



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Investing in Pennsylvania - 2016

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2016, NRCS is investing up to \$220 million in 84 high-impact projects that impact every state in the nation, including one in Pennsylvania. This investment, which builds on the \$370 million invested for 2014 and 2015, will help conservation partners and agricultural producers conserve natural resources, leading to cleaner and more abundant water, healthier soil, enhanced wildlife habitat and many other benefits.

Genesee River Sediment and Phosphorus Reduction

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$3 million (CCA)

Lead Partner: New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

Number of Partners: 4

Participating State(s): Pennsylvania & New York (**lead state**)

The Genesee River Sediment and Phosphorus Reduction project will address pollutants entering Lake Ontario. Sediment and phosphorus loading from the Genesee River has been identified as having significant negative impacts on near-shore waters and aquatic habitat and possibly impacting human health through harmful algal blooms. The Genesee River Watershed is heavily farmed with 52% of the land base being in agricultural production. Through this RCPP Project, EQIP funding will be used to address phosphorus laden sediment inputs entering the Genesee River directly or through tributaries. Projects will focus on soil health and riparian corridor management, as well as, sediment control practices on lands adjacent to watercourses. This project will work with an array of state and local programs to remove the impaired portions of the Genesee River targeted for TMDL development on the CWA Section 303(d) list.

