

## Missouri State Technical Committee Meeting Minutes September 26, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Nate Goodrich, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Assistant State Conservationist – Partnership and Initiatives. Nate thanked everyone for attending and went through the agenda for the meeting (see attached), then he passed the meeting on to Scott Edwards, NRCS State Conservationist, for opening comments.

Scott greeted the group and then proceeded to go over a few items. He mentioned that we are winding down in Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 22) and then provided a brief update on FY 2023. There will be a tremendous opportunity to get conservation on the ground in this coming year.

Nate then introduced Marilyn Gann, Assistant State Conservationist – Programs.

Marilyn greeted the group and then provided the subcommittee reports for the Water Quality and Source Water Subcommittee as well as the Programs Subcommittee.

Missouri Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds:

- All states have an opportunity to revise their priority areas for source water protection.
- Each state can include up to 20% of the state in priority watersheds.
- These watersheds are considered in program opportunities.
  - \*Examples:
    - Ranking points for applications within a priority watershed
    - Funding pool for applications with land within a priority watershed (FY 2022 EQIP CIC)
- Current map was developed and focuses on public drinking water supply watersheds and risks that may impact source water.
- The Water Subcommittee has recommended additions to the current map, due to nutrient levels and drainage into drinking water reservoirs.
- List of additional watersheds that were recommended by subcommittee are attached.
- Maps included in presentation show in red, areas that are already identified and the blue would be the additions which results in second map that would show what is being proposed this Fiscal Year.

## Missouri High Priority Conservation Practices for EQIP

- States are allowed to identify up to 10 conservation practices.

### \*Missouri Identified:

- 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation
  - 329 – Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
  - 338 – Prescribed Burning
  - 580 – Streambank and Shoreline Protection
  - 381 – Silvopasture Establishment
  - 391 – Filter Strip
  - 393 – Riparian Forest Buffer
  - 590 – Nutrient Management
  - 512 – Pasture and Hayland Planting
  - 528 – Prescribed Grazing
- Water quality and quantity are considered in developing list  
Conservation practices receive 90% payment percentage in EQIP Contracts

Robert Stout made comment about it being a financial incentive to having these practices that the shared cost is reduced.

### Missouri Priority Resource Concerns

- Priority Resource Concerns are considered when appropriate in program opportunities, typically in application ranking and in program structure.
- A resource concern may not apply to all land uses.  
An example is inadequate livestock shelter
- 6 priority resource concerns by the committee are
  - Sleet/rill
  - Classic Gully
  - Planting Productivity and Health
  - Plant Pest Pressure
  - Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates
  - Inadequate livestock shelter

If you have any concerns, please email Scott Edwards by September 29 regarding the following:

- Missouri Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds
- Missouri High Priority Conservation Practices
- Missouri Priority Resource Concerns

Marilyn then passes the meeting over to Jennifer Long, NRCS, Soil Conservationist.

Jennifer greeted the committee and moved into the presentation on RCPP Grants for Nutrient Management.

She discussed RCPP and how it works and then moved into Nutrient Management NFO. She also covered how historically underserved farmers and ranchers will get extra preference.

Jennifer proceeded to discuss:

- How RCPP funds could be used (Financial/Technical)
- What lands qualify for RCPP funding, and what activity is eligible.
- Land management /Rental.

Information was shared about:

- How to apply
- What is expected of project outcomes
- What happens if selected
- Reporting requirements.

Nate opens floor for questions or comments.

Comments:

Brad Powell from Bates County circling back to some practices listed with Marilyn: Talked about cover crops. It seems very selective about using cover crops ahead of soybeans, but not before corn. Suggests working more towards that so maybe some extra incentive. Trying to get them to adapt to cover crops instead of going back to corn.

Robert Stout states that the subcommittee had a couple discussions about the rationale for making the recommendations that we put out here. After those discussions the questions he would like answered how we can determine the efficacy of selecting various practices for prioritization for various areas for implementation of priority of various programs. He also thinks it would be useful in terms of evaluating in how well these prioritizations are working. Are we getting what we want to get out of it? His suggestion is that we think about how best we can get feedback on either watershed base or feedback on how we are reducing sediment or nutrient loading in particular areas.

Nate replies that he agrees that through our standard programs that we don't get into a lot of monitoring or environmental impacts through those so we can track Acres served a number of times or practices have been applied etc. by geographical locales. RCPP, Conservation Innovation Grants, or same projects that would go along with that.

Nates closes meeting at 9:40 and reminded the committee that any comments are due September 29<sup>th</sup> to Scott Edwards regarding the three program topics.

**Missouri State Technical Committee Meeting Attendee's**

**September 26, 2022**

**Personnel Present**

Scott Edwards

Nate Goodrich

Marilyn Gann

Jennifer Long

Ronna Chrisman

Keely Malone

Alyssa Travlos

Steve Wilson

Andrew Rackers

Robert Stout

George Kipp

Dan Engemann

Ken Tomlin

Drew Holt

Amanda Reed

Robert Brundage

Erin Holmes

Reagan Bluel

Robert Parks

Brad Powell

Jake Wilson

Jennifer Eggemeyer

Lisa Potter



# Missouri State Technical Committee

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**Scott Edwards**  
**NRCS State Conservationist**

# Agenda - September 26, 2022

Welcome – Scott Edwards, NRCS State Conservationist

1. **Water Subcommittee: Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023**
2. **Programs Subcommittee and Water Subcommittee: High Priority Conservation Practices for FY 2023**
3. **Programs Subcommittee: Missouri’s Priority Resource Concerns for FY 2023**
4. **RCPP Nutrient Management Grant Opportunity**





# Subcommittee Reports

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**Marilyn Gann**  
**Assistant State Conservationist for Programs**

# Water Subcommittee Members

- Joe Stokes
- Charles Stevens
- Amanda Reed
- Ken Tomlin
- Dan Engemann
- Robert Parks
- Robert Stout
- Tim Gibbons





# Program Subcommittee Members

- Casey Bergthold
- Reagan Bluel
- Spencer Tuma
- Lisa Potter
- Tom Lampe
- Clayton Light
- Melissa Vatterott



# Missouri Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds

- **All states have an opportunity to revise their priority areas for source water protection.**
- **Each state can include up to 20% of the state in priority watersheds.**
- **These watersheds are considered in program opportunities. Examples:**
  - Ranking points for applications within a priority watershed
  - Funding pool for applications with land within a priority watershed (FY 2022 EQIP CIC)
- **The current map was developed focusing public drinking water supply watersheds and risks that may impact source water.**
- **The Water Subcommittee has recommended additions to the current map, due to nutrient levels and drainage into drinking water reservoirs.**



# Missouri Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds – List of additions

Water Subcommittee's  
Recommended Additional  
Watersheds

N/A = Middle Fork Grand River

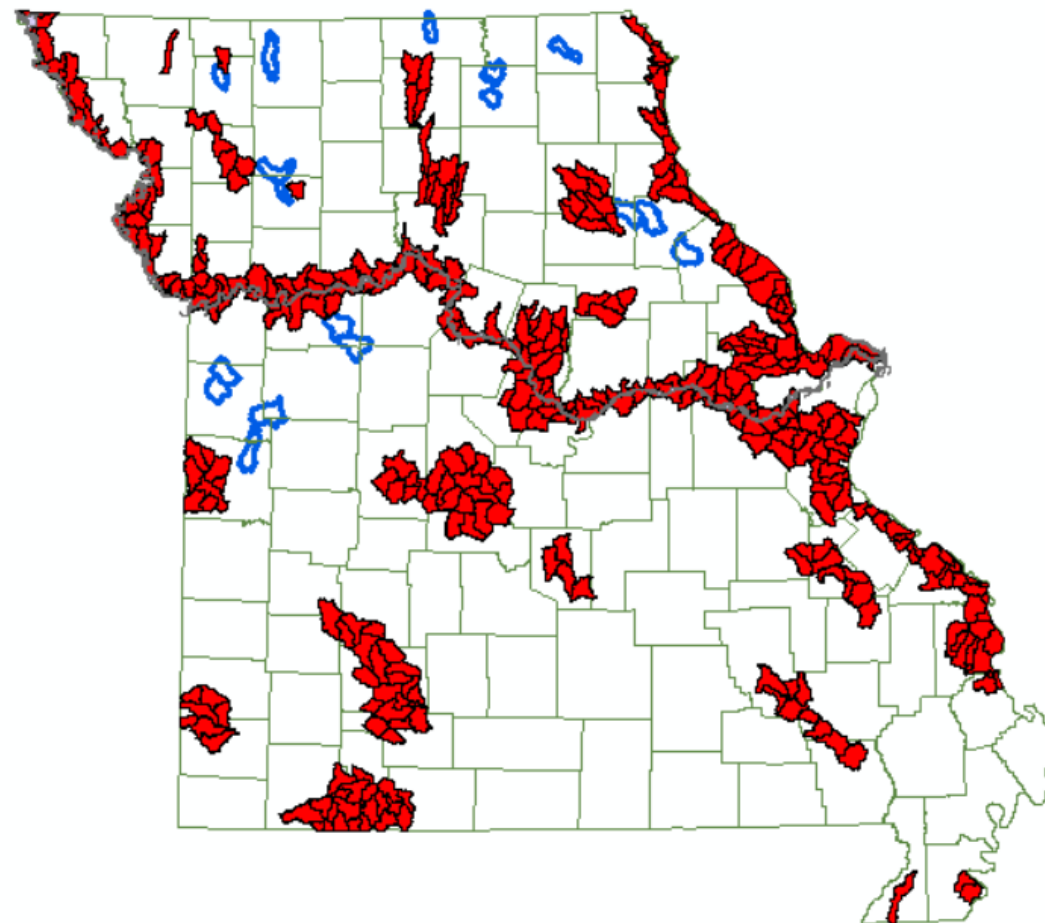
071100070203	South Spencer Creek
071100070301	Ely Creek-Salt River
071100070101	Indian Creek
071100020108	Memphis Reservoir-North Fabius River
102901080301	Middle Big Creek
102901080201	Headwaters East Branch South Grand River
102801011501	Tom Creek
102801011002	Marrowbone Creek
103001040307	Peavine Creek-Blackwater River
102801010906	Little Creek
103001040203	Middle Davis Creek
102802020203	Dave Branch-Chariton River
102802010702	Hazel Creek-Chariton River
102901080503	Elk Fork-South Grand River
102901080402	Panther Creek-Big Creek
102802010501	Lake Thunderhead-North Blackbird Creek
102802010501	Lake Thunderhead-North Blackbird Creek
102801010307	#N/A

Natural  
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[nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov)

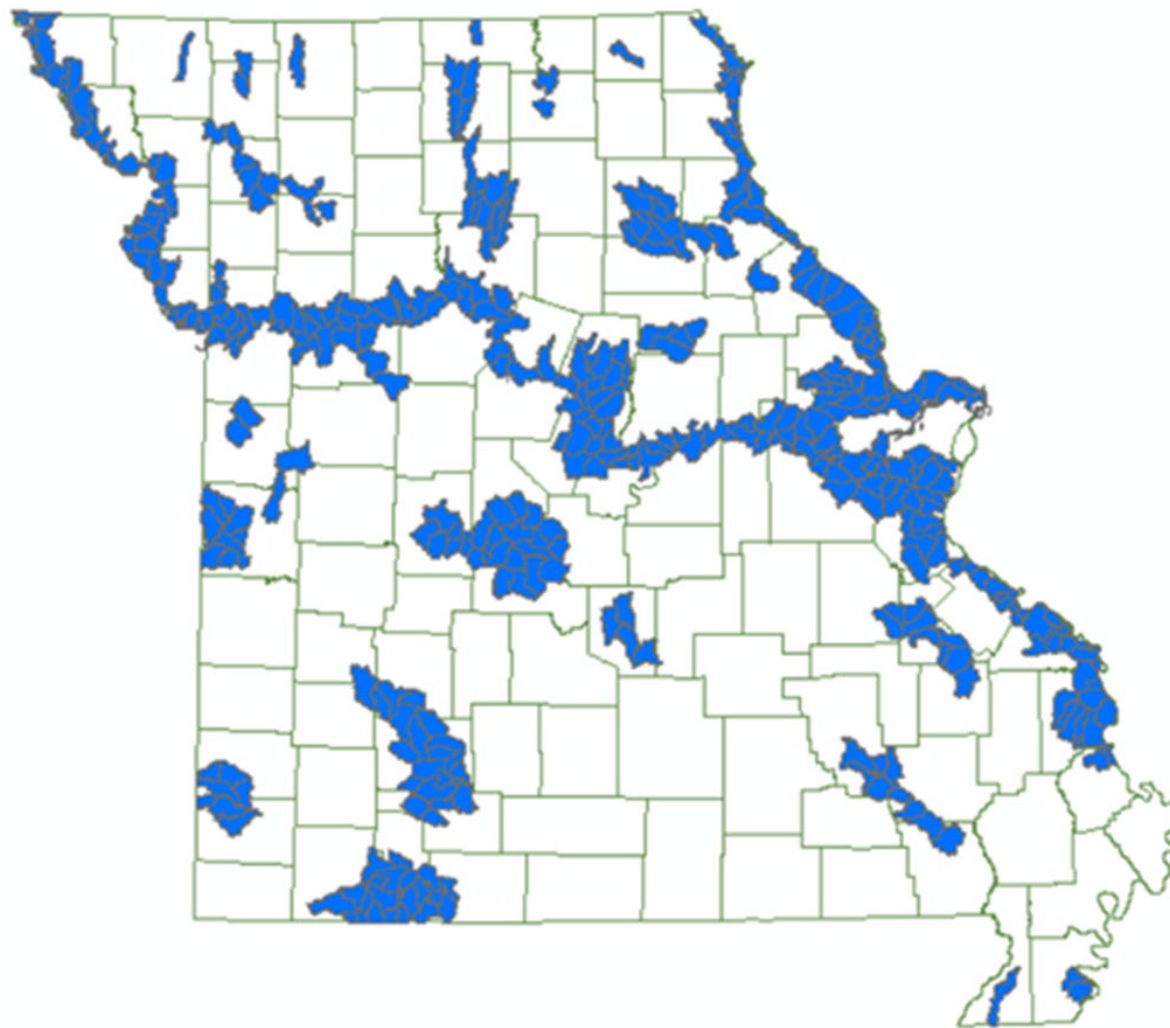
# Missouri Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds

Red: on current map  
Blue: additions



# Missouri Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds

The blue highlighted areas cover 20% of the state. 20% is the maximum that a state can include in Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds



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[nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov)

# Missouri High Priority Conservation Practices for EQIP

- **States are allowed to identify up to ten conservation practices**
- **Water Quality and Water Quantity are considered in developing the list**
- **These conservation practices receive 90% payment percentage in EQIP contracts**
- **Focus on conservation practices that are not currently easily adopted**
  - For example, cover crop was discussed by the subcommittee, but it is currently a common conservation practice we see in program applications in Missouri
- **List has been developed with input from the Programs and Water Subcommittees and technical review**



# Ten High Priority Conservation Practices for 2023 EQIP

(EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

**328 – Conservation Crop Rotation**

**329 – Residue and Tillage Management, No Till**

**338 – Prescribed Burning**

**580– Streambank and Shoreline Protection**

**381 – Silvopasture Establishment**

**393 – Filter Strip**

**391 – Riparian Forest Buffer**

**590 – Nutrient Management**

**512 – Pasture and Hayland Planting**

**528 – Prescribed Grazing**

# Missouri Priority Resource Concerns

- **Priority Resource Concerns are considered when appropriate in program opportunities, typically in application ranking and in program structure**
  - Program structure example – EQIP CIC focuses on 1 to 3 resource concerns.
    - (EQIP CIC: Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract)
- **A resource concern may not apply to all land uses. An example is inadequate livestock shelter**
- **List has been developed with input from the Programs Subcommittee**





# Missouri's Priority Resource Concerns

- **Sheet and Rill Erosion**
- **Classic Gully Erosion**
- **Plant Productivity and Health**
- **Plant Pest Pressure**
- **Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates**
- **Inadequate Livestock Shelter**

# Comments

Email comments to State Conservationist Scott Edwards at [Scott.Edwards@usda.gov](mailto:Scott.Edwards@usda.gov) by September 29, 2022 regarding any of the following –

- Missouri Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds
- Missouri High Priority Conservation Practices
- Missouri Priority Resource Concerns



# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grants for Nutrient Management

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**Jenny Long**  
**Soil Conservationist**

# How does RCPP Work?

- **What** - RCPP helps producers protect working agricultural lands to ensure resilience to climate change by increasing the sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife, and related natural resources.
- **How** - NRCS and partners co-invest in conservation activities to address resource concerns at a regional scale.
- **Where** – Private or Tribal agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, or associated land on which an eligible activity would benefit agricultural land.
- **Duration** – RCPP projects are typically five years.



# Nutrient Management NFO

- NRCS seeks RCPP applications that help producers achieve conservation benefits through more efficient nutrient management
- Nutrient management activities are eligible under CCA water quality priority resource concerns
- It is anticipated that successful project proposals will demonstrate familiarity with the NRCS 590 Nutrient Management practice standard and associated practice standards that impact nutrient management

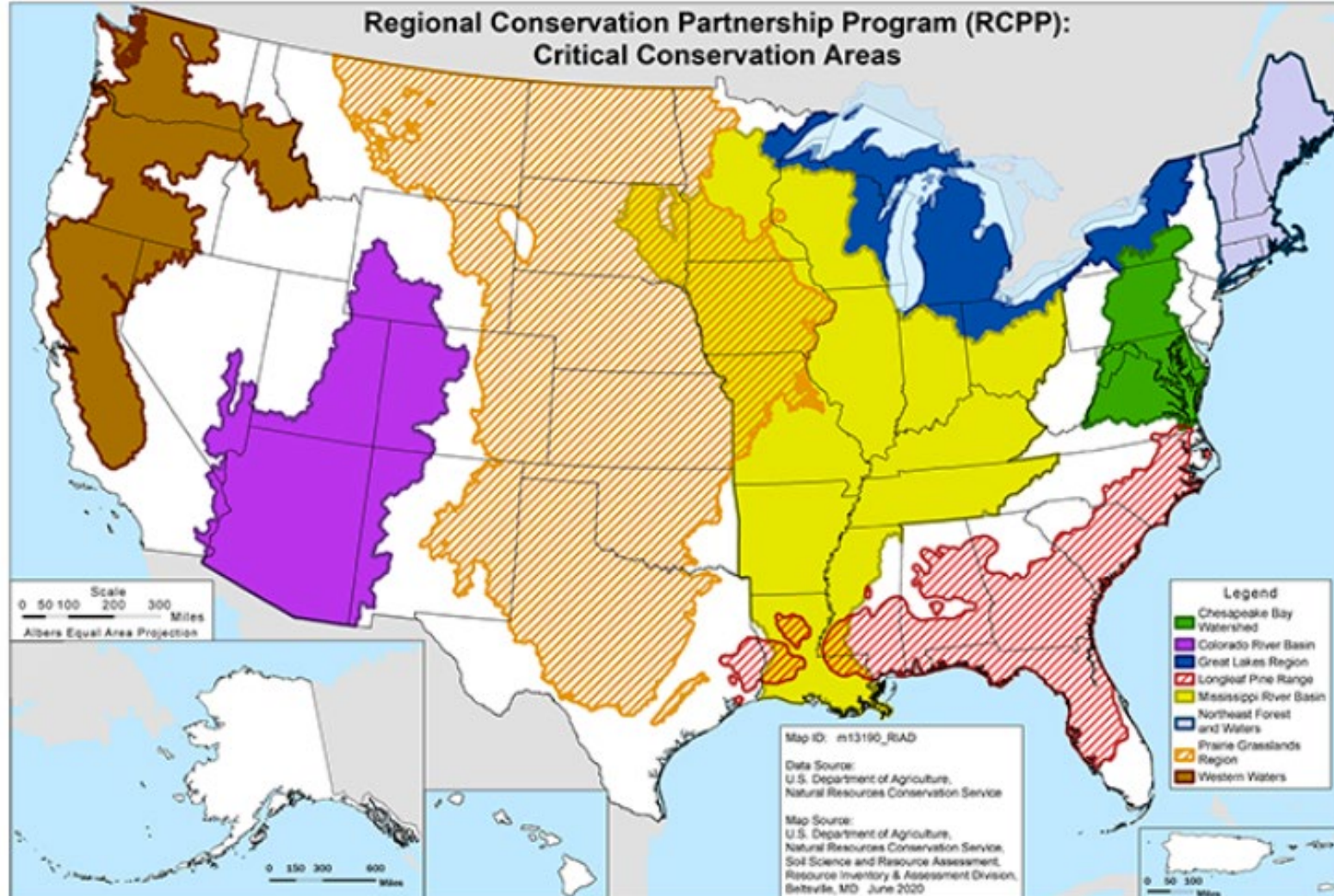


# Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

- NRCS gives priority consideration to RCPP proposals that propose meaningful and measurable engagement with and benefit to HU farmers, ranchers, and landowners
- HU producers may be eligible for special incentives to encourage their participation in RCPP projects



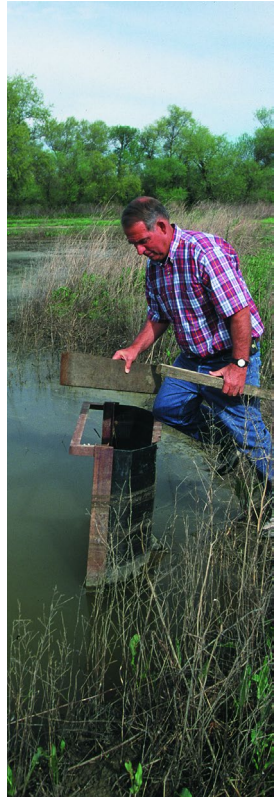
# RCCP Critical Conservation Areas



# Who Can Apply for RCPP?

## From 7 CFR 1464.5 (b)

1. An agricultural or silvicultural producer association or other group of producers;
2. A State or unit of local government, including a conservation district;
3. An Indian Tribe;
4. A farmer cooperative;
5. An institution of higher education;
6. A water district, irrigation district, acequia, rural water district or association, or other organization with specific water delivery authority to producers on agricultural land;
7. A municipal water or wastewater treatment entity;
8. An organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers on agricultural land, as determined by the Secretary, to address -
  - i. Local conservation priorities related to agricultural production, wildlife habitat development, and NIPF management; or
  - ii. Critical watershed-scale soil erosion, water quality, sediment reduction, or other natural resource concerns; or
9. An eligible entity as identified by NRCS pursuant to [7 CFR part 1468](#).





# What are the expectations for partner contributions?

- RCPP's statute sets the expectation that eligible partners shall provide a significant portion of the overall costs of the scope of the project.
- Contributions help amplify the impact of federal funding in the project area.
- Contributions can be cash or in-kind.
- Contributions can come from third parties that are not eligible RCPP partners.
- Contributions from federal agencies can count, but USDA agencies (such as NRCS, Forest Service, etc.) cannot count towards project contributions.



# How can RCPP funding be used?

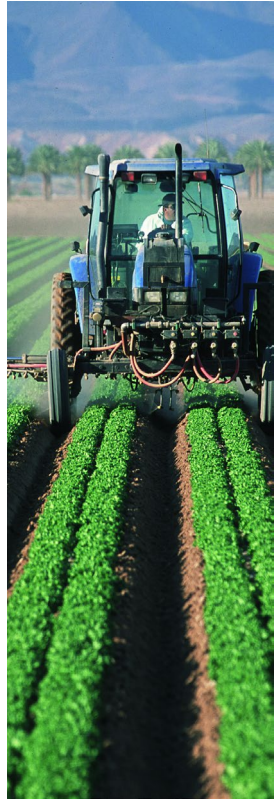
- Financial Assistance
  - These funds are used to implement eligible activities on eligible land.
- Technical Assistance
  - Cannot exceed 25% of project budget.
  - Supports the implementation of FA activities, may include design, installation, and checkout.
  - TA funding can also be used for project support activities.



# What land is eligible for RCPP funding?

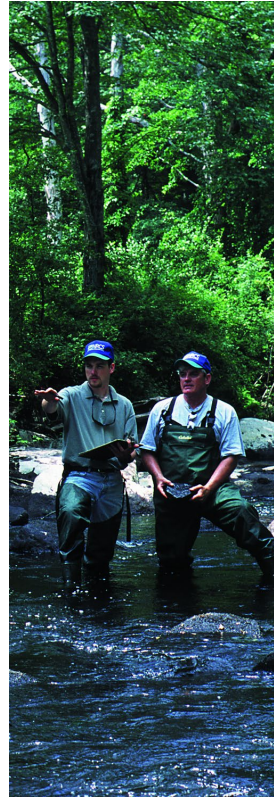
## From 7 CFR 1464.5 (b)

1. The land is private or Tribal agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, or associated land on which an eligible activity would help achieve the conservation benefits defined for an approved project; or
2. The land is publicly owned agricultural land or associated land and the enrollment of such land is -
  - i. Appropriate for the type of eligible activity, and
  - ii. The eligible activity to be implemented on the public land is necessary and will contribute meaningfully to achieving conservation benefits consistent with an approved project.



# What is an Eligible Activity?

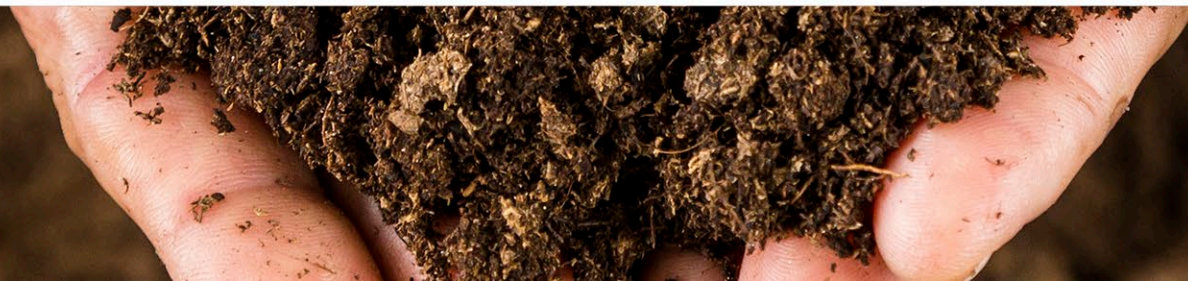
Activity Type	Similar Program Authorities
Land Management	EQIP, CSP
Rental	CRP (but with short-term contracts)
<del>US-Held Easement</del>	<del>ACEP-ALE/WRE &amp; HFRP (easement acquisition component)</del>
<del>Entity-Held Easement</del>	<del>ACEP-ALE/WRE &amp; HFRP (easement acquisition component)</del>
Watershed Project	PL-566





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# How to Apply



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[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# How to Apply

## NFO posted on Grants.gov

Opportunity number: USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPPNM-22-NOFO0001221

## Applications submitted through grants.gov

## Grants.gov Applicant Support

1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

**Proposals due October 31, 2022**



# What is included in an RCPP Proposal?

- **Cover Page**
- **Project Abstract**
- **Project Narrative**
- **Project Deliverables and Timeline**
- **Communications Plan**
- **Geographic Location and Size of Project**
- **Project Management Plan**
- **Application Form (SF-424)**
- **Budget Information (SF-424a)**
- **Budget Table**
- **Budget Narrative**



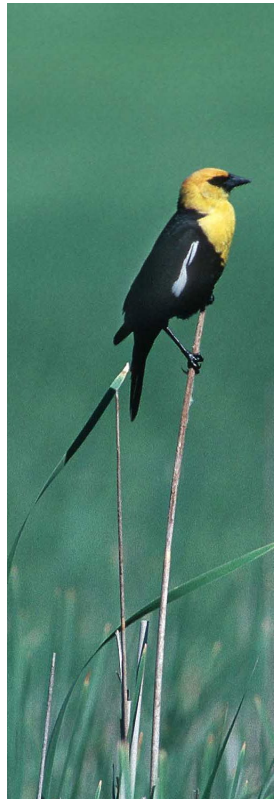
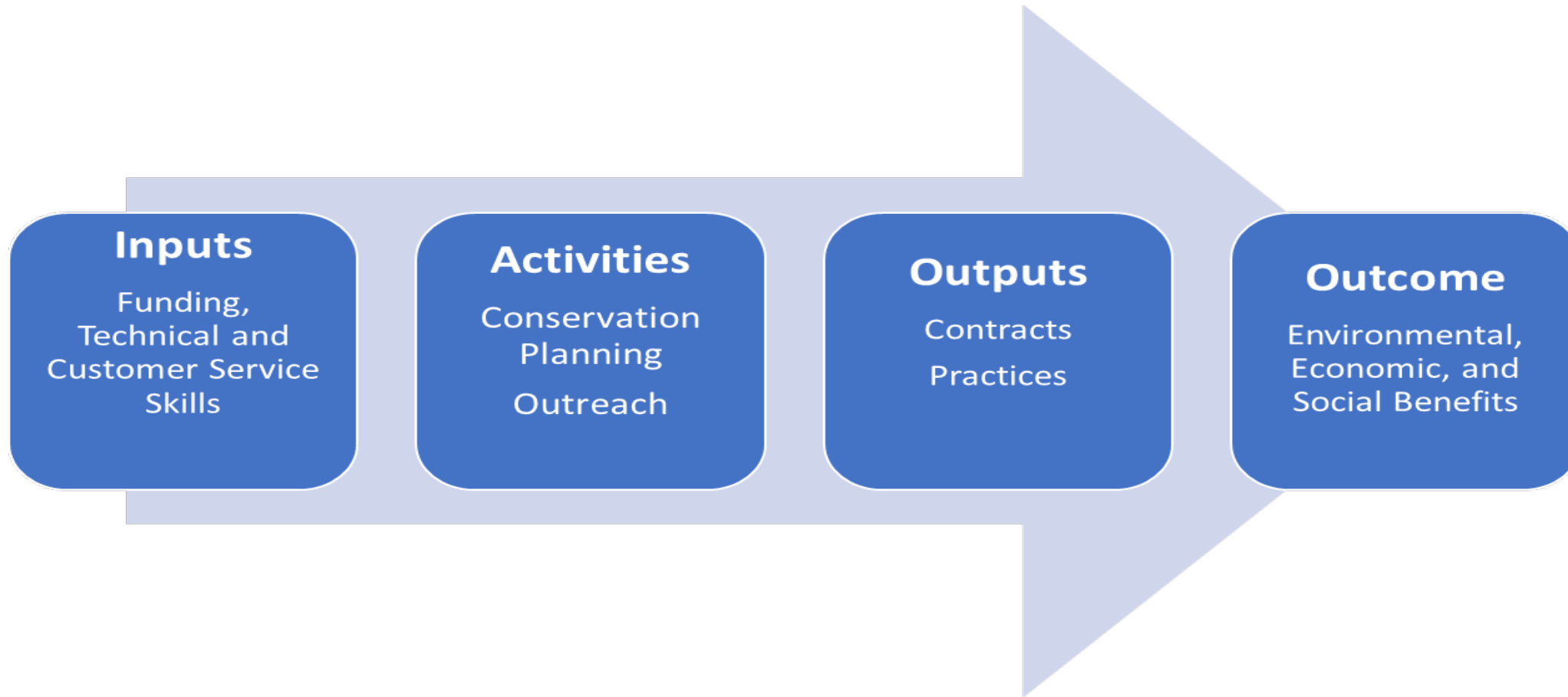
# How are proposals evaluated?

- **Impact** – How will the project address resource concerns in the proposed geographic area?
- **Partner Contributions** – How will contributions amplify the impact of NRCS funding?
- **Innovation** – How will this project address resource concerns that cannot be met through other Farm Bill programs? Or will this project more effectively address resource concerns?
- **Partnership & Project Management** – How effectively can the experience and resources of the partners support this project?





# What is expected of project outcomes?



# What is expected of project outcomes?

- **All RCPP projects must develop an approach to report on environmental outcomes, included in project deliverables.**
- **Economic and social outcome reporting is optional.**
- **Partners must report on progress measuring and achieving outcomes in annual and final reports.**



# Historically Underserved Producers

- **Encompasses Beginning, Veteran, Socially Disadvantaged and Limited Resource producers.**
- **NRCS intends to award a significant amount of available funding to projects that meaningfully benefit HU producers.**
- **All proposals will receive an HU index rating based on their plan to include HU partners and producers. Additional points awarded to projects that entirely or primarily benefit HU producers.**



# How to Apply

1. Obtain a UEI and register in SAM.gov
2. Register with grants.gov
3. Go to the funding opportunity (USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPPNM-22-NOFO0001221) and click apply.



The screenshot displays the Grants.gov interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'SEARCH: Grant Opportunities' and a 'GO' button. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with options: HOME, LEARN GRANTS, SEARCH GRANTS, APPLICANTS, GRANTORS, SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM, CONNECT, and SUPPORT. The main content area is titled 'VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY' and features the USDA logo and the following text: 'USDA-NRCS-NHQ-CIGCLASSIC-22-NOFO0001218', 'Announcement for Program Funding for NRCS's Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Classic Program for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2022', 'Department of Agriculture', and 'Natural Resources Conservation Service'. To the right of this text are two red buttons: 'Apply' and 'Subscribe'. Below the main text are tabs for 'SYNOPSIS', 'VERSION HISTORY', 'RELATED DOCUMENTS', and 'PACKAGE'. At the bottom, there is a 'General Information' section with the following details: Document Type: Grants Notice; Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NRCS-NHQ-CIGCLASSIC-22-NOFO0001218; Funding Opportunity Title: Announcement for Program Funding for NRCS's; Version: Synopsis 7; Posted Date: Aug 10, 2022; Last Updated Date: Aug 10, 2022. A yellow arrow points from the top right towards the 'Apply' button.



# What happens after selection?

- **Partners may begin tracking contributions from the date the Secretary announces the award.**

Note: Work with the RCPP Coordinator to ensure these activities will count as eligible contributions and include them in the negotiated agreement.

- **Lead State will coordinate grant agreement negotiation with Lead Partner and the Grants and Agreements Division.**



# Reporting Requirements

- **All reports will be submitted through ezFedGrants**
  - Annual progress report including outcomes
  - Financial reporting (including delivery of partner contributions)
  - Final progress report including outcomes
  - Post award reporting of awards greater than \$500k (Appendix XII of 2 C.F.R. § 200)





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# Questions?

For more information please visit: [How to Apply](#)

For a list of State RCPP Coordinators please visit the How to Apply page and go to the section called "Resources for Submitting a Proposal".

National RCPP Team: [RCPP@usda.gov](mailto:RCPP@usda.gov)



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