

Regional Conservation
Partnership Program
FY23 Notice of Funding
Opportunity

Oregon Perspective

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Goals:

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- Help potential applicants develop strong proposals.
 - Augment the National RCPP Webinar
 - Build awareness of the Program
 - Decision support about different funding pools
 - Address your questions



The Funding Announcement Essentials

- Deadline to submit proposals is **August 18**
- Proposals must be submitted through the RCPP Portal.
 - You need to apply for access (takes 2-5 days)
- Don't wait until the last minute.
- Administrative Priorities
 - Climate-Smart
 - Urban Ag
 - Racial Justice & Equity

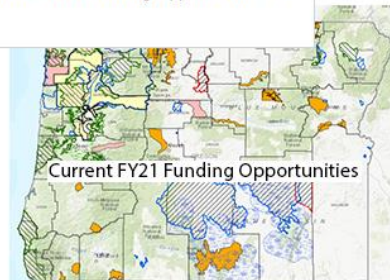


Oregon's Approach to RCPP and our Strategic Approach to Conservation

Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation



Current FY21 Funding Opportunities



[Interactive Map Highlights Oregon's Strategic Approach](#)

View our new interactive map featuring current funding opportunities (Conservation Implementation Strategies) in Oregon.

Oregon's Regional Conservation Partnership Program



STRATEGIC
LANDSCAPE/WATERSHED
SCALE



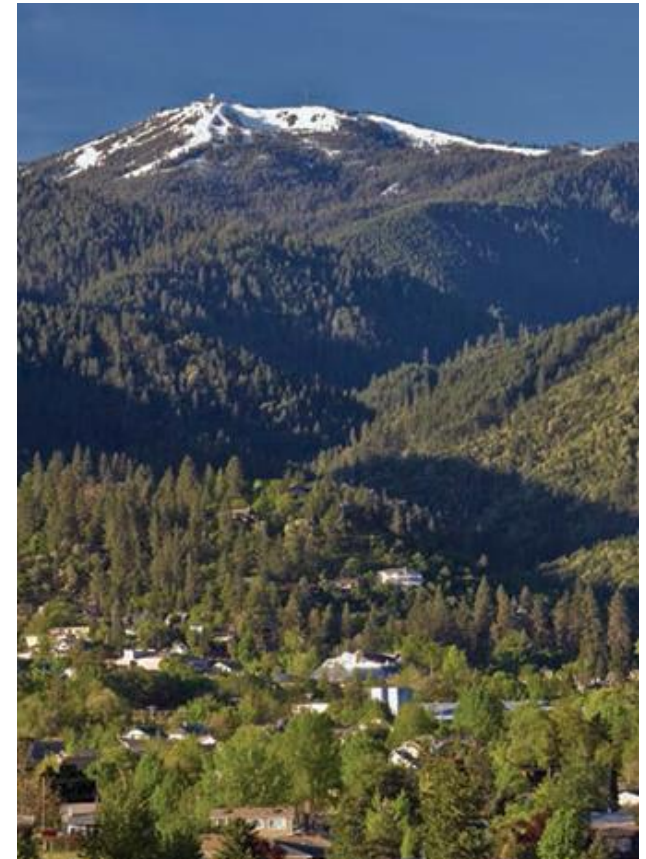
~\$10-20 MILLION PER
YEAR FOR MULTIPLE
PROJECTS



AN EVOLVING PROGRAM



RCPP IS NOT A GRANT –
IT'S A PROJECT-BASED
PARTNERSHIP



Oregon RCPP - Highlights

In Oregon, We have a portfolio of projects that are making an impact at landscape & watershed scales.

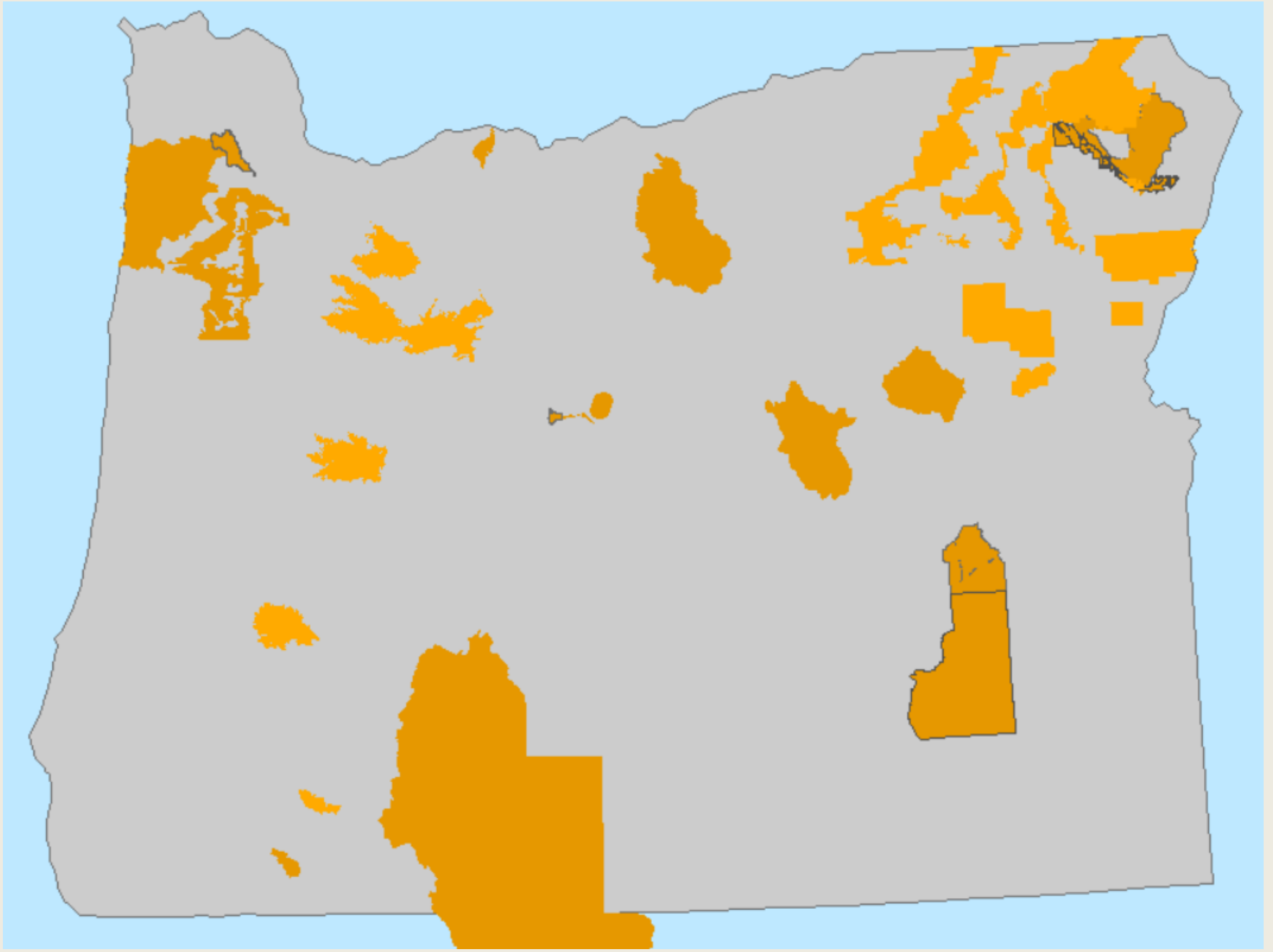
RCPP 2015-2023

- 35 Projects
- \$89 million in NRCS funding allocated
- ~\$130 million in partner contributed funds
- => \$200 million invested in strategic conservation

Current RCPP

- **24 Projects**
- **\$83 million in NRCS funding, \$103 million partner contributions**

Current Projects in Oregon



Projected IRA Funding

Inflation Reduction Act--RCPP

- **FY 23--\$250 million**
 - **FY 24--\$800 million**
 - **FY 25--\$1.5 billion**
 - **FY 26—\$2.4 billion**
-
- **15 awards per FY for AFA/grants is removed**

Eligible Lead Partners (current Oregon projects in green)

- **An agricultural or silvicultural producer association or other group of producers;**
- **A state or local government (ODF)**
- **An Indian Tribe** (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs)
- **A Conservation District** (Gilliam, Wallowa, Polk, Yamhill, Harney, Tualatin, Columbia)
- **A Farmer Cooperative**
- **A Water district, irrigation district, etc.** (Three Sisters Irrigation District, East Fork Irrigation District)
- **A municipal water or wastewater treatment entity**
- **An institution of higher education**
- **An organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers on ag land** (TNC, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Wallowa Resources, Farmers Conservation Alliance, Crooked River Watershed Council, SF John Day Watershed Council)

FY 2023 NFO Timeline



Date	Milestone
May 19	NFO Posted
May 24 & July 7	Partner Webinars
August 18th 4:59pm EDT	Proposal Submission Deadline
Fall (by mid-Dec)	Project Selections

NFO Highlights

- **\$500M total for Classic and AFA projects**
- **\$50M set-aside for AFAs with Tribal Entities**
- **Project maximum increased to \$25M**
- **Replaced 70/30 FA &TA split with a 25% cap for TA**
- **Removed Innovation from the project scoring**
- **Removed the 1:1 Partner Contribution ratio**
- **Entity-Held easement maximum federal share is 25/50/75, based on US ROE & benefit to HU landowners**
- **Allows use of covered program deeds**
 - US-Held easements may use WRE, HFRP, or other deed templates for US-held easements
 - Entity-Held easements may use ACEP-ALE template

Where will your proposal go – funding pool?

- Does the partner want to implement the conservation activities? - AFA
- Does the partner have the capacity to deliver a majority of the technical assistance? - AFA
- Does the partner want NRCS to be involved heavily? - Classic
- Are there significant climate-smart or climate resilience aspects – IRA
- Is the project located in the Western Waters CCA and address water quality/quantity and/or Inadequate habitat for fish, wildlife, and invertebrates. – Then go CCA, if not State/Multi-State



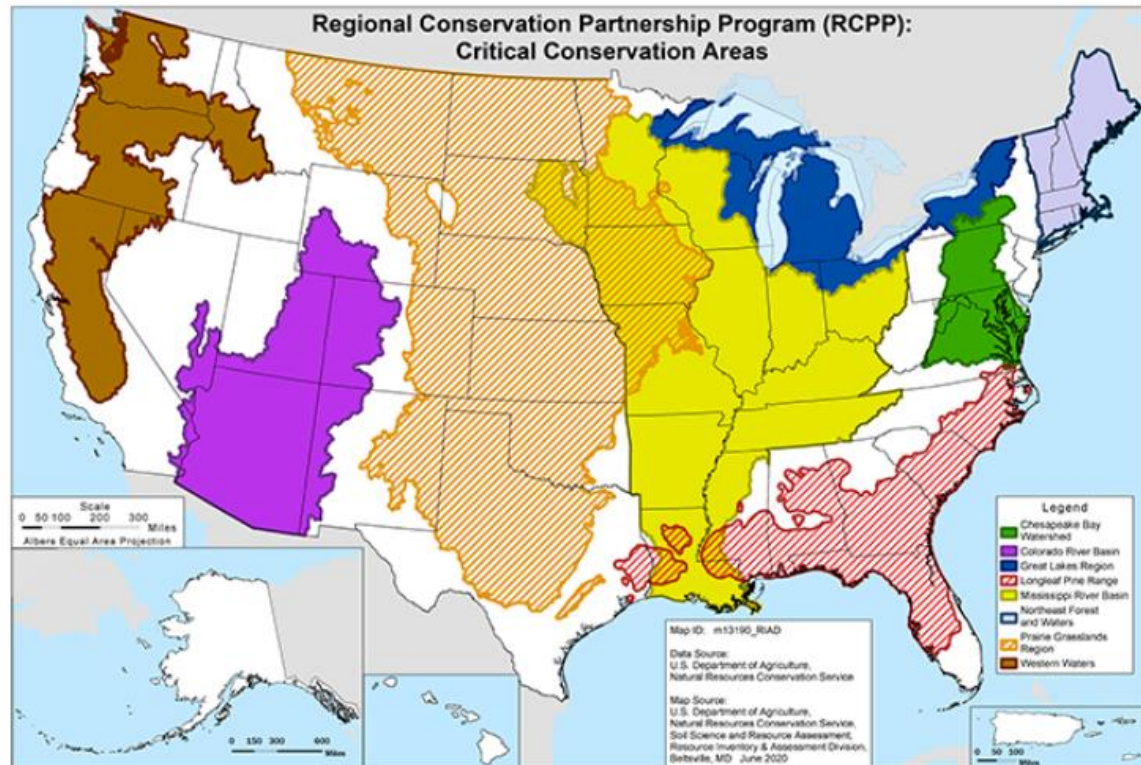
RCPP Funding Pools

State/Multi-State

- Can include any RCPP resource concern or conservation benefit.

Critical Conservation Areas

- Project *and producer contracts or easements* under this project must address at least one CCA-specific priority resource concern.
- A single proposal cannot include multiple CCAs.
- See the [RCPP website](#) for more information.



Farm Bill vs IRA Funding

- **Proposals will not specify whether they seek Farm Bill or IRA funding.**
- **Projects with a high climate smart impact score will get preference among IRA funding**
- **NRCS will create a single award slate that balances**
 - IRA prioritization,
 - A 50/50 split between funding pools (CCA & State/Multi-State)
 - state evaluations for Classic,
 - and the national review team recommendations for AFA



How are proposals evaluated?

- **Impact (50%)** – How will the project address resource concerns in the proposed geographic area?
- **Partner Contributions (15%)** – How will contributions amplify the impact of NRCS funding?
- **Partnership & Project Management (35%)** – How effectively can the experience and resources of the partners support this project?



RCPP Improvement Process

- NRCS held a number of events to get input on barriers to RCPP implementation, with partner and staff.
- It's a high priority to develop more streamlined
 - PPA Agreements
 - Supplemental Agreements
 - Payment Processes
 - Portal
 - Contracting
- We expect that RCPP will be noticeably improved in this next FY.



Oregon's Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program

From 2015 to 2022

The information on this handout represents Oregon's RCPP data from 2015-2022.

NRCS Oregon invested over \$60M

Worked with 200 partner organizations

Worked on over 200,000 acres

Partners contributed over \$100M

600 landowner contracts



The Four Pillars of RCPP

IMPACT



Partnership projects produce a collective impact that no single organization can achieve alone

INNOVATION



Large-scale conservation challenges require creative solutions

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS



NRCS contributes 50% of resources, partners contribute the other 50%

COLLABORATION



Working together from start to finish is key to successful collaboration

Through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), NRCS and partners work together to invest in and amplify regional conservation investments.

RCPP Project Locations



- Forest Health
- Waterfowl
- Salmon & Native Fish Habitat
- Invasive Plants
- Upland Habitat
- Irrigation Modernization

Successful RCPPs start at the local level. Visit www.or.nrcs.usda.gov to contact your local field office and start the process.

The information on this handout represents Oregon's RCPP data from 2015-2022.

Oregon's RCPP Highlights

- 4,000 acres of restored oak woodland habitat
- 5,000 acres of restored wetland habitat
- Installed 25 miles of irrigation pipeline
- Reduced wildfire risks on 300,000 acres
- Innovation in Carbon Markets for small forest landowners
- Enrolled 23,000 acres in conservation easements
- 35 stream miles restored
- Thousands of riparian areas restored or protected

