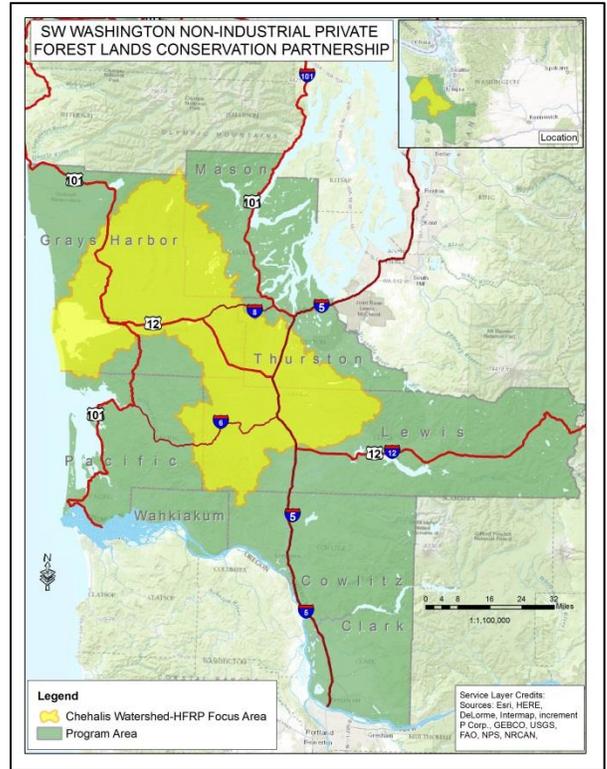


SW WASHINGTON NON-INDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LANDS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

-REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM-

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill program. The program packages funding from multiple NRCS programs to provide landscape scale conservation benefits by partnering with other groups and agriculture and forestry producers. The SW Washington Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands (NIPF) Conservation Partnership provides RCPP funding to achieve conservation of forests in SW Washington in a way that engages small forest landowners voluntarily, increases financial and regulatory security for forest landowners and improves forest and watershed health to benefit people, fish and wildlife.



How it Works:

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife



Washington Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation Districts



Willing Forest Landowners



\$1.3 million from NRCS + \$1.9 million from partners = \$3.2 million total



- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection
- Forest & Watershed Health
- Financial and Regulatory Security

What's at stake?

Working forests in SW Washington are important to regional and state economies and provide many functions, including: fish and wildlife habitat, water quality protection, flood reduction, recreational opportunities, and carbon sequestration to help combat climate change. These lands play a major role in priority actions identified in salmon recovery plans for the region and are essential for terrestrial species recovery. Forest Practices Rules restrictions have disproportionately impacted small forest landowners, primarily because of their small land base. This can result in conversion of valuable forest lands to other land uses. It is critical to provide incentives for small forest landowners so these forest lands remain on the landscape, are managed to provide healthy forest conditions, and continue to provide multiple conservation and community benefits.

Details:

This program is a partnership between NRCS, the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), The WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the WA State Conservation Commission (SCC), and eight SW WA Conservation Districts to provide technical and financial assistance to small forest landowners to plan and implement forest conservation projects. The proposal includes \$1.3 million of NRCS funding through the RCPP and \$1.9 million of non-federal funding from WDFW, DNR, and SCC. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funds will provide technical and financial assistance to small forest landowners to develop and implement forest stewardship plans. The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) will fund management actions that promote recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve biodiversity, and enhance carbon sequestration through restoration and conservation easements. The HFRP will be focused in the Chehalis Watershed and includes provisions for forest conservation easements and habitat restoration to benefit marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and fisher. Program participants could have multiple options for regulatory certainty (e.g. Safe Harbor Agreements for ESA listed species and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) for candidate species) by implementing conservation projects that promote species recovery. Participating landowners will contribute at least 25% of implementation costs through cash or in-kind (donated labor or equipment time) to match EQIP funding from NRCS. Landowners who enroll in the HFRP will be paid up to 100% of the appraised easement value. Easements can be 30 years or permanent in duration.



Clark Conservation District

Cowlitz Conservation District

Grays Harbor Conservation District

Lewis Conservation District

Mason Conservation District

Pacific Conservation District

Thurston Conservation District

Wahkiakum Conservation District

If you have questions or would like to participate in this program, please contact your local [conservation district](#) or the DNR [Small Forest Landowner Office](#).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.