

CBP Partnership BMP Verification Program Development:

Verifying Habitat Restoration

CBP Habitat Goal Implementation Team
Briefing

May 22, 2012 Meeting

Partnership Approach

- Build a Partnership-wide BMP Verification Program working up through CBP Partnership
 - Workgroups → GITs → MB → PSC
- Address full array of practices across all sources
 - Agricultural lands, forest lands, **wetlands**, developed lands, on-site treatment systems, abandoned mine lands, wastewater dischargers, **stream corridors**, **tidal shorelines**
- Factor in innovative approaches taken by jurisdictions, local municipalities, districts

Verification Framework

- BMP verification **principles**
 - Critical for approving jurisdictions' verification programs
- Source sector-specific verification **protocols**
 - Developed by workgroups, tailored to jurisdictions
- BMP verification **panel**
 - Recognized experts external to the partnership

Revised Schedule

- **June:** initial review of all the elements of the partnership's verification program—principles, protocols, and panel
- **July:** review of the states' existing tracking and reporting systems
- **Aug:** what is being requested of the states
- **Sept:** review of all the revised elements and determine if ready to move the proposed verification program up the partnership management structure for review/approval

Revised Schedule (Con't)

- **Oct:** WQGIT, Habitat GIT review/approval
- **Nov:** MB review/approval to go to PSC
- **Dec:** PSC review/approval for partnership
- **Winter 2012/2013:** PSC communication of the Partnership's BMP Verification Program to partners/stakeholders through some formal agreement mechanism
- **Spring 2013:** BMP Verification Review Panel reviews states' proposed verification programs

Requests for the Habitat GIT

- Development of verification protocols for ensuring wetland, stream, and tidal shoreline restoration projects get fully credited for their nutrient/sediment reduction benefits
 - Build on existing habitat restoration tracking and reporting systems to develop protocols for ensuring the reported restoration efforts have been implemented and are having the intended pollution reduction benefits

Requests for the Habitat GIT

- Review the draft BMP verification principles
 - Ensure the principles reflect full consideration of habitat restoration and not just traditional BMP implementation
- Review the draft BMP Review Panel charge and recommend panel members
 - Ensure the assembled panel and its charge will reflect focus on verifying habitat restoration

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