

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Maryland



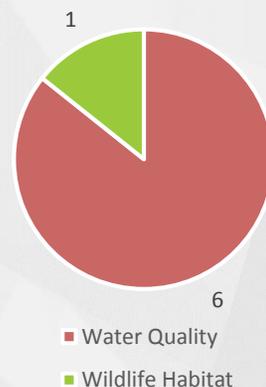
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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 every state in the nation, including one in Maryland. 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.

Maryland Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



7

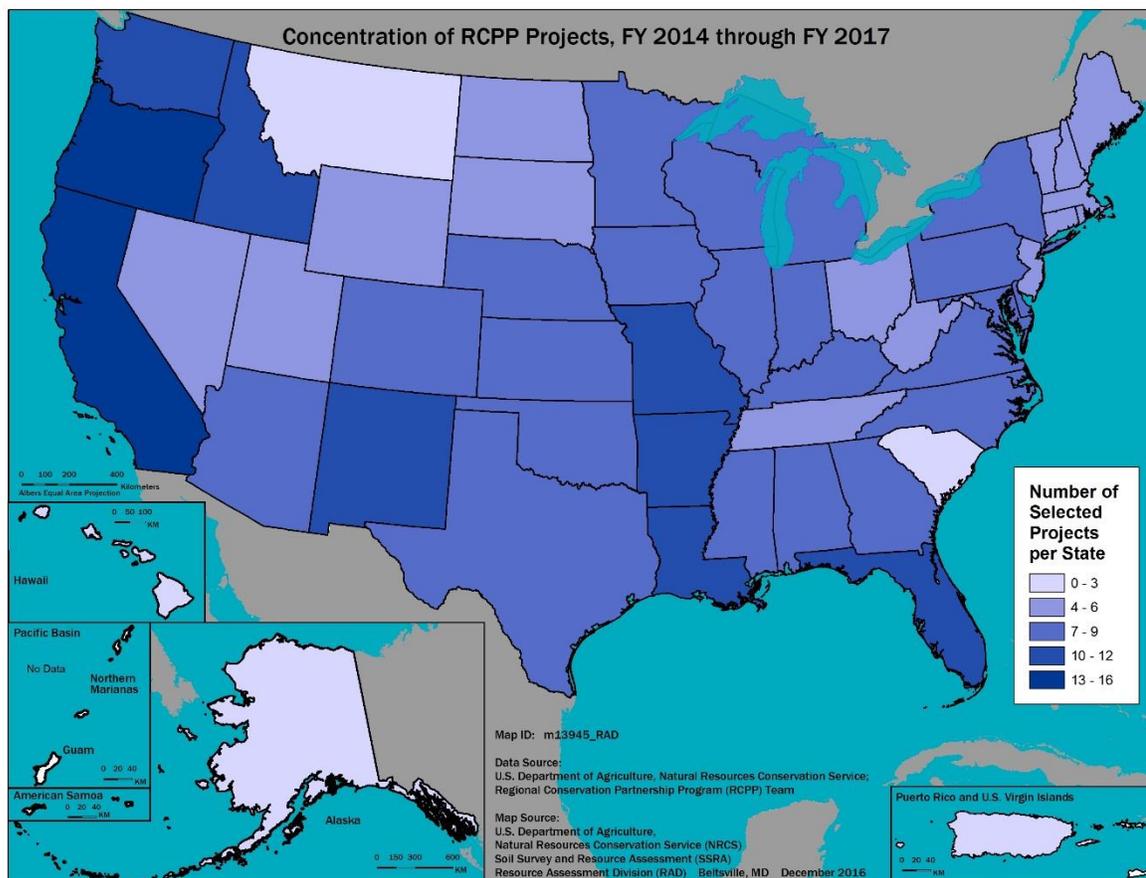
Projects

\$26.4 million

NRCS Investment

110

Partners



Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	DE & MD – Meeting WIP Goals in the Chesapeake Bay	CCA	Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts	15	\$4.5 million
2014/2015	Accelerating Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans	CCA	Maryland Department of Agriculture	12	\$5.5 million
2014/2015	Delmarva Whole System Conservation Partnership - From Field to Stream	CCA	The Nature Conservancy	35	\$5 million
2014/2015	Mason-Dixon Working Lands Partnership	CCA	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	16	\$1.5 million
2014/2015	Targeted Conservation Easement Acquisitions	State	Maryland Department of Natural Resources	3	\$800,000
2014/2015	Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement	National	Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture	23	\$8 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Promoting Rotational Grazing: Upper Potomac in Maryland

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,100,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Number of Initial Partners: 7

Participating States: Maryland (Lead State)

The Chesapeake Foundation and seven partners will support roughly 20 livestock farmers in Maryland as they convert cropland to pasture or transition existing pasture-based operations to more intensive grazing systems. At the same time, partners will capitalize on opportunities to implement related practices such as stream livestock exclusion and forested buffers. Finally the partnership will expand efforts to provide permanent easements on Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program forested buffers in Frederick County as a model for future efforts. The project will target Maryland counties within the Upper Potomac watershed because these counties represent the highest number and/or concentration of dairy and livestock operations within Maryland and pollution load modeling high loads of nitrogen and phosphorus to local waters and the Bay.

