

Outcome: Riparian Forest Buffer						
Key Action** <i>Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action.</i>	Performance Target(s) <i>Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.</i>	Participating Entity <i>Identify responsible partner for each step.</i>	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month &amp; year) for</i>	Estimated Project Cost <i>Best estimate of total project cost (needed)</i>	Available funding by Partner	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
Management Approach 1: RFB Leadership						
Meet with RFB leadership within each state to develop a coordinated, riparian forest buffer (RFB) strategy to boost enrollment	Hold 3-4 meetings/year	State RFB Lead	Dec-17	staff	n/a	Staff resources, funding
	Develop Action Plan		Jan-16	staff	n/a	
	Appoint a leadership-field liaison/coordinate RFB activity in state					
			Jan-16	staff	n/a	
Pilot Projects to Inform Leadership	Coordinate with Sustainable Ag community	MD DNR Forest Service	Jul-16	existing staff	existing	
	Development of a flexible buffer program with innovative tools and programs to fill niches not met by	Upper Susquehanna Coalition	Jul-16	\$300,000	\$300,000	Project funded by NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants (INSRG)
	Host a Statewide RFB summit, led by leadership team	PA DCNR, MD CREP Committee	Jul-16			
Management Approach 2: RFB Enhancements						
Coordinate with allied practices, especially streambank fencing, streambank stabilization and/or transitional woodland practice			Jan. 2016			
Increase financial assistance						

Program adjustments in RFB cost-share practices (i.e., CREP) per state task force reports						
Recognize partnership potential with NGOs			Jan. 2016	n/a - staff	n/a	Staff resources
Management Approach 3: RFB Technical Assistance						
Increase staffing levels to provide more technical assistance						Staff resources, funding
Expand partnerships to address technical assistance needs			Oct. 2015	n/a - staff	n/a	
Management Approach 4: RFB Outreach and Increasing New Enrollment						
Address programmatic design/delivery that create barriers to new enrollment	Secure funding to process CRP/CREP new contracts that wish to enroll	DNREC, DE FSA/NRC	Jan-16	n/a - staff	DNREC	The Delaware CREP Program has a programmatic freeze until funding shortfalls are addressed. Shortfalls are approximately: \$500,000 for 2015,
			Oct. 2015	n/a - staff		
Execute Regional Outreach Strategy for 2016			May-16	180,000	180,000	funding provided in FY2015 by FSA
Share local case studies of successful buffers; consider LandCare model		MD DNR Forest Service				
Management Approach 5: Improve Establishment/Maintenance/Verification						
Improve tracking and reporting	Utilize GIS, CAST, and other tools					
	Analyze efforts to recommend efficiencies					

Follow RFB Verification Protocol	Conduct Initial RFB Training in new verification protocol		Jan-15			
Increase annual maintenance payments	Increase annual maintenance payments from \$5/acre to \$10/acre	State, FSA	Dec-15			
Increase establishment period	Expand the RFB establishment period from 2 years to 3-4 years	State, FSA	Dec-17			
Cost share for invasive plant control	Create cost share for herbicide spraying to increase tree survival rates	State, FSA	Dec-15			
Evaluation of Buffer Effectiveness/Tree Planting Success	Complete evaluation of tree planting mortality/success for three years after initial planting and secure additional planting stock to correct planting	State, FSA	Dec-15			FSA and ERS project
Management Approach 6: Improve Re-enrollment						
Provide targeted outreach to CREP participants in the last 1-2 years of contract	Send postcards to expiring contract holders and follow-up with phone calls	FS, State FSA, ACB				
	Provide TA/maintainance funding to help participants resolve compliance issues					
	Encourage participants with re-enrolling RFBs to include upgrades, such as increased acres and/or alternative water, stream crossings, fencing					
Management Approach 7: Improve Targeting of RFB						
Maintain current levels of RFB						

credit in portions of the state within the CB watershed						
Fund trials for function-based incentives		MDA				
Utilize CREP targeting tool						
Increase MPL soil rental rates						
Management Approach 8: Ramp-up conservation of RFB easement programs						
Increase participation with the Agriculture Conservation Partnership Program (ACEP)	determine opportunities for CREP participants to transition enrollments to NRCS ACEP easement programs	NRCS, FSA				staff resources
Protect RFBs under ACEP easements	outreach to participants with expiring contracts	NRCS, FSA				
Management Approach 9: Focus on non-ag RFB						
Reduce mowing						
Identify and connect with major non-ag. land owners	Target locations through GIS analysis					
	Work with federal land managers to promote RFB					
	Prioritize state-owned properties for RFB					
Promote upland reforestation						
Pursue options for aggregating small landowners planting and management	Prettyboy analysis; Baltimore County Example contracts					
Coordinate with MS4 permits	Meeting to assess options, needs	SRCC				
	Develop examples of buffers & SWM	CWP				