



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Investing in Arkansas - 2016

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

In 2016, NRCS is investing up to \$220 million in 84 high-impact projects that impact every state in the nation, including three in Arkansas. This investment, which builds on the \$370 million invested for 2014 and 2015, will help conservation partners and agricultural producers conserve natural resources, leading to cleaner and more abundant water, healthier soil, enhanced wildlife habitat and many other benefits.

East Fork Cadron Creek Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1 million (State)

Lead Partner: Faulkner County Conservation District

Number of Partners: 7

Participating State(s): Arkansas

The East Fork Cadron Creek watershed is located primarily in Faulkner County but also touches Conway, Cleburne and White counties. The East Fork Cadron drains into the Arkansas River. Resource concerns within the project area are water quality degradation due to excessive nutrients and pesticides in surface and groundwater and also excessive sediment in surface waters. The primary source of contamination is cited as agriculture practices causing siltation and turbidity in the water.

Greers Ferry Lake Watershed Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$816,000 (CCA)

Lead Partner: The Nature Conservancy

Number of Partners: 6

Participating State(s): Arkansas

The upper Little Red River (ULRR) watershed in the Ozark ecoregion of Arkansas supports recreational use, water supply, timber industry, productive land for grazing and contains 57 species of greatest conservation need. Water quality degradation and inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife are concerns within the ULRR watershed and will be addressed in this project through the reduction of erosion, sedimentation and excess nutrient runoff. Conservation practices will be targeted towards addressing these concerns and focus on land that directly impacts streams, riparian land. The Nature Conservancy will implement innovative methods such as ""natural channel design"" stream restoration projects and new ways to approach unpaved road improvements to significantly reduce sedimentation in streams while providing cost-effective, long-term solutions to the producers.



West Fork White River Watershed Initiative

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$4.3 million (CCA)

Lead Partner: Watershed Conservation Resource Center

Number of Partners: 14

Participating State(s): Arkansas

The West Fork White River (WFWR) is one of six major tributaries to the White River, which forms Beaver Lake, the primary drinking water source in Northwest Arkansas for 420,000 residents. Beaver Lake watershed is a state nonpoint source priority for sediment and nutrient reduction, and the WFWR is one of the largest contributors of sediment and phosphorus loadings. The Watershed Conservation Resource Center will work with several partners and producers/landowners to 1) design, construct, and establish large-scale river restorations through the PL-566 program that address accelerated streambank erosion at identified priority sites and 2) implement BMPs on agricultural and forest lands through EQIP. These actions should reduce sediment and nutrient loadings to the watershed and prevent the loss of agricultural lands and forest, while improving aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

