

A photograph of two men standing next to a silver pickup truck in a rural setting. One man is pointing at the truck's hood while the other looks on. In the background, there are red barns and a white fence.

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The Regional Conservation and Partnership Program (RCPP) funds partnerships between conservation groups and agricultural producers to enhance soil, water, and wildlife conservation in multi-state or watershed-scale projects.
- State, local, and NGO partners match federal funds 1-to-1, totaling \$2.4 billion for conservation between 2014-2018.
- Funds are distributed 40% to multi-state projects, 25% for single state, and 35% in eight Critical Conservation Areas.

A close-up photograph of a duck with a yellow beak and brown feathers, standing in a field of green plants.

## AWWG Recommendations

### **Option 1: Maintain current program structure, but with the following improvements:**

- \$100 million annual mandatory funding and continue the 7% allocation of Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) funding to RCPP.
- Maintain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) waiver authority and add EQIP pay cap waiver authority.
- Allow recoverability of a limited portion of project partners' administrative costs.

**For more information, please visit [www.trcp.org/farmbill](http://www.trcp.org/farmbill) or contact Alex Maggos ([amaggos@trcp.org](mailto:amaggos@trcp.org))**

### AWWG Recommendations cont'd

- Provide NRCS with a fixed percentage of RCPP funds to provide necessary technical assistance and administration prior to awarding grants.
- Maintain Critical Conservation Area, national, and state funding structure, and assess opportunities for refining allocations.
- Allow for flexibility in partner contributions to allow non-federal easement to count as match.
- Allow adjustments to cost share rates according to conservation or environmental performance.
- Promote conservation innovations by expanding the Secretary's authority to enter into flexible contracts.

### Option 2: Replace current structure with a new competitive grant program with partner match requirements.

- Authorized at \$250 million annually.
- Maintain CCA, National, and State structure.
- Do not use EQIP, CSP, or ACEP contracts. Allow NGO-approved contracts.
- Require partners to match grant funding.
- Base grants on achievement of verified conservation outcomes.

## Partner Project Highlight

### Delmarva Whole System Conservation Partnership

- The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and 30+ partners from industry, academia, and Federal, State, and Local governments working to implement in-field and in-stream conservation practices on working lands in the Chesapeake Bay region
- Wetland acres: 312 restored; 551 protected
- Buffer acres: 98 restored; 344 protected
- 424 additional acres lands protected
- 8,200 acres in advanced nutrient management through NRCS

Agricultural Water  
Enhancement Program

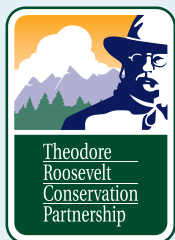
Cooperative Conservation  
Partnership Initiative

Chesapeake Bay  
Watershed Program

Great Lakes  
Basin Program

2014  
Farm Bill

RCPP



529 14th Street NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20045  
202-639-08727 (TRCP)

For more information, please visit  
[www.trcp.org/farmbill](http://www.trcp.org/farmbill)  
or contact Alex Maggos ([amaggos@trcp.org](mailto:amaggos@trcp.org))