

**The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
and the Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District
Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CRSL)
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
Land Management (LM) Signup.**

Background

The Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CRSL) committee is a 17-partner team comprised of Federal, State, County, Local and non-government organizations with a diverse scope of conservation priorities. The CRSL was chosen because it's at a convergence of quality water features, including 50 of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River and four tributaries; two ecological zones and thousands of acres of public and private lands with Camp Ripley, the largest Game Refuge in the state, as the anchor. The project area encompasses 804,557 acres which capture the off-post military use areas and partner priorities in leveraging sustainability of the military mission, working lands and land conservation. Goals include: Nutrient reduction of 20% phosphorus and nitrogen in the highest priority HUC12 minor watersheds and forest restoration and enhancement that promotes soil stabilization, habitat enhancement specifically for Northern Long-eared bat (T&E listed species), avoided conversion, soil and forest health, ground water recharge and surface water quality enhancement.

The RCPP CRSL Land Management Sign up offers financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance on conservation activities that will address the identified resource concerns in the project area.

Application Period

Applications may be taken at any time. Producers must submit an RCPP application on or before **December 15, 2023** to be considered for funding.

Eligible Project Area

Producers located within the CRSL project area are eligible to participate in the project's RCPP-LM sign-up. The conservation activity(s) identified in the application must be located within the four eligible counties: **Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd**

Eligible Activities and Payment Rates

LM activities include NRCS-approved conservation practices and enhancements. "FY24_2677 RCPP LM Payment Schedule & Eligible Activities" provides the activities eligible for RCPP LM-#2677 CRSL project and payment rates. Project specific cost list in CD: **Minnesota RCPP18 2245 2677-1**

Eligible Land Uses

- **Associated Agriculture Lands**
- **Crop**
- **Farmstead**
- **Forest**
- **Pasture**
- **Protected**
- **Other Rural Land**

Eligible Resource Concerns and Resource Concern Categories

- **Aquatic Habitat**
- **Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss**
- **Terrestrial Habitat**
- **Weather Resilience**

Assessments

Planners must assess all RCPP applications using CART. **A maximum of 2 Resource Concerns/Primary Practice will be assessed. Only eligible Resource Concerns will be assessed.**

Prioritization Worksheet

No prioritization will be used.

Ranking

Ranking of the applications will be done according to the ranking system posted on the MN NRCS web site for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture RCPP-LM. All rankings will be conducted in CART. The efficiency score calculated in the CART ranking must be used when a tie breaker is needed between one or more RCPP-LM applications. When using the tie breaker, NRCS will select the application with the highest efficiency score first.

CART Ranking Pool-2677 LM Producer FY2024

Funding

Available RCPP-LM #2677 CRSL funds will be allocated based on the numerical ranking system set forth on the web site. All ranking will be conducted in CART. If insufficient funds are available to fund all eligible applicants, applications will be held and may be funded with extra RCPP- LM #2677 CRSL funds if available or deferred to the next ranking period.

Payment Limitations/Payment CAPs

Each RCPP- LM contract with a person or legal entity is limited to \$450,000 over the term of the contract, and each RCPP-LM contract with a joint operation (Farm Service Agency business type 2 or 3) or group projects may have a contract limit of up to \$900,000.

Reference “FY24_2677 RCPP LM CRSL Payment Schedule & Eligible Activities” for applicable conservation activities under this project.

Program Ranking Questions (200 Points Max)

1. Is the program application for a forestry practice? **90 pts**
2. Is the program application for a pastureland practice? **70 pts**
3. Is the program application is for a HU customer? **40 pts**

Resource Concern Ranking Questions (200 Points Max)

1. At least one practice in this application will improve forestry quality for the Northern Long eared bat? **70 pts**
2. At least one practice in the application will be installed within a Wellhead Protection (WHP) Area: Land within a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) boundary that has been classified as High or Very High in Vulnerability by the Minnesota Department of Health. **60 pts**

Reference GIS CD Layer: RCPP LM_CRSL DWSMA

3. At least one practice in this application will address soil health by implementing (329) residue management - no till and/or (340) cover crop – multiple species. **40 pts**
4. Will the proposed project improve water quality by reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, or pesticides on land within 300 feet from a waterbody? **20 pts**

Guidance: 300’ or less is defined by the Surface Water GIS layer buffer and all or a portion of the practice must be located within 300’. This includes impaired and non-impaired.

5. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of (360) waste facility closure, (313) waste storage facility and (590) nutrient management and/or (316) animal mortality facility? **10 pts**

CONTRACT POLICY GUIDANCE RCPP LM # 2677 CRSL

- The payment limit is established per individual/entity per year at \$50,000 for the following practices:

Practice Code	Practice Name	Payment Cap
314	Brush Management	\$50,000
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	\$50,000
340	Cover Crop	\$50,000
554	Drainage Water Management	\$50,000
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt.	\$50,000
592	Feed Management	\$50,000
511	Forage Harvest Management	\$50,000
379	Forest Farming	\$50,000
449	Irrigation Water Management	\$50,000
484	Mulching	\$50,000
590	Nutrient Management	\$50,000
595	Pest Management Conservation System	\$50,000
338	Prescribed Burning	\$50,000
528	Prescribed Grazing	\$50,000
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	\$50,000
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	\$50,000
643	Restoration of Raze/Declining Natural Communities	\$50,000
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	\$50,000

Management practices (1-year lifespan):

- Payments for management practices are limited to a maximum of 3 separate payments during the life of the contract.

Point of Contact (POC) RCPP LM # 2677 CRSL

RCPP LM Agreement: Michelle Legatt – Acting RCPP Coordinator

RCPP LM Contract Implementation: Deb Hermel – Acting ASTC-Programs

-Please route all questions through Area Office staff