Innovative Funding and Partnership Efforts
USDA-NRCS in Texas

National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration
New Orleans, LA
December 2016
Texas ranks 4th among the states in total stream miles with an estimated 40,194 perennial miles and 144,603 non-perennial miles of streams.

Texas ranks 6th among the states in miles of coastline with an estimated 367 miles.
Helping People Help the Land

NRCS works with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the country to help boost agricultural productivity and protect our natural resources through conservation.
The NRCS Approach To Conservation
Agricultural Act of 2014 Conservation Programs

- ACEP ALE
- EQIP
- ACEP WRE
- CSP
- RCPP
- CTA
• Through RCPP, NRCS and state, local and regional partners coordinate resources to help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas.

• Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.
More Partners bring innovation, new ideas, resources and local expertise to solve problems.
Conserving through partnerships

New initiative targets water quantity, quality in Lower Rio Grande Valley

RCPP Example

• Texas Water Resources Institute: Lower Rio Grande Valley Project

• 5 year project to address water quantity and quality in the Arroyo Colorado and the Rio Grande

• Both have been identified as nonpoint source priority watersheds by the state of Texas
RCPP Example

- 5 year project to address the pressure on the aquatic resources of the region, and subsequent degradation of the Gulf of Mexico
- Focus on restoration and protection of headwater stream and wetland systems to improve function and provide protection against future impacts.
- Water quality
- Water quantity
- Soil erosion
- Wildlife habitat
RESTORE

Lots of potential for good conservation.
Healthy Soils Are The Foundation of Healthy Ecosystems
Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes. Soil does all this by performing five essential functions:

1. Regulate and partition water
2. Sustains plant and animal life
3. Filters and buffers potential pollutants
4. Cycling of nutrients
5. Physical stability and support
Questions?

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