



United States Department of Agriculture

# Conservation Assistance Available Through the USDA-NRCS

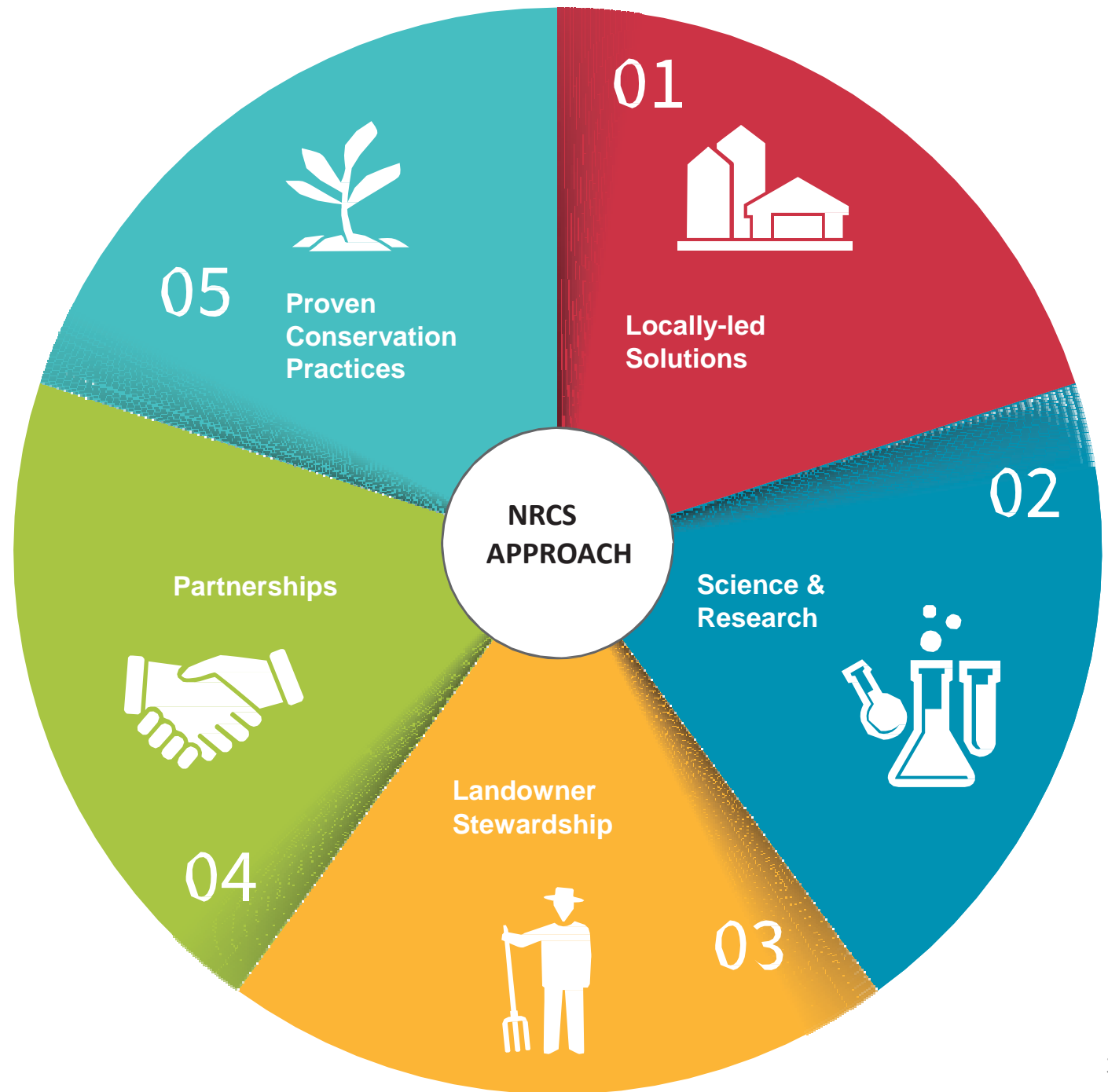
*NCTCOG Water Resource Council  
Arlington, TX  
January 2017*

# 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.**



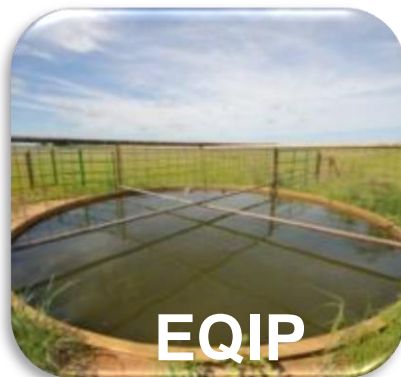
# The NRCS Approach To Conservation





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# Agricultural Act of 2014 Conservation Programs



# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

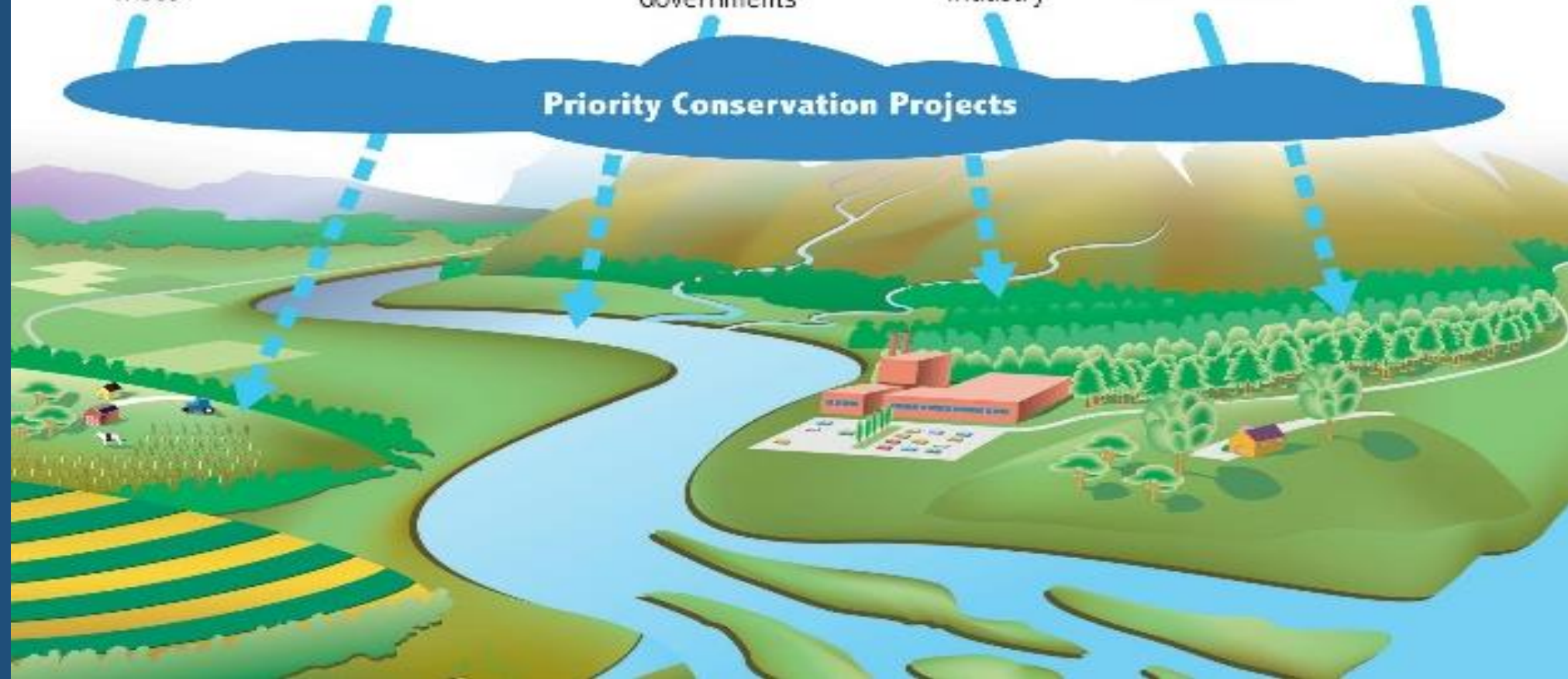


- Through RCPP, NRCS and state, local and regional partners coordinate resources to help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas.
- Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.



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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?

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- A wide, shallow stream flows over a low concrete dam or weir. The water is clear and cascades over the edge. The background is filled with a dense line of bare, leafless trees under a clear blue sky. On the right side of the stream, there is a large, multi-story wooden building with a gabled roof and a small chimney. The foreground shows some rocks and debris in the water.
- 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.”**





**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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