



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Investing in New Hampshire - 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 two in New Hampshire. 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.

Beebe River Aquatic Connectivity & Habitat Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$524,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Trout Unlimited

Number of Partners: 5

Participating State(s): New Hampshire

Located in Campton and Sandwich New Hampshire, this project will utilize the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to restore water quality and eliminate habitat fragmentation by replacing undersized and degraded road stream crossings in the Beebe River watershed, a sub-watershed to the Pemigewasset and Merrimack Rivers and part of the largest drainage basin within New Hampshire. The primary focus of this project is to restore instream connectivity on five major tributaries whose headwaters are inaccessible due to severe road/stream crossing barriers by replacing these five undersized barriers with hydraulically and geomorphically compatible structures to reconnect the headwater reaches and to restore each tributary's natural functions. Once reconnected, these high priority cold-water tributaries will reopen close to six miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat and an additional 15 plus miles of interconnected aquatic habitat.

The Young Forest Initiative for At-Risk Species

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$5.2 million (National)

Lead Partner: Wildlife Management Institute

Number of Partners: 12

Participating State(s): Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire (**lead state**), New York, Rhode Island & Vermont

This project will help increase technical and financial assistance to non-industrial private forestland owners who implement practices outlined in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program that result in an increase in the quantity and quality of young forest habitats. This support is critical, since young forest habitat is necessary to meet the critical needs of several recognized at-risk species.

