

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Utah



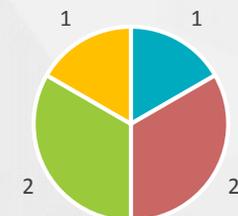
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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 three in Utah. 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.

Utah Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



- Water Quantity/Drought
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Degraded Plant Condition

6

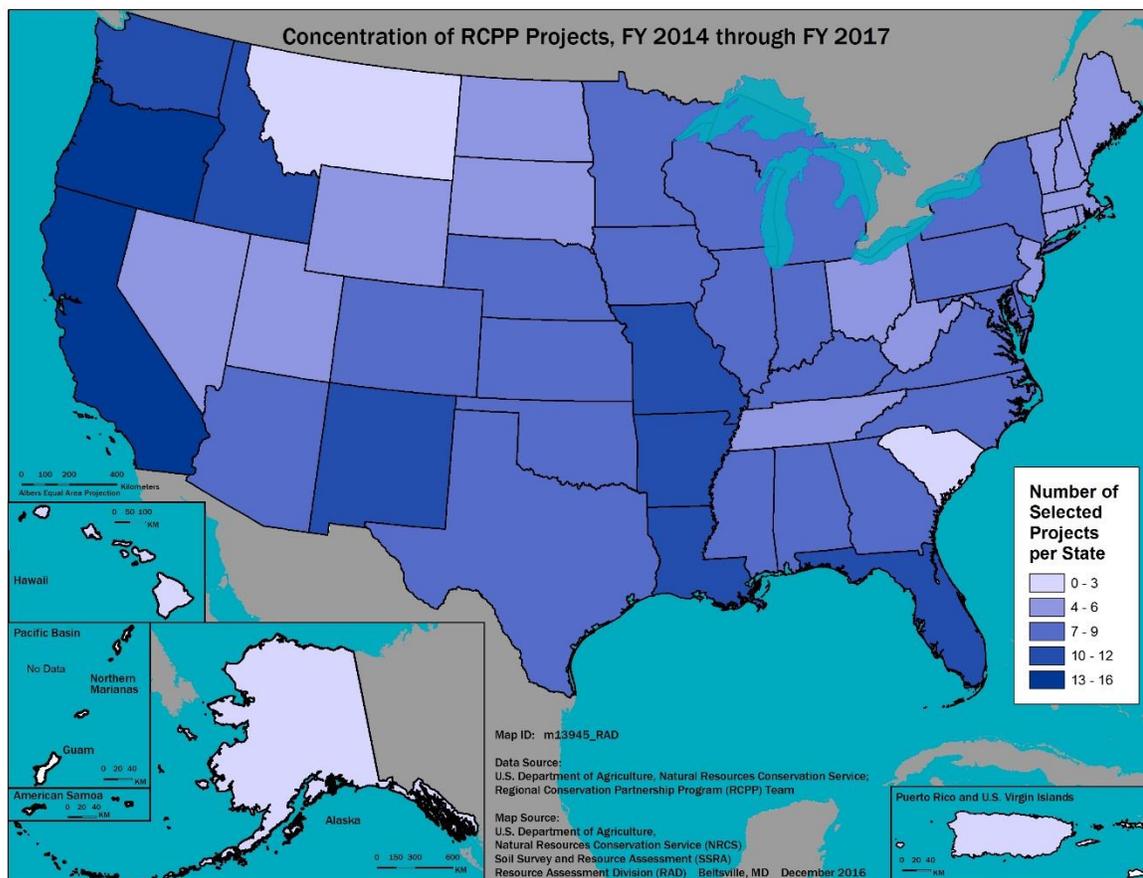
Projects

\$12.9 million

NRCS Investment

64

Partners



Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Restoring Watersheds at a Landscape Scale in Utah	State	Utah Department of Natural Resources	14	\$940,000
2014/2015	Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy	State	Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands	17	\$1.7 million
2014/2015	Upper Bear River Stream Restoration and Irrigation Efficiency	National	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	14	\$1.2 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Uintah County Efficiency Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$7,387,500 (Critical Conservation Area – Colorado River Basin)

Lead Partner: Uintah Water Conservancy District

Number of Initial Partners: 9

Participating States: Utah (Lead State)

The Uintah Water Conservancy District in Utah is leading a county-wide effort to increase the quantity and improve the quality of water in the area through better management of existing and future water facilities and resources. Partners in this county-wide effort include two federal agencies, three state government entities, Uinta County, Utah State University and several canal companies. These partners will implement nine separate project “components” in this coordinated effort and organize feasible salinity projects on a large scale, eliminating the piecemeal approach of the past.

Ute Indian Tribe Water Conservation

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,196,250 (Critical Conservation Area – Colorado River Basin)

Lead Partner: Ute Indian Tribe

Number of Initial Partners: 2

Participating States: Utah (Lead State)

The Ute Indian Tribe in Utah currently is developing a Water Code for tribally-owned water and a Water Plan to inventory and prioritize tribal water resource needs. The Ute Indian Tribe Water Conservation project will assist the tribe and partners with resource need projects. For instance, the project will redirect cold water through Bottle Hollow to restore and stabilize the fishery while providing a delivery point for future improved irrigation projects. These projects are deemed vital and top priority for the Tribe in its efforts to more fully develop its water resources while maintaining healthy river systems and proper environmental conditions in cooperation with public and private water users in the Uintah Basin.



Wallsburg Watershed Improvement Project

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

Lead Partner: Wasatch Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 8

Participating States: Utah (Lead State)

Main Creek in Wallsburg, has been 303(d) listed for phosphorous, E. coli and temperature. Main Creek flows into Deer Creek Reservoir which has also been listed as impaired because of high phosphorous levels. Deer Creek reservoir is a drinking water source for millions of Utahans along the Wasatch Front. In an attempt to improve water quality and aquatic habitat, stream restoration efforts have been ongoing in the Wallsburg Watershed for the past 3 years. Currently, there is a stretch of river approximately 1.2 miles in length, where no project work has been completed. This section is characterized by steep eroded banks. River sinuosity is nonexistent, which adds to erosion, bank loss and down cutting. The soils in the Wallsburg Watershed are naturally high in phosphorous. Stream restoration efforts would include putting meanders back into the system and would nearly double the length of the stream. The added meanders would help slow the river, add aquatic habitat, and significantly reduce erosion and dissolved phosphorous issues. The landowner would no longer lose valuable pasture and crop lands to stream erosion. Banks would be sloped, and native riparian vegetation would be planted. J-hooks and rock barbs would be used to add roughness and bank protection. Cross vanes would be used to increase habitat and reduce the potential for down-cutting. The riparian area will be fenced off, however, water gaps and stream crossings will be installed to allow for improved grazing management. These combined practices will decrease in-stream temperature, erosion and phosphorous. The health and vitality of the watershed would improve. The landowner is willing to move forward with stream restoration efforts on the property, however, they have previously been ineligible due to AGI limitations. With RCPP allowing for an AGI waiver, the benefits of this project can be realized.