

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Oklahoma



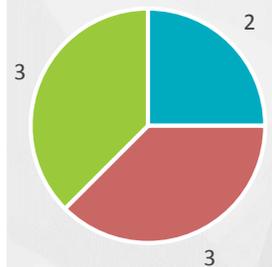
## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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 Oklahoma. 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.

### Oklahoma Projects to Date

#### Projects by Resource Concern



- Soil Health
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat

**8**

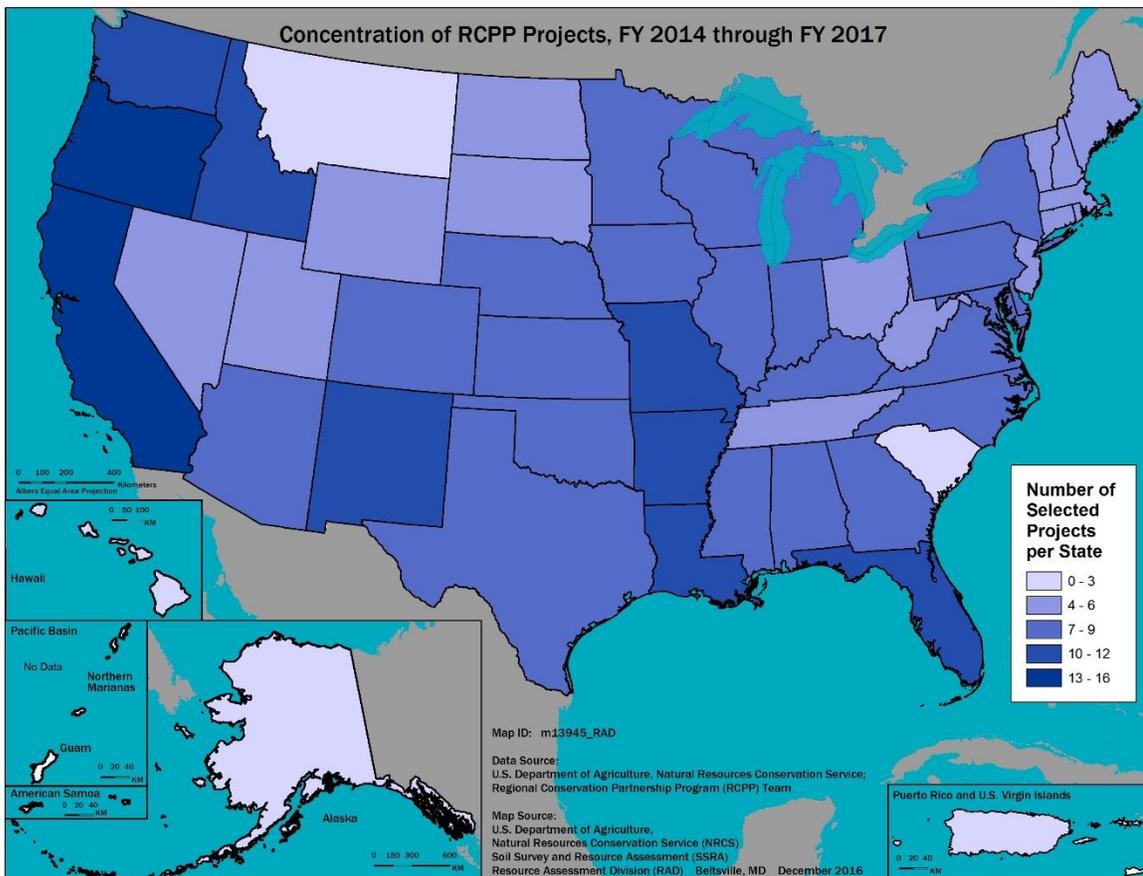
Projects

**\$32.8**  
**million**

NRCS Investment

**72**

Partners



## Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies	National	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	12	\$6 million
2016	Innovative Tribal Conservation and GHG Management	National	Intertribal Agriculture Council	9	\$1.8 million
2016	Native Grazing Lands Protection in the Plains	National	The Nature Conservancy	7	\$3.6 million
2014/2015	Elk City Lake Regional Conservation Partnership Program Project	State	Oklahoma Conservation Commission	3	\$1.4 million
2014/2015	Oklahoma Healthy Soils	State	The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts	11	\$100,000
2014/2015	Improving Water Quality through The Implementation of Forestry Practices and the Assessment of Riparian Systems in Kansas Priority Watersheds	National	Kansas State University	10	\$13 million
2014/2015	Middle and Lower Neosho River Basin Regional Conservation Partnership Program Project	National	Oklahoma Conservation Commission Water Quality Division	12	\$4 million

## 2017 RCPP Projects

### Oaks and Prairie Joint Venture Grassland Restoration Incentive Program

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$2,925,000 (Critical Conservation Area – Prairie Grasslands Region)

Lead Partner: National Wild Turkey Federation

Number of Initial Partners: 8

Participating States: Oklahoma and Texas (Lead State)

The Oaks and Prairie Joint Venture partners, with the National Wild Turkey Federation serving as the lead partner, will address the significant decline in grassland wildlife populations and loss of natural hydrologic conditions through the improvement and restoration of native grassland ecosystems in the southern great plains. The project will include dedicated staff to work side by side with staff from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Texas and Oklahoma NRCS, and other OPJV partner organizations to strategically deliver grassland ecosystem improvement projects on private lands. Through this collaborative effort, the OPJV will continue to offer their highly successful Grassland Restoration Incentive Program. The program has already delivered over \$1.1 million in funding to producers who have restored wildlife habitat on over 57,000 acres of grasslands in its first 3 years of existence. Additional financial assistance will be provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program on qualifying projects in Texas and Oklahoma. The deliverable for this combined effort is 95,000 acres of improved native grasslands over the life of the project.

