

NRCS Partners through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects in Texas have announced the batching period deadline of December 8, 2023, for fiscal year 2024 funding cycle. The Partners and NRCS accept applications year around. Please review the below active RCPP projects below and contact the Lead Partner or local NRCS office if you have any questions.

Active RCPP Projects in Texas:

Restoring Perennial Flow in Comanche Springs (RCPP Project #1939) – The goal of this project is to ultimately restore Comanche Springs to year-round flow. This proposal is focused on engaging agricultural producers with the objective to reduce their irrigation use, which would boost water levels in the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer to a level that would restore groundwater-surface water connectivity at Comanche Springs. Contact Sharlene Leurig at leurig@texaswatertrade.org for more information.

Greater Big Bend Partnership (RCPP Project #2370) – The Borderlands Research Institute, along with the Texas Agricultural Land Trust (TALT), have joined forces with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement landscape-scale conservation initiatives across the Greater Big Bend Region of West Texas. The effort is fueled by a \$3.5 million commitment from the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which will help fund innovative conservation approaches on private lands, including habitat restoration efforts, conservation easements, and ecosystem services compensation. Visit bri.sulross.edu/greater-big-bend-conservation-partnership for more information.

Texas Coastal Prairie Initiative (RCPP Project #2332) - The Coastal Prairie Conservancy and its partner organizations have joined together to sustain the imperiled coastal prairie ecosystem through the Texas Coastal Prairie Initiative (TCPI). The initiative will also provide funding to help landowners manage and enhance habitat on privately owned lands for the benefit of the grassland and wetland-dependent species that reside on the coastal prairie, such as the whooping crane, mottled duck, and western chicken turtle. Visit prairiepartner.org for more information.

Prairie Grasslands Conservation in Central Texas: GRIP (RCPP Project #2742) – For several decades bird populations have been in serious decline. The cause for decline is multifaceted, but the primary contributing factor is loss of suitable habitat. One species of concern is the iconic Northern Bobwhite. To address these concerns, the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture launched the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (GRIP) in 2013. GRIP is aimed at encouraging and supporting landowners in their efforts to improve habitat for Northern Bobwhites and other declining grassland bird species. Contact Taylor Daily (North Texas) at tdaily@quailforever.org or Ty Higginbotham (South Texas) at thigginbotham@quailforever.org for more information.

Nueces Watershed Additive Conservation Partnership (RCPP Project #2757) – The Nueces River Additive Conservation Partnership (NRACP) seeks to protect natural resources along the Nueces River by delivering needed tools and resources to local landowners. This includes financial assistance for purchased conservation easements and the development of conservation plans that incorporate scientifically proven conservation practices and regenerative agricultural principles. Contact Brenna Gaik at bgaik@txaglandtrust.org for more information.

Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape (RCPP Project #2791) – Joint Base San Antonio—Camp Bullis, face numerous challenges to its mission including urban encroachment, increased droughts, floods, and wildfire risk, decreases in water quality and quantity, decreases in habitat for critical species, and ultimately an increased vulnerability to climate change. A unique coalition of 40 military, conservation and agricultural organizations will begin addressing these concerns across the 944,744-acre of Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape (CBSL). Contact Todd Nightingale at todd.nightingale@agnet.tamu.edu or Jeff Goodwin at jeff.goodwin@ag.tamu.edu for more information.

NRCS Texas RCPP and Administrative Map FY24

