

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

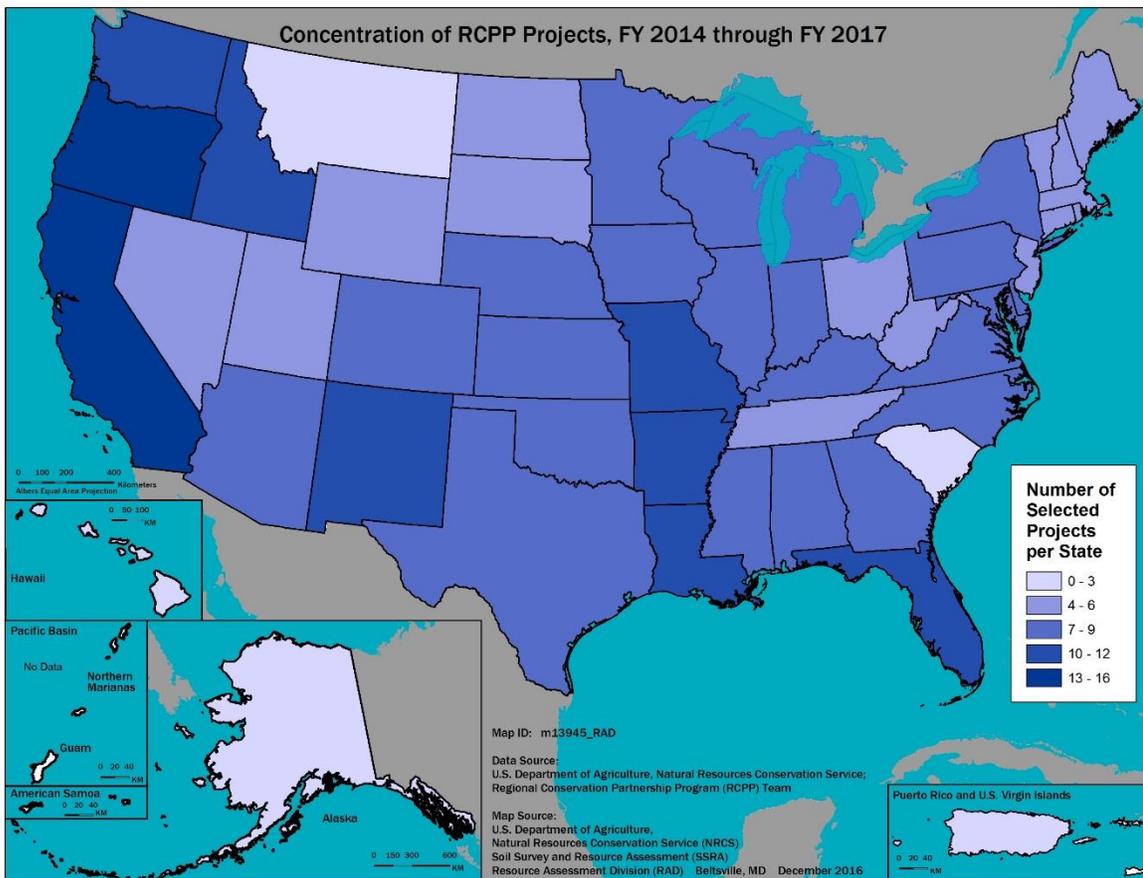
Investing in Indiana



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

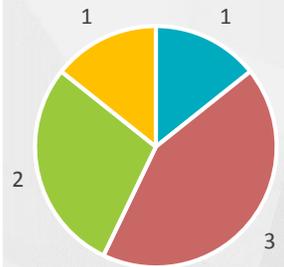
Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, 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 one in Indiana. 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.



Indiana Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



- Soil Health
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Water Quantity/Drought

7

Projects

\$35.45 million

NRCS Investment

129

Partners

Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Big Pine Watershed Partnership	National	The Nature Conservancy	4	\$1.8 million
2016	Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies	National	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	12	\$6 million
2016	Soil Health on Reclaimed Mine Lands	State	Knox County SWCD	13	\$885,000
2014/2015	Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative	CCA	Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	46	\$17.5 million
2014/2015	Preventing Nutrient Loss from Indiana Farms: Watershed-scale Pairing of Cover Crops and the Two-stage Ditch	State	Notre Dame Environmental Change Initiative	12	\$1.5 million
2014/2015	Michigan/Indiana St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Partnership	National	Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	32	\$6.8 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Southern Indiana Young Forest Initiative

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$960,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

Number of Initial Partners: 10

Participating States: Indiana (Lead State)

The Southern Indiana Young Forest Initiative, established by 11 partner organizations with a history of conservation leadership in the state, will address a lack of early successional habitat and corresponding declines in at-risk wildlife species. The Initiative will focus on 43 counties in southern Indiana that contain the majority of forested land and provide the best opportunities for incorporating early successional forest regeneration into a predominantly hardwood forest landscape characterized by advanced forest succession. Partners will promote and use Best Management Practices, ranging from species-specific silvicultural guidelines to generalized private landowner management recommendations that benefit young forest indicator species like American Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse. The project intends to work in similar fashion to successful young forest initiatives on the east coast and in Wisconsin and lays the groundwork for the establishment of an Ohio Valley Young Forest Initiative.

