

NRCS – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

***PARTNERSHIPS “TO PROMOTE THE
RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF
NATURAL RESOURCES ON REGIONAL OR
WATERSHED SCALES”***

Photo: <http://www.yakimaforever.org/>

PRESENTATION TO YBIP WORKGROUP – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2014

What is the RCPP?

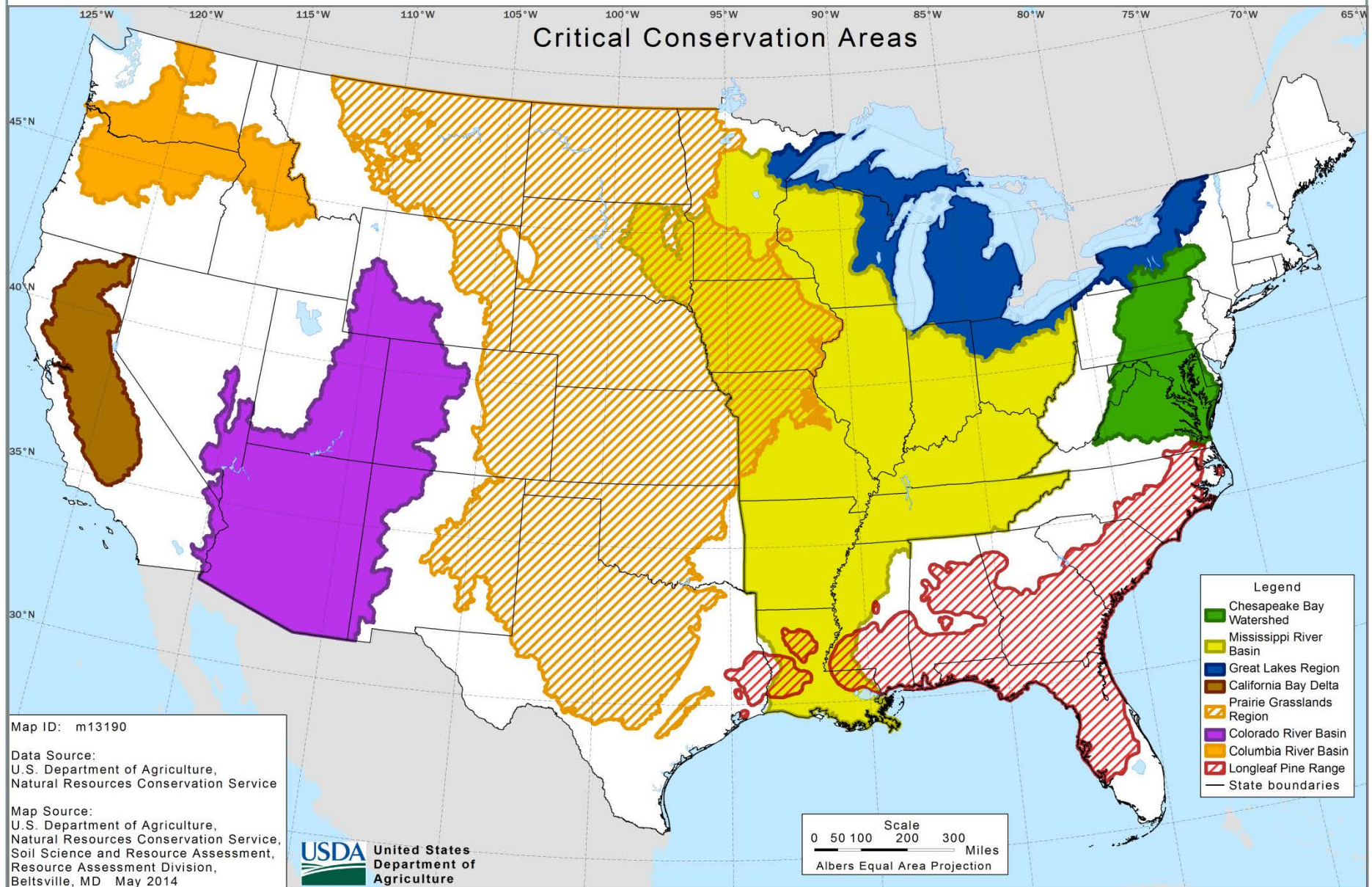


- New, comprehensive and flexible program seeking partnerships to leverage large conservation investments
- NRCS defines success as:
 - Locally driven, innovative and high-performing solutions
 - Doubling of the total investment (cash, in-kind)
 - Innovative projects that integrate multiple approaches
 - Participation by as many groups as possible
- NRCS wants comprehensive and measurable solutions
 - Defined activities
 - Anticipated outcomes

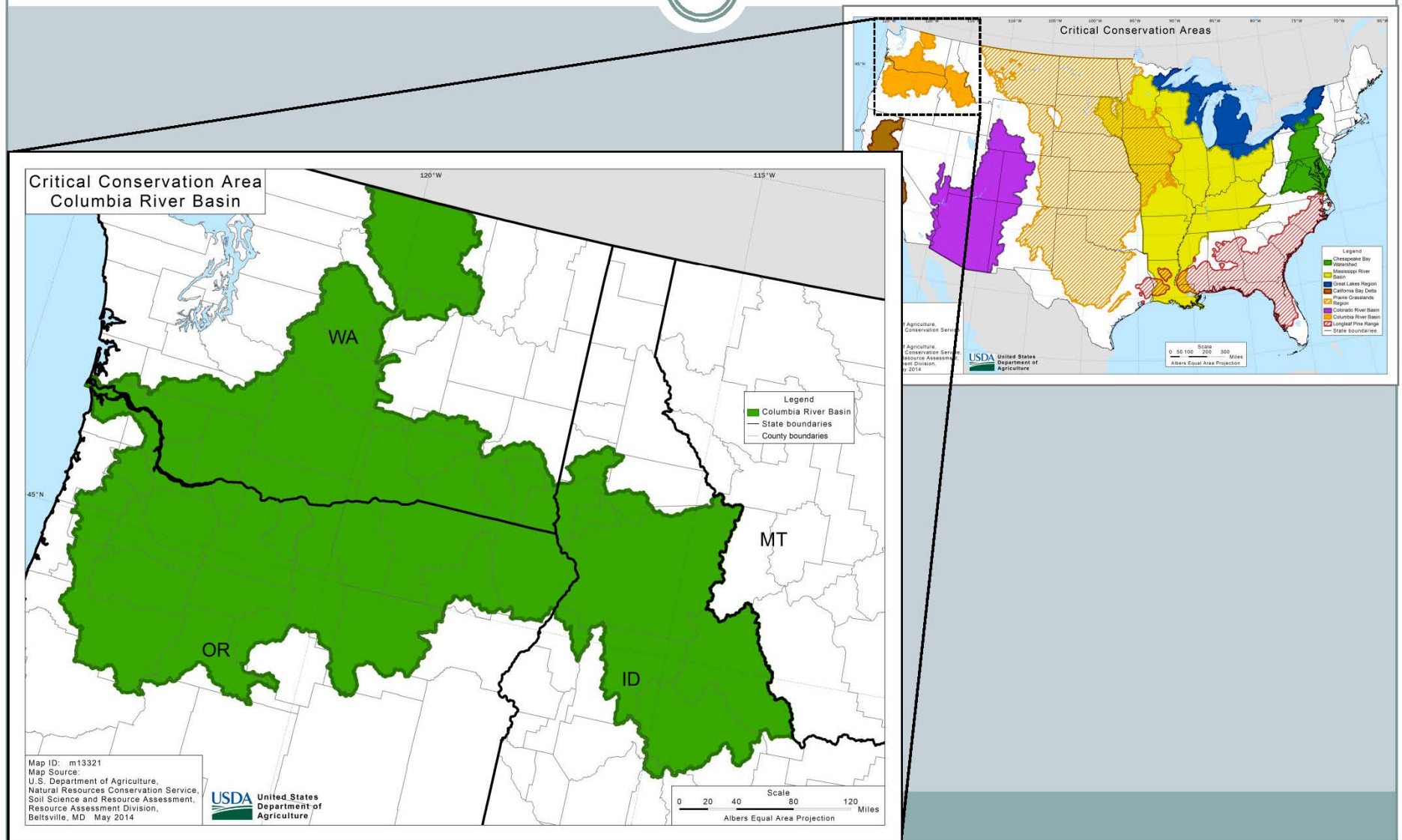
Geographic and Financial Coverage

- Geographic reach:
 - National, State, Critical Conservation Areas (8 CCA nationally)
 - Project sponsors may only apply to one of the three for a project
- \$400,000,000 anticipated for FY2014/15
 - National = 40% (~\$158,000,000)
 - State = 25% (~\$99,000,000)
 - CCA = 35% (~\$138,000,000)
- Funds available for:
 - Financial or technical assistance or both
 - Eligible partners and eligible lands
 - 5 year project implementation period

Locations of the 8 CCAs



Columbia River Basin CCA



Yakima Basin Opportunities



- Columbia Basin is one of eight CCAs
 - CCAs goal is to promote water quality and management of water quantity to benefit recovery of salmon populations
- Areas of resource concern are:
 - Insufficient water through inefficient use of irrigation water
 - Degraded water quality from excessive sediments, nutrients, pesticides
 - Inadequate fish and wildlife habitat from habitat degradation
- To qualify, CCA projects must address the resource concerns *and* qualify for one of NRCS authorities
 - EQIP, CSP, ACEP, HFRP, or Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program (limited to CCA areas)

Next Steps

- Timing:
 - Pre-proposals due by July 14, 2014
 - Full proposals due September 26, 2014
 - YBIP Task Force working to develop pre-proposal
 - 6 page maximum, with descriptions and types of project activities
- YBIP Response
 - Workgroup assembled (Lisa Pelly asked by EC to lead)
 - Developing pre-proposal in collaboration with YBIP Committees and other WA state interests in the Columbia Basin
- Questions?