surface/Subsurface Drain
- On-farm Secondary Containment Facility
- Waste Treatment Lagoon
- Livestock Pipeline
- Stream Crossing
- Written Prescribed Burning Plan
- Firebreak/Fuel Break

