



American Bird Conservancy: Improving Forest Health for Wildlife Resources in MI, MN, and WI – 2018 FB RCPP Project #2245

Project Description/Summary:

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partnership that leverages capabilities and resources, targets assistance where it is most needed, cooperatively engages project partners, and works collaboratively with agriculture producers, forest land managers, and Tribes. This RCPP project will promote voluntary, incentive-based conservation on private and Tribal lands. This project is part of a cooperative, full life cycle, international initiative to restore Golden-winged (GWWA). Government agencies and private conservation organizations have a strong interest in preventing the unnecessary and potential listing of Golden-winged (GWWA) under the Endangered Species Act. Together, MI, MN, and WI have the largest remaining breeding population of GWWA in the world and have critical ecosystems to rebuild populations rapidly. The GWWA, identified as a species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), State Wildlife Agency, Joint Venture, and other conservation organization plans, needs quality young forest with mature forest nearby to breed and successfully raise young. The Kirtland's Warbler (KIWA) is a conservation-reliant SGCN recently listed as federally endangered. This project seeks to improve young jack pine stands to increase KIWA habitat. Objectives of this project are to implement focal species best management practices (BMPs) on private lands through RCPP technical and financial assistance from 2021 through 2025.

Project Area:

The project must intersect the boundary of the 2245 ABC Project Area; ranking will be set to implement these boundaries. See map at the end of this document.

Eligible Land Management Producer Contract Land Uses:

Crop*, Forest, Pasture, and Associated Ag Land

**Crop is only eligible for the purpose of planting Jack Pine to benefit KIWA*

Eligible Resource Concern Categories:

Terrestrial Habitat

Habitat Suitability Indexes:

Unique Habitat Suitability Indexes (HSI) have been developed for the Golden-winged Warbler and Kirtland's Warbler.

Eligible Land Management Practices:

The Schedule of Operations must include at least one of the applicable core practices or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already implemented on the land proposed in the application and identified in the CART assessment as historical or observed practices.



Code	Practice Name	Core
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment**	Core
647	Early Successional Habitat	Core
666	Forest Stand Improvement	Core
314	Brush Management	
315	Herbaceous Weed Management	
338	Prescribed Burning	
384	Woody Residue Treatment	
394	Firebreak	
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	
560	Access Road	
655	Forest Trails and Landings	

***planting scenarios for Jack Pine systems ONLY*

Note: Forestry and Prescribed Burning CPA/DIAs have been removed for FY2024.

Application Processing:

RCPP is a stand-alone program and requires its own NRCS-1200 application separate from other NRCS FA programs. All 2018 Farm Bill (FB) RCPP applications will be continuously accepted, and signup cut off dates will be publicly announced each year. For Land Management and Rental producer contracts, question 2 of the NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application (version October 2021) should be marked “Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)”. Write “2245 ABC RCPP LM” in box 2a (see NB 300-22-8). 2018 Farm Bill RCPP applications will be managed through Conservation Desktop. USDA Financial Assistance Eligibility will need to be determined manually with the Farm Service Agency’s Subsidiary Report.

2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

2245 ABC RCPP LM

Workload Prioritization:

There is no Workload Prioritization Tool for FY24.



Ranking Criteria

Section: Applicability - WI - 2245 ABC RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Does the assessed practice schedule intersect the boundary of the ABC priority area?	Will use the ABC Geodata to determine the Applicability	--
	Otherwise	--

Section: Category - WI - 2245 ABC RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is this application meant to compete in the ABC RCPP Project?	Yes - ABC RCPP	--
	No	--

Section: Program - WI - 2245 ABC RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
PQ1: The applicant has marked on the NRCS-CPA-1200 that they are a Historically Underserved participant.*	YES	40
	NO	0
PQ2: Did the applicant self-certify as a Veteran farmer or rancher on the NRCS-CPA-1200 "Conservation Program Application"??*	YES	32
	NO	0
PQ3: The applicant has worked with a conservation planner through the conservation process to the extent that;*	all implementation requirements for all activities included in the application are complete and final.	48
	at least 1 practice in the application has an implementation requirement that is complete and final.	7
	no implementation requirements are complete and final.	0
PQ4: For which targeted warbler species does this application address the resource concern of Terrestrial Habitat?	Golden-winged Warbler, Vermivora chrysoptera	--
	Kirtland's Warbler, Setophaga kirtlandii	--
PQ4.1: How many acres will be treated for Golden-winged Warbler habitat?*	a. 100 acres or greater	20
	b. less than 100 acres and 50 acres or greater	40
	c. less than 50 acres and 21 acres or greater	30
	d. less than 21 acres and 5 acres or greater	20
	e. less than 5 acres	0
PQ4.2: How many acres will be treated for Kirtland's Warbler habitat?*	a. 300 acres or greater	80
	b. less than 300 acres and 80 acres or greater	20
	c. less than 80 acres	0



Section: Resource - WI - 2245 ABC RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
RQ1: Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by implementing one or more of the following conservation practices - 612 Tree or Shrub Establishment planting scenarios ONLY (Jack Pine Systems), 647 Early Successional Habitat Development and Management, or 666 Forest Stand Improvement?*	YES	45
	NO	0
RQ2: Will practices result in a treatment area consisting of three or more woody species age classifications?*	YES	10
	NO	0
RQ3: Will all conservation practices on the CPA-1155 occur within 3 years from the obligation date?*	YES	10
	NO	0
RQ4: The application is within the State Specific Focal Area and will create early successional habitat for the Golden Winged Warbler or Kirtland's Warbler resulting in an HSI Post Treatment score of:*	a. 0.75 or higher	45
	b. equal to or greater than 0.625 and less than 0.75	25
	c. greater than 0.5 but less than 0.625	8
	d. Less than 0.5	0
RQ5: For which targeted warbler species does this application addresses the resource concern of Terrestrial Habitat?	Golden-winged Warbler, Vermivora chrysoptera	--
	Kirtland's Warbler, Setophaga kirtlandii	--
RQ5.1: Will the application result in the implementation of conservation practices that occur in a RCPP Kirtlands Warbler identified priority county?*	Yes, this project is in a KIWA Priority county	45
	Otherwise	0
RQ5.2: What percent of the treatment acreage involves jack pine management to benefit the Kirtland's Warbler?*	a. 75% and greater	45
	b. 50% and greater, but less than 75%	25
	c. 33% and greater, but less than 50%	15
	d. less than 33%	0



RCPP Project Contacts:

RCPP Coordination:

RCPP Coordinator, Ryan Gerlich, ryan.gerlich@usda.gov

LMR Contract Coordinator, Jenn Chakravorty, jennifer.chakravorty@usda.gov

Lead Partners for American Bird Conservancy:

ABC Technical Lead, Pat Weber, (715) 362-5491, pat.weber@usda.gov or pweber@abcbirds.org

ABC Great Lakes Private Lands Director, Linnea Rowse, (715) 362-5941 ext 107,
linnea.rowse@usda.gov or lrowse@abcbirds.org

Additional Resources:

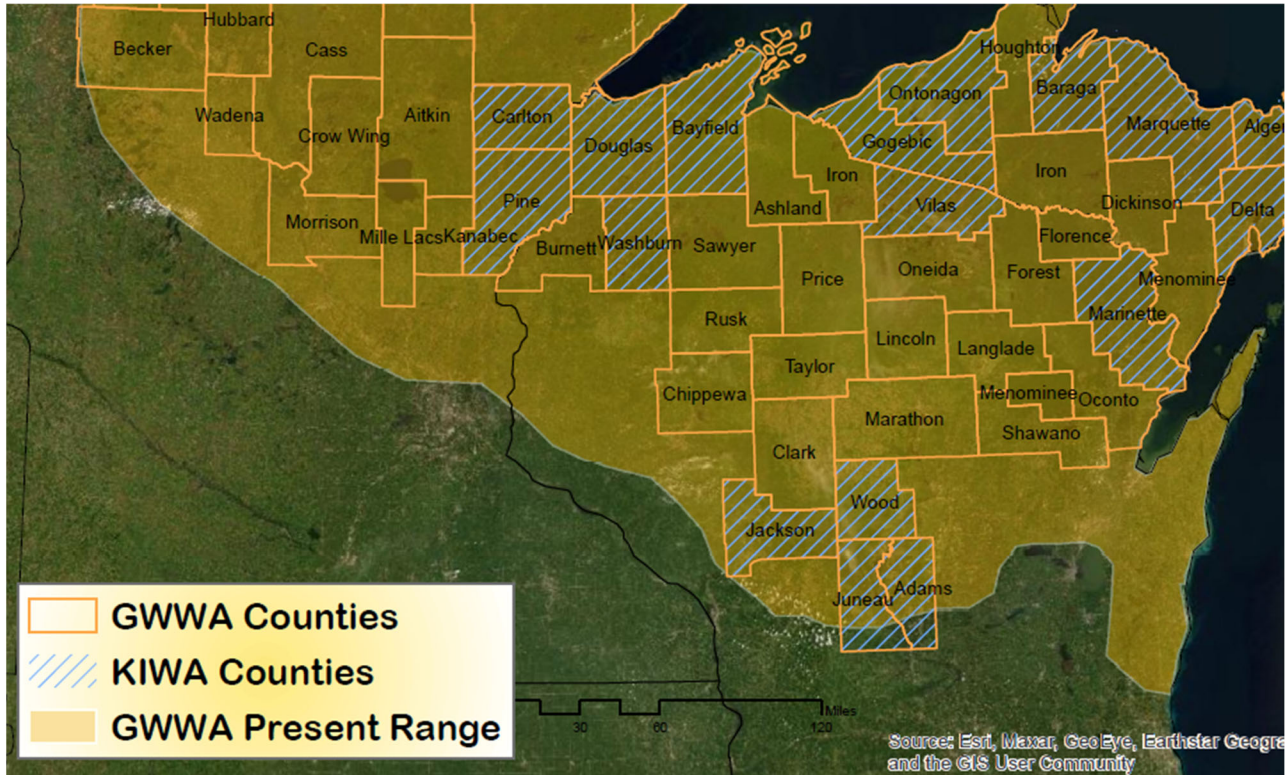
NRCS State Biologist, Steve Bertjens, (608) 662-4422 ext 267, steve.bertjens@usda.gov

Northwest Area Ruffed Grouse Society Forester, Jared Elm, (715) 635-8228, jared.elm@usda.gov
or jarede@ruffedgrousesociety.org

Northeast Area Ruffed Grouse Society Forester, Stefan Nelson, (715) 623-5318 ext. 103,
stefan.nelson@usda.gov or stefann@ruffedgrousesociety.org



Approved project scope:



County	Golden-Winged Warbler (GWWA)	Kirtland's Warbler (KIWA)
Adams	X	X
Ashland	X	
Bayfield	X	X
Burnett	X	
Chippewa	X	
Clark	X	
Douglas	X	X
Florence	X	
Forest	X	
Iron	X	
Jackson	X	X
Juneau	X	X
Langlade	X	
Lincoln	X	
Marathon	X	
Marinette	X	X

County	Golden-Winged Warbler (GWWA)	Kirtland's Warbler (KIWA)
Menominee	X	
Oconto	X	
Oneida	X	
Price	X	
Rusk	X	
Sawyer	X	
Shawano	X	
Taylor	X	
Washburn	X	X
Wood	X	X
Vilas	X	X