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United States Department of Agriculture

USDA's
93rd
Annual

Agricultural Outlook Forum

A New Horizon: The Future of Agriculture

February 23-24, 2017 • Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Virginia

Presentation from the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum 2017

United States Department of Agriculture
93rd Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum
“A New Horizon: The Future of Agriculture”

February 23-24, 2017
Arlington, Virginia



United States Department of Agriculture



Regional Conservation Partnership Program



February 23, 2017
AG Outlook Forum



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

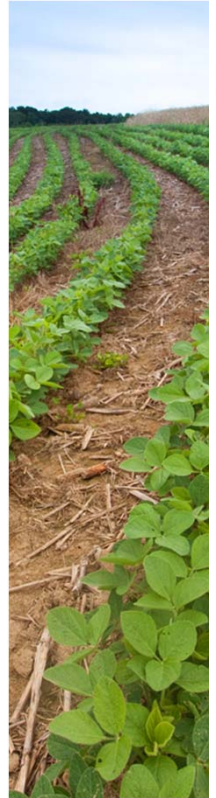
Today's Topics



- About NRCS
 - Organizational Structure
 - Approach

- RCPP 101
 - Overview
 - RCPP Process
 - Best Practices
 - To date project numbers

- RCPP Q&A



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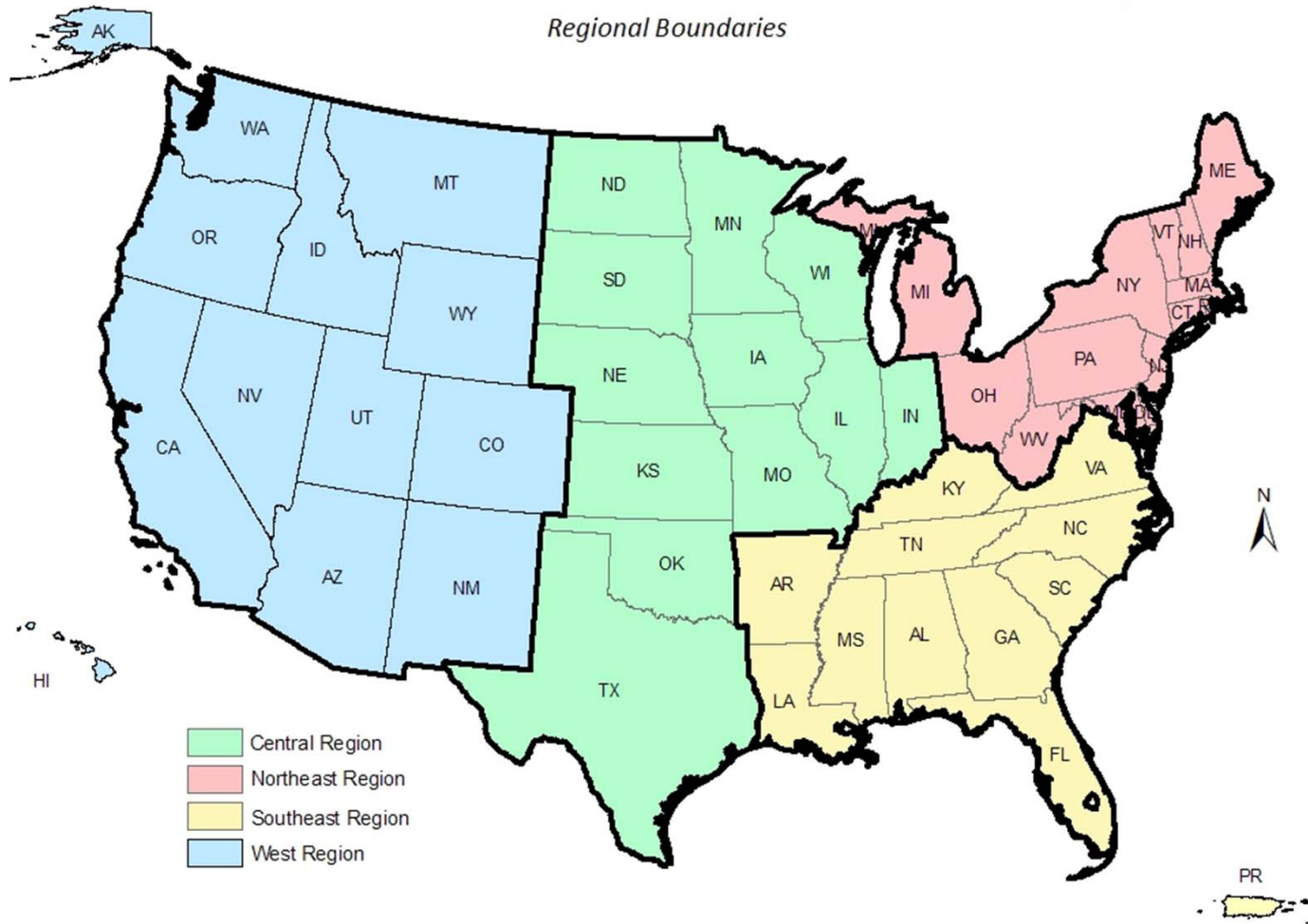


About NRCS



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Map Date - June 2012
 Map Source - Regional Conservationists Office

- Approx. 11,000 employees, only 600 in Washington, DC area
- Network of nearly 3,000 field offices
- Conservation professionals working with farmers, ranchers, landowners, and partners





NRCS Approach

70% of land in the lower 48 states is privately owned.

NRCS combines locally-led solutions with science and research; landowner stewardships; partnerships; and proven conservation practices to produce results for agriculture and the environment.





RCPP 101



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RCPP empowers local organizations and communities to demonstrate the importance of strong public-private partnerships in delivering solutions to natural resource challenges.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Provides partners the opportunity to direct NRCS Programs through a unique partnership
- Encourages innovative, locally driven conservation
- Increases investment through partner contributions to the shared conservation mission
- Reaches out to new participants for NRCS Programs



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Regional Conservation Partnership Program



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RCPP Funding Process

Annual Announcement for Program Funding (APF)

Two-phase application process

- 1. Pre-proposal application**
 - Partners submit projects with pre-proposal application
 - NRCS reviews and selects pre-proposals
- 2. Full proposal application**
 - NRCS invites partners to submit a full proposal for selected pre-proposals
 - NRCS reviews and selects full proposals for development of an agreement and award

Agreement (or MOU) negotiated and signed between Partner and NRCS



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Identify Programs Used in Project



Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Conservation Stewardship Program



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



Healthy Forests Reserve Program

WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVENTION ACT

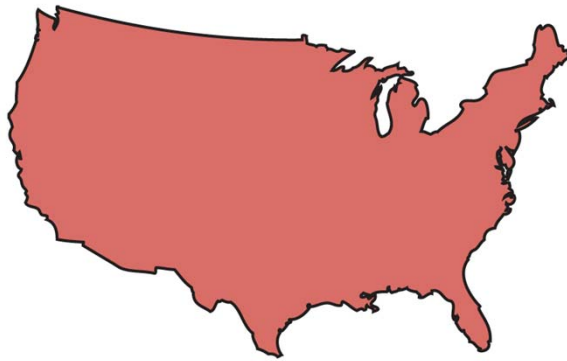
Public Law 83-566

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Select One of Three RCPP Funding Pools



National – 40%



State – 25%



Critical Conservation Area (CCA) - 35%



Identify Natural Resource Concerns



The project should “...achieve specific, measurable natural resource results.”

- Excess/Insufficient Water/Drought
- Water quality degradation
- Soil quality degradation
- Inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife (and invertebrates)
- Air quality impacts
- Degraded Plant Condition (specific to certain CCA only)
- Energy
- Climate Change



RCPP Best Practices



Successful RCPP projects demonstrate four characteristics.

- Participation
- Innovation
- Contribution
- Solutions



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RCPP by the Numbers



RCPP with a quick breakdown:

- RCPP has awarded 287 agreements from FY 2014-2017
- Resource Concern most often addressed:
 - Water Quality
- Projects in all 50 States and 1 US Territory
- Most impactful projects are well defined in geographic scope, monetary ask and contributions, and have measurable, achievable outcomes.





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The heart of RCPP is about empowering local project sponsors to design and deliver solutions that benefit natural resources where they live and work.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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