



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Wisconsin Project Summaries

ABC: Improving Forest Health for Wildlife Resources in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan

Lead Partner: American Bird Conservancy

Funding Pool: National

Building on a strong existing partnership with NRCS, American Bird Conservancy (ABC) seeks to improve forest management on nearly 12,000 acres of nonindustrial forest land in order to provide essential habitat for the golden-winged warbler and other potential threatened and endangered (T&E) species. Partners will implement additional forest management on at least 52,000 acres on public and private lands. Goals of the project include achieving a better distribution of forest habitat to benefit potential T&E species, increasing the population of golden-winged warblers on private lands, and, ultimately, avoiding its listing under the Endangered Species Act. The listing decision is scheduled for 2017.

Reducing Total Phosphorus and Sediment Loads in the Yahara Watershed Through Wisconsin's Adaptive Management Option

Lead Partner: Dane County Land and Water Resources Department

Funding Pool: Critical Conservation Areas – Mississippi River Basin

Wisconsin is the first and currently only state in the country to formally include an innovative, regulatory compliance option for addressing phosphorus, called Watershed Adaptive Management. The primary goal in this proposal is to engage the Yahara watershed agricultural community in this collaborative, watershed-based approach to meet water quality standards and test four alternative conservation innovations, paid for by partner funds. This project will enable a diverse coalition of partners, including agricultural producers, to expand the geographic scope of adaptive management efforts, test innovative delivery approaches, and serve as a model for collaboration between the water, wastewater, and agricultural sectors.

Baraboo River Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Lead Partner: Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department

Funding Pool: State

The Baraboo River Watershed RCPP will focus on improving water quality within the Baraboo River Watershed through the promotion and installation of soil and water conservation practices using USDA-NRCS standards and specifications. These activities will be carried out through collaborating partner agencies utilizing partner provided financial and technical assistance. The Baraboo River has been identified as the second greatest contributor of total phosphorus loading to the Wisconsin River. The primary resource concern that will be addressed through the Baraboo River Watershed RCPP is Water Quality Degradation, or specifically high phosphorus and sediment levels being contributed to surface waters within the watershed.

Oconomowoc River Watershed Water Quality and Soil Loss Improvements

Lead Partner: City of Oconomowoc

Funding Pool: State

The main goal of the project is to improve water quality within and downstream of the Oconomowoc River Watershed. The City of Oconomowoc will be leading this project by working with producers and many other partners to improve water quality. A secondary objective is reduction of soil loss within the watershed. The activity to support these objectives will be working with producers to reduce the amount of soil loss and nutrients in the watershed. Benefits will be improved water quality, and reduced soil and nutrient loss from agricultural lands.

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