RCPP Partner Proposal Guide

For RCPP Classic, Alternative Funding Arrangements, and RCPP Renewal Requests

VERSION 4.0
ISSUED 5/25/2023

Natural Resource Conservation Service

USDA **United States Department of Agriculture**

NOTE: Partners should use this guide alongside the latest RCPP funding announcement, which includes critical information about the program.

Version History

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	9/4/2019	
2.0	9/25/2019	Updated most fields and replaced mockups with RCPP portal screenshots
2.1	10/24/2019	Updated narrative questions and added note to demarcate which narrative questions apply to renewal submissions.
2.2	11/21/19	Added note and step 21 to section 4.2.5.
2.3	5/21/20	Updated narrative questions section to distinguish between RCPP Classic & Renewals
3.0	12/20/21	Merged RCPP Classic and AFA Guides. Appendix A has been updated. Appendix B has been entirely rewritten. Appendix C has been updated to include all proposal type narrative questions.
3.1	1/11/22	Added new narrative questions
3.2	5/25/2023	Incorporated portal enhancements and updated table in Appendix A RCPP Easements

Table of Contents

1.   Overview of RCPP

This user guide is meant for partners submitting RCPP proposals within the RCPP Portal.

1.1. RCPP Vision and Goals

RCPP is an innovative program that has as its critical feature a co-investment approach through which NRCS and partners collaborate to implement natural resource conservation activities. Following are three key principles of RCPP:

1. **Impact**—RCPP applications must propose effective and compelling solutions that address one or more natural resource priorities to help solve natural resource challenges. Partners are responsible for evaluating a project's impact and results.

2. **Partner Contributions**—Partners are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind value-added contributions to leverage NRCS's RCPP investments. It is NRCS's goal that partner contributions at least equal the NRCS investment in an RCPP project. Substantive and sizable partner contributions are given priority consideration as part of the RCPP application evaluation criteria.

3. **Partnerships and Management**—Partners must have experience, expertise, and capacity to manage the partnership and project, provide outreach to producers, and quantify the environmental (and when possible, economic and social) outcomes of an RCPP project. RCPP ranking criteria give preference to applicants that meaningfully engage historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

Successful RCPP applicants bring an array of financial and technical capabilities to projects, demonstrate experience working effectively and collaboratively with agricultural producers, including land owners eligible for specific types of RCPP assistance including conservation easements, across the landscape, and propose innovative, sustainable, and measurable approaches to achieving compelling conservation goals.

2.   RCPP Portal Roles and Workflow

2.1. RCPP Portal Roles for Partners

The RCPP Portal provides partners with the ability to perform the following functions, for proposals and/or projects for which they are the lead partner:

- Create, submit, and/or withdraw proposals
- View project record and agreements (lead partner only)
- complete annual and final reports within the portal
- submit payment requests for supplemental agreements

2.2. RCPP Proposal Workflow for Partners

Obtain eAuth Access → Obtain RCPP Portal Access → Create RCPP Proposal → Submit RCPP Proposal → NRCS Reviews Proposals → NRCS Selects Proposals for Funding

3. Accessing the RCPP Portal

3.1. Obtaining eAuthentication Access

- Partners must identify at least one system user for your organization. The system does not allow for entity-wide eAuthentication accounts, so individuals with an eAuthentication account will be able to create and submit a RCPP proposal.

- This user must establish a USDA Level 2 e-Auth Account at this website - **https://www.eauth.usda.gov/mainPages/index.aspx**.

> **Please note**: The USDA e-Auth process is a Department-wide authentication process and NRCS is unable to assist in the creation of an e-Auth Account.

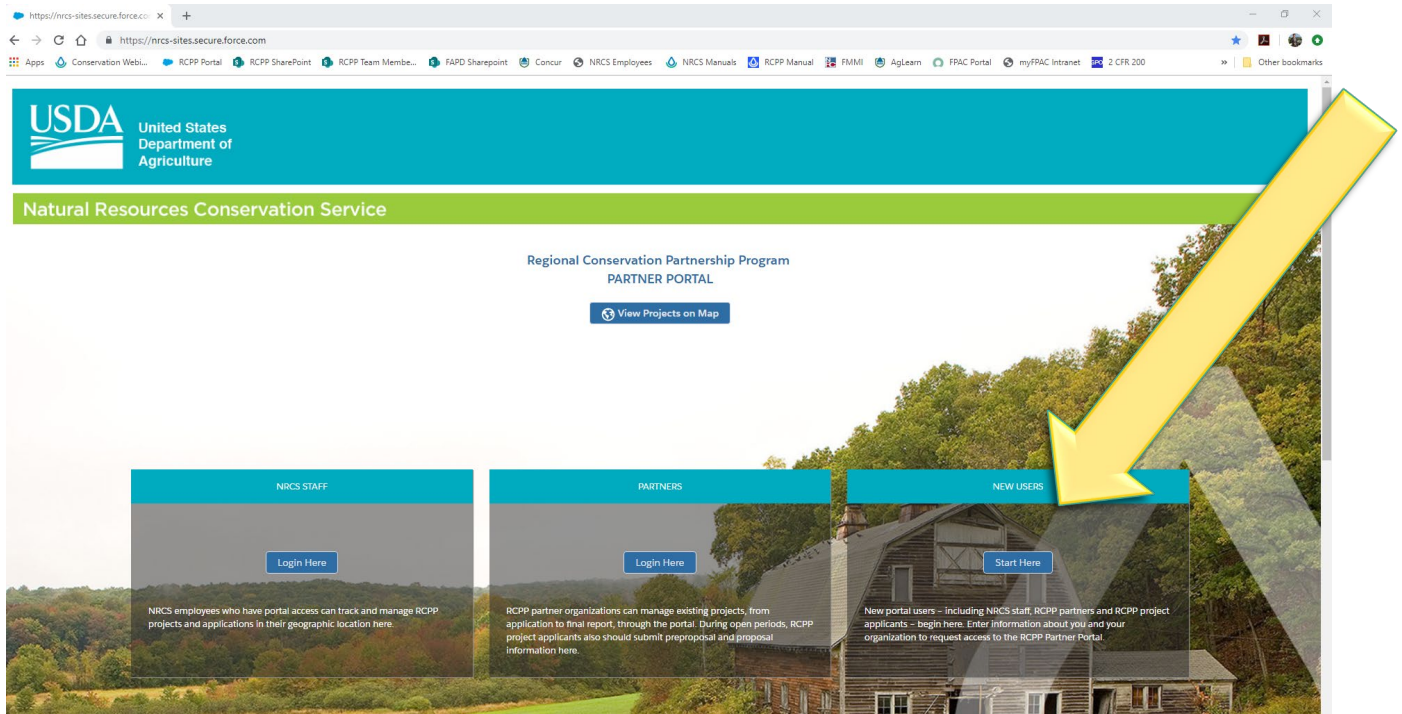**Current eAuthentication Homepage**

3.2. Creating a User Account within the RCPP Portal
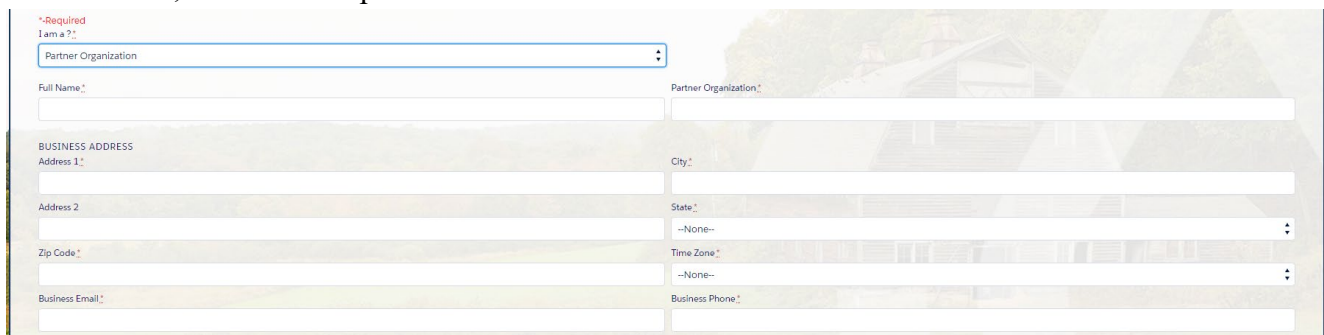
4. Go to the RCPP portal login page - https://nrcs-sites.secure.force.com
5. Click on the "start here" button for new users as shown below.

6. Under the dropdown below "I am a ?..." select "Partner Organization".
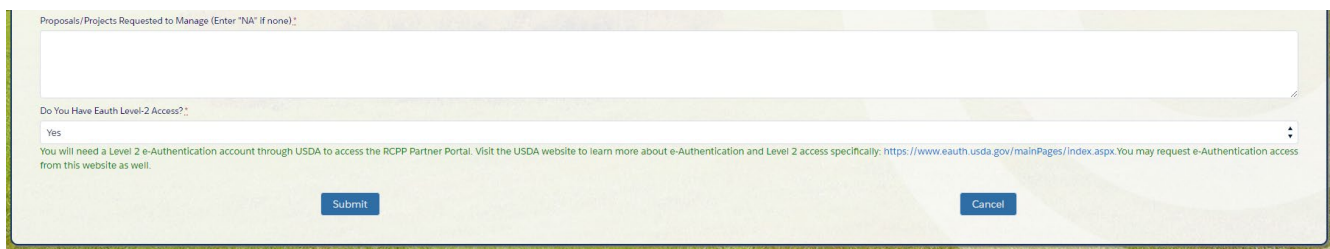
7. Enter the full name of the designated user.
8. Enter the partner organization name, business address, city, state, zipcode, timezone, business email, and business phone.

9. If the designated user is taking over management of previously created proposals/projects, enter them into the correct field.
10. Verify whether the designated user has e-Auth Level 2 Access.
11. Click the blue "submit" button at the bottom of the page.

Note: While it typically takes no more than three business days for new accounts to be activated, processing times can increase closer to proposal deadlines. Please submit your new account request as early as possible to avoid delays.

4. Proposal Process for Partners

4.1. Home Screen

After logging in to the RCPP portal with your eAuth level 2 account, you will see the following home screen. To submit a new proposal, select that 2018 Farm Bill option under the RCPP Proposals tab as shown below.
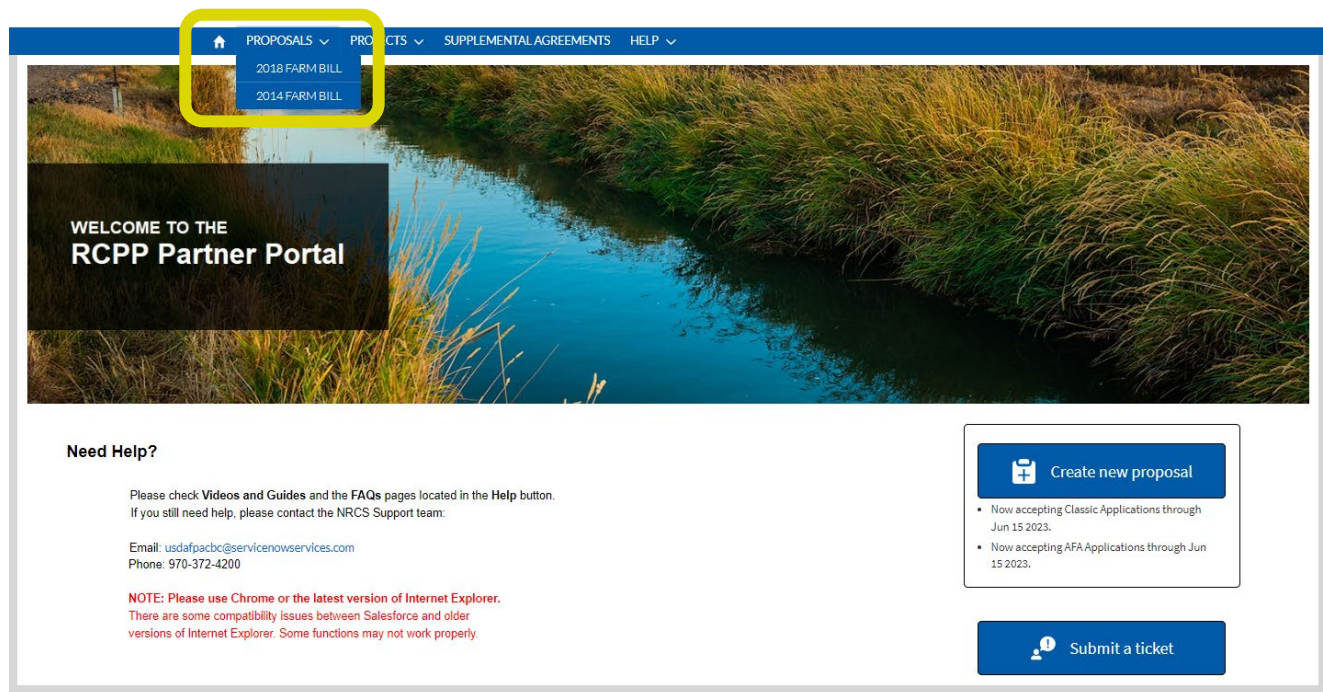
Once you select the 2018 Farm Bill tab users can view, create, and submit Proposals before the Proposal deadline set by the RCPP Team.
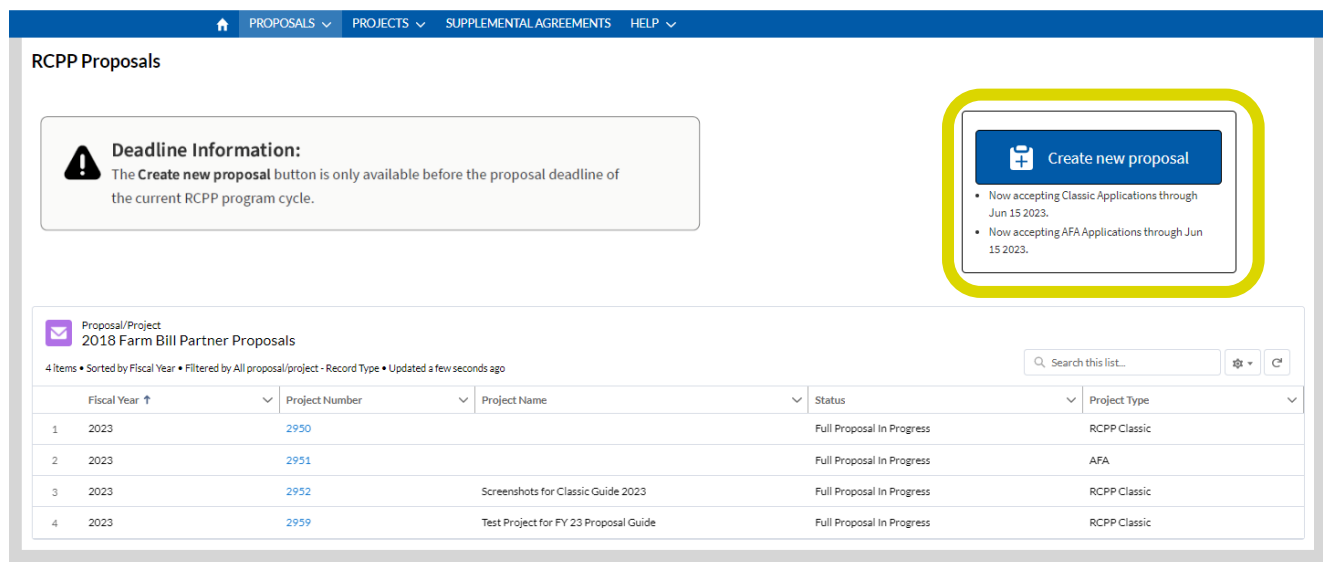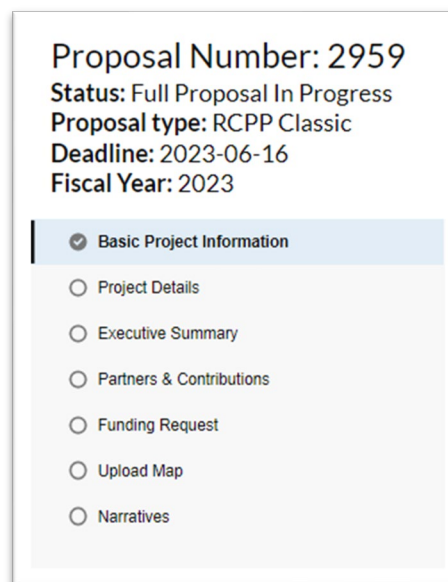
4.2. Creating a Proposal

4.2.1. Starting a New Proposal

1. Click the **[Create new proposal]** button.

> **Please note**: If the Proposal deadline has passed, the **New Proposal** button will not be available. The status and the Proposal deadline will be displayed on the left side panel.

2. The ***Basic Project Information*** screen is displayed. On the left side of the screen is a menu that allows users to navigate between the various sections of an RCPP proposal. This will also display the status of the proposal as well as the deadline for submitting proposals.

Proposal Number: 2959
Status: Full Proposal In Progress
Proposal type: RCPP Classic
Deadline: 2023-06-16
Fiscal Year: 2023

- ✓ Basic Project Information
- ○ Project Details
- ○ Executive Summary
- ○ Partners & Contributions
- ○ Funding Request
- ○ Upload Map
- ○ Narratives

4.2.2.   Basic Project Information

3. Fill out the Basic Project Information. All fields with a red asterix are required.

Basic Project Information

PROJECT SPECIFICS   NOTE: Information specific to proposal, not partner profile.

* Project Name	* Lead Partner Organization
Test Project for FY 23 Proposal Guide	📄 Creative RCPP Test
* Funding Pool	* CCA
Critical Conservation Areas (CCAs) ▼	Chesapeake Bay Watershed ▼
* Lead Partner State	* Partners State List (include only states where RCPP funds or contributions will be used)
VA ▼	Available / Chosen

Available:
DE
NY
PA
VA

Chosen:
MD

* Project Type
RCPP Classic ▼

a. *Project Name* - Enter a concise title for your proposed RCPP project. Please avoid acronyms that are not widely known.
b. *Lead Partner Account* – This information is auto-populated by the users account information.
c. *Funding Pool* - Select either the State/Multi-state or CCA funding pool.
d. *Critical Conservation Areas (CCA)* – If the funding pool is set to the CCA funding pool, the *CCA Applicable* List will allow users to select a specific CCA funding pool. More information on CCAs, including boundary maps, is available on the RCPP website. Please note all proposed counties for the project must at least partially fall within the boundaries of the CCA.
e. *Lead State* – Select the lead state where the largest portion of the work will be performed. If a CCA funding pool is selected this dropdown will only include states within that CCA.
f. *Partner States* – Select all states where work will be performed. If a CCA funding pool is selected this dropdown will only include states within that CCA.

g. *SAM Registration* – Users should click the checkbox to confirm that have a SAM.gov registration. If this box is not checked users will still be able to submit the proposal, but you will receive an error message reminding users that a SAM.gov registration is a requirement to receive RCPP funding.

h. *DUNS/UEI* – Enter your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). <u>Do not enter your entity's DUNS number as this system has been retired.</u> See the yellow help box below for help finding your organization's number or registering for one.

Finding or registering a SAM number –

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html

i. *Address* – Enter the address for the lead partner.

j. *Organizational Authority* – This is the person authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the lead partner.

k. *Point of Contact Information* – This is individual that will serve as the primary point of contact for agreement negotiation and project management.

4. Click [Save] to save the information for this section. If there are no errors a gray check mark will appear to the right of the [✓ Basic Project Information] label on the left menu.
5. Click on the *Project Details* to move to the next section.

4.2.3.   Project Details
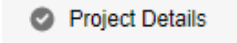
6. Fill out the ***Project Details Section.***
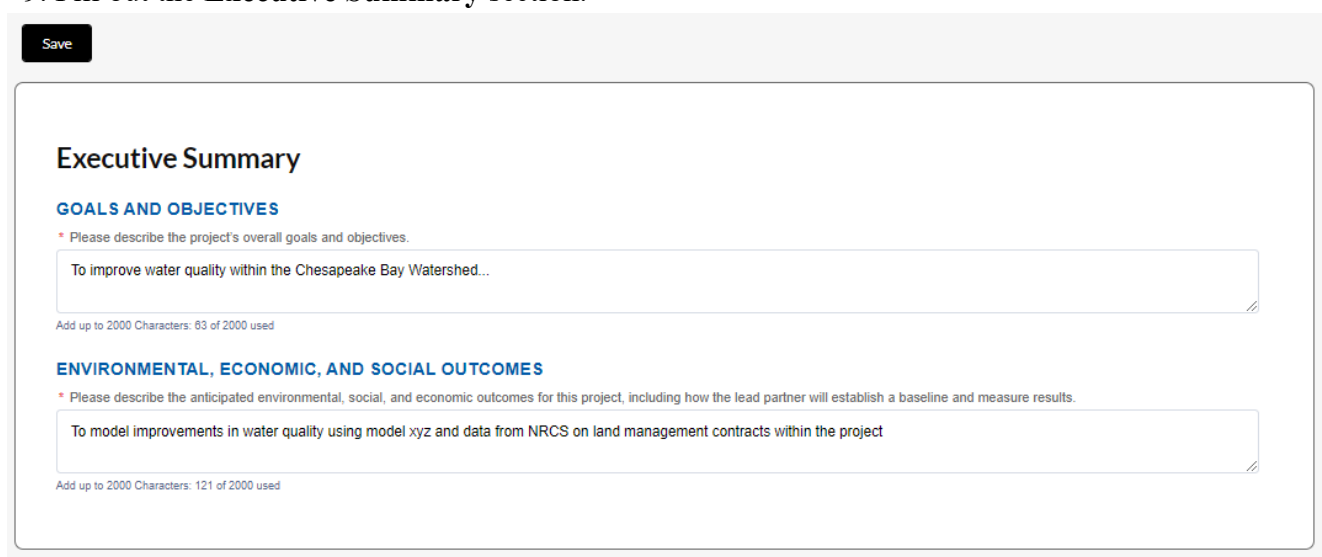
a. *Is this a 5 Year Project?* – By default this is set to Yes, which locks the *First Fiscal Year* and *Final Fiscal Year* at 2023 and 2028.
b. *Explain why the length of your project is not 5 years.* –Enter a justification for why a project length other than five years is needed to achieve the goals and objectives of the proposed project. This field is only visible if the use selects No for the prompt *Is this a 5 year project?*
c. *First Fiscal Year* – This is automatically set at 2023. This can be updated during agreement negotiation if the project does not start until 2024.
d. *Final Fiscal Year* – Enter the proposed end date, if the project is not five years. Most projects are expected to end no more than five years after the start date. If a project is proposed for a period other than five years, a justification is required below.

e. *Primary Conservation Benefit (Classic) or Resource Concern (AFA)* – Select the primary conservation benefit or resource concern among the dropdown options. This should be the resource concern that will receive the largest portion of proposed financial assistance, technical assistance, and contributions. For CCA projects, partners must select one of the priority resource concerns listed for the relevant CCA in the RCPP funding announcement.

f. *Additional Conservation Benefit (Classic) or Resource Concerns (AFA)* – Please select all other resource concerns your project will address through financial assistance, technical assistance, and/or contributions.

7. Click **Save** to save the information for this section. If there are no errors a gray check mark will appear to the right of the ✓ **Project Details** label on the left menu.

8. Click on the *Executive Summary* tab to move to the next section.

4.2.4. Executive Summary

9. Fill out the **Executive Summary** section.

Save

Executive Summary

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
* Please describe the project's overall goals and objectives.

To improve water quality within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed...

Add up to 2000 Characters: 63 of 2000 used

ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES
* Please describe the anticipated environmental, social, and economic outcomes for this project, including how the lead partner will establish a baseline and measure results.
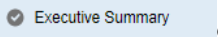
To model improvements in water quality using model xyz and data from NRCS on land management contracts within the project

Add up to 2000 Characters: 121 of 2000 used

a. *Description of Goals and Objectives* – A brief summary of the project (i.e. your elevator pitch) including project goals and objectives.

b. *Description of Expected Environmental, Economic, and Social Outcomes* – All RCPP projects are required to develop and report on environmental outcomes. Partners may also choose to develop and report on economic and social outcomes. Partners are highly encouraged to review the RCPP outcomes guidance document posted to the RCPP website for more information.
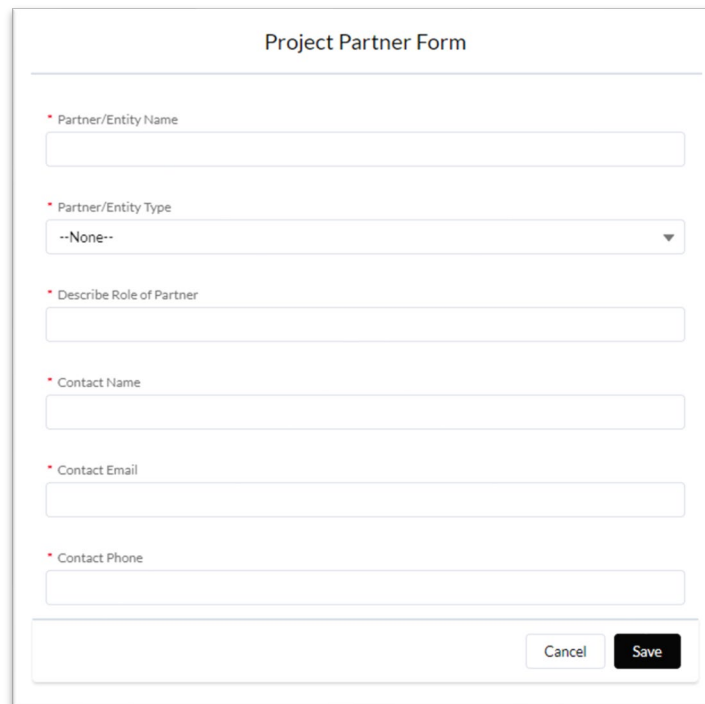
In this box, partners should briefly describe the anticipated outcomes of their project and the proposed method for measuring outcomes. After a RCPP project is selected for funding, NRCS will work with partners to ensure that proposed project outcomes are meaningful and that methods for measuring and reporting on outcomes are feasible.

10. Click **[Save]** to save the information for this section. If there are no errors a gray check mark will appear to the right of the **⊘ Executive Summary** on the left menu.

11. Click on the *Partners & Contributions* tab to move to the next section.

4.2.5. Partners & Contributions
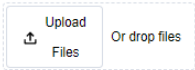
12. Fill out the **Project Partner Form** – Lead partners must enter information for each partner (other than the lead) providing contributions. This includes eligible partners (see list in funding announcement), third-parties(e.g., individuals/entities not considered eligible partners) and Federal agencies providing contributions.

13. Click the ✏ icon to edit the lead partner entry to select a *Partner/Entity Type*. All other fields are auto-populated by the users account information.

14. Click **[+ Add Partner]** to add a new partner or contributing entry. The *Project Partner Form* will appear.
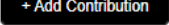
Project Partner Form

* Partner/Entity Name

* Partner/Entity Type
--None--

* Describe Role of Partner

* Contact Name

* Contact Email

* Contact Phone

Cancel   Save
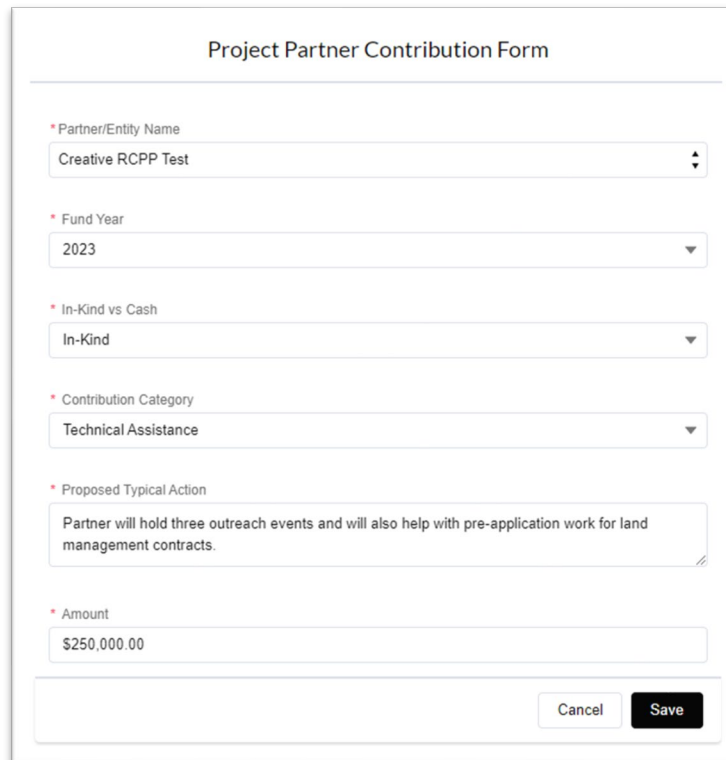
15. Fill out the **Project Partner Form**.
    a. *Partner Name* – Enter the partner, entity, or Federal agency's full name.
    b. *Partner/Entity Type* – Select from the dropdown options of partner and entity types.
    c. *Partner Contact Name, Email, and Telephone* – Enter the name, email, and telephone number of an individual that can be contacted for questions related to the partner organization, third-party entity, or Federal agency.

16. Click the **Save** button. The Partner/Entity will not be available in the dropdown menu for the **Partner Contributions Table.**

17. Repeat step 13 for all contributing partners, entities, and Federal Agencies.

18. Click to upload a letter of contribution for each non-lead partner.

19. Click for each partner and type of contribution.

20. Fill out **Project Partner Contribution Form**.

Note: You only need to create a single line per partner per activity type. You <u>do not</u> need to break out contributions by the year.

a. *Partner/Entity Name* – Select the partner, entity, or Federal Agency from the drop down. This drop down is populated by partners that have been added on the previous screen.

b. *Fiscal Year* - Select the Fiscal Year for when this contribution will be completed, if a contribution will be delivered over several years select the final of this deliverable.

c. *In-Kind vs Cash* – Select whether the contribution is In-Kind or Cash. If lumping all partner contributions into a single row and this contains cash & in-kind, select in-kind.

    i. Cash, i.e., a cash contribution, can come from the partner's own funds (general revenue), cash donations from non-federal third parties (i.e. partner organizations), or from grants.

    ii. In-Kind contribution is a non-cash contribution of value provided by the partner or by third parties. In-kind contributions are typically the calculated value of personnel, goods, and services, including direct and indirect costs.

d. *Contribution Category* – Select from the dropdown list of contribution categories. These categories mirror the types of financial assistance (see **Appendix A**) and starting in FY 2023 include just a single category for all technical assistance contributions.

e. *Proposed Typical Action* – Provide a description of the activities covered in this contribution.

f. *Amount* – Enter the value of the contribution in whole dollars.

> Note: Contributions beginning on the date on which the Secretary announces the approval of an application may be counted toward partner contributions based on partner request to the extent they are ultimately included in the final negotiated project deliverables (i.e. NRCS will have input into rates and tasks to ensure contributions are defensible and related to actual development/management).

21. Click [Save] to save the contribution and return to the **Partner & Contributions** section.

22. Once all contributing partners and deliverables have been added and all contributions lists, click [Save] to save the information for this section. If there are no errors a gray check mark will appear to the right of the section tab ✓ on the left menu.

23. Click on the *Funding Request* tab to move to the next section.

4.2.6.   RCPP Funding Request

RCPP funding is divided into five FA activity types and three TA activity types. The portal will automatically add NRCS TA to the proposal budget to ensure a 70/30 split between FA and TA activity types. Any partner TA added will reduce the amount of NRCS TA included. Proposals must adhere to the 75/25 split, but a different allocation of FA and TA funds can be decided during agreement negotiation if the proposal is selected for funding. FA activity types are covered in **Appendix A** of this guide.

Other Considerations:
- **Before starting your funding request table, meet with an RCPP State Coordinator to discuss the ideal balance of NRCS implementation TA vs Partner implementation TA.**
- Enhancement TA cannot exceed 7% of the total project ask.
- Partner TA-I cannot exceed 18% of total project ask.
- Enhancement TA that is not requested will reduce the maximum amount of NRCS funding that can be requested and will result in FA being greater than 75% of the proposal budget.
- Some FA activity types have limited TA-I that can be delegated to a partner, see Appendix B for these limitations.

24. The **RCPP Funding Request** screen is displayed. At the top of the page is a summary of the requested funds as well as the maximum amount for each type of funds. If any category is out of alignment (i.e. requested more than 18% in implementation TA). The section will not be marked complete unless all rules have been followed.
    Note: Please see the **RCPP How to Apply** website for sample proposal budgets.

Funding Request Summary

Total Project Cost
$10,000,000.00

Partner Contribution Ratio
0.31

Total Financial Assistance Requested
$7,500,000.00

Total Technical Assistance Requested
$2,500,000.00

Partner Enhancement TA
$700,000.00

Partner Implementation TA
$800,000.00

NRCS Implementation TA
$1,000,000.00

Below the summary chart is the **RCPP Financial Assistance Funding Request**. At the top is a summary of the total FA request by activity type.

Financial Assistance Requests

REQUEST TYPE	TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED
Land Management	$4,500,000.00
Easement - Entity Held	$3,000,000.00

ACTION	ACTIVITY TYPE	FUND YEAR	STATE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
✏ 🗑	Land Management	2027	VA	$4,500,000.00	Land Management Contracts for any practice that addresses water quality issues related to the Chesape
✏ 🗑	Easement - Entity Held	2027	VA	$3,000,000.00	Federal share of easement acquisition

+ Add Financial Assistance Request

25. Click **+ Add Financial Assistance Request** to open the **Financial Assistance Funding Request Form**. Note: For RCPP Classic projects, keep it simple. You do not need more than one row per FA activity type. If your project requires a specific schedule, include a separate row per year. If your project timeline can be accelerated based on producer demand, include a single row for each FA activity type and use the final year in the *fiscal year* field.

26. Fill out all fields in the **Financial Assistance Request Form.**

Financial Assistance Funding Request Form

* Activity Type
Land Management

* Fund Year
2027

* State
VA

* Amount
$4,500,000.00

* Deliverable Type
Producer Contract involving Conservation Practices and/or Enhancement to address project r...

* Description
Land Management Contracts for any practice that addresses water quality issues related to the Chesapeake Bay.

Cancel   Save

a. *Activity Type* – Select between (1) Land Improvement, (2) Rentals, (3) Easements, U.S.-Held, (4) Easements, Entity-Held, and (5) Public Works/Watersheds. For a definition of these activity types please see **Appendix A**.

b. *Fiscal Year* - Enter the year you expect to complete obligations for that specific FA activity type. You do not need separate rows per year unless your project requires a specific schedule to be successful.

   > *Suggestion: The final year of a project should focus on outcomes assessment and implementation, so typically you should plan on all FA being obligated no later than year four of your project.*

c. State –
   i. For RCPP Classic - Select the state from the dropdown where the work will be performed. A separate line is needed for each state for each fiscal year for each contract type.
   ii. For AFAs – You can select the state will work will be performed or you can include all FA activities under the lead state (even if the actual work will be performed in other states).

d. *Deliverable Type* – This column will be auto-populated based on the activity type entered in the first column.

e. *Description* – This field is optional but partners are encouraged, where applicable, to illustrate the relationship between requested financial assistance and partner contributions that compliment and amplify the impact of the financial assistance.

27. Click [Save] to save the financial assistance funding request.
28. Repeat 25-26 as necessary for all other financial assistance contribution requests.
29. Once all financial assistance funding requests have been entered, scroll down to the **RCPP Technical Assistance Funding Request** table. The top section is a summary of technical assistance requests by category.

Technical Assistance Requests

REQUEST TYPE	TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED
Enhancement TA	$700,000.00
Partner Implementation TA	$800,000.00
NRCS Implementation TA	$1,000,000.00
Total TA Requested	**$2,500,000.00**

ACTION	REQUEST TYPE	STATE OF PROPOSED TA PRACTICE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
✏ 🗑	Enhancement TA	VA	$700,000.00	Lead partner's project management, staff time spent on outreach, and reporting envi
✏ 🗑	Partner Implementation TA	VA	$800,000.00	Pre-application, planning, and design for land management contracts

+ Add Technical Assistance Request

30. Click ![+ Add Technical Assistance Request] to open the **Technical Assistance Funding Request Form**.
31. Fill out all fields in the **Technical Assistance Request Form.**

a. *Activity Type* – Select between Enhancement TA and Partner Implementation TA. For a definition of these assistance types please see **Appendix B**.
b. *State* – Select the state from the dropdown where the work will be performed. A separate line is needed for each state for each technical assistance type.
c. *Amount – Enter the total funding request for this activity type,*
d. *Deliverable Type* – This column will be auto-populated based on the contract type entered in the first column.
e. *Description (formerly Relationship to project objectives and contributions)* – Briefly describe what type of practices or activities are expected in this deliverable.

32. Click [Save] to save the technical assistance funding request.
33. Repeat 30-32 as necessary for all other technical assistance funding requests.

Are you requesting an FA/TA variance from the standard FA 75% / TA 25%? *While variance requests will be considered as part of the proposal, a policy waiver will be required to update FA/TA allocations if the project is selected.* ⓘ

No ▼

Describe how your organization has the capability and capacity to perform technical assistance deliverables included in the RCPP funding request table (i.e. the certifications, educational background, prior experience of individuals assigned to the task as well has the time and number of staff allocated to these tasks):
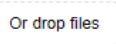
Supporting Documents for Technical Assistance Funding Request   ⬆ Upload Files   Or drop files

Required Documents:
• Payment schedule based on proposed technical assistance activities
• Supporting documents needed to describe the capability and capacity of partners to perform the technical assistance activities listed above.
• For watershed activities you must upload a detailed watershed plan.
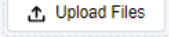
Save
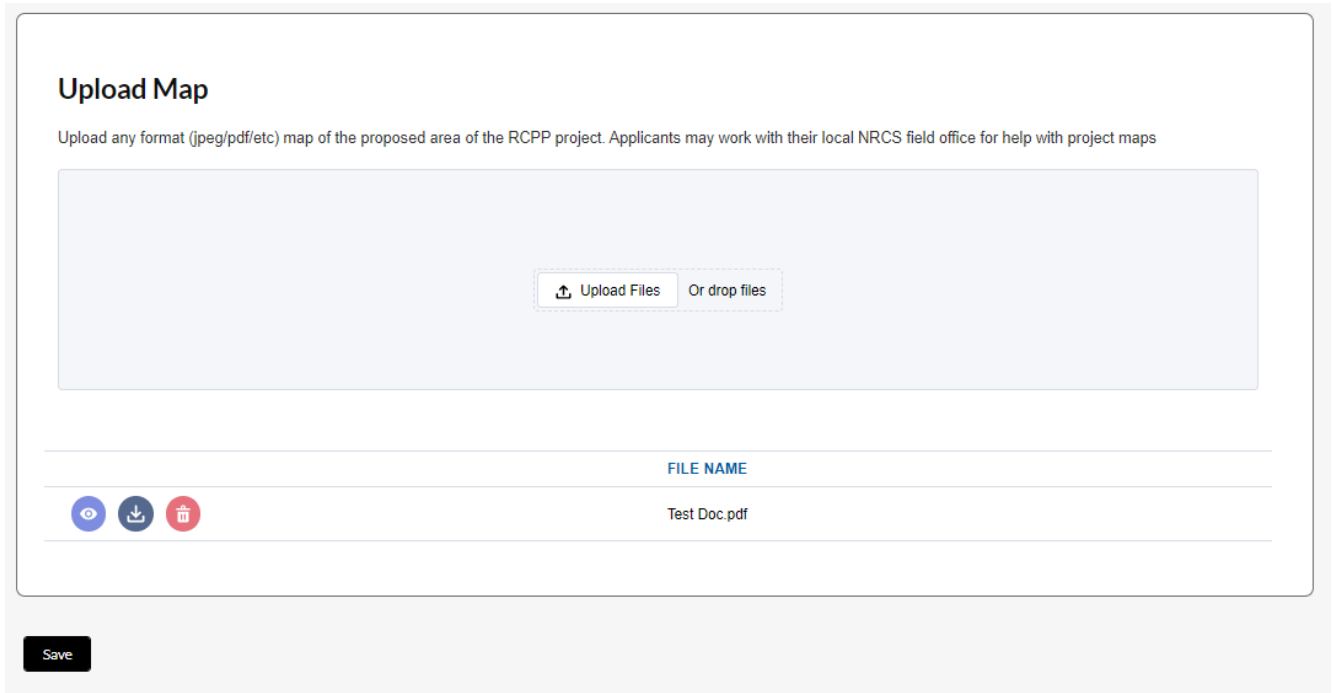
34. *Are you request an FA/TA variance?* Select yes if you want NRCS funding to be allocated in a different manner than the proposal. For example this might be more than 7% TA-E, more than 75% FA, or more than 25% TA.
35. *Justification for FA/TA variance* – Explain the specific project budget would be most effective for carrying out the goals and objectives of this RCPP proposal and explain why this would be more effective.
36. Enter a description for how your organization has the capability and capacity to perform technical assistance deliverables included in the RCPP funding request table.
37. Click [⬆ Upload Files   Or drop files] to upload supporting documents for the RCPP funding request, including any documents necessary to demonstrate the capability and capacity of individuals assigned to tasks within the RCPP funding request.
38. Click [Save] to save the information for this section. If there are no errors a gray check mark will appear to the right of the section tab ☑ on the left menu.
39. Click on the *Upload Map* tab to move to the next section.

4.2.7. Upload Map

40. Upload a map by clicking [⬆ Upload Files] or dragging a jpeg, png, or tiff file on the box shown below.

Upload Map

Upload any format (jpeg/pdf/etc) map of the proposed area of the RCPP project. Applicants may work with their local NRCS field office for help with project maps

| | ⬆ Upload Files   Or drop files | |

| | FILE NAME |
| 👁 ⬇ 🗑 | Test Doc.pdf |

[Save]

41. Once a file has been uploaded a checkmark will be visible on the left menu next to the section header.

Things to consider:

- The map should clearly show the boundary of the project area so that reviewers can easily identify what land may enrolled in this project.
- Maps for proposals within a Critical Conservation Area can only include a single CCA, and cannot include any county that is not at least partially within the CCA area.

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42. Click the 🗑 icon to delete the file.

43. Click [Save] to save the information for this section. If there are no errors a gray check mark will appear to the right of the section tab ✓ on the left menu.

44. Click on the *Narratives* tab to move to the next section.

4.2.8. Proposal Narrative Questions

45. The ***Proposal Narrative Questions*** screen is displayed. Answer all questions within this section through the input box at the bottom of the page.
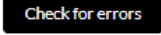
Note: For the list of narrative questions, see **Appendix C**. The narrative questions will be different depending on whether the proposal is for an RCPP Classic project, an Alternative Funding Arrangement, or a Renewal request.

46.   Click [Save] to save the information for this section. If there are no errors a gray check mark will appear to the right of the section tab ✔ on the left menu.

4.3. Checking for Errors

If all sections of the proposal have been completed you will see checkmarks in every tab at the left side of the screen. In the screenshot below two sections are incomplete and will result in an error message.
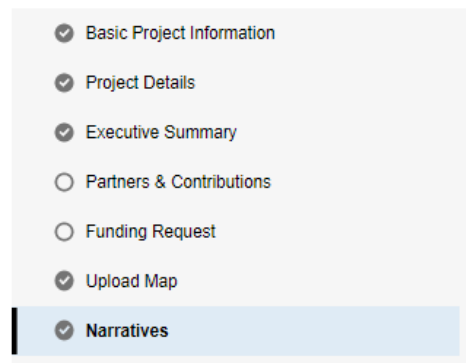
To see what errors need to be fixed, click [Check for errors] at the top right of the screen. A popup will give you detailed instructions to correct the proposal. If all errors are resolved the submit button will no longer be gray.

4.4. View/Editing a Proposal

1. Click the **RCPP Proposals** tab. A list of the Partner's proposals will be displayed and include the Fiscal Year, Project Number (link to the proposal), Project Name, and Status.

2. Find the proposal in the *Full Proposal in Progress* status.

3. Click the project number to access the proposal. The proposal opens in the same screen.

4. Use the left side panel to navigate the various proposal sections to view and/or edit.

> **Please note**: Proposals can only be edited while in the status "Full Proposal in Progress" and before the proposal submission deadline. If you want to edit your proposal after submission, please see instructions below for "un-submitting" your proposal.

4.5. Submitting a Proposal.

1. Click the **RCPP Proposals** tab. A list of the Partner's proposals will be displayed and include the Fiscal Year, Project Number (link to the proposal), Project Name, and Status.
2. Find the proposal in the *Full Proposal in Progress* status.
3. Click the project number to access the proposal. The proposal opens in the same screen.
4. Click the **Submit** button to submit the proposal for review.

> **Please note**: Upon submission, (1) the Status of the Proposal changes to Full Proposal Submitted, (2) the user receives an email confirmation for their submission, and (3) the pre-proposal is locked for editing.
>
> The Submit button is only available if before the Proposal deadline, all Proposal sections are complete, and the Status is Full Proposal in Progress.
>
> Upon approval or denial of the Proposal by the RCPP Team, the Partner will receive an email notification.

4.6. Un-Submitting a Proposal
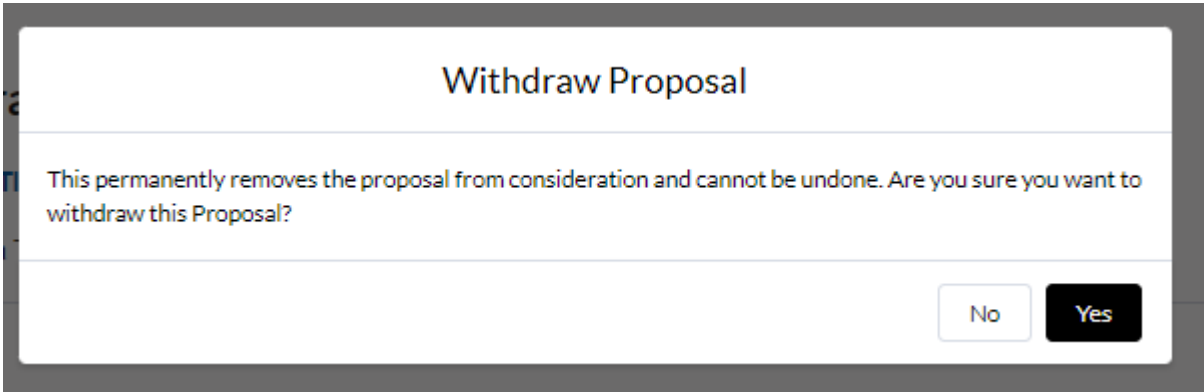
1. Click the **RCPP Proposals** tab and select **2018 Farm Bill**. A list of the Partner's proposals will be displayed and include the Fiscal Year, Project Number (link to the proposal), Project Name, and Status.
2. Find the proposal in the *Proposal Submitted* status.
3. Click the project number to access the proposal. The proposal opens in the same screen.
4. Click the button **Un-Submit** to un-submit the Proposal.
5. A message is displayed: Do you really want to un-submit this Proposal? Click the **Yes** button to continue.

> **<u>Please note</u>**: Upon clicking the Un-Submit button, (1) the Status of the Proposal changes back to Full Proposal in Progress, (2) the user receives an email confirmation that their proposal was un-submitted, and (3) the pre-proposal is unlocked for editing.
>
> The Un-Submit button is only available if before the Proposal deadline and the status is Proposal Submitted. User can make appropriate changes and re-submit before the Proposal deadline.

4.7. Withdrawing a Proposal

1. Click the **RCPP Proposals** tab and select **2018 Farm Bill**. A list of the Partner's proposals will be displayed and include the Fiscal Year, Project Number (link to the proposal), Project Name, and Status.
2. Find the proposal in the Proposal Submitted status, click on the project number to access and the proposal entry. The proposal opens in the same screen.
3. At the top of the screen click Withdraw to completely remove the proposal from consideration.
4. The message below will be displayed prompting users to confirm that they want to withdraw the proposal and understand this action is permanent. Click yes to confirm the proposal withdrawal. **If this is done in error, please contact your RCPP State Coordinator or submit a ticket to the help desk to get this corrected.**

Withdraw Proposal

This permanently removes the proposal from consideration and cannot be undone. Are you sure you want to withdraw this Proposal?

No   Yes

Please note: Upon clicking the Withdraw button, (1) the Status of the Proposal changes to Withdrawn, (2) the user receives an email confirmation that their proposal was withdrawn, and (3) the Proposal is locked for editing.

Proposals can be withdrawn at any time. If the Status was Proposal in Review, an email notification is also sent to the RCPP Team.

Appendix A – Financial Assistance Activity Types

RCPP Activity Type	Associated Covered Program Authorities
Land improvement / management/ restoration	EQIP, CSP, ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) (restoration), HFRP (restoration), Public Law 83-566
Land rental	CRP
Easement (U.S.-held)	ACEP-WRE, HFRP (easement), Public Law 83-566 (floodplain easement); expanded to include land uses other than those traditionally eligible under the covered programs (e.g. grasslands, agricultural lands, riparian areas)
Easement (entity-held)	ACEP-ALE (currently); expanded to include easements on land uses other than those traditionally eligible under the covered programs (e.g., wetlands, floodplains, forest lands)
Public works/watersheds	Public Law 83-566

Land Improvement/Land Management/Restoration Activities

Land improvement/land management/restoration contracts will be offered based on an EQIP/CSP-like contracting model between NRCS and an eligible producer, including private landowners, committed to addressing RCPP project resource concerns on eligible lands. The conservation activities included under this category also include restoration and land management practices authorized under ACEP-WRE, HFRP, and Public Law 83-566 (land treatment).

Funds awarded for these purposes will utilize proven aspects of NRCS planning, implementation, and contracting methodology, and are expected to be based principally on NRCS conservation practice standards, existing CSP enhancements, stewardship activities, and existing payment schedules.

Application, ranking, and contracting will emulate similar aspects of EQIP and CSP program implementation. Producer and land eligibility restrictions tied to specific EQIP and CSP regulatory requirements, such as CSP "whole operation" requirements or EQIP irrigation history requirements do not apply to RCPP land management contracts.

Processes will be provided for consideration of adjustments to payment percentages, payment scenarios and/or the development and use of interim practice standards, subject to NRCS consideration and approval in accordance with Agency policy. Additional flexibilities that may be afforded to RCPP partners include project/partner-driven ranking pools, the potential for blending of previously distinct program activities in a single contract, and the potential for leveraging partner contributions for greater conservation benefits.

Land Rental Activities

Land rental activities will be offered based on a combination of the EQIP and CRP contracting model between NRCS and an eligible producer committed to addressing RCPP project resource concerns on eligible lands. Application, ranking, and contracting will emulate applicable aspects of NRCS ranking processes.

However, unlike the traditional CRP program, RCPP land rental authority is not generally expected to be used for landscape-scale soil erosion protection. Rather, NRCS will consider funding rental components of RCPP applications in which the lead partner is proposing that RCPP land rental activities focus on short-term, targeted rental needs in the context of a larger RCPP project. Examples include paying 1–3 years of foregone income to incentivize adoption of an innovative cropping system or to transition to an organic production system.

These awards will incorporate proven aspects of NRCS planning, implementation, and contracting methodology, and are expected to be based principally on an estimate of foregone income. Processes will be provided for consideration of partner-driven development of payment levels and payment standards. Anticipated flexibility and benefits of these awards, relative to existing covered program awards, will be in the possibility of project/partner driven ranking pools, potential for partner innovation in proposed conservation purposes warranting short-term rental payments, and in the potential for leveraging partner contributions for greater conservation benefits.

RCPP Conservation Easements

RCPP easements will retain some elements of ACEP and HFRP easements while differing in substantial ways. Both U.S.-held and entity-held easements are offered. Below is a table summarizing RCPP easements, with explanatory narratives below the table.

	Easements Held by the United States	Easements Held by Entities
Easement Holder	Acquired and held by the United States through the USDA NRCS	Acquired and held by an eligible entity that meets the requirements of 7 CFR 1468.3.
Easement Deed Requirements	Must use one of three warranty easement deeds provided by NRCS: (1) RCPP Warranty Easement Deed for Protection of Conservation Values (Highly restrictive); (2) RCPP Warranty Easement Deed for Conservation Uses (Moderately restrictive); or	Must attach or incorporate the RCPP minimum deed terms provided by NRCS to the eligible entity's own conservation easement deed terms. NRCS minimum deed terms available: RCPP Minimum Deed Terms for Protection of Conservation Values (Highly restrictive); RCPP Minimum Deed Terms for Conservation Use with Compatible

	Easements Held by the United States	**Easements Held by Entities**
	(3) RCPP Warranty Easement Deed for Working Lands (Minimally restrictive). A partner may also request that NRCS use an easement deed used by NRCS under WRE, HFRP, or other easement held by the United States under an NRCS program (such as Grassland Reserve Program or EWPP-Floodplain easements) with appropriate adjustments made for RCPP funding, project purposes, and land eligibility.	Agricultural Uses (Moderately restrictive); or RCPP Minimum Deed Terms for Agricultural Use (Minimally restrictive). NOTE: Two versions of each set of the previously listed RCPP minimum deed terms are available, one with and one without the terms related to a right-of-enforcement by the United States. An entity may also propose using an easement template approved under ACEP-ALE with appropriate adjustments made for RCPP funding and project purposes. As part of their proposal, applicants may submit the proposed draft "template" deed planned for use to implement the project.
Duration	Easements are perpetual or maximum duration allowed under state law	Easements are perpetual or maximum duration allowed under state law.
Potential Eligible Land Types	Private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, or associated lands (e.g., riparian areas, floodplains, seasonal or flooded wetlands).	Private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, or associated lands (e.g., riparian areas, floodplains, seasonal or flooded wetlands).
Basis for RCPP Compensation Cap	RCPP funds pay landowner the value of the rights being acquired under the easement as determined by the NRCS valuation methodology.	RCPP cost-share provided to the eligible entity for their purchase of an easement based on a percentage of the value of the easement. • Up to 75 percent—with right of enforcement only where easement will directly facilitate purchase of lands by historically underserved landowners • Up to 50 percent—with U.S. right of enforcement, or without U.S. right of enforcement for transactions that will directly facilitate purchase of lands by historically underserved landowners • Up to 25 percent—without U.S right of enforcement
Valuation Methodology	Easement value determined via before-and-after Uniform Standards of Professional	Easement value determined through before-and-after USPAP appraisal or

	Easements Held by the United States	Easements Held by Entities
	Appraisal Practice (USPAP) appraisal or alternative valuation method, where appropriate.*	alternative valuation methods, where appropriate.*
Partner Match	Partner match is not required for easements acquisition of easements held by the United States.	Partner match is required for acquisitions of easements held by entities and may consist of any combination of landowner donation toward easement value or partner cash contribution toward payment of easement compensation to the landowner.
Partner Contribution	Contributions are encouraged to promote the RCPP project objective that the partner contribute substantially towards the overall costs of a project. Examples of such contributions may include assistance with acquisition related expenses. Only partner, in-kind, or cash contributions from a source other than the landowner may count towards the partner contribution for the project.	Landowner donation or charitable contribution may be credited as partner contribution so long as easement closes during the term of the RCPP partnership agreement, and the donation is consistent with the RCPP project proposal and other agreement terms.
RCPP Award Type for Easement Purchase	Producer contract entered into directly with eligible landowners.	Agreement entered into by NRCS with an eligible entity that will hold the easement on eligible land.
Allowed Uses of RCPP FA	Cost of the easement itself, acquisition-related costs (e.g., appraisal, survey, due diligence, and title and closing services), and restoration implementation costs (if they are done to NRCS's standards and specification). Where applicable, identify NRCS as the intended user, client, or insured.	Cost of the easement itself, costs for NRCS technical appraisal review, and NRCS environmental database search. RCPP FA funds awarded for an easement held by an entity may not be used for any other purposes.

*Alternative valuation methods may include the use of area wide market analysis (AWMA) or other market area valuations, existing partner appraisal processes, or other industry approved valuation methods. The proposal should include how the alternative method will establish the easement value. Prior to proposal submission, an applicant interested in using an alternate valuation easement method must first consult with the relevant RCPP coordinator and the Easement Programs Division valuation team at NRCS.NationalAppraisers@usda.gov. The proposal must include how the alternative valuation methodology is appropriate and feasible for the lands and easement types targeted for enrollment.

U.S.-Held Conservation Easements

RCPP conservation easement awards will be offered to eligible landowners to execute conservation easements on a diversity of land uses. U.S.-held easements are in general permanent easements with exceptions for Tribes (i.e., 30-year contracts) or States where State law prohibits permanent easements (duration set at the longest duration allowable under State law).

Under current NRCS covered programs, U.S.-held easements are only available for wetlands (ACEP-WRE) and forestland (HFRP). For RCPP, U.S.-held easements will be available for any agriculturally linked land use, such as cropland, grasslands, natural wetlands or riparian areas buffering agricultural lands. RCPP easements are driven by ties to RCPP project resource concerns and conservation benefits, not land use or other covered program eligibility factors.

Application, ranking, easement acquisition processes, and contracting will emulate applicable aspects of ACEP and HFRP. RCPP easements will use new template deeds based on the level of restriction warranted by the easement in the specific context of a RCPP project, which will be a foundational component of landowner application, evaluation, and ranking. The more restrictive the terms of the easement, the higher the percentage of the easement value that may be provided under RCPP.

For example, an RCPP wetland easement with restrictions and requirements similar to an ACEP-WRE easement (through which the landowner sells most of the property rights) will be eligible to receive a higher percentage of the easement value than a less restrictive wetland easement wherein the landowner sells fewer of those property rights in exchange for greater certainty regarding the ability to conduct future land management activities compatible with the easement (e.g., future timber harvest).

RCPP financial assistance that may be provided for the easement itself is based on the value of the easement as determined by a before-and-after appraisal via a methodology to be determined by NRCS.

Partner contributions will be allowed to complement NRCS funding. NRCS may use supplemental agreements to procure easement related surveys, appraisals, closing services or other realty-related services consistent with applicable DOJ acquisition processes and requirements. Additional flexibilities of RCPP U.S.-held easements may include partner-driven ranking pools, potential for partner innovation in providing outreach and project development with interested landowners to

develop robust easement applications, and the potential for leveraging partner contributions for greater conservation and/or participant benefit.

Entity-Held RCPP Conservation Easements

Currently, NRCS only allows entities to hold ACEP-ALE agricultural land easements. For RCPP, entity-held easements are eligible for any land use and driven by conservation benefits and resource concerns identified in the RCPP project. For example, entity-held easements may be enrolled on forest land, wetlands, riparian areas, in addition to on agricultural lands and grasslands.

RCPP awards for entity-held easement require collaboration between NRCS, a qualified entity, and an eligible landowner. RCPP financial assistance that may be provided for the easement itself is based on the value of the easement as determined by a before-and-after appraisal via a methodology to be determined by NRCS. Acquisition and easement management costs are the responsibility of RCPP partners (i.e., they cannot be not reimbursed by NRCS). These costs may be counted as partner contributions based on final agreement terms and negotiated project deliverables.

Partners and landowners will be expected to follow easement acquisition and closing processes similar to ACEP-ALE and include or address NRCS-provided minimum deed terms in their conservation easement deeds. Either a qualified lead partner or a qualified third-party entity that meets the requirements of 7 CFR Section 1468.3 may apply to be the holder of an RCPP entity-held easement.

Application, ranking, easement acquisition processes, and contracting will emulate applicable aspects of existing NRCS easement programs. Lead partners may help inform NRCS funding decisions through project ranking criteria and/or bundled applications.

Partner matching funds for RCPP easements are required, mirroring ACEP-ALE policy. Easement matching funds may be counted as RCPP partner contributions for the project.

RCPP applicants may propose projects that incorporate buy-protect-sell transactions for acquisition of entity-held conservation easements. The applicant should identify in the proposal how buy-protect-sell transactions further the applicant's project goals. Any buy-protect-sell transactions, if funded, must satisfy NRCS requirements for such transactions. At a minimum, an eligible entity cannot hold simultaneously both the fee simple title and the conservation easement under an RCPP buy-protect-sell transaction.

Additional flexibilities of entity-held RCPP easements include the possibility of partner-driven ranking pools, potential for partner innovation in providing outreach and project development with interested landowners to build robust easement applications, and the potential for leveraging partner contributions for greater conservation and/or participants benefit.

Please note: US-Held Easements are not available in Alternative Funding Arrangements.

Public Works/Watersheds

Through the public works/watersheds component of RCPP, eligible partners may receive financial assistance awards to support implementation of structural works of improvement to address watershed-scale issues on eligible land, similar to projects currently carried out under Public Law 83-566. Unlike other RCPP contract types, RCPP project proposals must detail proposed public works/watershed activities (i.e., detailed plan of work) to provide project reviewers information needed to assess project viability. While RCPP projects could include planning, design, and installation of proposed public works/watershed projects, timing is critical to fully complete a project from start to finish in the 5 (or potentially longer) years of an RCPP project, so details of both TA and FA requests associated with public works projects must be included in the questionnaire section of application in the RCPP portal. Projects requesting lump-sum planning, design or public works installation funding that do not include proposals for defensible and trackable documentation of specific tasks and schedules may be penalized in the ranking process

Partner proposals for public works/watershed projects must include sufficient detail for reviewers to evaluate the project need and the ability of the partner to complete the project on time. Unlike for other types of RCPP activities, partners lead the planning, design, and installation public works/watershed. However, NRCS retains watershed plan and design approval authority consistent with Federal infrastructure projects and informed by NRCS watershed and engineering directives and related Public Law 83-566 policy. NRCS may discontinue assistance if the planning or design phases of a project indicate that timely project completion is unlikely. It is NRCS's intent that only those applications with robust work plans, detailed cost proposals, and proven partner capacities advance for funding consideration.

Applicants are reminded that all RCPP public works/watershed project must have demonstrable ties to proposed RCPP project conservation benefits and eligible agricultural lands.

When RCPP public works/watershed financial assistance funds are provided for a project, partner cash match is required for project purposes except flood damage prevention related to excess water control. Flood control projects may request up to 100 percent RCPP financial assistance, though ranking may preclude their selection without substantial contributions (given these projects inclusion in RCPP). Watershed/public works improvements targeting non-flood control purposes will have a minimum 35 percent cash-match requirement. Cash-match requirements may be reduced or waived if funding is awarded to a project in which the benefits will principally accrue to communities or regions where most residents meet limited resource or socially disadvantaged criteria as included in the 2018 Farm Bill. Public works/watershed project cash match may be counted as RCPP project contributions, but neither cash nor in-kind RCPP partner contributions not directly associated with the RCPP public works/watershed funding can be counted toward public works/watershed match requirements.

Additional flexibilities associated with these awards include the potential for innovative contracting for experienced partners with demonstrated design, contracting, and implementation skills, and the potential for leveraging partner contributions for greater conservation and/or participants benefit.

As a reminder, Public Law 83-566-like land treatment activities will be funded under land improvement/ management/restoration contracts with the producer rather than public works supplemental agreements.

Appendix B – Technical Assistance

NRCS Technical Assistance

NRCS maintains substantial responsibility for ensuring that RCPP conservation activities are implemented consistent with Federal and agency statutes, regulations and policies. Some of NRCS's responsibilities are non-delegable, meaning that they must be performed by NRCS. For these non-delegable responsibilities, these responsibilities **are not** part of an RCPP project funding request.

NRCS Non-Delegable TA Responsibilities
Collaborate with lead partners to develop and manage RCPP agreements and associated components.
HEL/WC, AGI and NEPA-related compliance activities.
Eligibility determinations and other producer contract activities.
Project-related communications and coordination activities.

Implementation Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is required for conservation planning, practice design, installation and verification, U.S.-held easement due diligence and other needs associated with supporting the implementation of RCPP conservation activities. For RCPP, these activities are known as Implementation Technical Assistance, or TA-I.

For RCPP Classic:	For AFAs:
TA-I funding defaults to NRCS but may be awarded, during agreement negotiations, to qualified partners to provide eligible TA-I services. Whether TA-I activities are carried out by NRCS or by partners or a third party, they must be carried out according to applicable Federal requirements, including NRCS planning procedures, conservation practice standards, and job approval authority.	Partners are expected to deliver all TA-I required for the implementation of AFAs except for tasks that NRCS cannot delegate (see section above). TA-I is expected to

18 percent of the total funding request is set-aside for TA-I activities. Below is a list of common TA-I activities for RCPP projects.

Implementation Technical Assistance—Eligible Activities
Pre-application activities related to RCPP producer contracts, watershed activities or easements. This can include completion of inventories or data collection to support environmental evaluations and other NEPA-related activities.
Conservation planning to producers or landowners directly related to installation or management of eligible conservation activities.
Practice design related to land management, rental or watershed activities.
Assistance with practice installation and verification.
FA contract support services (i.e., securing and managing contracts for third-party services like engineering studies, surveys, appraisals, etc.) for US-Held Easements and watershed projects.

TA-I budgets in project proposals are tentative. The flexible RCPP agreement structure allows for TA-I to be either expended by NRCS or obligated to a partner at any time during the life of a project. At the start of PPA negotiations, all TA-I will be allocated for NRCS use. During both PPA and any subsequent supplemental agreement negotiations, NRCS will work with lead partners to refine proposal budgets so that TA-I is expended as efficiently as possible to ensure project success. This could include the allocation of TA-I funding to partners that have the capacity and capability to perform the work according to NRCS planning and practice standards.

Additional Considerations
- Land Management Activities typically have the greatest potential for TA-I to be delegated to an eligible partner.
- For Entity-Held Easements, consistent with ACEP-ALE, most due diligence activities are required partner contributions.
- For US-Held Easements, most TA-I is performed by NRCS and cannot be delegated.
- For Watershed Projects, most TA-I is expected to be performed by an eligible partner according to an approved Watershed Plan.

Enhancement Technical Assistance

Enhancement TA (TA-E) can be earned by partners for project-level activities—all field-level and producer/landowner-level conservation implementation activities are funded by TA-I. Enhancement activities include things such as project management, outcomes assessment and others listed in the table below. Like other RCPP funding, TA-E awards are not grants and payments are only made for verifiable completion of eligible, negotiated tasks. During PPA and subsequent supplemental

agreement negotiations, NRCS will work with partner(s) to establish eligible TA-E deliverables and valuation methods.

A maximum of seven percent of the total RCPP funding request is available as TA-E. It is anticipated that not all items potentially eligible for TA-E will be funded in selected projects due to the seven-percent cap. Where additional TA-E is required for project success, partners must provide contributions for enhancement activities when the cap is exceeded.

If applicants do not request TA-E as part of their proposal, that TA funding will be folded back into program funding as determined by NRCS. Proposals submitted without TA-E requests may be allowed to convert unneeded TA-I to TA-E during proposal negotiations, but such conversions are at the sole discretion of NRCS.

The table below (and the Portal's TA deliverable table) includes eligible TA-E activities.

Enhancement Technical Assistance—Eligible Activities
Develop and manage RCPP agreements with NRCS.
Other RCPP project-related producer outreach and education, including inventories, analyses, and tools needed to inform outreach.
Project-related communications and coordination activities.
Development and calculation of quantifiable project outcomes.
Development of innovative conservation approaches such as pay-for-performance or environmental credit markets.
Project management and partnership development to accomplish project goals.

IMPORTANT: Official NRCS approval of reimbursable TA activities included in an RCPP proposal does not occur when RCPP project selections are announced. RCPP financial awards are not grants and function similarly to contracts. Specific TA funding, deliverables and valuation methods are negotiated between NRCS and partners following project selection. All TA payment rates and performance standards will be specified and agreed to as part of these negotiations and may be subject to additional documentation requirements or approvals beyond those included in a selected proposal.

Appendix C – Proposal Narrative Questions

RCPP Classic Narrative Questions

Impact

1. Describe compelling need for the project and an overview of how the project will generate targeted conservation benefits.
2. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Urban Agriculture are two FY 22 RCPP themes. Describe how this project would support either or both of these agency priorities (if applicable).
3. Describe rationale for inclusion of each RCPP activity type in project proposal, and how each activity relates to the generation of conservation benefits.
4. Describe the rationale for the proposed geographic scope of the project.
5. Describe proposed approach for evaluating the success of the project, including environmental outcomes. If applicable also include social and economic outcomes that will be measured as part of success of this project.
6. Will this project assist producers in meeting or avoiding the need for natural resource regulatory requirements? If so, describe how.

Partner Contributions

7. Describe the plan and lead partner's experience managing and tracking the delivery of third-party contributions (if included in the proposal).
8. Describe how partner contributions add value to the proposed project to leverage and multiply the benefits of the potential committed RCPP funding.
9. Describe any proposed innovative methods or approaches for conservation planning, implementation, or assessment, and/or the proposed use of promising new technologies that have a demonstrated likelihood of success?

Innovation

10. Does the partner plan to target project funding to particular locations or producers based on a scientific assessment or research-based plan? If so, please describe the approach.
11. Describe any proposed innovative methods or approaches for conservation planning, implementation, or assessment, and/or the proposed use of promising new technologies that have a demonstrated likelihood of success?

Partnerships and Management

12. Extent of project development activities completed to date, and relationship to those expected to be needed to move forward if selected for funding. Include brief description of any coordination with NRCS staff.
13. Describe the lead and contributing partners' experience managing Federal funding awards or similar projects and conservation projects, executing deliverables, and successfully getting conservation on the ground? Include the overall budget of prior efforts.

14. Describe proposed producer outreach activities designed to identify, inform, and enroll eligible producers and entities in RCPP contract activities? Include any proposed targeting mechanisms in description.
15. Describe any proposed efforts to encourage or include the participation of historically underserved producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning, limited resource and veteran farmers and ranchers, or include as a partner(s) organization working with or representing those groups of producers.
16. Does any of the lead/contributing partner(s) include an organization(s) with a history of collaborating with or representing HU producers? If so, describe each partner's history of collaborating with or representing HU producers.
17. Financial assistance, typically 70% of an RCPP Classic project, is delivered directly to producers/landowners by NRCS field offices. If this project's success is dependent on the partner performing part of the conservation activities, describe what parts of the proposed FA activities will be performed by the partner and why they cannot be accomplished through standard producer contractors?

RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement Narrative Questions

Impact

1. Describe compelling need for the project and an overview of how the project will generate targeted conservation benefits.
2. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Urban Agriculture are two FY 22 RCPP themes. Describe how this project would support either or both of these agency priorities (if applicable).
3. Describe the rationale for inclusion of each RCPP activity type in project proposal, and how each activity relates to the generation of conservation benefits.
4. Describe the rationale for the proposed geographic scope of the project.
5. Describe proposed approach for evaluating the success of the project, including environmental outcomes. If applicable also include social and economic outcomes that will be measured as part of success of this project.
6. Will this project assist producers in meeting or avoiding the need for natural resource regulatory requirements? If so, describe how.

Partner Contributions

7. Describe the plan and lead partner's experience managing and tracking the delivery of third-party contributions (if included in the proposal).
8. Describe how partner contributions add value to the proposed project to leverage and multiply the benefits of the potential committed RCPP funding.
9. Provide a justification for why this project would be more effectively carried out through an AFA rather than through the traditional RCPP Classic approach.

Innovation

10. Does the partner plan to target project funding to particular locations or producers based on a scientific assessment or research-based plan? If so, please describe the approach.
11. Describe any proposed innovative methods or approaches for conservation planning, implementation, or assessment, and/or the proposed use of promising new technologies that have a demonstrated likelihood of success?
12. Describe how the lead partner intends to carry out the project outside the traditional RCPP Classic approach? Include details of how the partnership intends to identify participating producers/landowners and how the partnership intends to provide the necessary technical assistance to those participants.

Partnerships and Management

13. Is this a brand-new project or is this part of an existing effort? Describe the extent of project activities completed to date, and how the proposed activities relate to any existing efforts. Include a brief description of any historical coordination with NRCS staff or programs.
14. Describe the lead partner's experience managing Federal funding awards or similar projects and conservation projects, including the execution of deliverables and engagement with ag producers and private landowners to get conservation on the ground.
15. Describe any proposed efforts to encourage or include the participation of historically underserved producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning, limited resource and veteran farmers and ranchers, or to include as a contributing partner(s) an organization(s) working with or representing those groups of producers.
16. Does any of the lead/contributing partner(s) include an organization(s) with a history of collaborating with or representing HU producers? If so, describe each partner's history of collaborating with or representing HU producers.
17. In some circumstances, RCPP funding may be used to purchase non-fixed/portable equipment. If such equipment purchases are proposed for this project, list the type of equipment, the per item cost of each piece of equipment, whether the equipment would be purchased using TA or FA funds and a justification for the equipment purchase(s) as it ties to the proposed conservation benefits of the project.

RCPP Renewals Narrative Questions

1. Percent of project financial assistance (FA) funding obligated by June 26, 2023.*
2. Percent of project financial assistance (FA) funding expended by June 26, 2023.*
3. Percent of project technical assistance (TA) funding expended by June 26, 2023.*
4. Percent of project partner contributions expended by June 26, 2023.*
5. Describe how the goals and objectives for the project have been met or exceeded.
6. At the time of proposal submission, have all required progress reports and financial reports been submitted on time?
7. Were there any agreement amendments and/or fund transfers associated with this project?
8. Describe the top three accomplishments of the project.

9. Describe and proposed efforts to encourage or include the participation of historically underserved producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning, limited resource, and veteran farmers and ranchers.
10. Describe the compelling need for renewal of this project.
11. Describe the proposed approach for evaluating the success of a renewed project, including environmental outcomes (and economic and social outcomes if possible).
12. Describe how partner contributions add value to the renewed project to leverage and multiple the benefits of the potential committed RCPP funding.
13. Does the partner plan to target project funding to particular locations or producers based on a scientific assessment or research-based plan? If so, please describe the approach.
14. Describe any proposed innovative methods or approaches for conservation planning, implementation, or assessment, and/or the proposed use of promising new technologies that have a demonstrated likelihood of success.

*If less than 95%, describe remaining balance and any plans to expend remaining project FA by the time of the project expiration.