

Forestry Work  
Group  
4 Feb 2015

**WV Riparian**  
**Forest Buffer**  
**Management**  
**Strategy**

# WV Summary

CREP has been the principle program for the creation and protection of new RFB in WV's Bay watershed. (89% if you include EQIP and WHIP)

Enrollment authority of up to 9,160 acres. So far 5,880 acres enrolled. (3,442 in the Bay)

992 acres of existing RFB will expire in the next 5 years.

- USDA Task Force RFB Strategy submitted in response to \$5 Million pledged to Bay states for RFB implementation

## **A tale of 2 strategies**

- RBF strategy, State and Non-governmental agencies in draft form.

- First meeting of the task force Sep 2014 in Morgantown, WV.
- FSA, NRCS, USFWS, USFS, WV Dep of Ag, WV DEP, WVDOT, WV Conservation Agency, WVDNR, WV Extension, TU.
- Developed 7 major strategy items for consideration

## **USDA Task Force RFB Strategy**

## ■ **Outreach/Education – Promotion**

1. \$ for outreach efforts
2. Employees incentives
3. Increased rental rates
4. CREP targeting tool
5. Other items addressed: training, agroforestry, absentee landowners.

## **Seven Major Strategy Items**

- Increased rental rates by 40-50 %
- Partial payment for practice incentives
- Increased maintenance rate by 50%
- Expand CREP agreement to 12,000 acres
- Increase establishment period to 3 years.

## **Cost Share/Financial Assistance**

## **Technical Assistance**

- Develop “Circuit Rider” teams (FSA, NRCS, Forestry)
- Additional WV Conservation Agency RFB specialist

## **Improved Program Accounting**

- BMP Verification



- Increase outreach within 2 years of contract expiration.
- Re-enroll grass strips into RFB practice

## **CREP Re-enrollment of Expiring Contracts**



# **Expansion of CREP into Monroe County**

**Mechanism to  
Implementation  
Recommendations**

## **Strategy #2**

- WV Buffer work group meeting since 2011. Many similar partners but includes more NGO partners

**WV RFB  
Strategy - State  
& Non-  
government**

- CB  
Implementation  
grants (CBIG)
- 319 programs
- Stream  
Partners grant
- NFWF
- Ctrees, Lowes,  
Toyota, CBF

RFB's  
through  
Non Farm  
bill type  
funding

# CBIG objective 23 - RFB and afforestation

Most successful non-farm bill  
RFB program is CBIG.

26 Plantings on 21,000  
stream feet with over 1,400  
volunteer hours from 2008-  
2014.

Expand on this success  
through partner collaboration



# Trees 4 Bees buffer planting





Priority	Leadership responsibility	Assistance and re-enforcing Efforts
Improve Technical Assistance		
CREP forester for each CD	Randy Dye, WVDOF Kevin Hinkle, FSA	USDA Strategy request
Increased use of GIS tools Use CREP targeting tool developed by WVDOF GIS. Share stream prioritize maps as outreach to watershed groups, streamside landowners, and bring in the data from the streambank assessments, and the lat/longs of all the buffers reported to CBP	Steve Harouff, WVDOF GIS specialist	Herb Peddicord, WVDOF Alana Hartman, WVDEP
Trout Unlimited Support Increase partner involvement in projects to incorporate success and further outreach	Gary Berti -TU	Herb Peddicord WVDOF C&LRLT

Program/Policy/Leadership		
Increase CBIG riparian Objective Funding.	WV Bay Trib Team	Herb Peddicord, Grant Adminstrator
Improve coordination between agencies on how investments can be leveraged.	Herb Peddicord	
Stream bank Stabilization 319 requests incorporate buffer components in contract	Carla Hardy WVCA	Back Creek PP and other 319 requests



Improve Outreach		
Those WSAs that have streambank assessments can be asked to work on those – contacting landowners and carefully documenting responses they get	WV Bay trib team	DOF,DEP,WVCA
Money for full time WS coordinator	Bay Trib Team	
Incorporate Buffer training in Stream Assessment workshops	Carla Hardy, WVCA	

Increased Financial Assistance		
Staffing circuit rider teams	Kevin Hinkle FSA	See USDA request
Staffing county FSA field offices	Kevin Hinkle FSA	See USDA request
Improve NFWF capacity to install RFB in WV	WV Trib Team	
Improve Establishment, Maintenance, Compliance, Re-enrollment		
WVDOF summer intern program, Eastern Panhandle CD area.	Randy Dye	Herb Peddicord/OCPT
Explore additional help for Potomac Valley CD to cover their area	Herb Peddicord WVDOF	
Maintain active relationships with all landowners that have installed RFB's	Herb Peddicord WVDOF	WV Bay trib team

Buffer Conservation		
Land trust focus, This could be a leadership problem	NGO leads	PC,LTEP,C&LRLT,TNC

By the way, the  
WV legislature is  
now majority  
Republican for  
the first time in  
50 years.  
Democratic  
governor for two  
more years.