

Regional Conservation Partnership Program


RCPP

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The **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.



USDA Announces \$1.5 Billion for 92 Projects

[Read the press release.](#) [View the map of 2024 projects](#) .

By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation.

RCPP projects fall under two different categories: RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFAs). RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities, in collaboration with project partners. Through RCPP AFAs, NRCS provides funding to partners to support conservation activities with



eligible producers and landowners on eligible land. RCPP AFA funding reimburses partners for conservation activities done for or on behalf of producers, landowners, or other entities.

Latest Information

USDA INVESTS \$1.5 BILLION IN 92 PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

92 Projects Selected

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE](#)

RCPP 2024 PROJECTS

Learn about the 92 locally led conservation projects funded through RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements for 2024.

[VIEW PROJECTS LIST](#)

RCPP IMPROVEMENT EFFORT

USDA's NRCS has identified ways to streamline and simplify RCPP, ease the burden on employees and partners, and help maximize flexibility for partners to leverage their investments with NRCS resources and capabilities.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

RCPP Partners and Impact

1. Impact – RCPP applications must propose effective and compelling solutions that address one or more natural resource priorities to help solve natural resource challenges. Partners are responsible for evaluating a project’s impact and results.

2. Partner Contributions – Partners are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind value-added contributions to leverage NRCS’s RCPP investments. It is NRCS’s goal that partner contributions at least equal the NRCS investment in an RCPP project. Substantive partner contributions are given priority consideration as part of the RCPP application evaluation criteria.

3. Partnerships and Management – Partners must have experience, expertise, and capacity to manage the partnership and project, provide outreach to producers, and quantify the environmental outcomes of an RCPP project. RCPP ranking criteria give preference to applicants that meaningfully engage historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

[See the 2024 awarded projects](#) 

[See the 2023 awarded projects](#) 

[See the 2020 - 2022 awarded projects](#) 

RCPP Conservation Activities

RCPP projects may include a range of on-the-ground conservation activities implemented by farmers, ranchers and forest landowners. These activities include:

- Land management/land improvement/restoration practices
- Land rentals
- Entity-held easements
- United States-held easements
- Public works/watersheds

A single RCPP project application can propose to employ any combination of these eligible activity types as part of an RCPP project.

For more information on RCPP easements, [visit the RCPP easement page](#).



RCPP Funding Pools

RCPP funding is divided evenly among two funding pools:

Critical Conservation Areas

For projects in eight geographic areas chosen by the Secretary of Agriculture. These receive 50 percent of funding. Learn more about [RCPP Critical Conservation Areas](#).

State/Multistate

For projects in a single state or across several states. These receive 50 percent of funding.



Who is Eligible

Partner Eligibility

Eligible organizations interested in partnering with NRCS on conservation projects can develop applications for the RCPP competition. The lead partner for an RCPP project is the entity that submits an application, and if selected for an award is ultimately responsible for collaborating with NRCS to successfully complete an RCPP project.

Producer and Landowner Eligibility

Once NRCS selects a project and executes an RCPP agreement with a lead partner, agricultural producers may participate in an RCPP project in one of two ways. First, producers may engage with project partners and delegate a willing partner to act as their representative in working with NRCS. Second, producers seeking to carry out conservation

See the RCPP funding announcement for details about what types of organizations are eligible to apply.

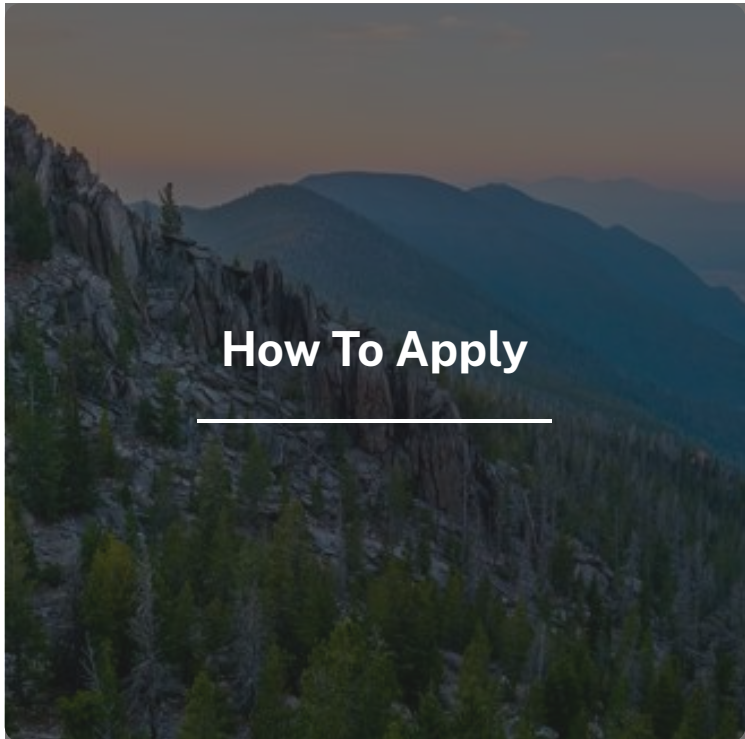
activities consistent with a RCPP project in the project's geographic area can apply directly to NRCS.

Land Eligibility

RCPP projects must be carried out on agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land or associated land on which NRCS determines an eligible activity would help achieve conservation benefits (i.e., improved condition of natural resources resulting from implementation of conservation activities).

Eligible conservation activities may be implemented on public lands when those activities will benefit eligible lands as determined by NRCS and are included in the scope of an approved RCPP project.

More Information




How To Apply



Resources for Lead Partners



RCPP in Action



RCPP Easements

Ready to get started?

Contact your local service center to start your application.

Find Your Local Service Center

USDA Service Centers are locations where you can connect with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or Rural Development employees for your business needs. Enter your state and county below to find your local service center and agency offices. If this locator does not work in your browser, please visit offices.usda.gov.

-Please select -



SEARCH



Related Resources

Data and Reports

[VIEW ALL RESOURCES](#)

Data and Reports

- [RCPP Congressional Report — December 2019](#)
- [Partner-Led Solutions Publication](#)
- [Farm Bill Factsheet](#)

[VIEW ALL DATA AND REPORTS](#)



Related News and Events

PRESS RELEASE

**USDA Regional Conservation
Partnership Program (RCPP)
Funds Available for Non-Lethal
Conflict Reduction Project for
Colorado Landowners**

January 07, 2025

NEWS

Second Signup Announced: Land Management and Land Rental Funding Available to Livestock Producers in N.H. Under Partnership with American Farmland Trust

December 10, 2024

NEWS

NRCS in N.H Announces Second RCPP Signup for Land Management and Entity Held Easement Applications in the New Hampshire Source Water Protection Partnership

December 10, 2024

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Policies and Statements

- FOIA
- Information Quality
- Our Performance
- Privacy Policy
- Accessibility Statement
- Non-Discrimination Statement

Resources

- OneFPAC - Employee Links
- eDirectives
- Glossary
- USDA CARES Partner Portal
- No Fear Act Data
- Open Government
- Plain Writing
- Report Fraud on USDA Contract
- Sitemap

Related Sites

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- AskUSDA
- Office of the Inspector General
- USA.gov
- WhiteHouse.gov

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