

Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and partners to deliver conservation assistance.

NRCS provides assistance to landowners through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easements.

RCPP is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, ACEP; and the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.



RCPP

Regional Conservation Partnership Program



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit private property and the environment.

Benefits

RCPP encourages partners to join in efforts with landowners to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales.

Through RCPP, NRCS and its partners help landowners install and maintain conservation activities. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.

Eligibility

Eligible Partners - State and local governments, Alaska Native Tribes, conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations, higher education institutions, farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers and associations, municipal water treatment entities, and water and irrigation districts.



Eligible Participants - Under RCPP, landowners may enter into conservation program contracts or easements under the framework of a partnership agreement.

Conservation program contracts and easements are implemented through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), or the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). NRCS may also utilize the authorities under the Watershed and Flood Prevention Program, other than the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, in the designated critical conservation areas.

How to apply

NRCS will announce a request for proposals that will outline requirements for proposal submissions for funding. NRCS will review partnership proposals according to the priorities identified in the announcement and make project selections. Upon selection of a partnership proposal, NRCS and the partner will enter into a

partnership agreement through which they will coordinate assistance with provide landowners in the project area. Partnership agreements may be for a period of up to five years. NRCS may extend an agreement one time for an additional 12 months if needed to meet the objectives of the program.

Landowners can apply for assistance by contacting an NRCS office or at the landowner's request, a partner may submit the application for participation.

Partnership Agreement

The partnership agreement defines the scope of the project, including:

1. Eligible activities to be implemented
2. Potential agricultural or nonindustrial private forest operation affected
3. Geographic area covered
4. Planning, outreach, implementation, and assessment to be conducted

Partners are responsible for contributing to the cost of the

project, conducting outreach and education to eligible producers for potential participation in the project and for conducting an assessment of the project's effects. In addition, partners may act on behalf of the eligible landowner in applying for assistance and for leveraging financial or technical assistance provided by NRCS with additional funds to help achieve the project objectives.

Before closing the agreement the partner must provide an assessment of the project costs and conservation effects.

Contact NRCS in Alaska

Northern Hub, Fairbanks
(907) 479-3159

Delta Junction
(907) 895-4241

Southern Hub, Kenai
(907) 283-8732

Homer
(907) 235-8177

Juneau
(907) 586-7220

Central Hub, Wasilla
(907) 373-6492

State Office, Palmer
(907) 761-7760

www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov



Photo by Serena McCormick, courtesy of The Alaska Life

NRCS works with landowners of small or large properties.

www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Natural Resources Conservation Service