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.

RCPP encourages partners to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales. Through the program, NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved. RCPP utilizes funds in the following programs to eligible program participants: ACEP, EQIP, CSP and HFRP.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to $225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including one in Nevada. 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, enhanced wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.
Livestock in Harmony with Sage-Grouse

Proposed NRCS Investment: $8,000,000 (National)
Lead Partner: Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Number of Initial Partners: 11
Participating States: California and Nevada (Lead State)

In 2012, private landowners, non-profits, and federal, state and local government partners developed the 2012 Bi-State Action Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse to proactively conserve key habitat and significantly reduce long-term threats to the Bi-State greater sage-grouse population in Nevada and California. Through the Livestock in Harmony with Sage-Grouse project, 11 collaborating partners will implement recommended water quality, rangeland and soil health conservation practices and monitoring on grasslands of special significance in Nevada and California; partners will secure conservation easements on at least 11,000 acres of sage-grouse habitat on working ranches. The project intends to protect and measurably enhance sage-grouse habitat on working ranchlands, improve water quality, and to assist producers in meeting or avoiding the need for natural resource regulatory requirements.