

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Report To  
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board  
June 12, 2014  
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**

United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



## **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**



The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (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.

## RCPP Vision

RCPP offers new opportunities for NRCS to work with partners to encourage:

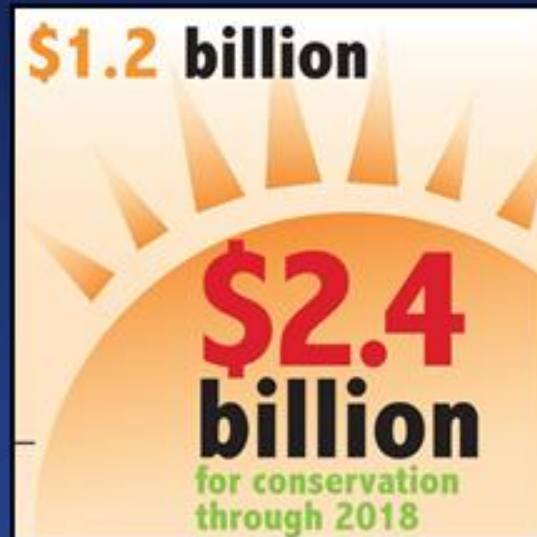
- Locally driven innovation;
- Create high-performing solutions;
- Harness innovation;
- Accelerate the conservation mission;
- Launch bold ideas, and;
- Demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

All projects will be equally evaluated, regardless of size.

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## RCPP Funding:

- \$100 million each year directly from the Farm Bill
- Also, by reserving 7% of funds from the four covered programs (ACEP, CStP, EQIP, HFRP) reserved annually through April 1st
- Over five years, USDA plans to invest up to \$1.2 billion with partners matching funding that could be as much as \$2.4 billion for conservation



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## Allocates funding by:

- 40% for projects based on a national competitive process;
- 25% for a state competitive process administered by the State Conservationist, and;
- 35% for projects in critical conservation areas.



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## State Funding Pool

- Applications must address at least one National or State identified priority resource concern
- Applications for State funding pool must be geographically located entirely within Nebraska.

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## Priority Resource Concerns for Nebraska

- **Degraded Plant Condition**
  - Undesirable plant productivity and health
  - Inadequate structure and composition
  - Excessive plant pest pressure
  - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation
- **Livestock Production Limitation**
  - Inadequate water
  - Inadequate feed and forage
  - Inadequate shelter
- **Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat**
  - Inadequate cover/shelter
  - Inadequate food
  - Inadequate habitat continuity (space)
  - Inadequate water
- **Excess/Insufficient Water**
  - Inefficient use of irrigation water
  - Inefficient moisture management
  - Ponding, flooding, drifted snow
- **Water Quality Degradation**
  - Excessive sediment in surface water
  - Salts in surface and ground water
  - Pesticides & Nutrients in surface and ground water
- **Soil Erosion**
  - Sheet and rill erosion
  - Wind erosion
  - Classic and Ephemeral gully erosion

25% State  
(state projects)



## Priority Resource Concerns for Nebraska

- **Soil Quality Degradation**
  - Organic matter depletion
  - Compaction
  - Concentration of salts or other chemicals
  - Subsidence: Loss of volume and depth of organic soils
- **Inefficient Energy Use**
  - Equipment and Facilities
  - Farming/Ranching practices and field operations
- **Air Quality Impacts**
  - Emissions of Particulate Matter (dust & smoke)
  - Emissions of Greenhouse Gases
  - Emissions of Ozone Precursors
  - Objectionable Odors

25% State  
(state projects)



## Critical Conservation Areas

1. Great Lakes Region (IL, IN, MI, MN, NY, PA, OH, WI)
2. Chesapeake Bay Watershed (DE, MD, NY, PA, VA, WV)
3. Mississippi River Basin (AR, KY, IA, IL, IN, LA, MN, MS, OH, SD, TN, WI)
4. Longleaf Pine Range (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX, VA)
5. Columbia River Basin (ID, OR, WA)
6. California Bay Delta (CA)
7. Prairie Grasslands Region (CO, KS, IA, MO, MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, OK, SD, TX, WY)
8. Colorado River Basin (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, UT, WY)

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## Prairie Grasslands Region CCA

- Resource Concern Priorities
  - Degraded Plant Condition:
    - Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
  - Insufficient Water:
    - Inefficient use of irrigation water
  - Excess Water:
    - Runoff, Flooding or Ponding
  - Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife:
    - Habitat degradation



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## Announcement of Program Funding (APF)

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE:** Announcement for Program Funding

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and  
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 10.930

The purpose of this notice is to announce the availability of nearly \$400 million in CCC funding for RCPP and to solicit applications from potential partners who seek to enter into partnership agreements with NRCS under RCPP.

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## RCPP APF Timeline

- **May 27, 2014:** Announcement of Program Funding (APF) through grants.gov.
- **July 14, 2014 :** Pre-proposal applications are due
- **July 28, 2014:** Announcement of selected pre-proposals. Partners are notified of acceptance and need to submit full proposal
- **September 26, 2014:** Full proposal applications due.
- **October 17, 2014:** Announcement of selected full proposals.
- **October 30, 2014:** All project agreements are signed.
- Once agreements are signed, partnership activities and obligations may begin.

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