

Draft 2-Year Workplan (Dec 1, 2015)				implement State RF			
Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome							
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>	Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month &amp; year) for each step)</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	a) State Lead for RFB activities is appointed and helps coordinate work at all levels--from state leadership to field	State Lead	Baywide	Jul-16	Stafftime		
	b) Host a watershedwide 2-day RFB Summit	USFS, FSA, ACB	Baywide	Mar-16	10K		
	c) Pursue opportunities for state leadership to express need/RFB is a priority practice	State Lead	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	d) Establish a RFB Leadership Team in PA	DCNR and DEP	Pennsylvania	Feb-16	Stafftime		
	e) Host a statewide RFB summit	PA DCNR, MD CREP Committee	Pennsylvania	Dec-16	Stafftime		
States augment CREP program for RFB using additional funding from FSA	Increase acres enrolled in Chesapeake Bay CREPS, CP22 (RFB)	FSA, State Leads	NY, WV, DE, VA	Dec-17	4 million	4 million	Funding (~1 million/state) will mostly go out as incentives for participating in CREP
Work to access additional financial assistance to augment programs for RFB	a) Increase acres enrolled in Chesapeake Bay CREPS, CP22 (RFB). Continue to assess available financial assistance as needed to encourage landowner interest in CREP and implementing conservation practice	FSA	Baywide	Dec-17			
	b) Make non-federal match available as new opportunities present for federal funding	State		Dec-17			
Coordinate and support State Leads and other partners in achieving RFB goals	Work with each state to help accomplish actions in 2-year workplan	USFS, FWG	Baywide	Dec-17	500K	500K	
Pilot Projects to Inform Leadership	a) Coordinate with Sustainable Ag community	MD DNR Forest Service	Maryland	Jul-16	Stafftime		
	b) Develop a flexible buffer program with innovative tools and programs to fill niches not met by traditional buffer programs	Upper Susquehanna Coalition, NFWF	Upper Susquehanna	Jul-16	\$300,000	300,000	
Management Approach 2: RFB Enhancements							

<b>Look broadly to plan for new buffers and align related projects/funding</b>	a) Coordinate with allied ag practices in NY especially streambank fencing, streambank stabilization and/or transitional woodland practice using AgNPS	NY NRCS and FSA, USC	New York	Jan-17	\$\$		
	b) Seek more opportunities to engage landowners about opportunities for RFB	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	c) Incorporate RFBs into planning efforts, e.g., the State Planning Board, county comprehensive plans, and local zoning ordinances	State Leads	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	d) Work with other programs and agencies that do preservation, restoration, etc. to improve overlap with RFB	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Accelerate RFB implementation through NFWF's 2015 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project award, "Comprehensive Watershed-Scale Restoration in Dairy and Livestock Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay".</b>	a) Utilize NFWF grant funding and technical and financial assistance 21:22 to increase implementation of RFB and C21 of existing cost-share funding	Stroud Water Research Center, Trout Unlimited, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Bradford County (PA) Conservation District	Baywide	Dec-17	\$\$		
	b) Support local USDA NRCS and FSA staff, SWCDs, and NGOs in collaborating and prioritizing RCPP funding to enhance RFB CREP implementation at the local level				\$\$		
<b>Program adjustments in RFB cost-share practices (i.e., CREP) per state task force reports</b>	Work with FSA to approve CREP amendments and make practice adjustments	State leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Apply the Healthy Streams Farm Stewardship Program</b>	a) Identify projects in conjunction with SWCD and ag consultants b) Conduct farmer and conservation professional workshops on the Program c) Help landowner with agreements and assist them with plantings	Alliance for the Bay	Maryland	Dec-17			
<b>Pilot voluntarily purchase of nutrient credits by businesses to pay for the installation of forest buffers</b>	a) Work with partners like Businesses for the Bay to information out to businesses	PENNvest	Pennsylvania	Dec-17			
	b) Make purchases and establish RFB						
<b>Pursue a state/private-funded RFB program</b>	a) Test methods for flexibility in buffer administration and management	DCNR, DEP	Statewide				
	b) Pilot sites showcasing different approaches including maintenance needs	DCNR, DEP	Priority watersheds				
	c) Incorporate agroforestry practices into the RFB program	PA DCNR	TBD				
<b>Management Approach 3: RFB Technical Assistance</b>							

<b>Increase staffing levels to provide more technical assistance</b>	Hire 8 additional field personnel through grant from FSA	FSA, FS, ACB, State forestry in MD, PA, VA, WV	MD, PA, WV, VA	Dec-17	560K	560K	
<b>Improve tracking and spending of TA funding provided by FSA</b>	a) FSA provides TA funding for CRP/CREP to USFS and NRCS	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	4 M	4 M	Funding includes TA on all CRP/CREP not just RFB
	b) Track and suggest improvements in spending as needed				Stafftime		
<b>Increase effectiveness of landowner education on RFB establishment and maintenance</b>	a) Identify successful programs and begin expanding them in your state	State Leads	Baywide	Jun-16	Stafftime		
	b) Reach out to local groups with interest in RFB such as SWCDs, NGOs, Land Trusts,	State Leads	Baywide	Apr-16	Stafftime		
	c) Support PACD outreach efforts in creating a clearinghouse of informational materials	DCNR, DEP, PACD	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	d) Enhance collaboration among organizations to better understand farmers' needs	State Leads	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	e) Technical Service Providers receive training on RFB outreach through grant from FSA	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Dec-16	35K		
	f) NRCS employees receive >3 trainings per year	NRCS	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	g) Determine how best to engage SWCDs	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Pilot strategies to reinforce incentives for producers to install and maintain riparian forest buffers</b>	Work with a SWCD to pilot higher priority for EQIP when CREP buffer is used	NRCS, SWCD	TBD	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Expand partnerships to address technical assistance needs</b>	Identify potential new partners and establish working agreements	State Leads	Baywide	Jan-16	Stafftime		
<b>Use Regional Conservation Partnership Program projects to increase RFB enrollment</b>	a) Conduct workshops with NRCS and conservation districts to market the opportunity b) Work with partners to identify projects and sign-up for RCPP c) Work with partners to provide technical assistance for planning and implementation	Alliance for the Bay	MD and PA	Dec-17	\$\$	\$\$	funded, but more RFB opportunities are needed
<b>Technical Assistance provided by NYS DEC Forester</b>	Provide forestry support on EQIP and CREP projects	NYS DEC, USFS	Tioga and Broome Counties	Dec-17	120K/yr	120K/yr	Joint Chief's funding through 2017
<b>Management Approach 4: RFB Outreach and Increasing New Enrollment</b>							

<b>Address programmatic design/delivery that are barriers to new enrollment</b>	Work with decision-makers to secure state cost-share funding to process CRP/CREP new contracts	DNREC, DE FSA/NRCS	Delaware	Jan-16	Stafftime		The Delaware CREP Program has a programmatic freeze until funding shortfalls are addressed. Shortfalls are approximately: \$500,000 for 2015, \$500,000 for 2016, and \$300,000 for 2017 for current enrollments. Work-arounds are needed for new enrollees.
<b>Execute Outreach Strategy for 2016</b>	Improve outreach of RFB: webinar education series, information packets, posters, displays, forum, support for re-enrollment	USFS, FSA, ACB	Baywide	Dec-16	184,000	184K	funded
<b>Improve outreach and education to landowners on RFB</b>	a) Technical Service Providers receive training on RFB outreach through grant from FSA	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Dec-16	35K		Also see line 49
	b) NRCS employees receive >3 trainings per year	NRCS	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	c) Determine how best to engage SWCD	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Seek liaisons (leaders, early adopters) within farming communities</b>	a) Reach out to dairy, horse, and poultry farmers, and others	Dept of Ag	Baywide	Dec-16	Stafftime		
	b) Reach out to plain sect community	PA CREP partners	Priority watersheds	Dec-16	Stafftime		
<b>Increase MPL soil rental rates where feasible</b>	Work with FSA to make adjustments in CREP agreements, as needed	State Leads	As needed	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Share local case studies of successful buffers-- how to integrate with better overall environmental health (e.g., LandCare model)</b>	Reports on case studies and how LandCare model could be used	State Leads	MD	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Management Approach 5: Improve Establishment/Maintenance/Verification</b>							
<b>Improve tracking and reporting of RFB implementation</b>	a) Utilize GIS, CAST, and other tools	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	b) Analyze efficiencies and quantify benefits of RFB	FSA, USFS, ARS, PennState		Dec-17			
	c) Track progress through reports and maps	DEP, DCNR		Dec-16			
<b>Survey recent NFWF grantees to determine extent of RFB vs. grassed buffer implementation</b>	Develop, implement, and analyze survey of NFWF grantees to determine likelihood of RFBs going in on grants that don't specify type of riparian buffer being used	NFWF, USFS	Baywide	Dec-16	Stafftime		
<b>Strengthen inter-organizational operations, including reporting, cross-training, and Verification for RFB BMP</b>	a) States work internally with partners	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	b) Work with other Workgroups and Goal Teams to integrate RFB into planning	FWG/USFS	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	c) Work with Ag Workgroup on improving Verification procedures for RFB	FWG/USFS	Baywide	Dec-16			

<b>Evaluate State RFB BMP Verification Protocol</b>	Work with states to examine how RFB verification is working	USFS	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Work with FSA to see about increasing annual maintenance payments</b>	Annual maintenance payments increase (e.g., from \$5/acre to \$10/acre) where feasible	State leads, ACB, USFS	Baywide	Dec-16	Stafftime		
<b>Work with FSA to see about increasing establishment period</b>	Expand the RFB establishment period from 2 years to 3-4 years (already happened in PA)	State Lead	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Work with FSA to make cost share available for weed suppression during RFB establishment</b>	Determine level of invasive plant control cost-share that is part of extended establishment	State, FSA	Baywide	Dec-16	Stafftime		
<b>Put maintenance tips in conservation plans, contracts, and landowner info</b>	a) Produce information on common maintenance needs/issues for website/handbook	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Jan-17	12K	12K	Part of FSA Outreach grant
	b) Distribute handbook to contract holders through SWCD and field offices	USFS, ACB		Jan-17			Part of FSA Outreach grant
<b>Evaluation of Buffer Effectiveness/Tree Planting Success</b>	Complete evaluation of tree planting mortality/success for three years after initial planting and secure additional planting stock to correct planting failures	State lead	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Management Approach 6: Improve Re-enrollment</b>							
<b>Provide targeted outreach to CREP participants in the last 1-2 years of contract</b>	a) Send postcards to expiring contract holders and follow-up with phone calls	FS, State FSA, ACB	Baywide	Dec-17	3K		
	b) Provide maintenance crews to assist landowners with successful RFB	USFWS, CBF	Maryland	Dec-17	\$\$		
	c) Encourage TSPs re-enrolling RFBs to include upgrades, such as increased acres and/or alternative water, stream crossings, fencing	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Provide contact information for expiring contract holders to State Leads</b>	Information provided to each state annually	FSA	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Management Approach 7: Improve Targeting of RFB</b>							
<b>Fund trials for function-based incentives</b>	Perform work on NFWF grant	MDA	Maryland	Dec-17	\$\$		NFWF funded
<b>Utilize CREP targeting tool developed by FWG</b>	Make maps of high-priority areas for reforestation	State Leads	As needed	Dec-17	Stafftime		
<b>Incorporate other WQ, brook trout and demographic targeting tools for RFB</b>	a) Utilize tools to identify and implement RFB restoration opportunities considering climate change	VA, TNC	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	b) Analyze for effectiveness			Dec-17	Stafftime		

Use high-resolution land cover data to map RFB and train partners on how to use the new data for prioritizing their work	a) Pilot method in James to target areas for new RFB	Chesapeake Conservancy, James River Assoc, NFWF, SWCDs	James River watershed	Sep-16	\$\$		
	b) Work with the SWCDs, JRA and others to independently incorporate the new high-resolution data into their planning and ranking frameworks			Dec-17	\$\$		
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	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
Improve easement language for RFB	Suggest acceptable language standards for RFB easements	FWG	Baywide	Dec-16	Stafftime		
Management Approach 9: Focus on non-ag RFB							
Programs to reduce mowing	a) Work with federal land managers to promote RFB	USFS	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		
	b) Target locations through GIS analysis	PA, MD, VA	Golf courses, schools, public lands etc	Dec-16	Stafftime		
Work with local groups to expand tree planting programs	Successful programs such as Turf to Trees, Backyard Buffers, and CLIPS (Baltimore Co)--meet with LGAC, local leadership group, and others to determine how best to do this	FWG	Baywide	Dec-17	Stafftime		Consistent funding source-- Where is overlap with TC Strategy
Coordinate with MS4 permits	Meeting to assess options, needs	SRCC	Baywide	Dec-17			Overlap with TC Strategy
	Develop examples of buffers & SWM	CWP	As appropriate	Dec-16			
Increase CBIG funding for RFB establishment on urban lands	Assign 1-2 additional no-ag buffer projects to CREP foresters	WVDOF	Priority watersheds	Dec-17	\$\$		
Open Field Initiative targeting areas for tree planting that are otherwise abandoned	Identify and contact landowners	VDOF	Central Virginia	Dec-17	\$\$		