

National RCPP Facts:

- 600 applications submitted by the deadline on July 14, 2014
- 210 of these applications were invited back to submit full project proposals by Sept. 26, 2014
- National Office received 200 final proposals
- 100 project proposals were selected as potential
- States are in the process of working with partners to begin negotiating final project agreements
- \$370 million will be obligated for RCPP projects across the nation
- RCPP projects will leverage over \$400 million in partnership funds

Arizona RCPP Facts:

- 6 applications for state projects were submitted by the July 2014 deadline
- 1 application for the Colorado River Basin Critical Conservation Area (CCA) was submitted
- 2 National applications were submitted
- 2 State project proposals, and 1 CCA proposal were invited back to submit full project proposals
- Arizona received almost \$3.0 million in RCPP funds to negotiate agreements with both of the State project proposals
- Arizona received an additional \$2.8 million in RCPP funds to finalize a CCA agreement with the TNC for their Verde River Project proposal.

Arizona RCPP Project Proposals that will be finalized before the end of April 2015:

1. Restoring Native Grassland Habitats to Benefit Wildlife, Ranching, and Open Space.

The projects accomplished through this proposal will be directed at improving grassland habitat for grassland dependent wildlife species. These are species of concern for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), which include pronghorn antelope, Gunnison's prairie dogs, black tailed prairie dogs, western burrowing owls, and Ferruginous hawks to name a few. Projects will restore native grasses and forbs to historic grasslands which will improve food availability, cover and reduce fragmentation for wildlife.

Lead Partner: Arizona Game & Fish Department

2. Central Arizona Grassland Restoration and Watershed Partnership Program

The goal of the projects from this proposal is to improve habitat for wildlife species dependent on grasslands and are of concern for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). In addition to grassland habitat improvement, projects from this proposal will address resource concerns such as inadequate water and forage, soil erosion and water quality degradation. Other resource concerns to be addressed include continued degradation of the watershed due to catastrophic wildfire.

Lead Partner: Arizona Game & Fish Department

3. Verde River Flow and Habitat Restoration Initiative

The Verde River Habitat Restoration Initiative focuses on two resource concerns: 1) inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife with a focus on habitat degradation, and 2) insufficient water, particularly inefficient use of irrigation water. Project partners will aim to improve irrigation water management and irrigation water delivery on 1,000 acres, enhance 6,000 acres of riparian habitat and protect 400 acres of agricultural lands through conservation easements over five years. Easements will be focused on lands that have significant investment in on-farm conservation practices and are critical to insure long-term investments are protected. Secondary resource concerns that will be addressed as a result of these projects include soil erosion, stream bank erosion and inefficient use of energy. As a result of this work, substantial improvements to a critical area of the Verde River Valley, Yavapai County, Arizona (Colorado River Basin) will occur, serving as a model for collaboration and solution oriented conservation.

Lead Partner: The Nature Conservancy