



**On March 10, 2009 the CCPI Federal Register Notice was published in the Federal Register, which is linked at:**

**<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi/index.html>**

**2009 CCPI Proposals Due  
April 23, 2009**

**2009 CCPI Comments Due  
April 8, 2009**



**[www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov)**

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# CCPI Proposal Criteria

## Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

Utah NRCS—March 2009

### Overview

The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) provides targeted assistance to producers for enhancing conservation outcomes on agricultural and nonindustrial private forest land. Areas of CCPI assistance are selected competitively through applications of eligible partners.

Eligible partners include State, local, and Tribal governments, producer associations and cooperatives, institutions of higher education, and nongovernmental organizations.

CCPI is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

### CCPI Proposal Criteria

When submitting a proposal to either the NRCS Utah State Office for single-state proposals or the NRCS national office for multi-state proposals, please read the Federal Register Notice regarding CCPI prior to developing your proposal to ensure your project meets the program's intent.

The Federal Register Notice can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi/index.html>.

The following information is just a summary of the program requirements for your use as a reference in developing an application.

### Program Purposes

The purposes of a CCPI partnership agreement are to:

1. Address conservation priorities involving agriculture and nonindustrial private forest land on a local, State, multi-State, or regional level;
2. Encourage producers to cooperate in meeting applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to production;
3. Encourage producers to cooperate in the installation and maintenance of conservation practices that affect multiple agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land; and
4. Promote the development and demonstration of innovative conservation practices and delivery methods, including those for specialty crop and organic production and precision agriculture producers.

To submit an application, your proposal **MUST** include the criteria on the following page.

**Proposal Criteria**

To be eligible for selection, prospective partners must submit a complete proposal to the NRCS Chief or the appropriate NRCS State Conservationist.

The proposal must contain the information set forth below in order to receive consideration:

- a. A description of the partner(s) history of working with producers to address the conservation objectives to be achieved;
- b. A description of the geographic area covered by the proposal, conservation priorities in the area, conservation objectives to be achieved, and the expected level of participation by producers;
- c. A description of the partner(s) collaborating to achieve the objectives of the agreement and the roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of the partner(s);
- d. A description of the project duration, not to exceed 5 years in length, and schedule that details when the potential partner anticipates finishing the project and submitting a final report;
- e. A description of the resources that are requested from the Secretary, and the non-Federal resources that will be leveraged by the Federal contribution;
- f. A description of the plan for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on progress made towards achieving the objectives of the agreement;
- g. A list of the criteria to be used to prioritize individual producer applications to ensure that applications most aligned with the proposal's objectives receive priority;
- h. An estimate of the percentage of producers, including nonindustrial private forest landowners, in the

- project area that are likely to participate in the project;
- i. A description of the conservation practices and activities to be applied on the landscape within the project time frame;
  - j. An estimate of the financial assistance program funds and acres needed to implement the conservation practices and activities within the project area (for multi-State or national projects, provide the funds/acres by State);
  - k. A description of any requested program adjustments, by program, with explanation of why the adjustment is needed in order to achieve the objectives of the project. If a partner is requesting specific program flexibilities that depend on detailed participant or project information, the proposal must provide the needed information. Partners should contact their local NRCS office to determine the specific information required;
  - l. A description of how the partner will provide for outreach to beginning, limited resource, and small and disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and Indian Tribes; and
  - m. A description of how the proposal's objectives further the Nation's efforts with renewable energy production, energy conservation, mitigating the effects of climate change, facilitating climate change adaptation, or fostering carbon sequestration, if applicable.

**Proposals will be ranked based on the following criteria:**

Once the Chief or appropriate State Conservationist has assessed the merits of each proposal, the Chief or appropriate State Conservationist will rank the proposals via a

competitive process. The Chief or State Conservationist shall give a higher priority to proposals that:

- Have a high percentage of producers actively farming or managing working agricultural or nonindustrial private forest lands included in the area covered by the agreement;
- Complete the application of the conservation practices and/or activities on all of the covered program contracts or cost-share agreements in 5 years or less;
- Assist the participants in meeting local, State, and/or Federal regulatory requirements;
- Significantly leverage non-Federal financial and technical resources and coordinate with other local, State, or Federal efforts;
- Provide for matching technical assistance funds to assist participants with the implementation of their EQIP contracts and WHIP cost-share agreements;
- Deliver high percentages of applied conservation to address water quality, water conservation, or State, regional, or national conservation initiatives;
- Provide innovation in conservation methods and delivery, including outcome-based performance measures and methods;
- Further the Nation's efforts with renewable energy production, energy conservation, mitigating the effects of climate change, facilitating climate change adaptation, or fostering carbon sequestration; or
- Provide for outreach to, and participation of, beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, limited resource farmers or ranchers, and Indian Tribes within the area covered by the agreement.

***Proposal Due Dates***

Proposals are due to both the state (for single-state proposals) or the national (for multi-state proposals) offices by April 23, 2008.

***Single State Proposals***

Submit single state proposals in Utah to:  
Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist  
CCPI Proposals  
125 S State St., Room 4402  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

***Multi-State or National Proposals***

Send the original to:

Acting Chief Dave White  
Attention: Director, Financial Assistance Programs Division  
Room 5241 South Building  
Subject: CCPI Proposals  
PO Box 2890  
Washington, DC 20013

Also, send a copy to:

Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist  
CCPI Proposals  
125 S State St., Room 4402  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

***More Information***

For additional information about CCPI in Utah, contact:  
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