

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Mark Sargent
Field Operations Manager
Southwest Region
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RCPP Background

- RCPP is a 2014 Farm Bill Program
- Promotes coordination with NRCS and partners to deliver conservation to producers
- Assistance is delivered through NRCS programs:
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)



RCPP Purpose and Funding

- Encourages partners to join efforts with producers to conserve
 - Soil and Water
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Regional or Watershed Scales



RCPP Purpose and Funding

- Funding is competitive at three different scales
- \$235 million
- 50:50 partnership
- Mainly financial assistance to landowners/producers
- Some technical assistance funds for delivery
- 5 years to complete the work



Michigan's Process and Applications

- QOL facilitated partners and projects
- 7 projects were submitted
 - Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative
 - Michigan/ Indiana St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation
 - Saginaw Bay Watershed Conservation Partnership
 - Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership
 - Training Foresters to Enhance the Sustainable Management of Private Forest Land
 - Upper Great Lakes Healthy Forest
 - Early Successional Forest Habitat
- 5 of the 7 were funded- over \$30 million of federal dollars



Technical Assistance

- Some USDA funds
- Partner Contributions
 - NGO's- TNC, DU, PF, NWTf
 - Private Sector- MABA
 - Conservation Districts
 - Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
 - District Foresters
 - Michigan Agriculture Environment Assistance Program Technicians
 - Other CD staff



Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative

- Over 30 partners from Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana
- \$17.5 million Federal
- Objectives
 - Reduced Phosphorus
 - Reduced Sediment
 - Improved Fish and Wildlife Habitat



Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative

- Practices
 - Nutrient Management
 - Nutrient management plans
 - Variable rate application
 - Erosion Control
 - Cover crops
 - Grass waterways
 - Water Management
 - Conservation buffers
 - Filter strips
 - Wetland restorations



Michigan/ Indiana St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Project

- Over 40 partners from Michigan and Indiana
- \$6.8 million Federal
- Objectives
 - Groundwater Conservation
 - Increased Water Infiltration
 - Decrease Phosphorus and Sediment
 - Improved Fish and Wildlife Habitat



Michigan/ Indiana St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Project

- Practices
 - Water Use Management
 - Irrigation Management
 - Irrigation System Calibrations
 - Water Infiltration
 - Cover Crops
 - Grass Waterways
 - Phosphorus and Sediment Management
 - Conservation Buffers
 - Filter Strips
 - Wetland Restorations



Thank You

