



## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

### Investing in Arizona - 2016

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.

In 2016, NRCS is investing up to \$220 million in 84 high-impact projects that impact every state in the nation, including two in Arizona. This investment, which builds on the \$370 million invested for 2014 and 2015, will help conservation partners and agricultural producers conserve natural resources, leading to cleaner and more abundant water, healthier soil, enhanced wildlife habitat and many other benefits.

#### Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Conservation

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$5.9 million (CCA)

Lead Partner: Arizona Land and Water Trust

Number of Partners: 8

Participating State(s): Arizona

Water conservation relating to insufficient supply and drought is a natural resource concern for everyone and especially for those in the arid southwestern U.S. This project will address the resource concerns of insufficient water quantity (drought) as well as inadequate fish and wildlife habitat within the Colorado River CCA. The project area is within the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape and focuses upon the Babocomari River and Sonoita grasslands, which contain large working landscapes with landowners interested in conservation/restoration. It also contains critical habitat for three threatened and endangered species, has high quality and restorable grasslands and many springs and seeps. This partnership will work collaboratively to protect and enhance these resources through the use of conservation easements as well as through education, outreach and increased enrollment in NRCS programs. This will help preserve the areas large working ranches, wildlife habitat, open spaces and rural livelihoods

#### Improving AZ Strip for Wildlife and Cattle

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$900,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Number of Partners: 3

Participating State(s): Arizona

Removing invading woody species such as juniper and sagebrush from historic grasslands will allow native grass and forb species to return to these areas and improve food availability, cover and reduce fragmentation for wildlife, especially for species of concern, which include mule deer, golden eagles and California condors.

