

Funds Available through RCPP for Producers Interested in the Conservation Credit System for Projects that Protect/Improve Sage Grouse Habitat

The Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP), in coordination with several partners including NRCS, is seeking producers interested in receiving financial and technical assistance through RCPP and also developing credits in the Nevada Conservation Credit System (CCS). This is a tremendous opportunity to implement valuable conservation practices that address landowner needs and the needs of sage-grouse and to generate sellable credits that could further enhance a landowner's long-term goals of preserving working lands for future generations.

These RCPP funds were awarded to the State through a regional competitive grant process. Awardees are encouraged to contribute 5.15% of their awarded cost-share to allow the State's partners to fulfill prior commitments to meet NRCS reporting requirements. In return for this contribution, the State intends to assist producers in making projects CCS ready by offering the following services:

- Staff assistance in the development of CCS management plans.
 - Staff assistance in CCS annual monitoring and annual reporting efforts for a 5 year period.
- * Staff assistance may also be available to assist with the Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT) assessment to determine pre-project habitat function and CCS credit potential.*

Benefits:

- Cost-shared Conservation Practices
- Technical Assistance in Conservation Planning
- Assistance in Conducting a Habitat Assessment
- Reduced Costs in Developing a Management Plan Related to the CCS
- Annual Monitoring Assistance
- Credits that can be sold by applicant

For a chance to receive these benefits:

- Fill out a CCS Credit Site Validation Checklist with the RCPP Addendum for the potential project for the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) and have a credit estimate completed to assess credit potential. **These are necessary prior to the application deadline.**
- Ensure the HQT is completed prior to implementing on-the-ground practices to be reimbursed with Federal funds to reduce the potential for additionality issues within the CCS.
- Attend the RCPP workshop and make project information available to the State and its partners.
- Assist CD staff in developing a CCS management plan and implement it for at least a period of five years with verification to ensure habitat is maintained and/or improved.

To apply, please fill out a Site Validation Checklist with RCPP Addendum (located at <https://www.enviroaccounting.com/NVCreditSystem/ProgramDocument/Index> under Other), and submit it and any required documents to Dan Huser (dhuser@sagebrusheco.nv.gov) with the SETT. In addition to these prerequisites, applications must be received before 4 p.m. on February 16, 2018 by NRCS to be considered in the project funding period.

For further information on the NV CCS, visit www.enviroaccounting.com/NVCreditSystem/ or www.sagebrusheco.nv.gov. For more information on working with the State through the RCPP Process, contact Dan Huser of the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team at dhuser@sagebrusheco.nv.gov or 775-684-8600 x22 or see the FAQ in the "Documents" section at www.enviroaccounting.com/NVCreditSystem.