



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

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## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program is a new program that mobilizes partnerships to multiply investments and reach common conservation goals.

- RCPP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners.
- NRCS provides assistance to producers through *partnership agreements* and through program contracts or easement agreements.
- Through RCPP, 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.



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## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

RCPP funds are delivered in accordance with:

- EQIP – the Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- CSP – the Conservation Stewardship Program
- ACEP – the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- HFRP – Healthy Forest Reserve Program

The current 5 year  
Farm Bill authorizes a  
total of  
**\$1.2 Billion** to be  
available through  
RCPP



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## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### **Eligible Partners:**

- Agricultural producer associations
- Farmer cooperatives
- State, local, and Tribal governments,
- Water Districts
- Conservation-driven nonprofits
- Universities

**Eligible Participants** - Under RCPP, eligible producers and landowners of agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland may enter into conservation program contracts or easement agreements under the framework of a partnership agreement.



## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

Projected Allocation Between National, State and CCA's					
Funding Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
National (40%)	\$56,190,872	\$101,740,000	\$104,176,000	\$105,576,000	\$101,376,000
State (25%)	\$35,119,295	\$63,587,500	\$65,110,000	\$65,985,000	\$63,360,000
CCA (35%)	\$49,167,013	\$89,022,500	\$91,154,000	\$92,379,000	\$88,704,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,477,180</b>	<b>\$254,350,000</b>	<b>\$260,440,000</b>	<b>\$263,940,000</b>	<b>\$253,440,000</b>

Funding is divided between 3 categories over 5 years



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## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### National RCPP

- Applications that address multi-state resource concerns, and those that provide detail on how specific resource objectives will be monitored to assess outcomes, will be given priority under the national funding pool.
- National priorities established under this announcement for program funding include:
  - Water quantity;
  - Water quality;
  - Soil health;
  - At-risk species habitat; and
  - Air quality.





## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### Critical Conservation Areas

Critical Conservation Areas (CCAs) are designated by the Secretary of Agriculture and are an opportunity for many stakeholders to work together at a regional level to address common natural resource goals while maintaining agricultural productivity.

**Columbia River Basin**

Prairie Grasslands Region

California Bay Delta

Chesapeake Bay

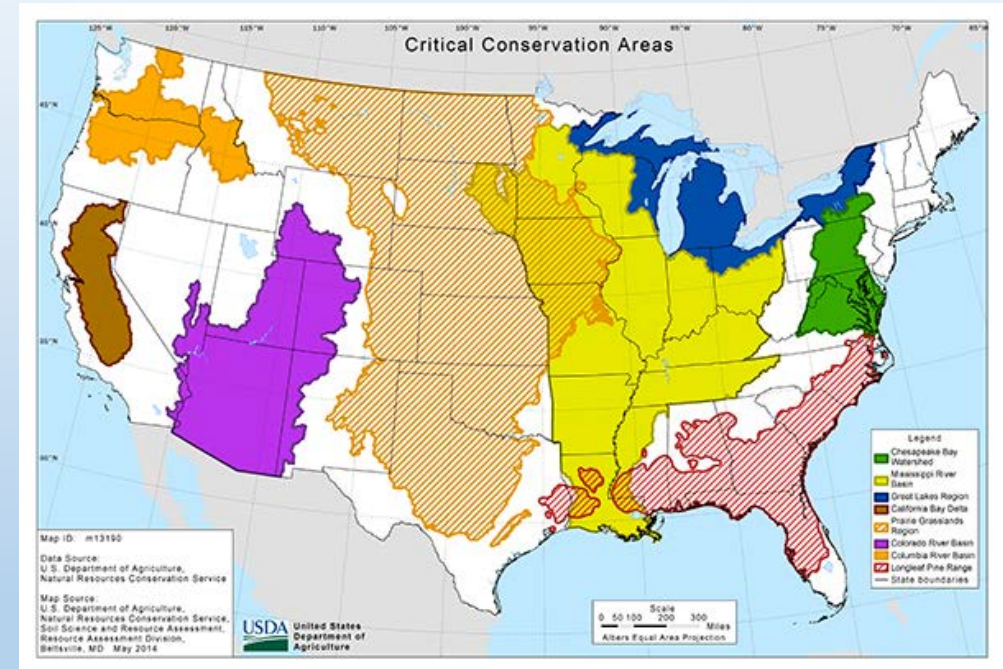
Watershed

Great Lakes Region

Mississippi River Basin

Colorado River Basin

Longleaf Pine Range





## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### **Columbia River CCA**

**Goal:** To promote water quality and management of water quantity to benefit recovery of salmon populations.

#### **Resource Concern Priorities**

**Insufficient Water:** Inefficient use of irrigation water

**Water Quality Degradation:** Excessive sediment in surface waters; excess nutrients and pesticides in surface and ground waters

**Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife:** Habitat degradation







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### **State RCPP**

Project applications submitted for consideration through the state funding pool should address at least one of the national priorities or a state-identified priority, as identified by NRCS State Conservationist, with input from the State Technical Committees and Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils.

### **State Resource Concerns**

**Idaho:** Forestland Health, Rangeland Health, Soil Health\Soil Erosion, Species of Concern  
Wetland\Upland, Water Quality, Water Quantity

**Washington:** Air Quality, Degraded Plant Condition, Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife, Soil Degradation, Water Quality Degradation

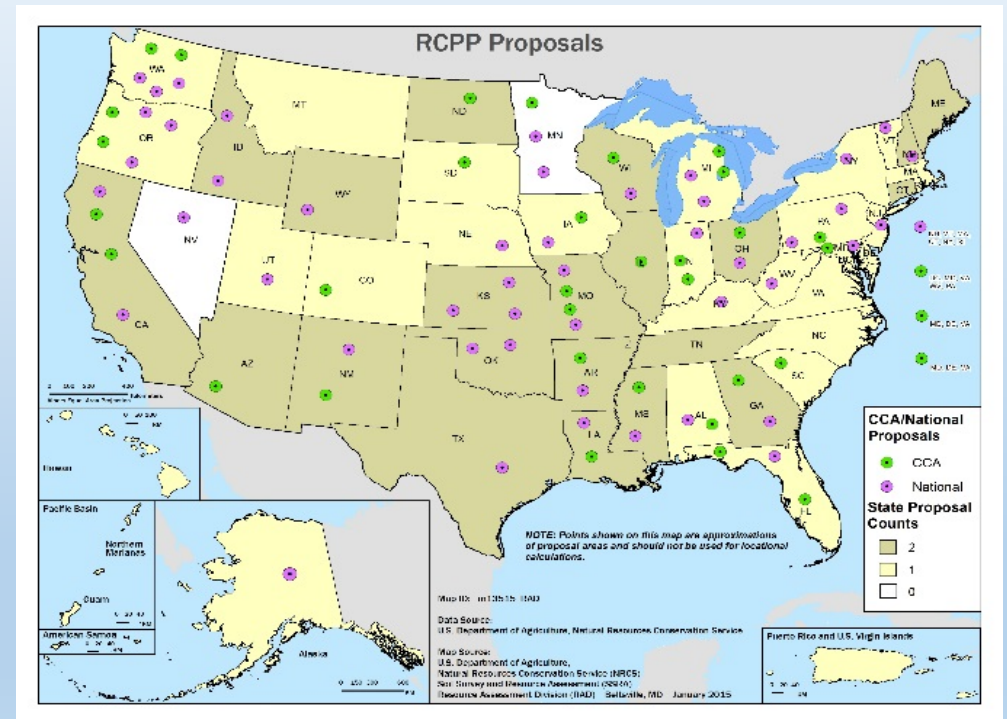
**Oregon:** Forest Health and Biodiversity: addressing pest pressures to promote a more resilient forest stand against fire, Water Quality: sedimentation, nutrients and temperature affecting aquatic species, Water Quantity: regarding irrigation efficiency and management, Wildlife Habitat Degradation: affecting strategic habitats in Oregon



## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### 2014 RCPP

- Nationally, USDA received more than 600 RCPP pre-proposals in the first year of the program.
- The Department funded 115 of those projects, totaling more than \$370 million.
- Additionally, partners have contributed an estimated \$400 million, more than doubling USDA's investment.





## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### 2014 RCPP

Project Name	Participating States	Lead Partner
<b>National Funding Pool</b>		
Duck Valley Reservation Irrigation Improvement Project	Nevada, Idaho	Water Resource Board of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Klamath-Rogue Oak Woodland Health and Habitat Conservation Project	California, Oregon	Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Palouse River Watershed (WRIA 34) Implementation Partnership	Washington, Idaho	Palouse Conservation District
Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in the Puget Sound	Washington	Washington State Conservation Commission
The Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse	Oregon	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
Unlocking Carbon Markets for NIPF Landowners in the Pacific Northwest	Oregon	Pinchot Institute for Conservation



## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### 2014 RCPP

Project Name	Participating States	Lead Partner
<b>State Funding Pool - WA, ID, OR</b>		
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Stabilization	Idaho	State of Idaho
Blackfoot River Idaho Conservation Project	Idaho	Trout Unlimited, Inc.
North Willamette Valley Upland Oak Restoration Partnership	Oregon	Yamhill SWCD
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project	Washington	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation



## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### 2014 RCPP

Project Name	Participating States	Lead Partner
<b>Columbia River Basin</b>		
North Slope Ochoco Holistic Restoration Project	Oregon	Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District
Upper Columbia Irrigation Enhancement Project	Washington	Trout Unlimited, Inc.
White River Irrigation Efficiency and Stream Flow Restoration Project	Oregon	Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District
Yakama Nation On-Reservation Lower Yakima Basin Restoration Project	Washington	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=stelprdb1267893>





## *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*

### **2014 RCPP**

#### How they were evaluated

- Solutions (25%)
- Contributions (30%)
- Innovation (20%)
- Participation (25%)

#### Common Proposal Strengths

- Well defined goals & objective
- Broad partnerships with clearly defined roles
- Good metrics to measure success
- Activities supported by science
- Innovative – use of environmental markets or safe harbor



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### **2015/2016 RCPP**

- The RFP should be out in late spring.
- RFP will be available on Grants.gov
- More information is available at NRCS' RCPP webpage at:  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmland/rcpp/>



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Questions?



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