

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in North Dakota



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 three in North Dakota. 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.

North Dakota Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



- Soil Health
- Water Quantity/Drought
- Wildlife Habitat
- Energy

6

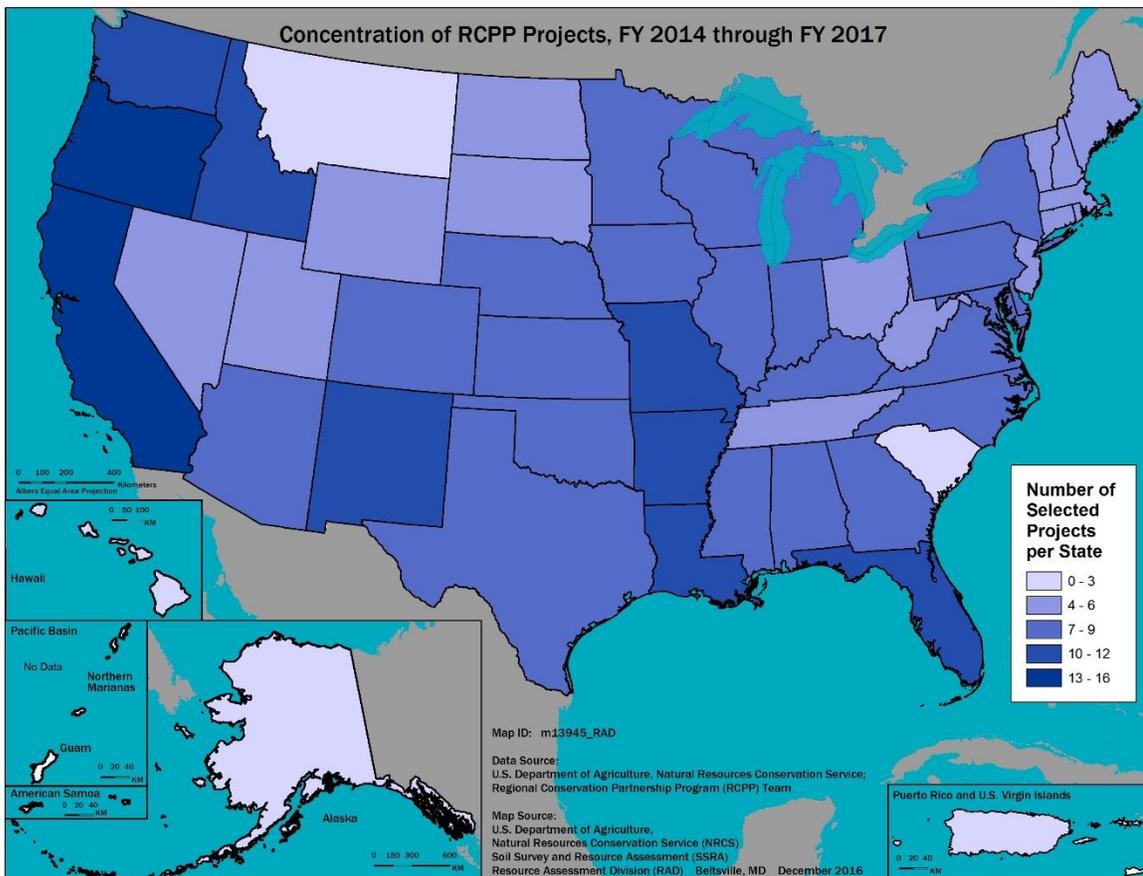
Projects

\$14.3 million

NRCS Investment

34

Partners



Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2014/2015	Red River Basin of the North Flood Prevention Plan	CCA	Red River Retention Authority	8	\$12 million
2014/2015	How Far North Can We Grow?	State	Northern Plains Resource Conservation & Development	13	\$700,000
2014/2015	Medora Grazing Association North Billings Prairie Grasslands Conservation Project	State	Medora Grazing Association	4	\$800,000

2017 RCPP Projects

Bowman-Slope SCD Tree & Shrub Establishment

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$57,500 (State)

Lead Partner: Bowman -Slope Soil Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 1

Participating States: North Dakota (Lead State)

The Bowman-Slope Soil Conservation District Tree and Shrub Establishment project will establish tree and shrub plantings in Bowman and Slope Counties in southwestern North Dakota to replace lost or older trees across the landscape. The new plantings will address resource concerns identified by working group of local producers and agencies, including inadequate wildlife habitat and livestock shelter, inefficient use of equipment and facilities, and excess flooding, drifting snow, and high water table.

The Grand Forks Prairie Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$375,880 (State)

Lead Partner: University of North Dakota

Number of Initial Partners: 3

Participating States: North Dakota (Lead State)

The Grand Forks Prairie area in North Dakota provides forage production, wildlife habitat and water management services for the region. This grassland is interspersed with row-crop fields that, unlike other regions of the state, are most commonly managed with single crop, clean-field practices. A Memorandum of Understanding among state, federal, non-profit and citizen partners established a working group to focus on grassland retention, improved grazing practices and invasive species management in the area. Through the Grand Forks Prairie Project, the working group will promote restoration and sustainable use of the natural resources in this region through an integrated effort to implement and monitor Environmental Quality Incentive Program cover and grazing practices. The group will engage producers and landowners through regional workshops and by potential financial assistance for adopting these practices.



Spiritwood Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$375,000 (State)

Lead Partner: City of Spiritwood Lake

Number of Initial Partners: 5

Participating States: North Dakota (Lead State)

Spiritwood Lake in North Dakota provides economic and recreation benefits to the local community and an aquatic wildlife habitat that supports those activities. The Spiritwood Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, led by the City of Spiritwood Lake and local partners, will restore and protect Spiritwood Lake and its tributaries by engaging landowners in a variety of conservation practices, including riparian improvements, nutrient and grazing management, no-till farming and use of cover crops and more diverse crop rotation.