



Strengthening Conservation with Regional Partnerships

Apply to the NEW

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit agricultural producers and the environment.

Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a new, comprehensive and flexible program that uses partnerships to stretch and multiply conservation investments and reach conservation goals on a regional or watershed scale.

Benefits

Partners participating in RCPP can use their local knowledge and networks to undertake conservation projects by joining with agricultural producers to restore or sustain natural resources such as:

- clean and abundant water
- healthy, productive soils
- enhanced wildlife and pollinator habitat

More Information

visit your
local USDA Service Center

or

nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill

How It Works

Through RCPP, NRCS and state, local and regional partners coordinate resources to help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.

Forty percent of RCPP funding will go to national, multi-state projects; 25 percent will go to state projects; and 35 percent will go to critical conservation areas (CCAs) designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Eligibility

Eligible Partners - Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers, state or local governments, Indian tribes, municipal water treatment entities, water and irrigation districts, conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations and institutions of higher education.

Eligible Participants - Eligible producers and landowners of agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland should visit their local USDA Service Center for information on how to enter into conservation program contracts or easement agreements under the framework of an RCPP partnership agreement.

How to Apply

The Announcement of Program Funding outlines the requirements for proposal submissions. NRCS and the selected partner will enter into a partnership agreement through which they will coordinate resources to provide assistance to producers in the project area. Partnership agreements may be for a period of up to five years, but NRCS may extend for an additional 12 months if needed to meet the objectives of the program.

Partnership Agreement

The partnership agreement defines the scope of the project, including:

1. Eligible activities to be implemented
2. Potential agricultural or nonindustrial private forest operation affected
3. Local, state, multi-state or other geographic area covered
4. Planning, outreach, implementation, and assessment to be conducted

Partners are responsible for contributing to the cost of the project, conducting outreach and education to eligible producers

for potential participation in the project and for conducting an assessment of the project's effects. In addition, partners may act on behalf of the eligible landowner or producer in applying for assistance. Partners may also leverage financial or technical assistance provided by NRCS with additional funds to help achieve the project objectives. Before closing the agreement the partner must provide an assessment of the project costs and conservation effects.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service