Putting Partners in the ‘Driver’s Seat’

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 demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

Partner-Led Projects Address Local Resource Challenges

With RCPP, partners are in the “driver’s seat” with technical and financial help from NRCS. Partners develop projects that deliver solutions to natural resource challenges. RCPP empowers local organizations and communities to pitch their own projects. This year, NRCS received 265 pre-proposals, and of those, NRCS selected the best of the best to send a full proposal for funding consideration. NRCS is funding 84 of those projects this year.

NRCS works side-by-side with conservation partners and agricultural producers to conserve natural resources, leading to cleaner and more abundant water, healthier soil, enhanced wildlife habitat and many other benefits.

Focus of 2016 Projects

- Air quality (34)
- Degraded plant condition (25)
- Soil health (11)
- Wildlife habitat (11)
- Water quantity/drought
- Water quality

RCPP’s TOTAL IMPACT since 2014

- 2,000+ partners working with NRCS.
- 199 high-impact projects that covers all 50 states and Puerto Rico.
- More than $500 MILLION invested by NRCS.
- Around $900 MILLION matched by partners.

All told, NRCS plans to invest up to $1.2 BILLION in RCPP through 2018.

With partner match, that’s at least $2.4 BILLION for conservation.
**Types of Projects**
Funding for RCPP is allocated to projects in three different categories – state-level projects, national-level projects, and projects in Critical Conservation Areas.

**Targeting Priority Landscapes**
Critical Conservation Areas are landscapes of national importance, and RCPP enables stakeholders to address common natural resource goals at the regional level.

---

**Projects Near You**
RCPP gives local organizations opportunities to design and deliver solutions that benefit natural resources where they live and work. See how many projects are in your area.

**2014-2016 Projects:**

---

[Map showing critical conservation areas and selected RCPP projects from FY 2014 to FY 2016]