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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1998 BAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INTRODUCTION

The [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) has represented the federal government as a partner in the [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) since the signing of the historic [1983 Chesapeake Bay Agreement](#). EPA, along with many federal agencies, continues to provide funding and support for a multitude of efforts aimed at restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay. Federal agencies are also a major land-owner in the Bay watershed -- owning approximately 2.2 million acres of land.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[Clean Water Action Plan](#)

Earlier this year President Clinton unveiled his Clean Water Action Plan, modeled in part, on the Chesapeake Bay Program's restoration efforts. The EPA and other federal agencies worked together with stakeholders and states in the Bay region to help advance the components of the Clean Water Action Plan throughout 1998, and will continue to do so.

- [Agriculture/Environment Summit](#) - Approximately 50 high level federal and state agricultural and environmental officials from the six states in the Bay watershed attended the Summit in May 1998 in Annapolis, MD. The objective of the Summit was to build partnerships of state and federal agencies in each of the watershed states in order to position Bay states to take advantage of new or expanded federal programs that emanate from the FY 1999 budget.
- [Draft Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations](#) -- In September EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced a draft plan to improve water quality and reduce public health risks associated with animal feeding operations, as part of the President's Clean Water Action Plan. Animal feeding operations are livestock-raising operations, such as hog, cattle, dairy, and poultry farms, where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. When not properly managed, animal waste can run off into nearby water bodies.

The draft Strategy addresses the resulting water quality problems of runoff polluted by excess nitrogen, phosphorus, pathogens, and other compounds. The draft Strategy proposes a variety of

voluntary and regulatory approaches, which should result in that all animal feeding operations developing and implementing comprehensive nutrient management plans by the year 2008. In addition, EPA recently announced a voluntary compliance program with the National Pork Producers Council that will help to reduce water quality and public health threats to the nation's waterways posed by pork-producing operations.

- [Federal Agencies' Chesapeake Ecosystem Unified Plan \(FACEUP\)](#) -- Over 20 high level Federal officials, led by EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner, met on November 5 at Ft. McNair in Washington, D.C. to sign this new far reaching agreement. FACEUP was the first effort to specifically implement the Clean Water Action Plan in the Bay watershed. The agreement contained 50 new goals and commitments, including restoring 100 acres of wetlands annually on federal lands; expanding public access by opening 200 miles of federally-owned shoreline by 2005; identifying and removing obstacles on federal lands to migratory fish and opening 50 miles of new habitat by 2003; and increasing federal spending for Pfiesteria response.

American Heritage Rivers Program

The first designations under President Clinton's new American Heritage Rivers Program occurred this summer. Two rivers in the Bay watershed were designated -- the Potomac River and the Upper Susquehanna/Lackawanna Rivers. The designations will open these areas to more federal attention.

New Federal Partners

The newest federal agency partner -- [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#) -- formally joined the Bay Program on November 5 at the Ft. McNair signing ceremony for FACEUP. NASA signed a [Memorandum of Agreement](#) with EPA, which committed them to, among other things, make much of their satellite imagery available to the Bay Program.

The U.S. Postal Service, which had just joined the Bay Program in 1996, continued their outreach work in 1998 by partnering with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on several BayScapes projects, as well as on a BayScapes Poster. The Postal Service has also provided Bay message postmarks on mail throughout the watershed, and a Special Cancellation for the [Executive Council Meeting](#) at the National Aquarium in Baltimore on December 8, 1998.

Conference on Federally Supported Science and the Chesapeake Bay Program

The Federal agencies in the Bay Program, led by the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has teamed up with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to hold a federal science conference on December 9 and 10 at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor's Center in Laurel, MD.

Federal BayScapes Effort

Through the Federal Agencies Committee (FAC) of the Bay Program, federal agencies are working on bringing BayScapes to many more federal facilities. A Federal BayScapes Summit meeting was held in May 1998 under the auspices of the FAC, and led several commitments in the FACEUP. Under the leadership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a Conservation Landscaping and BayScapes Guide for Federal Land Managers will be developed by January 1, 2000. In addition, conservation landscaping will be integrated into Federal facility specifications and design criteria in the Bay watershed by July 31, 2001.

Progress on the Anacostia

EPA, with other Federal agencies, formed an Expert Panel earlier this past year on Stormwater Management problems affecting the Anacostia to determine how to design systems to curtail stormwater and toxic pollution..

Federal agencies, especially the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service, with funding assistance from EPA, are working to restore land along the Anacostia. Restoring natural filtering systems will help the Anacostia and the Bay, and we are funding a tremendous new wetlands project on the river known as Kingman Lake (42 acre project starts next year). This will help bring back the natural filtering capabilities of the Anacostia.

The designation of the Potomac River under the President's new American Heritage Rivers program, also means good things for the Anacostia. One of the reasons that the Potomac was selected for inclusion in the program is that they will treat the entire Potomac watershed and all of its tributaries, including the Anacostia, as one ecological system.

Department of Defense Involvement

Earlier this year the Department of Defense (DoD) released a report providing a synopsis of their involvement in the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay from 1984 to 1997. In addition, DoD announced that \$300,000 in Legacy funds were made available for Chesapeake Bay restoration and protection activities, such as [submerged aquatic vegetation](#) and riparian forest buffer restoration work.

SIP Call Issued to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution

Earlier this year EPA issued a SIP [State Implementation Plan] Call aimed at reducing summertime smog by targeting nitrogen oxide pollution from 22 states. Most of the states which are in Chesapeake Bay's Airshed and contribute about 25% of all the nitrogen pollution reaching the Bay. The SIP Call, when fully implemented in 2003, would reduce nitrogen pollution to the Bay by 8 million pounds a year -- that is 11% of the Bay Program's nitrogen reduction goal.

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