

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Wyoming



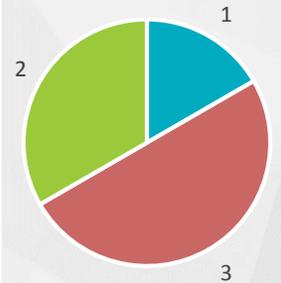
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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 two in Wyoming. 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.

Wyoming Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



- Climate Change
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat

6

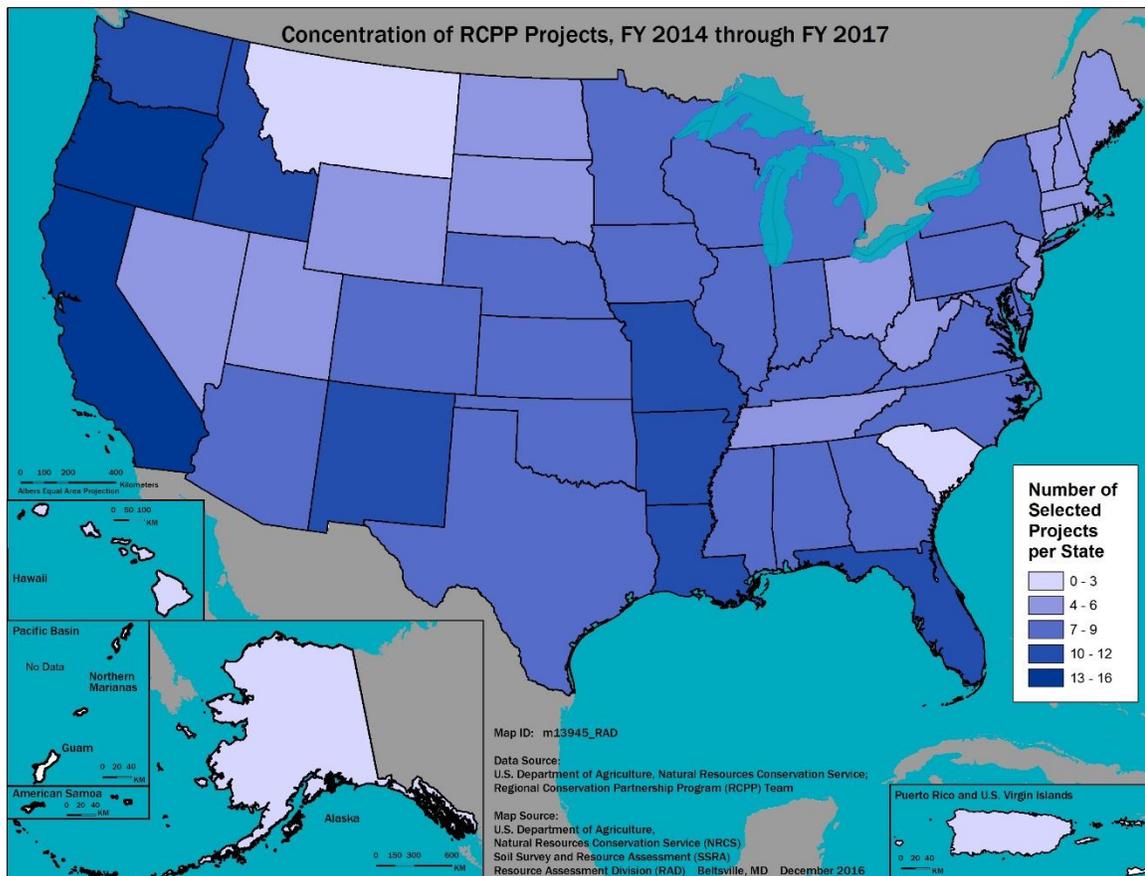
Projects

\$6.2 million

NRCS Investment

58

Partners



Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Southeast Wyoming Wetlands Partnership	State	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	4	\$1 million
2014/2015	Upper North Platte Watershed Restoration	State	Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District	12	\$600,000
2014/2015	Water Quality and Habitat Improvements: Tongue River Watershed- Sheridan County, WY	State	The Nature Conservancy- Wyoming Chapter	15	\$1.9 million
2014/2015	Upper Bear River Stream Restoration and Irrigation Efficiency	National	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	14	\$1.2 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Northeastern Wyoming Sage-Grouse Habitat Enhancement

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$200,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Converse County Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 3

Participating States: Wyoming (Lead State)

The Northeast Wyoming Sage-Grouse Habitat Enhancement Project will help expand conservation efforts of the Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association, the Douglas Core Area Restoration Team, and other partners operating in northeast Wyoming. The Association has been actively engaged in local and regional conservation efforts since 1999 while the Douglas Core Area Restoration Team was formed in 2013 to focus on restoration of sage-grouse habitat within the Douglas Core Area. The primary focus of this regional project is on developing and maintaining wildlife habitat for sage-grouse and other species of interest while maintaining viable agricultural operations. Conservation projects that will be planned and implemented include sagebrush restoration, grazing management, rangeland improvement, invasive species treatment (specifically cheatgrass), ephemeral and intermittent streambank restoration, restoration of wildfire and energy-related disturbances to minimize excessive erosion, protection and enhancement of upland ephemeral wetlands, and projects focused on enhancing soil quality. The initiative will build on existing collaborative efforts among landowners, state and federal agencies, academia, and other conservation non-governmental organizations working in northeast Wyoming.



Northeast Wyoming Forest Resiliency Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,285,540 (State)

Lead Partner: Wyoming Conservation Districts

Number of Initial Partners: 10

Participating States: Wyoming (Lead State)

Since 2012, local conservation districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service field offices have actively been working on forest health projects throughout Northeast Wyoming. The goal of this project will be to continue the efforts in this area to create a more resilient ecosystem for the future by partnering with local, state, and federal partners. In total eleven partners will be participating on this project to coordinate, promote and administer the proposed project. They stand ready with the knowledge and technical expertise to ensure that this project is a success. This project will encompass three counties in the Northeast portion of Wyoming, with a priority area encompassing 785,000 acres. This project will have the potential to address forest resource concerns on approximately 2,200, acres which will result in improved forest stand conditions, increased forage production for livestock producers and wildlife, decrease wildfire risk, enhance wildlife habitat, and increase overall forest health. The project will be further extended on adjacent property managed federal agencies, as they are currently implementing forest management on their lands. The objectives of this project are to improve forest health and resiliency, and improved rangeland health by reducing encroachment of juniper and pine. These objectives will be achieved with the use of the EQIP conservation program and practices.