

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Montana



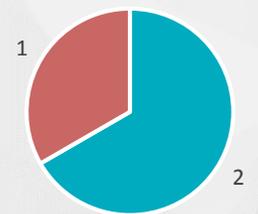
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact every state in the nation, including one in Montana. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.

Montana Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



- Water Quantity/Drought
- Water Quality

3

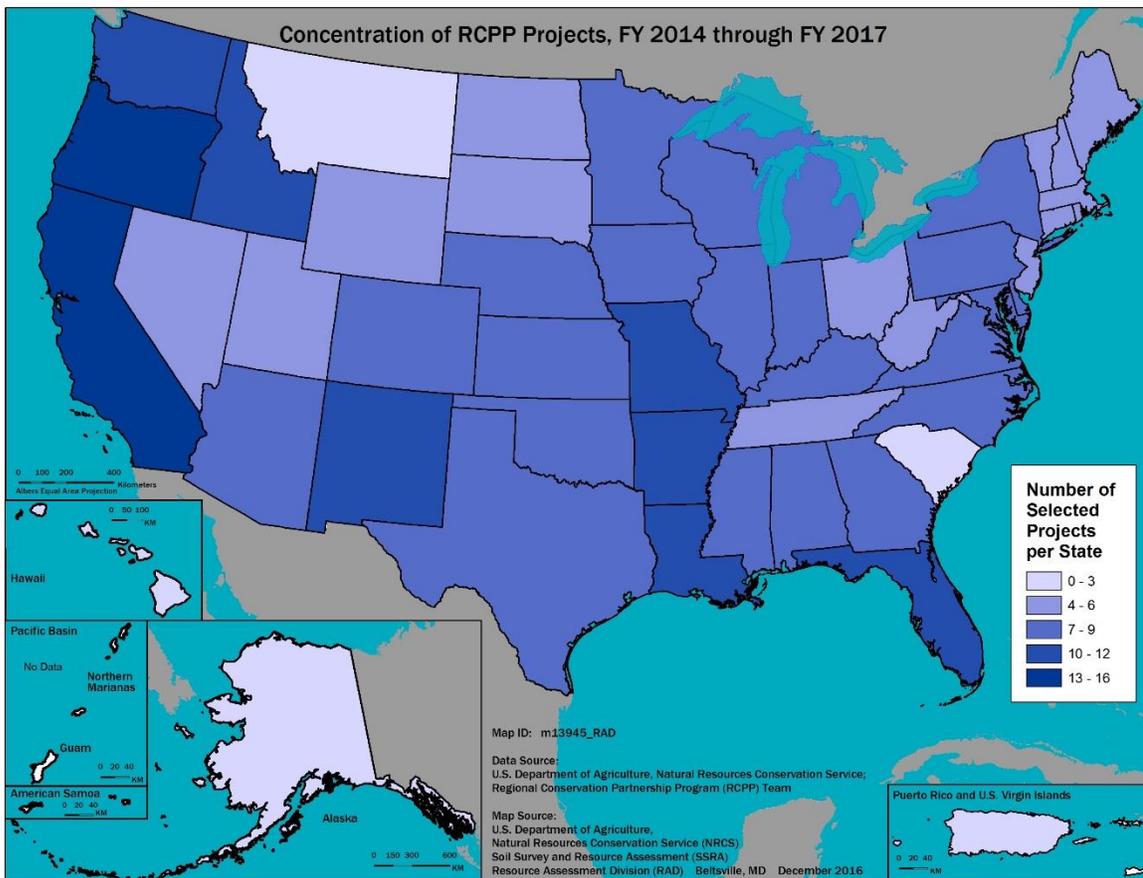
Projects

\$6.7 million

NRCS Investment

34

Partners



Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Upper Clark Fork River Drought Resiliency Project	State	Watershed Restoration Coalition	6	\$1.7 million
2014/2015	Missouri Headwaters and Lower Gallatin Basin Conservation and Restoration	State	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	17	\$3.8 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Yellowstone Region Agricultural Sustainability Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,210,000 (State)

Lead Partner: MillerCoors

Number of Initial Partners: 11

Participating States: Montana (Lead State)

The Yellowstone Region Agricultural Sustainability Project, led by MillerCoors, will bring together multiple private and public agricultural partners in a three-county project based around defining a path towards agricultural sustainability through progressive conservation practices and sound conservation planning. This project seeks to define best management practices for irrigated agricultural producers in Southern Montana that would lower natural resource consumption and degradation. Over the five year timeline, the project teams will work to lower the consumption of natural resources through the use of added incentives that would allow producers to mitigate financial risks while transitioning to adopt the practices. The project would, therefore, provide a pathway toward a model for agricultural sustainability.

