

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Oregon



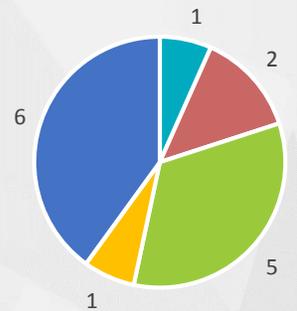
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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 Oregon. 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.

Oregon Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



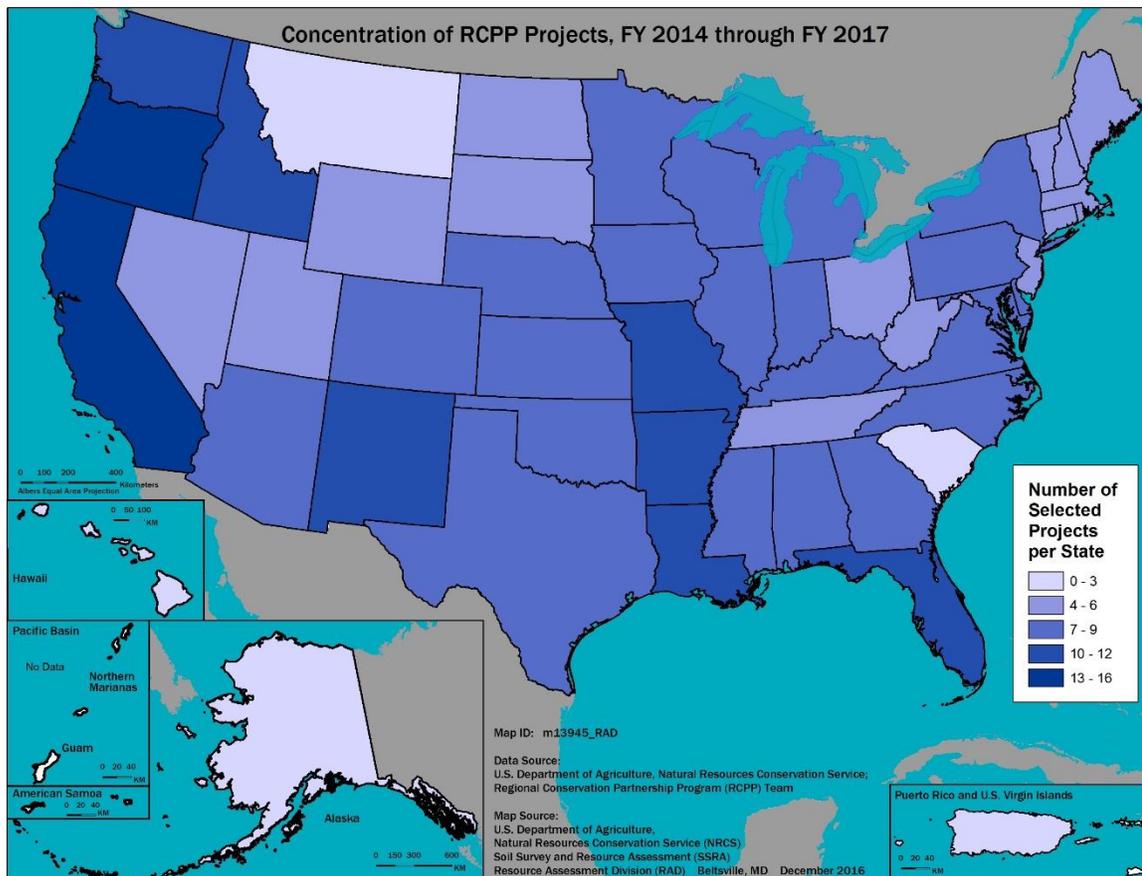
- Soil Health
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Air Quality
- Water Quantity/Drought

15
Projects

\$38.8
million

NRCS Investment

130
Partners



Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership	State	Wallowa Soil & Water Conservation District	9	\$1.1 million
2016	Dairy-McKay Degraded Riparian Ecosystems	National	Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District	3	\$936,000
2016	Grande Ronde Watershed Conservation Partnership	CCA	Union County Conservation District	7	\$3.7 million
2016	High Desert Drought Resilient Ranching	National	Trout Unlimited	17	\$1.3 million
2016	Lower Columbia Watershed Partnership	CCA	Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District	11	\$3 million
2016	SONEC Working Wet Meadows Initiative	National	Intermountain West Joint Venture	12	\$2.6 million
2016	Water Quality and Quantity in the Klamath Basin	National	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	5	\$7.6 million
2014/2015	North Slope Ochoco Holistic Restoration Project	CCA	Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District	4	\$5 million
2014/2015	White River Irrigation Efficiency and Stream Flow Restoration Project	CCA	Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District	18	\$2 million
2014/2015	North Willamette Valley Upland Oak Restoration Partnership	State	Yamhill SWCD	7	\$2.2 million
2014/2015	Klamath-Rogue Oak Woodland Health and Habitat Conservation Project	National	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	11	\$3 million
2014/2015	Unlocking Carbon Markets for NIPF Landowners in the Pacific Northwest	National	Pinchot Institute for Conservation	7	\$1 million



2017 RCPP Projects

Three Sisters Irrigation District Innovation

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$990,604 (Critical Conservation Area – Columbia River Basin)

Lead Partner: Three Sisters Irrigation District

Number of Initial Partners: 11

Participating States: Oregon (Lead State)

The Three Sisters Irrigation District in Oregon with government, private industry and nonprofit partners will implement multiple innovative projects to mitigate drought, improve water quality/quantity and improve fish habitat. The project includes the completion of piping Three Sisters Irrigation District Watson McKenzie Main Canal with two HDPE side-by-side buried, resulting in the conservation of 800 acre feet of annual canal seepage loss. The on farm component of this project will encompass 61 projects, over 1500 acres, in the Upper District. The program will allow farmers in the Upper District to pipe private laterals, thereby providing access to pressurized water from the District's pipeline. Pressurized water will eliminate electrical pumps that use over 2.5 million kWh of electricity annually. A feasibility study will be conducted to determine the potential for 60 on farm hydro net metering projects. This project will allow TSID to mitigate drought by piping the District.

Conservation of Soil Health in Wallowa County, Oregon

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$3,194,400 (National)

Lead Partner: The Nature Conservancy

Number of Initial Partners: 3

Participating States: Oregon (Lead State)

Through the conservation project, the Nature Conservancy and partners will maintain and improve soil health in targeted areas of Wallowa County, Ore., through innovative on-farm practices and permanent easements. The project capitalizes on the strengths of three well-respected organizations who have a history of working with local producers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and each other. The project will target the use of NRCS financial assistance to address multiple resource concerns, including soil health, habitat, water quantity/quality and climate change resilience.

Blue Mountains Vegetative Health Initiative

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,195,890 (Oregon)

Lead Partner: Grant Soil and Water Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 5

Participating States: Oregon (Lead State)

The Blue Mountains Vegetative Health Initiative will improve forest conditions, increase streamflows and improve instream listed fish habitat on private lands near the Malheur National Forest in Oregon. The project will be modeled after the Blue Mountains Forest Partners, a key partner in this effort, after their treatment of Malheur National Forest timber areas for fire resiliency. The project partners expect to complete two thousand acres of pre-commercial thinning in conifer stands and one thousand acres of juniper removal over a five year period. The partners will prioritize treatment area using a GIS-based selection process similar to the one successfully developed by the U.S. Forest Service. Finally participating landowners and partners will develop prescribed grazing to ensure long-term management of the treatments.