

ASSESSING YOUR PROJECT'S TARGETED NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS

Launched in 2019, Field to Market's Continuous Improvement Accelerator harnesses the power of collaboration across the agricultural value chain to implement locally-led conservation solutions and deliver sustainable outcomes through member-led Continuous Improvement Projects.

As you design and register a Continuous Improvement Project, you will be asked to identify what key natural resource concerns — those areas of impact on the health of soil, water, air, plants and animals in the region your project operates in — will be targeted by your continuous improvement goals, objectives and strategies.

Use this resource to explore how Field to Market's science-based metrics correspond to key natural resource concerns, and learn how to identify solutions for addressing natural resource concerns where your project is located..



How do I identify the key natural resource concerns within my project boundaries?

Key natural resource concerns can be identified through a variety of sources. We encourage you to review the following resources and contact expert organizations to ensure your project's continuous improvement goals and objectives are relevant to the location of the project.

- [NRCS Critical Conservation Areas Resource Concern Priorities](#)
- [EPA Impaired Waterways](#)
- [NRCS & USFWS Working Lands for Wildlife Target Areas](#)
- [NRCS Landscape Conservation Initiatives](#)
- [NRCS National EQIP Initiatives](#)

How do Field to Market metrics align with natural resource concerns?

Within the Fieldprint Platform, each of Field to Market's eight sustainability metrics are designed to specifically respond to pressing natural resource concerns.

CLIMATE CHANGE



Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy Use, & Soil Carbon

ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION



Land Use & Biodiversity

SOIL HEALTH/QUALITY



Soil Carbon & Soil Conservation

WATER SCARCITY



Irrigation Water Use

WATER QUALITY



Water Quality & Soil Conservation

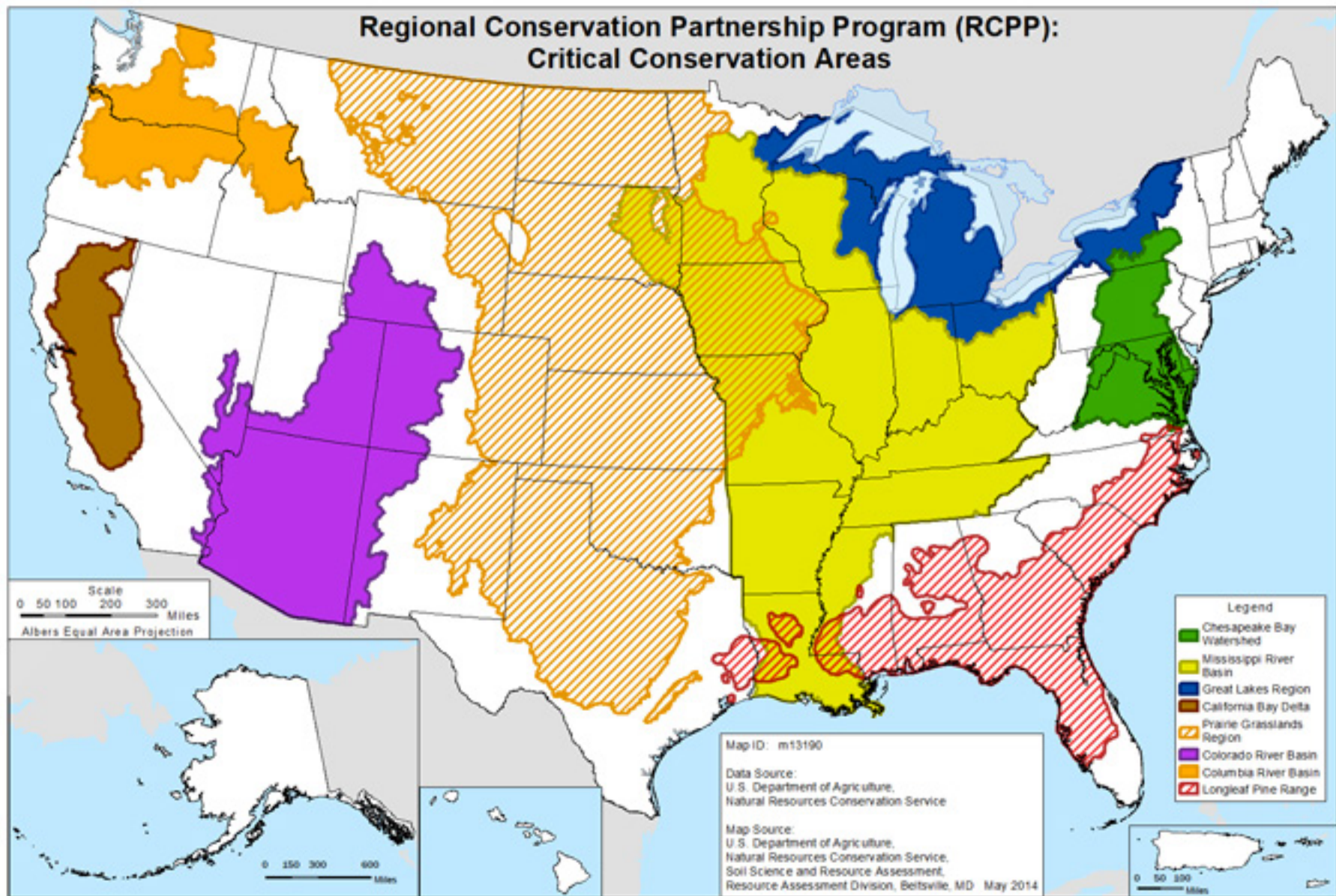


Who are the local conservation organizations that can help me?

A wealth of expertise exists at the local level to guide your project's continuous improvement strategy, including many organizations from across Field to Market's membership. As you shape your project's continuous improvement goal(s) and objectives, consider engaging representatives from the following:









- [Soil & Water Conservation Districts](#)
- [NRCS Field Office](#)
- EPA (e.g. [watershed coordinators](#) and [agricultural advisors](#))
- Universities and [Extension](#)
- [State Departments of Agriculture](#)
- [State Departments of Environmental Quality](#)

There are many local and national organizations not listed here that may be helpful to your project. Explore Field to Market's [Member Directory](#) to connect with Civil Society and Affiliate members engaged in local conservation efforts near you.



Engaging with RCPP Critical Conservation Areas

Many Field to Market project leverage public funding such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), which has identified Critical Conservation Areas (CCAs) across the U.S. In the table below, explore how natural resource priorities map to Field to Market metrics for each of these CCAs.

RCPP Critical Conservation Areas	Resource Concern Priorities	FIELD TO MARKET METRICS							
									
Chesapeake Bay Watershed	3, 5	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Longleaf Pine Range	1, 3, 5	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Columbia River Basin	3, 4, 5	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Lakes Region	3, 5	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Mississippi River Basin	3, 4, 5	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
California Bay Delta	3, 4, 5	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prairie Grasslands Region	1, 2, 3, 4	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Colorado River Basin	1, 3, 4, 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

RCPP Resource Concern Priorities:

- 1 - Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive plant pest pressure
- 2 - Excess Water: Runoff, flooding or ponding
- 3 - Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife: Habitat degradation
- 4 - Insufficient Water: Inefficient use of irrigation water
- 5 - Water Quality Degradation: excess nutrients and pesticides in surface and ground waters; excessive sediment in surface water.