



United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Assistance Available Through the USDA-NRCS

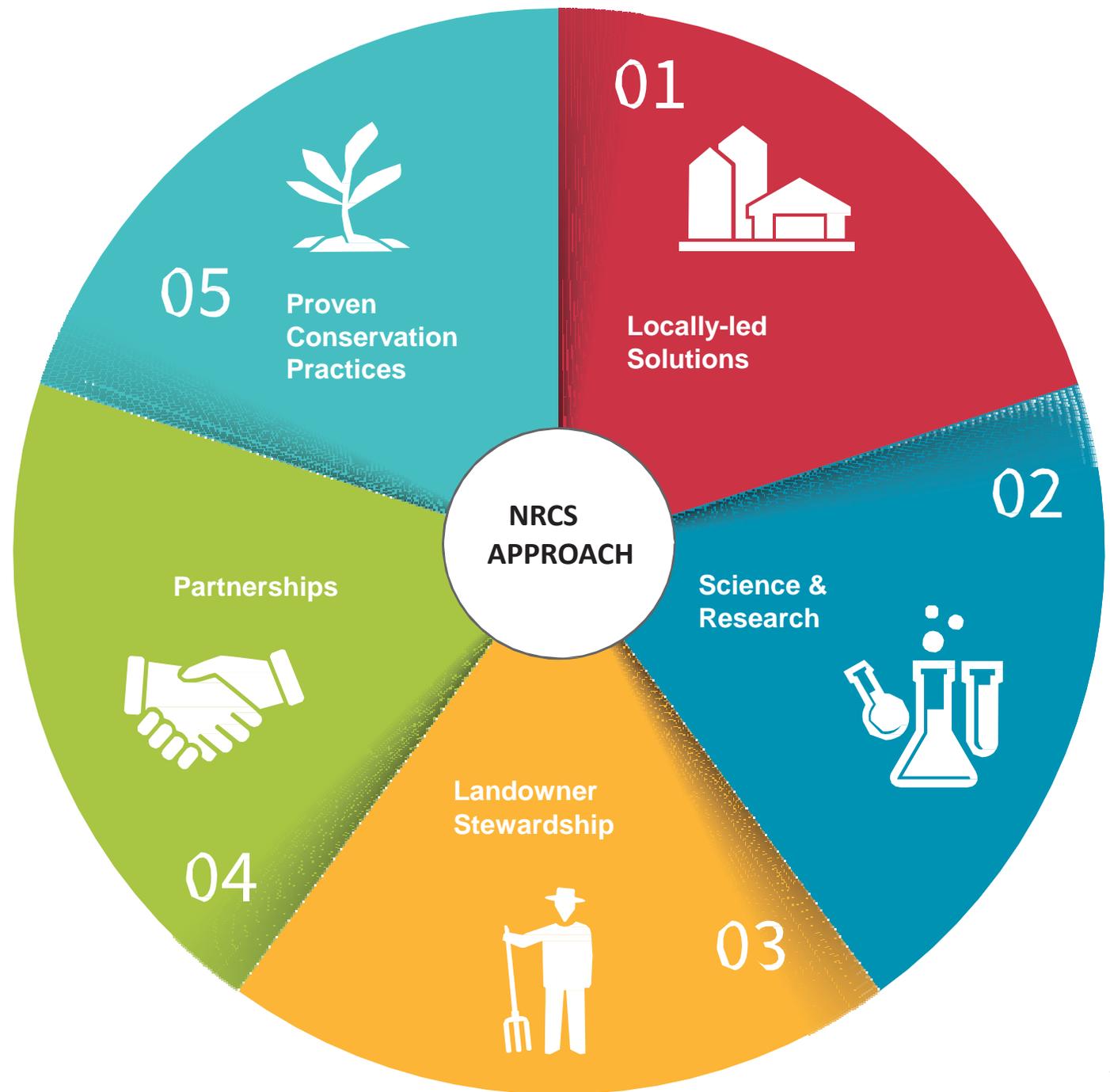
*NCTCOG Water Resource Council
Arlington, TX
January 2017*

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.



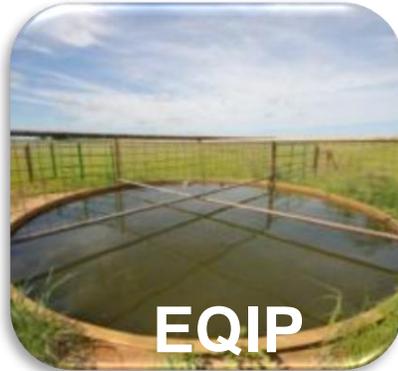
The NRCS Approach To Conservation





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Agricultural Act of 2014 Conservation Programs



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

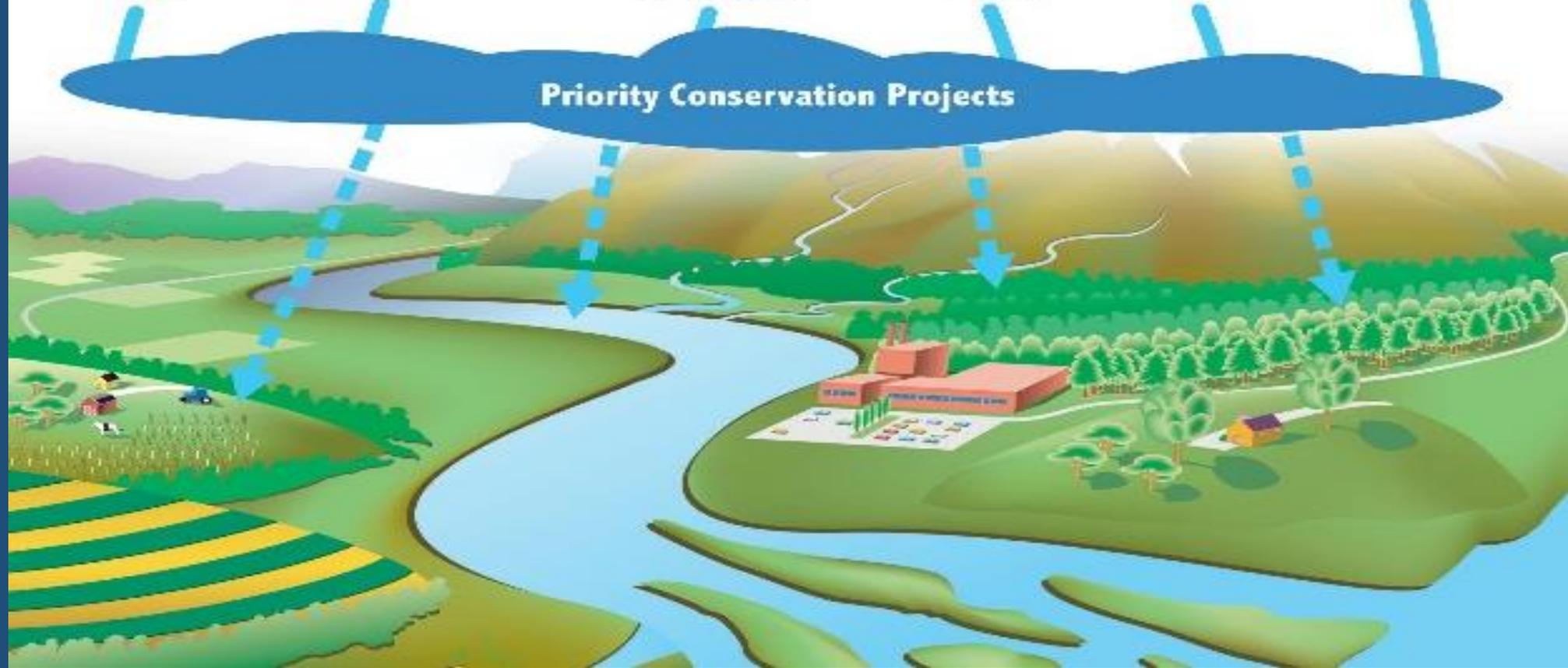


- Through RCPP, NRCS and state, local and regional partners coordinate resources to help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas.
- Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.



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More Partners bring innovation, new ideas, resources and local expertise to solve problems.





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What Do We Value About a Stream?



- Clean Water
- Fish and Aquatic Habitat
- Natural Scenic Beauty
- Recreation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Abundant Forage for Livestock
- Reliable Water Source

Hindrances to a Healthy Stream

- **Land Disturbances**
- **Excessive Concentration of Animals**
- **Artificial Manipulations**
- **Excessive Traffic**
- **Woody Removal**
- **Excessive Withdrawals**



Anything that we do in the riparian and/or stream will cause a change in the dynamics of the stream.



It's Complicated

- The environment is basically one large complex system. It is all interconnected.
- Problems Should be Addressed at the Watershed Scale.
- We can try to “localize” the problem to reduce complexity, however the variables at play are probably still innumerable.
- All projects that we undertake in a stream or riparian area must be carefully studied.





The ACT

Avoid, Control or Trap

When considering water quality, select practices that address the concept for Avoiding, Controlling, or Trapping pollutants, or “ACT.”



A close-up photograph of a soil profile. The top layer shows green grass and a small white flower. Below the surface, the soil is dark brown and rich, with many fine roots visible. The text "Healthy Soils Are The Foundation of Healthy Ecosystems" is overlaid in white, bold font in the lower center of the image.

**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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