

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Arizona



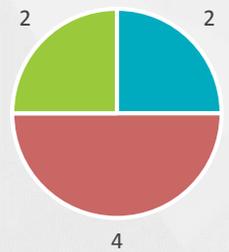
## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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 demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including two in Arizona. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.

### Arizona Projects to Date

#### Projects by Resource Concern



- Degraded Plant Condition
- Water Quantity/drought
- Wildlife Habitat

**7**

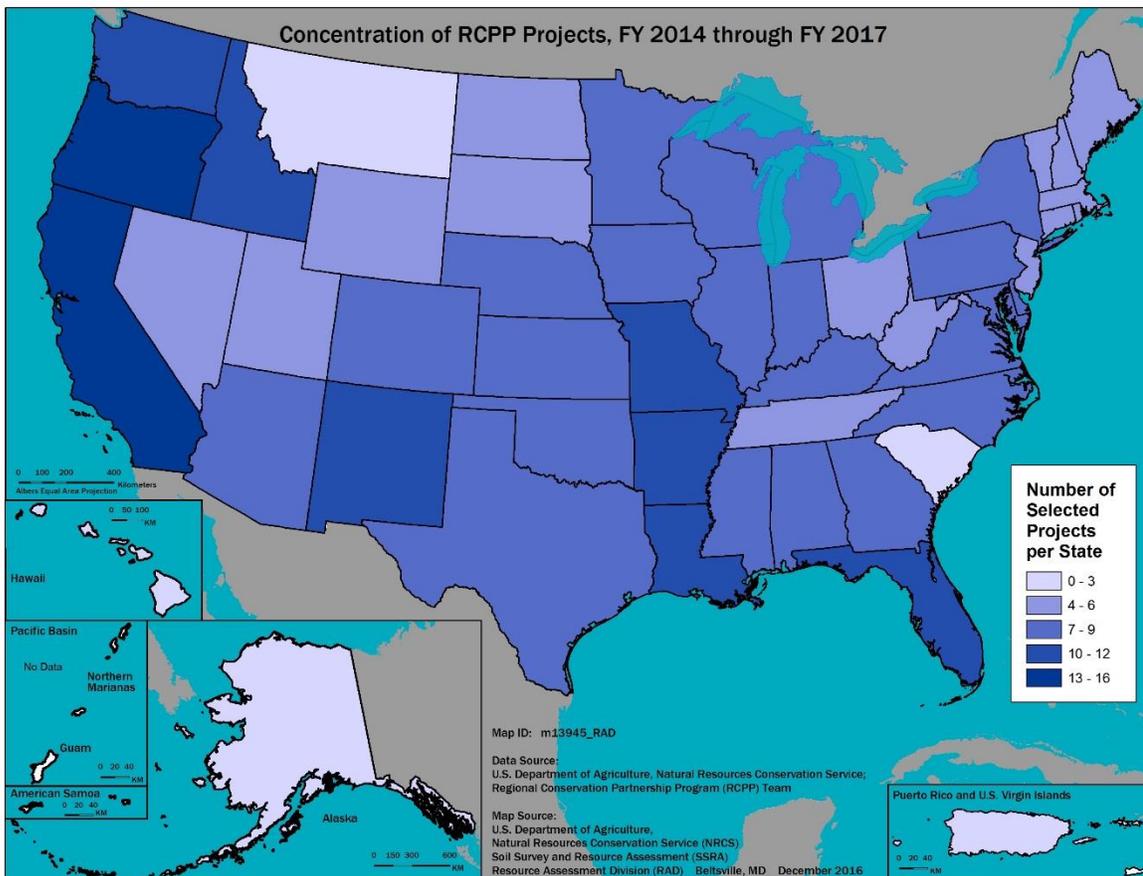
Projects

**\$18.9**  
**million**

NRCS Investment

**39**

Partners



## Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Conservation	CCA	Arizona Land and Water Trust	8	\$5.9 million
2016	Improving AZ Strip for Wildlife and Cattle	State	Arizona Game and Fish Department	3	\$900,000
2014/2015	Verde River Flow and Habitat Restoration Initiative	CCA	The Nature Conservancy	5	\$2.8 million
2014/2015	Restoring Native Grassland Habitats to Benefit Wildlife, Ranching, and Open Space	State	Arizona Game and Fish Department	7	\$1.5 million
2014/2015	Central Arizona Grassland Restoration and Watershed Partnership Program	State	Arizona Game and Fish Department	3	\$1.5 million

## 2017 RCPP Projects

### The Little Colorado River Watershed - Navajo Nation Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$4,826,250 (Critical Conservation Area – Colorado River Basin)

Lead Partner: Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources

Number of Initial Partners: 6

Participating States: Arizona (Lead State)

The Little Colorado River Watershed - Navajo Nation Regional Conservation Partnership Program Project will align Navajo and federal governments, Navajo producer associations, communities, and local organizations with the mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Navajo Nation RCPP will establish a five year PL-566 Watershed Planning Team for three sub-watersheds of the Little Colorado River Basin in Arizona. The project partners – including the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, the Little Colorado River Watershed Chapters Association, Navajo Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Indian Affairs - will participate in and support PL-566 planning activities. The partners will address barriers to Navajo participation in Environmental Quality Incentives Program and other USDA programs, conduct bilingual-bicultural outreach and education to emerging producers' associations, and support youth conservation demonstration projects. The partnership will strengthen relationships among communities, producers and decision-makers and improve resource conditions in the project area, approximately 25% of Navajo Nation.



## Northern Arizona Grassland Restoration

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,500,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Number of Initial Partners: 7

Participating States: Arizona (Lead State)

In Arizona, an estimated two-thirds of native grasslands have been adversely impacted by ongoing drought and climate change, invasive woody vegetation and noxious weeds and wildland fire. Through the partnership project, the Northern Arizona Grassland Restoration project - led by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and federal, non-profit and academic partners - will remove encroaching woody vegetation using fire and mechanical treatments, modify or remove potential barriers to wildlife movements, and repair, upgrade, and install watering facilities for wildlife. The complementary project goals are to restore a minimum of 20,000 acres of degraded grassland and savannah habitat and to provide reliable water sources for wildlife on a total of 100,000 acres.