



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



VERMONT

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Department of Environmental Conservation

Vermont Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Accelerated Implementation of Ag and Forestry related
Practices

2020 - 2026

RCPP Forestry Factsheet

The Vermont DEC RCPP is a 5-year program to increase the implementation of agricultural and forestry best management practices (BMPs), wetland restoration, and conservation easements.

The **signup deadline** for this RCPP program is **January 13, 2023**.

Eligibility

All forest landowners are eligible.

Funding:

This is a \$10 million project, with \$7 million going directly to landowners for practice implementation and easements. The balance goes to technical assistance, monitoring, education, and coordination. *\$1 million is directly available for forestry best management practices.*

Technical assistance

VT DEC has contracted with the VT Association of Conservation Districts and with Redstart Inc. through a competitive open bid process to provide technical services for RCPP practice development, contracting and implementation. Redstart will take the primary lead in forestry contracts and landowners can directly contact the staff listed below or VT DEC for assistance.

Redstart – Forestry Planners

Ben Machin ben@redstartconsulting.com

Markus Bradley markus@redstartconsulting.com

Clara Fernandez Odell clara@redstartconsulting.com

Dana Hazen dana@redstartconsulting.com

Focus Areas 2022 - 2023

Forestry practices that directly address water quality concerns are prioritized and will be funded at 100% of the NRCS practice payment level. Some supportive practices will be funded at 75%.

100% practices include:

- Forest Management Plan and Practice Design
- Brush Management
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
- Mulching
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment
- Access Road
- Access Control
- Stream Crossing
- Structure for Water Control
- Forest Trails and Landings

75% practices include:

- Herbaceous Weed Treatment

Practices may change in 2023-2024 and input to VT DEC is encouraged. For more information on the eligible forestry practices please visit the [Field Office Tech Guide](#).

RCPP Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I apply for RCPP funding?

There are several benefits to RCPP that might benefit you and your land.

1. If you are a forest landowner interested in erosion control or other water quality related management practices, RCPP may provide you with a higher payment rate than other USDA-NRCS programs such as EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program). Practices will be funded at 100% payment rate (determined by NRCS' Practice List)
2. RCPP is helping fill gaps that other funding programs miss, such as practices to repair roads, trails, and structures that do not meet the AMPs.
3. If you would welcome one-on-one assistance navigating this RCPP opportunity, as well as help in accessing these RCPP funds to support improvements on your operation, trained technical assistance is available to help you with complete confidentiality.

There are too many programs. How do I know if RCPP is a better choice for me than EQIP?

Redstart staff are available to explain it all. They can help you decide if RCPP is a better option for you.

Is this an NRCS program?

Yes, RCPP is a USDA NRCS-funded program. However, funding for RCPP is separate from other USDA-NRCS programs such as EQIP, thus providing customers a **higher chance of application selection**.

What if I am currently participating in other non-RCPP programs?

You will be working with a dedicated RCPP planner who is knowledgeable in coordinating your RCPP application and determining what practices best fits your operation. Only water quality-related forestry practices can be funded under this program. Other forestry practices must be submitted for EQIP funding.

How do I sign up for RCPP?

The best way is to work with the dedicated RCPP planners listed earlier. They will help with the application process directly. Ranking priority will be given to applications that are submitted through these planners.

If you are currently working with another forester or planner, please contact Kait Jones for a copy of the application and submit this directly to Kait.

Do I need to work with Redstart if I currently work with another consulting forester?

You do not. In fact, we encourage you to continue working with your current consulting forester. If helpful, your consulting forester may reach out to Redstart and VT DEC on your behalf to help with the application and contracting processes.

Contact Information

VT DEC RCPP Coordinator: Kait Jones kaitlyn.jones@vermont.gov