



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Investing in Utah - 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 one in Utah. 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.

Restoring Watersheds at a Landscape Scale in Utah

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$940,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Utah Department of Natural Resources

Number of Partners: 14

Participating State(s): Utah

To prevent the sage-grouse from being listed under the ESA, Utah has adopted a Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan, which emphasizes habitat restoration of sage-grouse habitat on state, private and federal lands within priority areas identified as Sage-grouse Management Areas (SGMAs). Eleven of the twelve SGMAs have an increasing population trend over the last three years, but the Sheeprocks SGMA has decreased to a critically low population level. After identifying several threats to the this SGMA, an action plan was prepared to address the declining sage-grouse population. The actions proposed to address these threats including habitat restoration by removing pinyon juniper encroachment and controlling invasive weeds, wild fire resistance, sage-grouse transplants, targeted predator control, establishment of a managed OHV trail system and research and monitoring to measure vegetation and sage-grouse response to these actions.

