**Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy (FRS) - Work Plan Discussion**

Sprague’s comments

**FRS Section 1 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Actions** (p.11 of Strategy)

1. Collaborate with USDA, forestry and wildlife agencies, and nongovernmental partners to **restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffer each year**; sustain and leverage funding available through CREP and other programs.
2. What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?

* Establish riparian forest buffer practitioner group

1. List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.

* Develop a summit to share latest strategies for addressing common social, technical and policy/funding barriers and develop new partnerships

1. **Pursue innovative funding incentives and outreach strategies** to reach landowners in targeted areas through grant programs, such as NFWF, and ecosystem market approaches.
2. What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?

* Establish/revive riparian forest buffer practitioner group to share lessons learned

1. List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.

* Develop a summit to share latest strategies for addressing common social, technical and policy/funding barriers and develop new partnerships
* Develop list of policy/funding recommendations for USDA

**FRS Section 2 Mine Lands** (p.16 of Strategy)

1. Host local workshops in targeted areas to **engage landowners and community partners** in mine land reforestation opportunities.

I don’t have any ideas here, but, in general, think that local workshops are always a good start—assuming there are funding programs in place.

**FRS Section 3 Agroforestry Actions** (p.21 of Strategy)

1. Agroforestry is a relatively new concept. **Train-the-trainer workshops** that target resource professionals in the watershed are a first step toward reaching watershed landowners. Subsequent workshops can introduce agroforestry practices to landowners.

I don’t have any specific suggestions, but this seems like a good tactic when trying to spread a new idea. Particularly, when farmers are hesitant to try it out on their own.

1. Expand application of agroforestry practices and innovations to **small-scale landscapes, including urban settings**.

I’m starting to come around on ideas like the Baltimore Orchard Project. I’d prefer oaks and other big trees to be planted in urban areas given their many benefits, but I like the idea of engaging an urban environment with agroforestry. Maybe, residents that pick fruit from a nearby orchard will be more likely to hear urban forestry messages? Maybe, we need trees and should just take whatever we can get?

**FRS Section 4 Urban & Community Forestry Actions** (p.26 of Strategy)

1. **Promote and track tree planting as a cost-effective, core strategy** for meeting local Total Maximum Daily Load targets, MS4 stormwater requirements, and air quality goals.
2. What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?

* The Forestry Workgroup should lead the charge in promoting the use of forestry-based practices in meeting varying goals.

1. List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.

* We can promote the development of new tools (CAST-update) and existing (iTree, Ecosystem Crediting Platform, etc).
* The Alliance is certainly interested in helping move this issue forward too and can help report to FWG on how forests are treated in TMDL growth offset discussions, etc.
* If the FWG can find funding, we can help foster talks with EPA about how we can encourage tree planting to maintain air quality standards in State Implementation Plans.

1. Transfer successful **turf-to-trees program** models and lessons learned to more localities that have high turf grass cover.
2. What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?

* In Maryland, county stormwater utilities will be a key source of funding for this concept—talk with Don Outen, Baltimore County about implementation strategies

1. List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.

* The FWG and Alliance can help communicate how converting turf to trees can improve the cost-effectiveness of tree plantings. Turf plantings do not have the same high opportunity costs that UMD associated with more urban plantings (150K).

**FRS Section 5 Contaminated Lands Actions** (p.31 of Strategy)

1. **Identify and fund research needs**. Identify key knowledge gaps and research needs. Target available funds for applied research in partnership with industry.
2. **Develop and deliver technical guidance** on how to effectively utilize trees and shrubs when remediating and restoring sites.

I’ve got nothing here! These seem reasonable steps though.