

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized USDA to create the new conservation program known as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). It 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.

RCPP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program. Assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, ACEP and HFRP; and in certain areas the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.

“This is an entirely new approach to conservation,” said secretary of Agriculture Vilsack. “We’re giving private companies, local communities, and other non-government partners a way to invest in what are essentially clean water start-up operations. By establishing new public-private partnerships, we can have an impact that’s well beyond what the Federal government could accomplish on its own. These efforts keep our land resilient and water clean, and promote tremendous economic growth in agriculture, construction, tourism and outdoor recreation, and other industries.”

The RCPP competitively awards funds to conservation projects designed by local partners specifically for their region. Eligible partners include private companies, universities, non-profit organizations, local and tribal governments and others joining with agricultural and conservation organizations and producers to invest money, manpower and materials to their proposed initiatives. With participating partners investing along with the Department, USDA’s \$1.2 billion in funding over the life of the five-year program can leverage an additional \$1.2 billion from partners for a total of \$2.4 billion for conservation; \$400 million in USDA funding is available in the first year. Through RCPP, partners propose conservation projects to improve soil health, water quality and water use efficiency, wildlife habitat, and other related natural resources on private lands.

Coming Together for Conservation: New Approach, More Partners

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

1



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

is a new program that mobilizes partnerships to multiply investments and reach common conservation goals.

2

More Partners bring innovation, new ideas, resources and local expertise to solve problems.



Priority Conservation Projects

3

RCPP Funding Options

40% National
(multi-state projects)



25% State
(state projects)



35% Critical Conservation Areas
(areas designated by Secretary)



4

USDA plans to invest up to **\$1.2 billion**

USDA Goal:
Partners
match
investment
to equal —

**\$2.4
billion**
for conservation
through 2018

more: nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill