

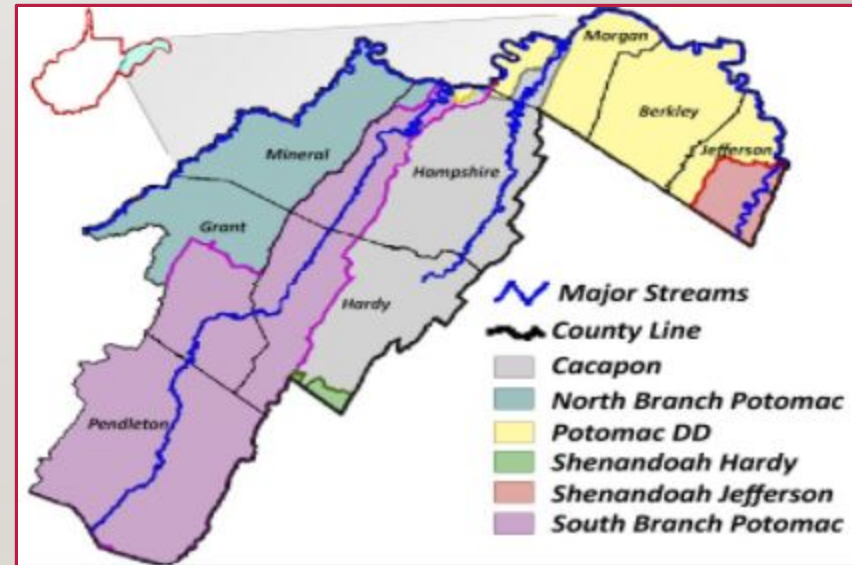
# CHESAPEAKE BAY

## RFB FORUM

### FEBRUARY 8, 2018

#### WV Riparian Forest Buffer Overview:

- WV Addendum secured \$1 mill for WV CREP in Potomac River Drainage (primarily EP counties)
- In addition to SRR, SIP, PIP, C/S Addendum secured new FSA incentive money available for new contracts (\$200/ac) and eligible re-enrollments (\$500/ac)
- Addendum also secured 20% State match for TA and new incentive payment for new or re-enrolled acres (\$40/ac up to \$20k)



# WV Summary

- CREP is dominant program for funding and establishing RFBs in the WV Bay watershed.
- State-wide enrollment authority up to 9,160 total ac., of that:
  - ~6,606 ac. (72% of total) currently enrolled, and
  - ~3,672 ac. (56% of total) of enrolled in Potomac River drainage of Bay watershed and 3,175 ac. (86% of total Bay CREP acres) enrolled in CP22 RFBs.
- Revisions made to WV FSA operating procedure (2-CRP Rev. 5) to incorporate RFB Initiative funds and submitted to DC. No response from National FSA office to state-level inquiries.
- With exception of EP counties, WV DOF LOA service foresters will be assuming CREP technical assistance duties over much of state.

# WV RFB/CREP Outreach & Partnerships

## CREP:

- Participation in local FSA COC meetings
- Presentations and meetings with local watershed associations in EP
- Attending local ag networking groups and meetings
- Working with county Farmland Protection boards to incorporate CREP/RFBs into new ALE conservation plan requirements
- Targeted outreach in ag communities based on CREP objectives & those of conservation partners
- Publications & mailings – outreach articles for WVU Extension newsletters, watershed groups, garden clubs, etc.; postcard/distribution mailing for those owners & operators in the EP; one-pager for CDs, COCs, other entities & agencies

## Other RFB Programs (i.e. no Farm Bill funds):

- CB Implementation Grants (CBIG)
- State 319 programs
- Stream Partners grant
- NFWF
- Communitree, Lowes, Toyota, CBF
- Trees4Bees

# Challenges for CREP in WV

## Program Stability

- Comments from producers – DC needs to finalize, approve and release process for new RFB funding.
- Outreach – FSA state and county offices are currently prohibited from providing outreach/promotion for new RFB Initiative. State and NGO partners are ready to move forward with new RFB outreach mailings but do not have funding to cover for potential new enrollments and re-enrollments.
- Re-enrollment Eligibility – Completed 35 status reviews in Hampshire County for CP22 contract expiring in 2018.
  - ~51.4% (18) buffers failed – primarily lack of landowner maintenance
  - ~34.3% (12) NR – only bc mature trees present at time of original enrollment
  - ~14.3% (5) successful plantings

## Program Consistency

- Interpretation of program definitions varies around state.
- Written guidance & direction for consistently identifying a “functional buffer” for both new contract eligibility/feasible determinations *and* re-enrollments.
- Good start - CREP Guide for DOF service foresters.



# **Comments, Advice & Recommendations**

**THANK YOU!**

